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Coronary claims 'Mr. Choralaires'

Longtime vocalist dies at fitness facility

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

He was known as "Mr. Choralaires."

Daryl R. Riley, 66, of Novi, a member of the Choralaires singing group in Novi since 1977, died suddenly of a massive heart attack the evening of Nov. 23.

He had just finished his workout at Bally Total Fitness in Novi when the coronary occurred.

Emergency medical services personnel worked on him for about half an hour but were unable to revive him.

Services were held Saturday morning at St. John Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills.

Riley was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and moved to Appleton, Wis., as a boy when his father, who worked for Montgomery Ward at the time, was transferred. He graduated from Lawrence

College in Appleton and served in the U.S. Army for three years. Riley spent a lifetime in sales and was most recently sales manager for Fidelity Communications in Novi.

He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Audrey, of Novi; two sons, Kevin, of Waterford, and Craig, of Royal Oak; a brother, Chuck, and stepmother, Mary Ann Riley, both of Appleton, Wis.

His widow noted that the couple would have celebrated their 37th wedding anniversary Nov. 25.

"He loved to sing. He was Mr. Music Man. He just loved music and loved to dance," she said. She met Riley at a Detroit gathering place when he asked her to dance.

"I wasn't in the mood, but he was persistent," she said. "He was wonderful."

"He wasn't a sick person and took good care of his health. He was the last person you'd expect to have a problem," said Jan Wassilak of Whitmore Lake, who had known him for almost 30 years.

He'd been a member of the Novi health club for over 35 years, his widow said.

Riley sang bass in the Choralaires, an auditioned singing group formed in Novi in 1975. Wassilak took over as director in 1977, the same year Riley joined the group.

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SPORTS

All-Area Dream Teams

It takes an outstanding athlete to rise above their peers and stand out. Sometimes they lead a team in scoring, sometimes on the defensive end of the floor and sometimes it's just the intangibles that earn them recognition. The Novi News is proud to present this year's All-Area selections in all eight fall sports.

— Page 1B

REGIONAL MARKET



Milford Jewelers

Santa Claus arrives at Milford Jewelers each year, heart filled with love, gift bag slung across his burly shoulder, eager to renew old friendships with owners Tamar Aguilar and her brother, Jacques Choppin.

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OBITUARIES

Mary J. Paul, 87

Charles Zuccarini, Sr., 76

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Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi teenager Brian Jones will get some help from his sister Sarah, 16, second from right, and friends Anna Sansom, 15, and A.J. Glubzinski, left, in raising money and awareness of EE (eosinophilic esophagitis), a disease that he's been dealing with for some time now.

Student Support

Bowl for a Cure slated for March 6

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

It's one of every parent's worst nightmares: to watch your child battle an unknown illness day in and day out, while people around you are saying that it's just a bug that's going around.

That's precisely what Diane Busard was going through before she and her family found out that her son, Brian Jones, actually had a rare disease called eosinophilic esophagitis.

Jones is now a senior at Novi High School. He was finally diagnosed correctly during his sophomore year. What this disease has brought upon him and his family, however, is something most might find unbearable.

According to Busard, her son went through six months of misdiagnosis. She explained that the doctors he went to were very competent, but they had never treated anybody with eosinophilic esophagitis.

"When Brian was diagnosed, they came up with this huge word, eosinophilic esophagitis, and we didn't know what that was," Busard said, tears in her eyes. "Little did we know that was finally the end result after three misdiagnoses."

The disease acts like a huge allergic reaction where white blood cells appear in the esophagus. However, the body's immune system overdoes it until there's nothing left to attack, so it begins to attack the body, which causes much vomiting.

Busard said that after learning about the disease, she found out that it affects all ages. She talked about a woman who was 50 years old when she was first diagnosed, when she had stomach pains throughout her life.

"Once you're diagnosed, you have this

forever, and it might take a while to get diagnosed because it's so rare," Busard said.

Symptoms and public reaction

Jones didn't have any symptoms until January 2003. There have been reports of others, however, who were showing symptoms since birth. It's not a disease that has visible symptoms, either. It attacks from the inside.

Part of the problem, according to Busard, is the emotional toll it takes on the family.

"When people see Brian, they say he looks good, and they ask, 'What do you mean your child is sick?'" Busard said. "It's very hard for families to get support because of that. Even extended family members don't understand, asking things like, 'What do you mean your child can't eat anything? What do you mean he's throwing up? Get him to school.' That was the advice we were getting early on with Brian."

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Mayhem makes for magical Christmas production

Comedy to run Dec. 10-12 at Civic Center

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Who couldn't use a little humor around the holidays? In that spirit, the Novi Theatres will bring comedy to its stage with the presentation of "The Best

Christmas Pageant Ever," Dec. 10-12 at the Novi Civic Center.

Linda Wickert, Novi Theatres' artistic director, said the hilarious story concerns efforts of a woman, played by Sandra Deering, and her husband, played by Bruce Markham, to put on the annual church pageant despite having to cast the Herdman kids — probably the most inventively awful kids in history, said Wickert.

"You won't believe the mayhem — and the fun," Wickert said.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 11 and at 3 p.m. Dec. 12.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

Wickert said the Seattle Times called "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" "one of the best Christmas stories ever and certainly one of the funniest."

The Novi Theatres staff took another direction this year with the production of this Christmas-themed performance — the group's annual contribution to



kicking off the holiday season.

In the past, performances of "A Christmas Carol" would alternate every other year with "The Nutcracker."

"This year, we decided to drop 'The Nutcracker' and try something else — a comedy with a huge message: 'What is Christmas really all about?'" Wickert said.

The script committee picked the show mainly because it has

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15 MINUTES WITH... THAD MCCOTTER

Michigan's 11th District includes Novi. Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-Livonia) won re-election Nov. 2 to that district in U.S. Congress, beating challenger Phillip Trahan. He took a few moments to answer questions about politics, music and life.

Place of employment: U.S. Representative, Michigan 11th District. I'm still a bar-admitted attorney. I'm not taking clients, but I'm still practicing law.

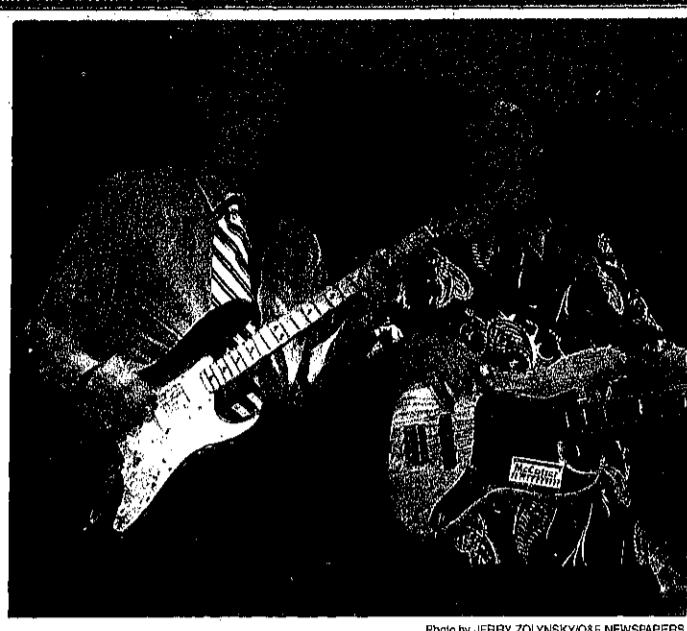
Length of time in that position: I just got re-elected to my second term. I was a four-year freshman senator in Michigan, and now I'm ending my two years. I've been elected in one way, slave or free since 1989. Around '86 I ran for precinct delegate.

Work hours: It's generally seven days a week... at least 12 hours a day. Then there's the time you think about it. Just because you're home in your garage, working outside doesn't mean you're not thinking about your job.

Job description: You work for the people who live in your district. They're the ones who hire you, they're the ones who fire you. You go speak at Rotary, chambers of commerce; you go meet constituents, you give World War II veterans their medals, you talk to the press, local elected officials, you try to work on letters... to your constituents.

Favorite aspect of job: Helping people.

Do you get back to people promptly? If it's an issue inquiry...



Thaddeus McCotter (left) plays guitar with his brother Dennis during his election night party.

Worst gig was probably when they booked us to do a senior citizen pancake breakfast at the Livonia Spree. That didn't go well.

Play guitar in the office? They prefer that, because if I take it out on them, then I'm not yelling at anybody. If the worst week I have as a member of Congress is playing guitar in my office, I'm ahead of the game, I suppose.

What's your best advice? Stay in school and get a good-paying job. Just try to always keep a level head.

Three words to describe you: I can think of three words, none of which you can print. Person who most influenced you (and why): My wife. Without my wife, I don't think I'd of had my direction particularly in life. She's the anchor to everything I do.

Quality you most admire in a person: Sincerity. That makes up for all other sins. If you're sincere, then even if you're doing the wrong thing, you're open to other people.

What's your pet peeve? Stupidity. I'm a "Thomasist," I suppose — St. Thomas Aquinas. God gave us reason for a reason. If you don't personalize arguments, if you just look at the proposition itself, objectively, then people can come to a consensus on things.

What's your greatest fear? That I will outlive my wife and my children.

What's your most treasured possession? My wife and children, that's it. Everything else can be replaced.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be? I think I'd have hair again. My brother's (head) looks like a cue ball; I'm not quite there, but it's just a matter of time.

What was your first car? A blue Ford Monarch. It was my grandfather's. I got it when he passed away, and shortly thereafter it followed him.

Who are your favorite writers? Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I like Frederick Schodhouse, too... who writes a lot of books about the Great Lakes.

What are your favorite films? "The Graduate," "This is Spinal Tap" and "Tender Mercies."

Who are some of your favorite music artists? Beatles, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, The Who. Once you say those, what's left? Usual to be (Bruce) Springsteen, but he's being boycotted now for bad behavior. It's hard for me to put money in Springsteen's pocket when he's trying to get all my friends un-elected. The whole concept of art is the universality of it and how it brings people together. When you use art for political purposes, I believe you're cheapening the art.

Throw Chopin in there — every once in a while you've got to eat dinner and listen to something.

What's your favorite restaurant? Anywhere that serves meatloaf. I don't like to spend a lot of time chowing because I'm paid to talk.

What do you like to watch on TV? The one show I think I could watch on end is "The Simpsons."

What are your hobbies? I still play sports every now and then, but

AT A GLANCE

- Full name: Thaddeus "Thad" George McCotter
- Age: 39; born Aug. 22, 1965
- Family: Wife, Rita, registered nurse; children, George, 12; Timothy, 9; and Emilia, 7
- Born and raised: Detroit until age 7; Livonia ever since
- Lives in: Livonia
- Education: Catholic Central (1983); University of Detroit political science bachelor's (1987); University of Detroit Law School (1990)
- Community involvement: chambers of commerce, libraries, friends of the libraries, historic societies
- Faith/religious affiliation: Roman Catholic; attends St. Edith in Livonia

again — the time-consuming nature of your job. I sit in with my brother's band every now and then. I haven't golfed in five years. Whatever spare time I get is going to be spent with the wife and kids.

If you won \$10 million in the lottery, what would you do? I'd have to give it back. I don't buy lottery tickets. I think people would be a little curious if a member of Congress wins a Powerball.

And if you weren't a Congressman? If I was independently wealthy, the Stones picked me up... then maybe I go on the road, and then we live down in Arizona in our vacation house, and I e-mail nasty letters to people like me in Congress.

Future plans for Novi? We've been successful the last two appropriation cycles bringing back money for the Beck and Wixom roads interchanges. That's critical to that area because No. 1, the residents' quality of life in terms of your daily commute will be improved. Also, it's a growing community. You have to have that to help stimulate the economy.

Was politics something you always wanted to do? No. If I had a choice between being one of 400-some members of Congress or being one of four Beatles, I think I'd have been a Beatle. My mom was the first female city council president in Livonia. I'm lucky because my father hated politics, and my mother liked it.

You realize the nature of what you do and how important it is, and you see the impact you have on people. But you can only do it in conjunction with other people.

Want your kids to get into politics? I don't want any of them to do that. It's like show business parents.

Compiled by Kim Kovelte

McCotter names former Novi News editor new press secretary

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Bob Jackson of Novi, a former employee of Novi News, has been named the new press secretary for 11th District Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia). Jackson was formerly editor of the Novi News and served as managing editor of HomeTown Newspapers, based in Howell. He is also a former member of the Noviville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. McCotter's staff can be contacted at (734) 632-0314.

The 11th Congressional District includes Highland, White Lake, Milford, Commerce, Commerce Township, Wixom, Wolverine Lake, Walled Lake, Lyon Township, South Lyon and Novi and a portion of Northville in Oakland County. In Wayne County, the district includes Northville, Northville Township, Plymouth, Canton, Canton Township, Van Buren Township, Belleville, Livonia, Westland, Garden City, Waterford, Redford and a portion of Dearborn Heights.

Jackson, a native of Farmington, said McCotter's former press secretary, Jamie Loftus, went to work for the Bush-Cheney campaign in January. The congressman had been without a press secretary since her departure.

Jackson started working with McCotter's team in October on an informal basis and was asked to join the congressman's staff fulltime last month. He has known McCotter for many years. When Jackson was editor of the Noviville Record, McCotter was a Wayne County Commissioner.

"When I was dealing with him from a press standpoint, I found him to be engaging and extremely intelligent. I might not

\$2 MIL FOR ROADS

Representative Thaddeus G. McCotter (R-Livonia) secured \$2 million in federal funding for three road construction projects in Novi, Wixom and Walled Lake. The funding was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005, which was approved by Congress Nov. 20. Half of the \$2 million will be used for the reconstruction of Beck and Wixom Road 1-96 interchanges. Congress earmarked \$1 million for the project one year after Congressman McCotter successfully secured \$2.5 million in federal funding to the Beck/Wixom project in the Fiscal Year 2004 omnibus spending bill. The congressman worked with Novi, Wixom and Walled Lake officials during the appropriations process.

"These critical federal funds will be used to improve residents' quality of life and promote our manufacturing and commercial sectors," McCotter said. "The Beck and Wixom Road funds will continue the process of returning our tax dollars back home to Michigan."

The Beck and Wixom Road interchanges have been listed as dangerous by the Michigan Department of Transportation, due to their odd configuration and heavy traffic loads.

Congressman McCotter also secured funds for two additional road construction projects:

■ \$500,000 toward the preliminary engineering to widen Maple Road from two lanes to five between Decker and Welch roads in Walled Lake and Commerce Township. The project is expected to cost a total of \$7.5 million.

■ \$500,000 toward the preliminary engineering to widen Grand River Avenue from two lanes to five between Novi and Haggerty roads in Novi. The project is expected to cost a total of \$13 million.

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

Resident shares experience helping hurricane victims

Walled Lake firefighter says people were very thankful

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Disaster movies, such as this year's "The Day After Tomorrow," where global warming leads to deadly weather, are popular these days. Novi resident and Walled Lake firefighter/emergency medical technician John Shepp got to experience the aftermath of a real-life disaster when he traveled to Florida in September after three hurricanes hit. Officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency asked the nation's trained volunteers if they would help victims in Florida. Shepp, an instructor in

the Walled Lake Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team, decided to join the effort. He stayed two weeks, working 12-hour days. Shepp shared his experiences with local CERT trainees at a Nov. 13 training session at the Walled Lake Fire Department. Members of the public are welcome to join the response team, which has periodic training classes. The new team just completed training Nov. 20. Shepp said the mobilization effort was fast.

"From the time I read the e-mail from FEMA sent to all CERT members and submitted my paperwork until I got on a plane was about 24 hours," he said. When he was flown to Florida, he learned it was the largest deployment of people FEMA had ever undertaken, with about 4,500 volunteers in about four days. Shepp said about 65-70 percent of the volunteers were CERT members from across the country. Others were public safety or forestry workers. He and his team members went door to door to see if victims needed water, food or other necessities.



Courtesy photo

"People lost their homes, had no phones, no power, no money. A lot of people just needed a place to stay," said John Shepp of Florida, where a trio of hurricanes ravaged the state in September.

population of just under one million. People received military rations for food and water donated by Anheuser-Busch. "FEMA's goal was to get everybody livable — what they needed to survive," Shepp said. "The (Florida) panhandle was hit mostly by (Hurricane) Ivan. Most of the damage was done by tornadoes that spun off of the hurricane. There were eight tornadoes in about an hour and a half and just devastated blocks. Almost 100 percent of the county was without power."

Shepp said it was rewarding going on the rescue mission, and he would recommend others donating their time for such causes.

"We had volunteers that ranged from the 18-year-old right out of high school to a retired deputy chief from a major city fire department. They all worked together great," he said. "And, the people (victims) were so thankful. I like to help people."

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.

COURT REPORT

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Oct. 8:

- Adam Jay Desley: First degree criminal sexual conduct (under 13 years)
- Robert John Savel: Malignant destruction of property more than \$1,000 but less than \$20,000.
- Kenneth Michael Shirley: Embezzlement of more than \$1,000 but less than \$20,000, sentence enhancement (third offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Oct. 11:

- Dantel Lauron Martin: Delivery and manufacture of marijuana, driving while license suspended.
- Troy Lee Cobb: Felony assault, retail fraud (second offense), sentence enhancement (second offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Oct. 13:

- Erica Marie Kortman: Assaulting, resisting and obstruction of a police officer, operating under the influence of alcohol/per se, open container of alcohol in vehicle.
- George Frederick Forth: Larceny by conversion \$20,000 or more (two counts), fraud (two counts), fourth degree criminal sexual conduct, sentence enhancement (third offense), two counts.

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Oct. 20:

- Gary Lee Puckett: Uttering and publishing, sentence enhancement (fourth or subsequent offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Oct. 14:

- Brian Wendell Edwards: Receiving and concealing stolen property - motor vehicle.
- Marc Andrew Golden: Operating while under the influence of alcohol - per se (third offense felony), assault, resisting and obstruction of a police officer.
- Joseph William Tuomikoski: Aggravated stalking.
- Donald Clifford Maynor: Fraud (two counts), fraud (two counts).
- Wanda Sue Young: Operating under the influence of alcohol, occupant under 16 years, driving while license suspended (second or subsequent offense), sentence enhancement (fourth or subsequent offense).

These are the cases scheduled for sentencing in Oakland County Circuit Court originating in 52-1 District Court for Oct. 19:

- Lawrence Robert Yates: First and second degree criminal sexual conduct (under 13 years), aggravated assault.
- Michael James Muscatello: Operating a vehicle while license suspended (two counts), controlled substances - use of marijuana.

Shepp said since the Novi resident had anters in Panama City and the incident command training, he was made responsible for 49 volunteers in Panama City and the suburbs of Duval County, with a

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Bowl for a Cure slated for March 6

continued from front page

Basard explained that people told her that her son was just stressed about school, he was a standard rebellious teenager who didn't want to go to school, or he was probably getting picked on at school. Some even suggested that he must have hated his mother.

"Sure," Basard said, "you're angry when all of this is happening, and we cried a lot. It was really hard because you never know when you're looking for a rare disease."

Basard said that her son had always been healthy and earned straight A's in school before he started expressing symptoms.

"He woke up on a winter morning throwing up," Basard said. "Everyone thought that it must be the flu bug. He was out seven, eight, nine days. We had horrible arguments in our house because I was getting feedback from people saying he's got to get to school. Even the school called and said he had to get back. We had no idea he was going to miss 26 days of school that year. We had no clue, and we didn't know what was wrong with him."

What Brian went through

Though the disease is not curable, Jones is currently in remission, which means he's not vomiting anymore. He did, however, suffer a lot before getting to this point. Jones explained that he went through a period of six weeks

where he vomited 15 to 20 times per day on average, and one day he vomited close to 30 times. On many occasions, he woke up extra early just to vomit for about three hours before going to school.

"The vomiting itself was what worried me the most," Jones said of his illness. "They kept telling me that if I vomited too much I'd get dehydrated and I'd have to go to the hospital and get an IV. I almost got to that point many times. They would ask me to grade my pain on a scale of 1-10. It felt like someone punched me in the stomach as hard as they could. I'd always say it was around a nine or a 10."

Jones said he couldn't focus, was dizzy all the time and would have to lie on the couch. At one point, he lost 20 pounds in a month.

"My biggest feeling when I was going through this was anxiety because nobody could figure out what it was I had," Jones said. "Day after day I kept vomiting, and it wouldn't stop. I did school work at home and just kind of took it day by day."

After many tests, doctors found out that Jones is extremely allergic to ragweed and grass. Fortunately, however, eosinophilic esophagitis is a biopsy disease - doctors take tissue samples out of the affected area to determine how severe it is.

After Jones had been put on medication in June 2003, doctors said that they had cured him by the end of that summer.

Bowling for Cincy

After much research, the family found the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, which is doing research on the disease. Two years ago, doctors there received a citation from the governor of Ohio because of their work. However, money was needed, so the Novi family came up with a fund-raiser to help fund a cure.

"You can't look at your child and say, 'Sorry, you have a rare disease, and there's nothing we can do,'" Basard said. "We had no idea what we wanted to do at first, and then we came up with the idea of bowling."

It wasn't until then that Jones found the true meaning of friendship, as many of his classmates put aside their thoughts of exams and college searching to help out.

Basard said that the high school kids wanted to do the bowling so that they could help her son. They said they wanted to spend part of their senior year helping a classmate with his illness.

"We've got the bowlers, but now we're looking for the money," Basard said. "We're asking the

EE, ACCORDING TO DR. ANDREW M. SINGER

"Eosinophilis are a type of white blood cell that your body produces," said Andrew M. Singer, MD, whose patient is Brian Jones. "They are involved usually in allergic inflammation, so people who have allergies usually have more active eosinophils. What Brian has is a newly-identified disease, and patients with it usually have symptoms such as a lot of vomiting, feeling very nauseated and a lot of heartburn-type symptoms. A lot of times it looks like a severe case of heartburn that doesn't get better with the usual medications that are out there now. It can start at any age, but typically it's something that affects younger children to young adults."

"The disease is not fatal, but if left untreated, people will have nutritional problems because there's some things they can't eat or they can't keep all the food in because they're having problems vomiting. It can go from involving the esophagus to

involving more of their intestines, including their stomachs. Someone can get ulcerations and a lot of pain from that, and it interferes with their life. Untreated long term, you can get abnormal narrowing of the esophagus, which you might have to have surgery for because you can't swallow, and you form scar tissue.

"People with this disease are usually on steroid medications. Because these are cells in the allergic immune system, we also try to identify the things the patients are allergic to, which is real important. It could be anything from pollen to dust mites and mold. If you can figure out what things you're allergic to, you can avoid it, and that can improve your chances of getting better."

For more information, call Dr. Singer's office at (734) 432-7811. Call the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center at (800) 344-2462.

For more information, call (313) 570-7267 or e-mail EEExtremeNovi@aol.com.

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

"If you watched Daril perform, you knew he really enjoyed what he was doing."

Larry Molloy
Fellow Choraleir

Coronary claims 'Mr Choralaire'

continued from front page

"I always called Daril 'Mr. Choralaire' because he was our biggest cheerleader," Wassiak said. Plus, she noted, he brought in \$2,000 worth of patron aids every year.

He dropped out of the group in 2001 because he wanted to focus his attention on starting a contemporary church service at St. John's Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills, according to Wassiak.

He was an active member of St. John's since 1977.

"Daril was a very vital person. He was full of energy," Wassiak said. "He was one of the most positive people I've ever met. Everybody loved him."

Larry Molloy of Novi, a fellow Choralaire, had known Riley for 10 years. "He loved to sing and was very enthusiastic. He liked to make people happy," Molloy said. "If you watched Daril perform, you knew he really enjoyed what he was doing."

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.

Mayhem makes for magical Christmas production

continued from front page

"It is hugely popular, and the advance group sales are certainly an indicator that it may become part of the season rotation..."

Linda Wickert
Novi Theaters

Keller's mother. Who knew that she could play comedy with the same effortless ease that she plays drama?" Wickert said.

Likewise, Markham, who has performed in every musical since "The Music Man," delivers just the right amount of "everyday" husband that all women will recognize, Wickert said.

"The Herdmans, led by Courtney Morlock in the role of Imogene, are every mother's nightmare, according to Wickert. "Courtney has performed on our stage in many productions, but this is her first lead role. She had the character pegged at the first read-through," Wickert said.

Other Herdmans include Bryan Glick, a senior at Novi High School, who has performed with the Novi Theaters since he was 8.

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" was written by Barbara Robinson, directed by Carol Laghan-Bissonette and costumed by Mary Step.

John Verloove designed the lighting, and Katy Montiel pfleming@ht.homecomm.net

designed the set. Bill Whitehart serves as scenic artist, with Natalie James as stage manager.

For more information about tickets, call (248) 349-0400.

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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She spoke to me...



Whatever it was that she said, all I could hear was "How did I get here - forgotten and discarded?" Her hair was frazzled, and a smudge of dirt covered her cheek. The expression on her face was hard to figure out. Anybody could see she was a Princess or, on International Dignitary - certainly Royalty. But here she was - "out of her setting!"

When I first saw her some seventeen years earlier, she was as stunning as she is now, yet even then she was unselfish, a bit loose, it looked as if she was not completely, parts of her frame were missing, she needed fixing. Someone else had worked with her with clearly limited success; it was now up to me to give this marriage a new life.

She's known as a Cameo, a Shell Cameo, most likely from the waters Mediterranean Sea and carved in Italy but not just a carving, but more like a sculpture, the likeness of a lady with curls and pearls and a gamsiness that you can't deal with just one look.

For a dreamer like my self it's not hard to recall a time when she must have been beautiful and new, and how she must of felt that first day, when she was seen and enjoyed for the very first time, a coming out party if you will, a time of celebration the songs the dancing, and how at the end of that first day, she would have been so carefully replaced in what must have been a fine satin or silk case. O' how she must long for that glow again.

I designed a new setting for her, her original setting was nowhere in sight, this one would be so fine that the world would take notice. It was intricate, unique even a bit ornate. When I finished the design I gave it to my finest artisans. "Make this!" I barked out. As if I where King and I was demanding that my loyal servants would make a new dress for my daughter, the Princess.

After two weeks I was told "it's too hard to make!" "It do myself man!" I insisted. For the next two weeks I sat with the design on my work bench, and her with her head turned as if she was looking for a different setting or a different design, someplace she'd rather be.

Then, there it was, in an old bag of discarded parts, her original setting, it was still broken, still unrepairable and if I want for that the old frame didn't have any gold in it, it would have been melted a long time ago. Yet here it was, could I fix it? No, but it could be remade! That's all I remade it! The wheels started turning. Remove the main motif, make a mold, cast a 1/8" thick yellow gold. Hand-make a double base for a stone set and this enough for burning of the free standing metal. Make it a pin and pendant combination for versatility, and have it hand engraved to give it that old world touch.

WOW! Like that, it's done!
She is again a Princess, adorned all in gold, and not to be put away in a satin or even a silk case, no, no this gem when not out dancing is displayed on the wall as the fine art that she is, in a golden box for a stone set and this enough for burning of the free standing metal. Make it a pin and pendant combination for versatility, and have it hand engraved to give it that old world touch.

Written by Gary Weinstein
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COMMUNITY

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

Novi orthodontists do good deeds for teen

■ Patient appears on national TV show

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Novi orthodontist Jamie Reynolds, D.D.S., M.S., was able to help an area teenager have a new lease on life, thanks to two national television shows that brought the two together. Reynolds, who's one half of Spillane & Reynolds Orthodontics at Ten Mile and Tait roads, recently placed braces free of charge on Laura Sasser, a 15-year-old sophomore of White Lake Township. Sasser wrote a letter to the

Matty Posich Shaw saying that she really wanted braces, but her parents, who are divorced, couldn't afford them.

Before she knew it, network executives contacted producers of the new makeover show, "Home Delivery," aired at noon Monday-Friday on UPN-Channel 50, about her case. The episode featuring Reynolds and Sasser aired Nov. 2. She's been coming to Reynolds since August.

"They found out where she lived," Reynolds said. "We don't know how we got involved. Someone from NBC in New York called me and talked to me about it. They own the rights to the show ('Home Delivery'). We saw pictures of her teeth and learned a little bit about her before agreeing to do this. Her case was hard to say no to. After

meeting her, we found out she's really a sweet girl — very shy. She's a pretty girl, but her teeth are overwhelmingly crooked."

Dr. Herb Filring, another Novi dentist, also got involved. "He cleaned my teeth and pulled out some of my baby teeth," Sasser said.

"The show's producers also paid for a haircut, makeup tips, a renovation of her bedroom and a new outfit," Sasser said. "I'm really noticing an improvement. My family and friends are telling me that my teeth are getting straighter and look better," Sasser said.

"I think her personality is changing a little bit since she

got the braces. Her teeth have improved a little already," Reynolds said.

Reynolds noted that it will take 18 months to two years before the teeth straightening process is complete.

Reynolds said Sasser's teeth were so crooked that fellow students at Lakeland High School made fun of her.

"People would call her Snuggletooth, and said that you could rick climb on her teeth because they were so crooked," Reynolds said.

"Most people who have teeth as crooked as she did have braces," he said.

Reynolds said it was rewarding to be able to improve the White Lake student's smile. Spillane has been practicing in Novi for 14 years, and Reynolds has been in practice with him for three

years. Spillane studied dentistry at University of Michigan, and Reynolds studied at U of M and the University of Detroit.

"The best part about my job is getting a sense that you're able to help someone, especially with someone whose whole life was negatively affected because of their teeth," Reynolds said. "When we're done, she'll be proud of her teeth. I think that's neat to be able to do for somebody."



Courtesy photo
Novi orthodontist Jamie Reynolds is helping Laura Sasser, 15, of White Lake Township with a free smile makeover. The makeover show "Home Delivery" brought the two together. They appeared on the new show, aired locally on UPN-Channel 50, on Nov. 2.

BRIEFS

Learn to Skate

Novi Ice Arena will run two Holiday Learn to Skate Camps at the end of December. The first session will take place Dec. 20-23, with another session running Dec. 27-30. Classes will be held from 11-11:45 a.m.

Holiday Learn to Skate camps are open to skaters ages 6 and up, with each group limited to just six skaters. The cost of enrollment is \$75, and skate rental is available for \$2 per day. As an added bonus, Learn to Skate camp participants are welcome to attend open skating immediately following class from noon-1:30 p.m. free of charge.

Registration for the Holiday Learn to Skate Camp began Dec. 1. For more information, call Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 or visit www.novoicearena.com.

Free Oakland trails map available

Looking for a location to

stretch your legs, pedal a bike,

paddle a canoe or ride a horse? A comprehensive map detailing the hiking, biking, equestrian, cross-country skiing and river canoe and kayak trails in Oakland County is now available.

According to Marge Gatliff, trails coordinator for Oakland County Parks, 10,000 copies are available free of charge.

The maps list Oakland County's major trails, proposed trails, lakes and more, plus trail safety and etiquette tips," Gatliff said.

The project was coordinated by Oakland County Parks and Oakland County Planning and Economic Development. Data was supplied by 18 agencies partnering as the Oakland County Trails Advisory Council.

The maps are available at the Oakland County Parks, libraries, government offices, recreation departments, chambers of commerce and more. To receive a map or inquire about distribution locations, call Gatliff at (248)

858-4611.

Gatliff is also seeking sponsors to underwrite the map's next printing.

Walled Lake holds Holiday Display Contest

It's time again for Downtown Walled Lake's Holiday Display Contest. All Walled Lake businesses and residents are encouraged to get creative with their holiday decorations and make Walled Lake look festive throughout the holiday season.

The business that places first in the contest will become the Urban Design Committee Business of the Month for January 2005.

The deadline for nominations is Monday, Dec. 6, and the judging will take place Friday, Dec. 10.

Awards will be presented at the next Walled Lake City Council meeting, scheduled for Jan. 4, at 8 p.m. in the Walled City Council Chambers.

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LIVINGSTON COUNTY DAILY PRESS ARGUS

On Feb. 3, 2005, the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus will be launching a new special section entitled, "Oh Baby!" and your baby could be the main attraction.

This new section will feature photos of all babies born in 2004, along with editorial and advertising for new parents.

Each participant will receive a space similar to this:



Christian Louise Smith
March 22, 2004
Sister Joseph Mercy Livingston
Mike and Mary Smith

Oh Baby!

To publish your 2004 arrival in Oh Baby!, send a photo and \$20 to:
HomeTown Newspapers
P.O. Box 230P
Howell, MI 48844
Attn: Lestle.

Child's Name (First, Middle & Last) _____

Date of Birth _____ Hospital _____

Parents' Name (First & Last) _____

Address _____

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Excludes Columbia Sportswear Company. orig. \$100-\$380, sale 29.99-149.99

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

40% off entire stock watches
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BUSINESS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 kkovelle@ht.homcom.net

BUSINESS BRIEFS

DeMaria earns contract

The DeMaria Building Company, which has a Novich office, has just secured a new construction contract and received an award.
Along with Walsh Construction, Chicago, DeMaria reportedly has been hired by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to build an \$82 million addition to the new Jesse Brown VA Medical Center in Chicago.
Also, DeMaria was selected as one of the 2004 Metropolitan Detroit's "101 Best & Brightest Companies to Work For." This is DeMaria's second year in a row earning the award.

Taubman stock offer closes

Taubman Centers, Inc. announced Nov. 23 that it has completed a \$100 million public offering of 8 percent Series C Convertible Redeemable Preferred Stock.
The plan was to refinance \$100 million of indebted equity at attractive rates and reduce the company's long-term financing costs. Taubman Executive Vice President Lisa Payne said.
Taubman, which manages Twelve Oaks Mall, said it expects the transaction will help 2005 results by about \$1 million.

Holiday rush off to good start

After solid October sales, retailers welcomed the holiday rush that officially began last Friday.
According to the Michigan Retailers Association's Retail Reserve Bank of Chicago/Michigan Retail Index, 42 percent of retailers increased their sales this October over last. 15 percent have record sales, and 43 percent exceeded objectives.
Overall, sales were up to almost 53 percent from 15 percent in September.
Sixty percent of state retailers believe sales will be higher this November than last year, up from 56 percent last year.

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Play it Again's in Novi – again

Somervilles bring used sports equipment back to city

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

Though the two events aren't related, Ian Somerville's dream of opening a sports shop started not long after Novi's Play It Again Sports closed.
Last week, the vision — and the store — came back to life at Pine Ridge Center.

Ten years ago, there was a Play It Again Sports in this exact same spot, in this exact same center, Somerville said. "My wife and I had kicked around an idea of opening ... my sporting store."

Initially, he and Julie looked at their hometown of Milford. They chose Novi because of its families and "being a good community."

Opening the day after Thanksgiving, Play It Again Sports' inventory is one-third used in good condition. The rest is new, brand-name equipment at discount prices.
They buy, sell, trade and consign goods for golf, skiing, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball, basketball, skateboarding, water sports, baseball and more.

"Our biggest thing (is) fitness, and that's from weight to all the cardio," Somerville said. "We're really well-known for hockey."

It's a new venture for the couple, although sports are a long-time passion.

"Julie and I were both athletes — that's how we met, actually. She

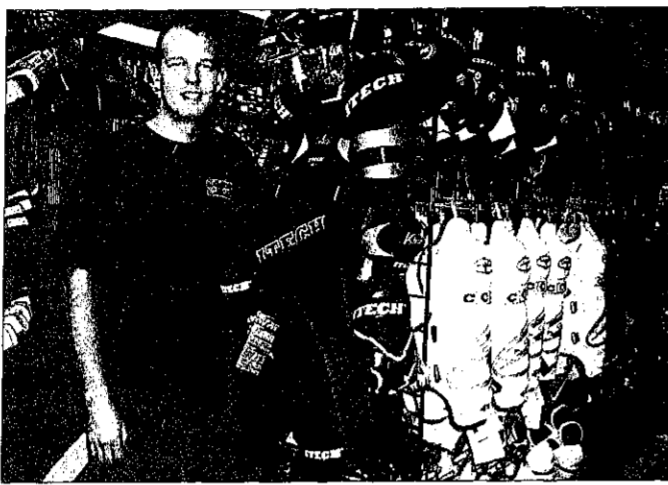


Photo by KIM KOVELLE

Ian Somerville chose Novi for his new store because of its families and "being a good community."

was playing softball when I worked at Ford Motor Company in Ypsilanti. We mountain bike, we roller skate, we water ski, and I snowboard," Somerville said.

A California native, he was an Academic All-American baseball player in college. Julie, who grew up in Milford, is part-owner of Empirical Solutions Corporation in Bingham Farms.

"My family is and has always been in the music industry. I went into the sports and engineering field. I'm not sure where the genes came from," laughed Somerville.

The store has raised money for Howell and Packaway High schools. Five employees are Novi High students. Somerville's "black Labrador retrievers, Jake and Nike, visit the store."

"We're really trying to be community-oriented," said Andy Cooper, assistant manager. "We're really much the only place around that deals in used quality equipment. We're planning on having team days. I think the store's in a great location by the (five) rink and the mall."

Nearby Ten Mile and Novi roads have been under construction, and getting city permits caused delay.

"I've been stocked full of inventory for a month and a half," Somerville said. "I kind of figured, I'll ... put my nose in the grindstone and get through it. The construction didn't slow me down."

Before opening, there were a few Saturday buy-days. "The really fun part ... was hearing people say, 'You know, we really missed having a Play It Again Sports in our city,'" Somerville said.

DETAILS

• **What:** Play It Again Sports is now open. The store is buying, selling, trading and consigning new and used sports equipment of all kinds.

• **Where:** 24287 Novi Rd., northwest corner of Novi and Ten Mile roads in the Pine Ridge Center.

• **Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

• **Contact:** (248) 449-4544

Construction update
By week's end, work on Ten Mile/Novi roads intersection should go into winter hibernation mode, according to the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Last week, RCOC Public Information Officer Craig Bryson said the date for the construction should be Friday, Dec. 3, barring heavy snow or rain. Bryson said the east and south sides will be done this year.

During the winter, traffic will be shifted to the three new concrete lanes, with one through-lane and a left-turn lane in each direction.

Also, there will be a dedicated right-turn lane for southbound Novi Road and westbound Ten Mile Road traffic. Work on the north and west portions is scheduled to be complete by June 2005.

Home to the Pine Ridge Center and other businesses, the intersection work has impacted businesses for some, bottle-necking traffic.

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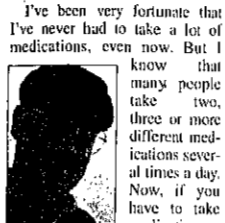
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HEALTH

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

Know your medicine, when to take it and why



E. Harwell

I've never had to take a lot of medications, even now. But I know that many people take two, three or more different medications several times a day. Now, if you have to take medications, it's important to know what to do. It sounds simple, but there's more to it than just swallowing some pills with a glass of water.

When your doctor gives you a prescription, be sure you know the name, what it's for, how to

take the medicine and when to take it. If you're not sure, ask. Your doctor and pharmacist can answer your questions.

And always let your doctor know if you're taking other prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and any vitamins, herbs or dietary supplements.

It's a good idea to keep a list of medications and dosages in your wallet or purse. And give a copy to a family member or friend.

Take your medications exactly as prescribed. Some need to be taken with food or at certain times. Just stick to the plan. Medications can be helpful. But to get the best effect, you have to take them properly and safely.

And remember, take care of

your health before it's too long gone!

Ernie Harwell, 'the voice of the Detroit Tigers' for more than four decades, retired after 55 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 and Blue Cross Network, 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 titled 'Life After Baseball,' is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.

Cancer and heart care enhanced with roving scanner

A medical device on wheels is helping St. John Health doctors better diagnose and treat cancer and heart disease. St. John Health is one of the first health systems in the state to offer a mobile PET/CT scanner. PET/CT is one of the most advanced diagnostic technologies available.

Housed in the back of a plush motor coach, the mobile PET/CT scanner is available at three St. John Health sites on a rotating basis: St. John Hospital and Medical Center in Detroit, St. John Macomb Hospital in Warren, and Providence Park Medical Center, Novi.

Considered a powerful diagnostic breakthrough, PET/CT is a technology that combines images from the highly sensitive PET scan, which detects changes in the way cells behave, with detailed pictures of internal anatomy from the CT scan.

After the PET and CT scans are obtained, computer manipulation allows the two exams to be viewed independently, as well as in a superimposed form. This combined image shows precisely where abnormalities exist, making it possible for earlier cancer and heart disease diagnosis, accurate staging and more precise treatment and monitoring.

The PET/CT image also provides early detection of the recurrence of cancer, revealing tumors that may otherwise be obscured by scarring that results from sur-

gery and radiation therapy, especially in the head and neck areas.

By offering this advanced outpatient diagnostic tool in three different counties, St. John Health is ensuring that patients from throughout metropolitan Detroit have increased access to the very latest technology while remaining close to home.

A physician's referral is required for the procedure to be performed. Scans can be scheduled by calling (866) 667-2778.

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Presented by Michael S. Rowe, MD, F.A.C.E., C.C.R.L.
SEVERE FLU CASES EXPECTED

Public health officials predicting an extremely strong influenza strain to spread this winter, are urging those most at risk for flu-related complications to get a flu shot. People with asthma are at high risk for complications. The live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) is a nasal spray that provides protection for the flu as a flu shot, if you get the flu, it's important to manage it effectively to prevent serious problems. Get plenty of bed rest, drink lots of fluids, keep your fever and body aches under control with over-the-counter medications, and keep a humidifier in the room to moisten the air. Above all, be patient and do not push your recovery. Symptoms, such as cough, may last for up to two weeks.

If you believe you or a family member has the flu, call the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA

PS: If you have asthma or frequent bronchitis and volunteer for our ongoing research studies.



www.allergyinfo.org

YOUR HEALTH – "THYROID DISORDERS IN WOMEN"

Your thyroid gland plays a vital role in your health and well-being, affecting every organ, tissue and cell in the body. This small, double-lobed gland located at the base of the neck produces hormones that regulate metabolism. When it is not working properly, it can affect your heart rate, body weight, energy level, muscle strength, menstrual cycles, skin health, memory and just about every other function of your body.

Thyroid disorders are more common in women than in men, occurring in approximately 1 in 8 American women, according to the U.S. Office on Women's Health. Other risk factors include being over 40 years of age and having a close family member with thyroid disease.

There are different types of thyroid disorders. Hypothyroidism, or underactive thyroid, is the most common type of thyroid disease. It occurs when the thyroid gland does not produce enough of the thyroid hormones, causing weight gain, fatigue and intolerance to cold temperatures.

Other symptoms may include constipation, irregular menstrual bleeding, anemia and slowed heart rate. It can also contribute

to infertility problems in some women. These symptoms often develop slowly over a period of several years and since other diseases have similar symptoms, you may take a while to diagnose. Hypothyroidism can be detected with a simple blood test and is usually treated with replacement of thyroid hormones.

Hyperthyroidism, or overactive thyroid, occurs when the thyroid produces an excess of thyroid hormones, causing weight loss, irregular menstrual cycles, muscle weakness, palpitations, heat intolerance, feeling of irritability and insomnia.

Some women may have fertility problems and frequent miscarriages. This condition can also be diagnosed with a blood test. Treatment for hyperthyroidism depends on the cause of the condition and a woman's reproductive plans. It may involve taking radioactive iodine to inactivate the gland or surgically removing it. Replacement hormones may then be necessary.

Women can develop thyroid problems during or following a pregnancy. In the postpartum period in particular, the symptoms of fatigue, insomnia and depression may be dismissed as normal for a new mother. During

pregnancy thyroid disorders can result in pre-eclampsia, increased miscarriages and may impact the child's psychological development. Some physicians routinely check thyroid levels in all patients, so underlying thyroid disease can be detected and treated early.

Thyroid disorders can also mimic symptoms of menopause and premenstrual syndrome (PMS). Often the symptoms of hyperthyroidism, such as palpitations, heat intolerance, irregular periods, hot flashes and mood swings, can be confused with symptoms of menopause, especially in women under 40. Likewise, hypothyroidism may cause symptoms, such as bloating, weight gain, mood changes and fatigue, similar to those of PMS.

It is important to discuss these symptoms with your healthcare provider and have your thyroid function checked to ensure that you are not overlooking a hidden thyroid disorder.

Todd Kaffler, MD can be reached at Providence Park Pediatrics, 47601 Grand River Ave., B223, Novi or by phone at (248) 465-4847.

SPOTLIGHT ON: ORTHODONTIC NEWS

by Donald M. Wayne, D.D.S., M.S.
Orthodontic Specialist

TOOTHY SMILES

Some individuals have more than the usual number (32) of permanent teeth in their mouths. Extra or supernumerary teeth occur more often among permanent teeth, than primary ("baby") teeth. The most common type of extra tooth is a small supernumerary incisor called a "mesiodens" (or "midline tooth") which appears between the upper central incisors (top front teeth). The tendency to produce supernumerary teeth seems to be inherited. And, owing to the fact that they may be singly and cause orthodontic problems, they are usually extracted. This, of course, leaves a space in the middle of the upper dental arch. Fortunately, orthodontic treatment can be undertaken to fill any gaps left by extracted teeth and ensure

proper bite. Crooked and crowded teeth are hard to clean and maintain, which may contribute to conditions that cause not only tooth decay, but also eventual gum disease and tooth loss. Other orthodontic problems can contribute to abnormal wear of tooth surfaces, inefficient chewing function, excessive stress on gum tissue and bone that supports the teeth, or misalignment of the jaw joints, which can result in chronic headaches or pain in the face or neck. To schedule a consultation, call our office at 248-477-1581. Our office is located at 26995 W. Ten Mile Road, Suite 111.

PS: Supernumerary teeth occur in 14% of the population.

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SENIORS

Kim Kovelle, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107. kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net

Fewer line up for flu shots

32 come to senior center for vaccine

By Kim Kovelle
STAFF WRITER

After an initial flurry, the rush for the flu vaccine seems to have dwindled.

Still, 31 seniors and one caregiver went to Novi's Senior Center Nov. 24 to get their shots. From 10 a.m.-noon, nurses from Troy-based Advanced Professional Home Health Care administered shots. They had 200 doses on hand.

After receiving her shot, Yola Stencel, 75, sat for a few minutes in the Meadowbrook Community Room with her husband, John.

"I've been looking since the first week of October," said Stencel, who lives in Livonia. "My doctor called me twice and said she didn't have it. I have gotten them every year. I was concerned."

Her shot was covered by Medicare. Others who meet the criteria set by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control but didn't have the coverage paid \$20.

Bobbi Dempsey was one of the nurses giving shots. "We don't normally do clinics in the Metro Detroit area," Dempsey said. "We had extra vaccines. I know the seniors at the ones that really need it. It's kind of dwindling a little bit. People panicked at the beginning."

The shortage was announced Oct. 5 by United Kingdom-based Chiron Corporation, which produces one half of the country's influenza vaccine supply.

Chiron's license to produce "Fluvirin" was suspended at its Liverpool facility for three months.

This year, 58 million shots were to be available in the country, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention said.

In Oakland County, 46,000-48,000 doses were available this season, Oakland County Health Commissioner Health Division Manager George Miller said.

"I think the demand for that high-risk population may have



Photo by KIM KOVELLE

Registered Nurse Suzanne Kovacs gives a flu shot to Blanche O'Donnell at the City of Novi Senior Center Nov. 24.

VITAL INFORMATION

For more information on the flu vaccine status, contact the Oakland County Health Commission's flu vaccine hotline at (800) 434-3358.

Priority list

The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still recommends the following people receive priority in getting flu shots this season due to the shortfall:

- All children ages 6-23 months
- Adults ages 65 and older
- Persons ages 2-64 with underlying chronic medical conditions
- All women who will be pregnant during the flu season
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- Children ages 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy
- Health-care workers involved in direct patient care
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children younger than 6 months

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Go to www.cdc.gov/flu or call (800) CDC-INFO for further details.

been fully covered at this point in time," Miller said. "We have just recently made sure that all the nursing homes in Oakland have been covered."

"I'm not short any flu vaccine whatsoever. So far I think we've only seen four identified cases of flu."

The commission has clinics in Walled Lake, Southfield and Pontiac.

Senior Services Manager Rachel Zagaroli said 31 had signed up for last week's shots. "We're taking anyone who walks in," she said.

Anne Campbell, 86, received her shot.

"I had gotten to the point where I didn't want to go," she said. "I wasn't going to go stand in line for hours. One lady I know went all the way to Grosse Pointe."

Miller said flu season typically kicks off in December, and it takes about two weeks for the shots to start working. His message to those in high-risk categories still waiting: "They really need to do it. They need to start building up their immunity."

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

Friday 12/3		12:30 p.m. Bingo
8:45 a.m.	.....Panera Bread	
9 a.m.	.....Stretch and Strength	
10 a.m.	.....Body Recall CANCELED	
9-11 a.m.	.....Creative Menories Christmas Album Scrapbook CANCELED	
noon	.....Lunch	
noon	.....Clogging 7/12:30 p.m.	
11 a.m.	.....Dupl. Bridge	
12:30 p.m.	.....Hingo held in activities room	
1 p.m.	.....Body Recall Holiday Party	
Monday 12/6		
9 a.m.	.....Stretch & Strength	
10 a.m.	.....Body Recall	
noon	.....Lunch	
12:30 p.m.	.....Pinocle	
1 p.m.-3 p.m.	.....Senior Stars Rehearsal	
6:30 p.m.	.....Healing Touch	
	.....Clogging*	
Tuesday 12/7		
9 a.m.	.....Panera Bread	
9:30 a.m.	.....Line Dance	
10 a.m.	.....Asian Pacific	
noon	.....Lunch	
Wednesday 12/8		
9 a.m.	.....Stretch & Strength	
9:30 a.m.	.....Massage	
10 a.m.	.....Body Recall	
10:30 a.m.	.....Quilting	
11 a.m.	.....Blood Pressure	
11 a.m.	.....TOPS Class	
noon	.....Lunch	
12:30 p.m.	.....Senior Start Rehearsal	
12:30 p.m.	.....Clogging*	
2:30-3:30 p.m.	.....Sing-a-Long with George and Caroline	
Thursday 12/9		
9 a.m.	.....Line Dance*	
9:30 a.m.	.....Travel meeting	
10 a.m.	.....Lunch	
12:15 p.m.	.....Bridge	
1-2 p.m.	.....Line Dance	

Activities designated with an "*" will be held at the Novi Civic Center. The Senior Center is located at 25075 Meadowbrook. Call (248) 347-0414.



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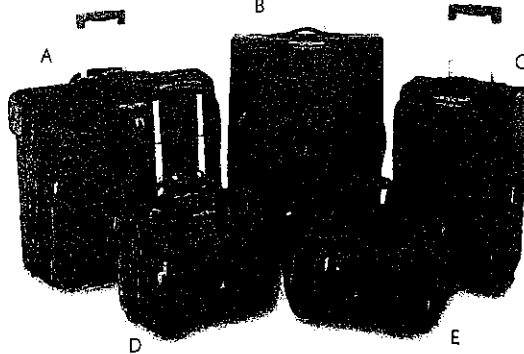
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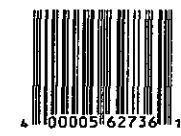
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FAITH

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross is offering a service of Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. Hear the prophecies about the birth of the Messiah, join in singing hymns of expectation with the choir and organists, and take a break from the hectic pre-Christmas season to prepare one's heart, mind and soul for the coming of Christ. All are welcome.

The church is located at Ten Mile Road between Tall and Beck roads in Novi. Phone (248) 349-1174. Visit www.westchurchoftheholycross.com.

Crosspointe Meadows Church of Novi presents an Alpha Course, "Exploring the Christian Faith," on Sundays at 6 p.m. There are over 28,000 Alpha courses running all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at www.alpha.com. Program includes workbook and light supper. There is no fee.

CMC offices are located at 39830 Grand River Ave., Ste. B1-C (west of Haggerty Road). Phone (248) 427-2700; Monday-Tuesday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church invites you to worship at either the 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service. Sunday school is offered at both services for children pre-kindergarten-12th grade.

Faith Community Presbyterian Church houses the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which

accepts all canned goods and non-perishable items as donations. The food bank is available to qualified persons in Novi, Walled Lake and New Hudson.

On Dec. 5, the Advent Workshop from 2-4 p.m. is open to all families, as the children make small Christmas gifts for their family and friends.

Communion will be served at Sunday's service at both the 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

Come to the Faith Community Presbyterian Church's Christmas Concert on Thursday, Dec. 9. Steve Sommer will be performing a selection of Christmas music, both sacred and popular. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. with dessert following. There will be a love offering collected for the Sacrament Ministries during the concert. For further information, contact Jann Martin at (248) 349-2345 or jmartin@faithcommunity-novi.org.

A children's program, "A Backwoods Christmas," will be presented at 6 p.m. Dec. 12. Everyone is invited.

The Three Kings Cantata will be presented by the Chancel Choir of Faith Community Sunday, Dec. 12, at the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 6 p.m. (family), 8 p.m. (traditional) and 11 p.m. (with communion).

The church is located at 44400 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi.

The Church of the Holy Family offers a Spanish-speaking Mass once a month. Masses begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

The church is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., between Ten Mile Road and Grand River Avenue. Call (248) 349-8847.

Church of the Holy Cross offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites all to worship Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is coordinated by a registered pediatric nurse.)

Adult Bible Study is on Sunday at 9 a.m. Worship Center for children ages 3-7, and Sunday School is at 10 a.m. The Rev. Karen Henry is pastor and priest in charge. The Rev. John W. Henry II is assistant priest.

Worship Service of Communion is held at 8:30 p.m. Rice (3 ages 11-14) and 12A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner. 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service is held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome.

The church is located at 46200 W. Ten Mile Rd. (between Beck and Tall roads), Novi. Call (248) 349-1175 or visit www.churchoftheholycross.com.

Meadowbrook Church is having a Treas and Treasure Christmas Sale Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. After treasures, Christmas decorations, jewelry, cutlery and more will be featured. There is no admission fee.

The church is located at 21355 Meadowbrook Rd., between Eight and Nine Mile roads.

First United Methodist Church of Northville is having a "Communitywide Healing Service - Prayers for Healing of Body, Mind, Relationship and Spirit" on Monday, Dec. 6, at 4 p.m. This service is open to the Northville/Novi community and persons of all faiths who desire to ask God for healing in their life or that of someone they hold dear. This service will be the first Monday of each month in the chapel of the church.

The church is located at 777 W. Eight Mile Road, Northville. Phone (248) 349-1144.

Hope Lutheran Church in

The church is located at 39200 W. Twelve Mile Rd., just east of Haggerty Road. The telephone number is (248) 553-7170.

Operation Christmas Child

Franklin Road Christian School's Operation Christmas Child program is being put on by the Samaritans Pura organization. Students have been encouraged to pack a shoe box with gifts such as soft toys, pencils, markers, coloring books, socks, soap and toothpaste for needy children throughout the world. The children receiving these boxes live in difficult conditions and many are orphans and would otherwise not receive a gift this Christmas. Approximately 90 percent of the students K-12 participate in this project and have collected a total of over 285 boxes. The show boxes have been taken to deposits in North Carolina and will be shipped across the world. Pictured from left to right are kindergarten Hallee Jimenez, Paul Alex, Kaib Bloomfield, Mikayla Eshback, Josiah Orlicki, Jessie Jimenez and Maxwell Holleman.

Farmington Hills presents a special Christmas musical drama entitled "A Thrill of Hings" on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m.

The church is located at 39200 W. Twelve Mile Rd., just east of Haggerty Road. The telephone number is (248) 553-7170.

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Sudden Impact: New director jumps in

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Jann Martin, left, new director of Family Ministry at Novi's Faith Presbyterian Church, chats with office administrator Nancy Ryder on Monday morning.

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As director of Family Ministry for the Faith Community Presbyterian Church, Jann Martin has a lot to do. It's only been two months since she was hired into her new position, but she has already had a positive impact.

One of her biggest accomplishments so far was to set up a Christmas concert for the night of Thursday, Dec. 9, which will feature religious performer and enice Sue Sommer. Martin met Sommer, who lives in Florida, many summers ago during a work camp. The two became good friends and kept in touch through e-mail.

"She has a beautiful voice," Martin said of Sommer. "I had her come up three different times before to do concerts in Westland, but this is the first time I have had her in this area for a Christmas concert."

Martin described the concert as a love offering, which means attendees don't have to purchase tickets. There will, however, be a collection near the end of the concert to help support Sommer's ministry. Desserts will also be available after the concert.

"She's great with kids of all ages," Martin said. "She really gets the whole audience working with her in her concert."

It's hard telling what concertgoers will hear because Sommer sometimes plays guitar, but other times she'll have her background music playing on CD. She will sell her CDs after the concert as well.

Other than the Christmas concert, Martin also oversees the education of the church, which includes Sunday School, vacation Bible school and a Wednesday evening program called Logos, which is for children. She's in charge of coordinating recreation time, a Bible study time, and she gathers families for dinner, followed by music licensing.

Martin also works with deacons at the church, and once a month she and the deacons visit Whitehall of Novi Health Care Center nursing home.

"We do a worship service once a month for them," Martin said. "I will be teaching adult education courses. I do help with some of the visitations with the pastor, and occasionally I do some of the preaching."

The position Martin holds is a little different than what the church has been used to. The director of education was a 10-hour commitment, but Martin needed more hours than that. They also needed a parish assistant, so they combined the two jobs and made the director of

Family Ministry position.

Martin grew up in Detroit. She attended Schoolcraft College and Michigan State University and has a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She went back to school several years ago to take theology courses and was commissioned as an associate in ministry in the Lutheran Church.

"I served a church in Westland for five years," Martin said. "It came time to move on. There weren't any positions locally for me in the Lutheran church, and I happened upon this one in the newspapers. Now I'm here, and I love it."

For more information call (248) 349-2345, or e-mail jmartin@faith-community-novi.org.

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@nl.homecomm.net.

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EDUCATION

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

Koster: Board providing as much as it can for students

Cleaning of buildings reinstated into district budget

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Faced with a \$4.9 million deficit, the Novi School Board of Education said this past June that it would have to cut nearly \$900,000 in programs and personnel even if voters approved a new \$1.9 million millage. Sixty-five percent of voters complied, but now the board is reinstating some of those reductions.

Through financial management and financial controls, the district has additional money entering the 2004-05 school year, according to Jim Koster, assistant superintendent of business and finance.

Koster said the district has saved money in many areas, including the Michigan tax bill. He explained that the district has to budget every year for tax abatement, which means that it has the legal right to contest its taxes. The City of Novi said it taxed the district correctly, so Koster asked the state to review the district's taxes. The result was a savings of about \$100,000. The district originally budgeted \$250,000, and the state's results came back around \$150,000.

"We have billing from Oakland County twice a month through June. Usually in June is

when you get hit with a lot, but we didn't, so we saved \$100,000," Koster said.

Other savings

The district also anticipated administrative retirement in the budget, which didn't happen, so that saved a chunk of money as well. This is also the first year the district bought its electricity through a third company program, so it saved over \$100,000 on utilities.

Other savings included over \$100,000 on computer maintenance. "Computer maintenance is something you just don't know beforehand until you get to it," Koster said. "That's the sum of all the contracts and everything."

Because schools in the district are taking less field trips this year, the district saved on bus driver time. Also, savings were incurred when district employees made changes to their health benefits.

"The majority of the savings comes from when we told our staff just to watch their spending," Koster said. "In the high school we saved some money on supplies and textbooks, and we saved some money at the middle school. When you add up all the little stuff, it's a lot. We also saved on legal fees."

Why reinstate programs?

Koster said the district is trying to provide as much as it can now. When money gets tight again, it will see if it should cut again.

"If you provide as little as you

BACK IN THE BUDGET

The Novi Community School District, through financial management and financial controls, has additional found money entering the 2004-05 school year. With these new funds, the school board has reinstated, or is in the process of reinstating, some programs earmarked earlier in the year under a \$900,000 cut:

• Contracted administration savings (through private companies)	\$102,527
• One maintenance position	72,424
• Central office administration	142,644
• Administration clerical	11,959
• Co-op program (employed by district)	49,950
• Uniform purchase (middle and high school athletics)	55,000
• Assistant director - maintenance	73,972
• Extra counseling time	2,485
• One parking lot attendant at the high school	17,477
• Cleaning in all buildings	239,750
• All field trips	30,000
• Restructure Novi Meadows camp (funded by fees)	48,830
• General education portion of social work	45,093
Total	\$692,109

Other amounts are unallocated costs and when programs or personnel are reinstated, costs will be for less. The reductions were analyzed based upon the fiscal year of July 1 through June 30. The expenditures are being made to the fiscal year 2004-05. The full amount of reductions are not being reinstated.

can for as long as you can, you might provide a little for a long time, but shouldn't you provide the best for a shorter time?" Koster asked. "That's what every board of education debates all the time."

"The biggest service being reinstated into the budget is the cleaning of the buildings, Koster explained that the board voted unanimously and discussed it openly before making the decision.

Proposal 1
Another factor, which may affect the budget in a negative

ON CAMPUS

Novi residents Andrew Curtin and Jennifer McGuire have been named to the Academic Honors list for the summer 2004 semester at Ferris State University.

Jennifer McGuire and Ryan Pivetz, of Novi, were among the summer 2004 graduates at Ferris State University during commencement exercises.

WL UPDATE

Creative mind

Samantha Kern, a Glengary Elementary School fifth grade student, recently received an honorable mention for her creative snowman balloon design from The Parade Company, the producer of the Detroit Thanksgiving Day parade. Samantha's design was selected from 10,000 entries.

Kern, currently a student in Mrs. Cebuski's class at Glengary, said she loves making snowmen in the winter.

"Snowmen remind me of the holiday season and the many reasons why we should be thankful for everything that we have in life," Kern said.

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@nl.homecomm.net.

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Board approves new accelerated program

Improved plan should meet students needs

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Parents with children in the Novi Community School District who are unhappy with their kids' current advanced/accelerated program may soon change their tune. The board of education passed a new, more advanced program this week, however, is that the new program won't be up and running for at least a year.

The new program's purpose, according to Donna Tinberg, director of student services, is to explore student's talent areas and develop them. The idea is for schools to not just meet the needs of advanced students but to take them further, Tinberg said.

Under the old model, which was called the Learning Enrichment Activities Program, a single test on a single day determined the student's eligibility for the enrichment program for the rest of their school career. It was a test given to all students, and if they scored above the 95th percentile, they were in, no matter what their personal strengths were. Once in, all the children were taught the same curriculum.

The new model looks at the multi-faceted assessments and will take into consideration a lot of different data sources. A referral could happen at any point in a child's career, as early as kindergarten and any time on through, as opposed to a single grade. There's not a specific cut-off point either. "We're looking more at the global picture of the child," Tinberg said. "It used to be that the program focused mainly on kids who have high academic potential overall. But now that's one of the pieces because a child might have high accelerated potential overall. There are four other domains that have to do with specific academic abilities as well, so there are five measuring dimensions in the new model and only one in the old model."

The other domains are the student's leadership and social abilities, if they are creative, productive thinkers and those who have talent in performing arts. Based on research, Tinberg believes this new model is a more appropriate program, which fits in with what is known about gifted education. "We know that it's not so much about how smart are you, but how are you smart?" Tinberg said. "We're looking for kids who are outside of the usual distribution of scores for a particular subject," Tinberg said.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at 248-347-1701, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@nl.comcast.net.

WHAT PARENTS THINK ABOUT IT

"This new identification process is going to be so much better because it looks at characteristics and behaviors and it's so much more well rounded to get a better grasp of where the children's strengths are. It has come a long way. This is targeted for the exceptional child, the one that really stands out, and in the long run it's going to help really everybody in the class because it's going to give teachers more information, more guidance and more ability to differentiate."

-Katie Kacon, former president of a group called Pursuing Learning Advancement for Novi Students. PLANS is an affiliate of the Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education.

"I'm personally thrilled that a program is taking shape as far as the advanced and accelerated is concerned. I feel like the flexibility of the program can be very positive for individual students if the district will remove the glass ceiling that has been put on grade level teaching. It will also make communication between the district's schools very important so that each elementary knows what the others are offering and we can try to meet the needs of all the students. I also want to reiterate that parents cannot relax now that there is a program in place until the advanced child is considered a special needs student by the local and the federal government. That may not happen in our lifetime, but I want parents to realize that teachers can't carry the burden of this program. Hopefully, the teachers will find a way to utilize parent volunteers and I hope that the parents will step up to the challenge."

-Lee Linton, current PLANS president

well, so there are five measuring dimensions in the new model and only one in the old model. The other domains are the student's leadership and social abilities, if they are creative, productive thinkers and those who have talent in performing arts. Based on research, Tinberg believes this new model is a more appropriate program, which fits in with what is known about gifted education. "We know that it's not so much about how smart are you, but how are you smart?" Tinberg said. "We're looking for kids who are outside of the usual distribution of scores for a particular subject," Tinberg said.

Ramez Khuri is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at 248-347-1701, ext. 110 or by e-mail at rkhuri@nl.comcast.net.

CITY OF NOVI VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Notice is given that the Novi City Council will be meeting to interview applicants for appointment to the Beautification Commission, Board of Review, Economic Development Corporation, Election Commission, Planning & Community Development Advisory Committee, Historical Commission, Library Board of Trustees, Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

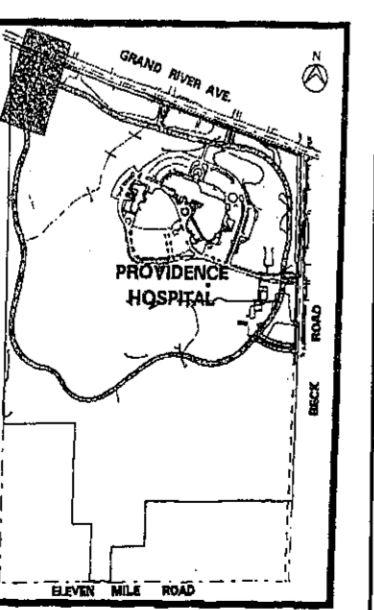
If you are a qualified voter in the City of Novi and interested in volunteering to serve on a City board or commission, applications are available in the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile, or by calling (248) 347-0456 to receive an application by mail or fax, or log onto the City Web Site at www.novimichigan.com to print out an application.

The deadline for filing an application is Wednesday, December 8, 2004 to allow time for scheduling interview appointments. Council will be interviewing applicants on Monday, December 13, 2004 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers; interviews are scheduled for 15 minutes each and all City Council meetings are televised.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(11-1825 & 12-2-04 NN 178611)

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, December 8, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider PROVISIONAL PARKWAY SITE PLAN NUMBER 04-02A, FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL, WOODLAND PERMIT, WETLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS IN SECTION 17, AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE AND BEGG ROAD IN THE OSC OFFICE SERVICE COMMERCIAL AND R3 ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. The subject property is approximately 188.46 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 P.M., Wednesday, December 8, 2004.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION, LOWELL SPRAGUE, SECRETARY
(12-2-04 NN 181806)



Mickey Mouse turns 76

First graders in Darlene Grabowski's class came dressed to celebrate Mickey Mouse's 76th birthday. Everyone enjoyed a variety of activities related to this timeless hero who delights all generations. Pictured from left to right are Ashley Moore, Tyler Murray, Andrew Waldrop and Joey Carr.

Learning about Africa

Mary Ahn, a friend of a Village Oaks, recently spoke to the first graders about her trip to Africa. She showed the children similarities and differences between their lives and the lives of the children of Kenya. She reminded the children of all that we have in the United States and of the many things that we should be thankful for.

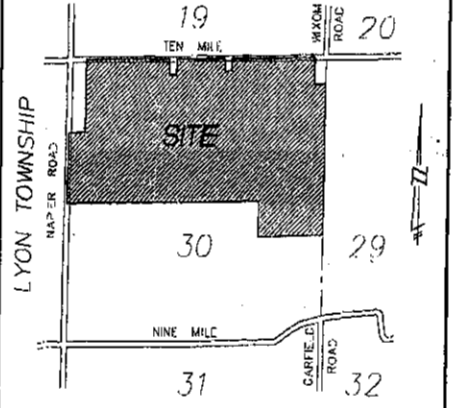


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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 8, 2004 at 7:30 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider LEGACY PARK (P.K.A. QUAIL HOLLOW) SITE PLAN NUMBER 04-02A, FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL, FOR FINAL P.L.D. PLAN, PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL, WOODLAND PERMIT, WETLAND PERMIT AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS IN SECTION 30, SOUTH OF TEN MILE ROAD, WEST OF WYOMING ROAD, IN THE R-1, ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT. The applicant is proposing 439 unit single family site condominiums.



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 P.M., Wednesday, December 8, 2004.

NOTICE - CITY OF NOVI REQUEST FOR BIDS MEADOWBROOK LAKE DREDGING

The City of Novi will receive sealed bids for Meadowbrook Lake Dredging according to the specifications of the City of Novi. Sealed bids will be received until 3:30 P.M. prevailing Eastern Time, Wednesday, December 15, 2004, at which time proposals will be opened and read. Bids shall be addressed and delivered as follows:

CITY OF NOVI
CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR
45175 W. Ten Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48375-3224

All bids must be signed by a legally authorized agent of the bidding firm. ENVELOPES MUST BE PLAINLY MARKED "Meadowbrook Lake Dredging" BID AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF THE BIDDER. The projects consist of approximately 54,700 cubic yards of lake excavation and related items.

Principal items of work and approximate quantities will include:
Meadowbrook Lake Dredging 54,700 CY
Excavate Lake
Soil Erosion Control Lump Sum
Access Road Lump Sum
Sediment Pits with Pumps Lump Sum
Restoration 2 EA
Lump Sum

And related items.

Plans, Specifications and other Contract Documents may be examined at the office of the City Clerk or at the office of the Engineer, Anderson, Edstein & Westrick, Inc., 53445 Grand River Avenue, New Hudson, Michigan 48165, between the hours of 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on and after Tuesday, November 30, 2004. They may be obtained from the Engineer upon payment of \$40 per set, non-refundable. Documents may be mailed to the prospective bidders upon request accompanied by an additional payment of \$10 per set, non-refundable.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Qualification & Experience Statement, certified check, cashier's check, or a satisfactory bidder's bond in the amount of at least 5% of the total bid, drawn payable to the City of Novi as security that if the Proposal is accepted, the Bidder will execute the Contract and deliver acceptable proof of insurance, Performance and Labor and Materials Bonds within 14 calendar days after the award of the Contract. Proposals which have been submitted shall not be withdrawn after the time set for opening bids and shall remain firm for a period of 90 calendar days after the opening of bids.

The City reserves the right to accept any or all alternative proposals and award the contract to other than the lowest bidder; to waive any irregularities or informality or to reject any or all proposals; and in general to make the award of the contract in any manner deemed by the City, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the City of Novi.

Notice dated: November 29, 2004
CAROL J. KALINOVIC, PURCHASING DIRECTOR (248) 347-0446
(12-2-04 NN 181837)



Turkey fun at Village Oaks
Students at Village Oaks pose in front of a giant turkey.



Turkey Tunes at Deerfield
Deerfield students have fun performing Turkey Tunes.



Children are children, no matter what year
The first grade children at Parkview have been studying children of today and long ago. They wrote letters from the Mayflower and then postcards for today. They packed suitcases for their trip long ago and then one for today. They compared transportation, food and lifestyle from long ago and today. After their month long research on the topic, they wrote books and had a feast. Pictured are Diachi Nakajima, Eric Rodriguez and Bernard Feliciano-Siemon.



Spirit high at Novi Woods
Novi Woods kindergartners enjoyed their Thanksgiving Feast on Nov. 22. They read stories, made crafts and shared a meal. Pictured are Grace Tierney, Anna Mikkelsen, Drew Olsen, Katie McMaster, Austin Morton and Ryan Welch.

Talkin' Turkey!



The sweet sound of turkey
Novi Woods second graders performed their annual "Turkey Tunes" concert for family members and friends on Nov. 23.



Singin' about turkeys
Second graders at Novi Woods performed Turkey Tunes recently. Laura Combs, the long-term substitute teacher in music, helped all the students and teachers give a festive performance to parents and students.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council, of the City of Novi, will hold a joint meeting with the Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Commission on Thursday, December 9, 2004, at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan.
This notice is published by the City of Novi, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, 48375. 248-347-0456.
MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
(12-2-04 NN 181710)

CITY OF NOVI BENTLEY & BLOMFIELD WATER MAIN EXTENSION SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT NO. 172 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
Date: DECEMBER 20, 2004
Time: 7:00 p.m.
In the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, Michigan
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by previous resolution adopted following a public hearing, the Novi City Council has determined to proceed with this improvement project, and has specified the properties to be included in the district to be specially assessed for the costs of the project. On December 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Novi City Hall, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, the City Council shall meet for the purpose of hearing comments and objections from interested persons regarding the proposed special assessment roll for the project, known Bentley & Blomfield Water Main Extension Special Assessment District No. 172.
The proposed improvement is a water system extension project which is intended to specially benefit the properties described on attached Exhibit A, in the Special Assessment District. The cost for the Project as approved by the Council following the last public hearing has increased by five (5%) per cent or more, and the new cost is \$529,470.00.
A copy of the Special Assessment Roll for this Project is on file at the City Clerk's Office, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, for public examination during normal business hours.
Appearance and protest at the hearing is required in order to appeal the matter to be considered at the hearing to the State Tax Tribunal. An owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment, or shall be permitted to file his or her appearance or protest by letter on or before the hearing and his or her personal appearance at such case shall not be required.

Exhibit A
Parcels in Special Assessment District 172

50-22-03-131-024	50-22-03-152-013	50-22-03-153-030
50-22-03-131-025	50-22-03-152-014	50-22-03-153-033
50-22-03-131-026	50-22-03-152-015	50-22-03-153-034
50-22-03-131-027	50-22-03-152-016	50-22-03-153-037
50-22-03-131-028	50-22-03-152-017	50-22-03-153-038
50-22-03-131-029	50-22-03-152-018	50-22-03-153-040
50-22-03-131-030	50-22-03-152-019	50-22-03-153-042
50-22-03-131-031	50-22-03-152-020	50-22-03-153-043
50-22-03-131-032	50-22-03-152-021	50-22-03-153-044
50-22-03-151-007	50-22-03-152-022	50-22-03-153-046
50-22-03-151-008	50-22-03-152-023	50-22-03-153-048
50-22-03-151-009	50-22-03-152-024	50-22-03-153-049
50-22-03-151-010	50-22-03-153-003	50-22-03-155-005
50-22-03-151-011	50-22-03-153-004	50-22-03-155-006
50-22-03-151-012	50-22-03-153-005	50-22-03-155-007
50-22-03-151-013	50-22-03-153-006	50-22-03-155-008
50-22-03-151-014	50-22-03-153-007	50-22-03-155-009
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50-22-03-151-016	50-22-03-153-009	50-22-03-155-011
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50-22-03-151-019	50-22-03-153-012	50-22-03-155-014
50-22-03-152-001	50-22-03-153-021	50-22-03-155-015
50-22-03-152-002	50-22-03-153-022	50-22-03-155-016
50-22-03-152-003	50-22-03-153-023	50-22-03-155-017
50-22-03-152-004	50-22-03-153-024	50-22-03-155-018
50-22-03-152-005	50-22-03-153-025	50-22-03-155-019
50-22-03-152-006	50-22-03-153-026	50-22-03-155-020
50-22-03-152-007	50-22-03-153-027	
50-22-03-152-008	50-22-03-153-028	
50-22-03-152-009	50-22-03-153-029	

DATED: December 2, 2004
(12-02-04 NN 181340)
MARYANNE CORNELIUS, CITY CLERK
CITY OF NOVI

Let the madness begin

Meeting challenged student minds and exercised brains

By Jill Bednarek
PLANS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

It's a mad, mad, mad world... or at least it was Sept. 21. Approximately 30 Novi students attended Pursuing Learning Advancement for Novi Students (PLANS) "Mind Madness," offered through Novi Community Education, in the district's Instructional Technology Center Forum. Mind Madness was an evening of fun and games designed to challenge the students' minds and "exercise their brains."

Diana Thompson was the creative force behind this program. Prior to moving to Michigan with her husband and daughter, she taught math in Maryland. One summer she had designed a program for her daughter and friends to "keep them thinking," using math in a fun way, when they were out of school.

The idea was a great success, and when presented in PLANS, the decision was made to offer it to the Novi community. Five stations were set up, each with different activities. There were tangrams and fraction puzzles, wordles, brainiacs, decoding and tinkertons. Most of the

activities were math-based, and each station had puzzles with varying degrees of difficulty. The ages of the children that attended ranged from 6 to 12, although a few parents stayed with their children and also participated with some of the most difficult puzzles, giving them a challenge as well.

Several high school students helped man the stations and explain the challenges to the younger children. Novi High senior Adam Bednarek said that he thought the students really enjoyed the challenges, and the high school assistants had a good time trying some of them out, too.

"You could see how proud of themselves the kids were when they were able to finish a puzzle that really challenged them," Bednarek said. "It was great." Seven-year-old Julia liked "decoding the shapes to find the letters."

Wordles, for the new puzzler, are fun puzzles that represent a familiar word or phrase. For example, MIL I LION, is "one in a million." In the case of "Mind Madness," there were 50 Wordles, some of which may still be stumping the children and their parents. Twelve-year-old Alex enjoyed all the challenges and that was what was so fun - you had to use your brain and really think to figure some of the puzzles out.

All students received a commemorative pencil and certificate of participation. Students that completed all stations also received an award. The biggest reward for the organizers was the smiles on the students' faces when they completed their challenge.

Jill Bednarek is the PLANS Newsletter Editor



Community Service at Parkview
Students browse different artifacts for Parkview Elementary School's community service project.

Group PLANs for the future

PLANS is an organization of Novi parents, educators and community members who work together to support advanced and accelerated educational opportunities in Novi schools.

"Our mission is to work in partnership with the Novi Community School District, parents and the community to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of creative, talented and gifted Novi students, so that they can realize their maximum potential."

Just as students with learning disabilities have special needs, students with academic proficiency have educational needs that differ from those of their age peers. They require differentiated learning experiences that challenge them and are appropriate to their needs. The PLANS organization helps to educate parents in ways to work within the schools to meet those needs. They also provide opportunities for the students, and their parents, to meet in social, as well as fun educational activities. PLANS is an affiliate of the Michigan Alliance for Gifted Education.

Offering a program through Community Education was a new venture for the organization. PLANS president Lee Linton commented, "The children are far outnumbered the adults and high school helpers. I was worried about them staying occupied and focused on task. This was not the problem! They didn't want to rotate to the next station because they were still enjoying the puzzles at hand. They concentrated and were incredibly well behaved."

The PLANS organization had a Chess Tournament on Nov. 16, also offered through Novi Community Education.

Information can be found in the fall Community Education booklet, or those interested may register their children by calling Lee Linton at (248) 305-9043. Additional programs included a presentation by Donna Tinberg on Oct. 18 with an update on services for advanced/accelerated students in Novi schools. After the first of the year, there will be a Talent Night, a Trivia Night and a Math Competition scheduled as well as several guest speakers.

For more information on the PLANS organization, or upcoming programs, please contact Linton (248-305-9043). New participants and members are always welcome. In a proverb attributed to Confucius - "If your plan is for a year, plant rice. If your plan is for a lifetime, educate children."

Jill Bednarek is the PLANS Newsletter Editor

Outstanding Novi teachers wanted

The Novi News will recognize a local teacher each month 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 cstone@nl.comcast.net.

The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi News 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 honored.

'Cats tie KVC foe

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

With the first period behind them, the Novi Wildcats hockey players paused a moment to honor those who had built the program for which they now skate.

The 'Cats, coached by Dan Phelps, were busy earning a 3-3 tie against Kensington Valley Conference rival Puckney, but not so busy to take a moment to reflect on years past.

The squad, as well as the fans in attendance at last week's game, watched as four banners were unfurled to the right of the

American flag in the blue rink at Novi Ice Arena. The banners were put up in honor of the team's past accomplishments.

Unfortunately for Novi, not as much was being accomplished against the Pirates as the team would have liked.

Novi scored first in the contests, taking advantage of a shot by Jon Hamblin, who put in the first score at 7:27 in the first period. Shamus Finnerty assisted on the play for the 1-0 lead.

The Pirates came back with a vengeance, however, scoring three straight goals before Hamblin could add his second

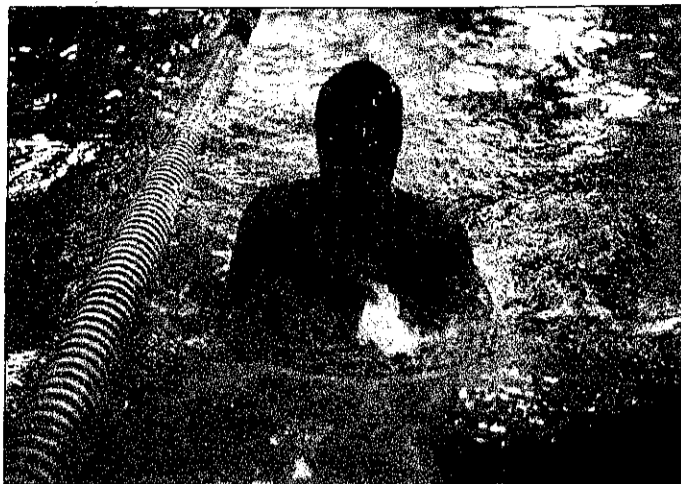
score of the night on a pass from Zach Flavin.

Novi added their final tally to tie the game off the stick of Brett Jaussi, who was assisted by R.J. Makoski and Tom Ciaverilla.

Both teams had numerous scoring chances in the final minutes, but neither could find the back of the net.

Novi (1-2-1) is slated to take on Brighton Tuesday at 6 p.m. The game will be played at Novi Ice Arena.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@hi.homecomm.net.



Submitted Photo

Marie-Grace Denton, a Novi resident and freshman at Notre Dame Prep, swims the butterfly. Denton received her varsity letter in swimming and diving at the Catholic High School League school.

Quick Hits



Check back next week

If you want a complete schedule for winter athletics at Novi High School, check back in next week's edition. The Novi News will feature a full page of sports schedules that can be easily removed and hung on the fridge or in a locker.

Take a moment and circle some of the best games and make sure not to miss them. Novi versus Northville hockey sure has our eye.

The long trip north

It must be a culture shock for the Novi Wildcats when the hockey team takes their annual trip to Michigan's Upper Peninsula for a hockey tournament.

There's very little concrete, a lot less people and cars and a whole lot more snow.

It's good for them though, and the boys from the U.P., too. Both the Novi players and the Yoopers get plenty of good hockey under their belts, and they get to see that

at least one thing translates well when crossing the bridge - hockey is still the coolest game ever, eh?

Congrats!

Congratulations are in order for Emily Parker, Novi's cheerleading coach. Though we heard quite a while back she was engaged, it was just recently announced publicly.

Parker, who took the head coaching position for the Wildcats cheer team this season, is engaged to Brent Pohonski of Holt. Parker graduated from Novi in 1996 and from Michigan State University in 2000. Her fiancé, on the other hand, graduated from Holt in 1989 and is a coach there for the swimming and diving team. He teaches at Lansing Everett.

We wish Parker the best on her

wedding, which is slated for July 2005.

It's finally here!

After making the fans wait on pins and needles, the Novi News is proud to present the HomeTown Newspapers All-Area Dream Teams.

This is an honor for an athlete to receive. It names them as the cream of the crop in the sport they play along with their peers from Northville, Milford, South Lyon and Lakeland.

Novi didn't do too shabby. Rachele Folino, a junior basketball player, earned Player of the Year honors in her sport while such notables as Kevin Ciso (football), Trey Love (soccer), Brett Jaussi (golf), Laura Lynch (swimming), Patti Ramos (girls cross country), Amol Huprikar (boys cross country) and Diana Tcu (tennis) earned places along with several other Wildcats. Check it out on in the B-section of this week's edition.

Novi resident earns letter in swimming

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Freshmen aren't usually the players on any varsity team that make a big impact. Sure, one might make some noise here or there, but it takes a special athlete to stand out.

Novi's Marie-Grace Denton is one of those stand-out kind of athletes. The freshman, who attends Notre Dame Preparatory, finished eighth in the highly-competitive Catholic High School League

Championships in the breast-stroke.

Her time of 1:14.68 was enough to keep her ahead of the majority of the talented pack. Denton also made a splash in the 200 individual medley, where she took 15th in 2:34.51.

Denton helped her squad to take third-place in the championship meet. Notre Dame scored 340 total points. Finishing first was Farmington Mercy with Marian close behind in second place.

Swimming isn't all that Denton excels at. The freshman

found herself belting out the National Anthem prior to the Catholic High School League Championships.

The championship meet was held at the Livonia Recreation Center Nov. 13.

Denton was awarded her varsity letter yesterday for her contributions to the swimming and diving team at Notre Dame. She is expected to return to the team next season.

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JIMMY JOHN'S

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Folino shoots, scores!
Novi junior Rachele Folino earned herself the top spot on the All-Area team with a Player of the Year nod. She and other Novi Wildcats were sure bets to a very competitive team.

— Page 3B



Soccer stars
Novi found three players earning All-Area honors this year. Trey Love, a junior, makes his second appearance on the team while two seniors earn a place this year as well.

— Page 5B



Fore!
Novi earned two spots on this year's All-Area golf Dream Team. The Wildcats join a single Northville player to help fill in a very talented squad as some of the 2004 selections.

— Page 7B

ALL-AREA DREAM TEAMS

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, December 2, 2004

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Isn't an athlete supposed to be full of himself once his name is signed to the dotted line for his national letter of intent to play college sports?

Kevin Cislo, a Novi senior, isn't.

On Nov. 10, which was the official signing day for college baseball, Cislo signed his name to a letter addressed to the University of Michigan where he will play short stop. He's bound to be a Wolverine with the squad paying 50 percent of his college for him.

And still you can't get him to say anything that remotely sounds like bragging.

"I just like playing sports," Cislo said after having an amazing football season. "I love baseball and I love football. It's just a great time playing both of them."

Watching Cislo play this fall probably had plenty of fans thinking there was no way football was just his second sport. Cislo collected 1,017 yards on the ground and scored 15 touchdowns. He passed for 529 yards and eight touchdowns. Not only did he do well on offense, he snagged five interceptions on defense.

"Speed kills," Cislo said. "That's the beauty of football. If you're fast, you usually do well."

And fast he was. Numerous times Cislo pulled away from the pack for touchdown runs of over 50 yards this season.

"I just kept thinking to myself 'Don't get caught, don't get caught,'" he said. "I think I ran a little faster because of it."

Beyond throwing, running and play-

ing defense, Cislo is a specialist too. He punted 37 times this season for an average of 39 yards. His long was 66.

Even with so many statistics on his side, Cislo just shrugs when asked what made him so good.

"My teammates," he said. "I couldn't have gained a yard without them."

Cislo has more than just the team on the field to thank. His parents, Chuck and Marilyn, have supported him every step of the way.

But, it's his brother, Brandon, that has inspired him the most.

"He's the main reason I got into athletics," said Cislo. "As soon as I watched him play baseball I wanted to play. When he played football I played the first year that I could."

In fact, the jersey number that Cislo has made so popular was one his brother wore as a player too.

"He's the entire reason I had to wear number nine," he said. "It's a homage to him."

Athletics runs in the family. Brandon, who is now 21, was a notable athlete at Novi. His dad played at Farmington in football, wrestling and baseball.

Cislo grew up around athletics. He grew up around the desire to win. Perhaps that was why he knew this season would be a good one for the Wildcats.

"I knew last year we'd come back like this," he said. "We had a lot of good players returning and we knew what it felt like to win."

The disappointment of a season-ending loss to South Lyon is one that Cislo hopes the underclassmen remember well.

"We fed off our loss the year before," he said. "The younger players need to do that now too."

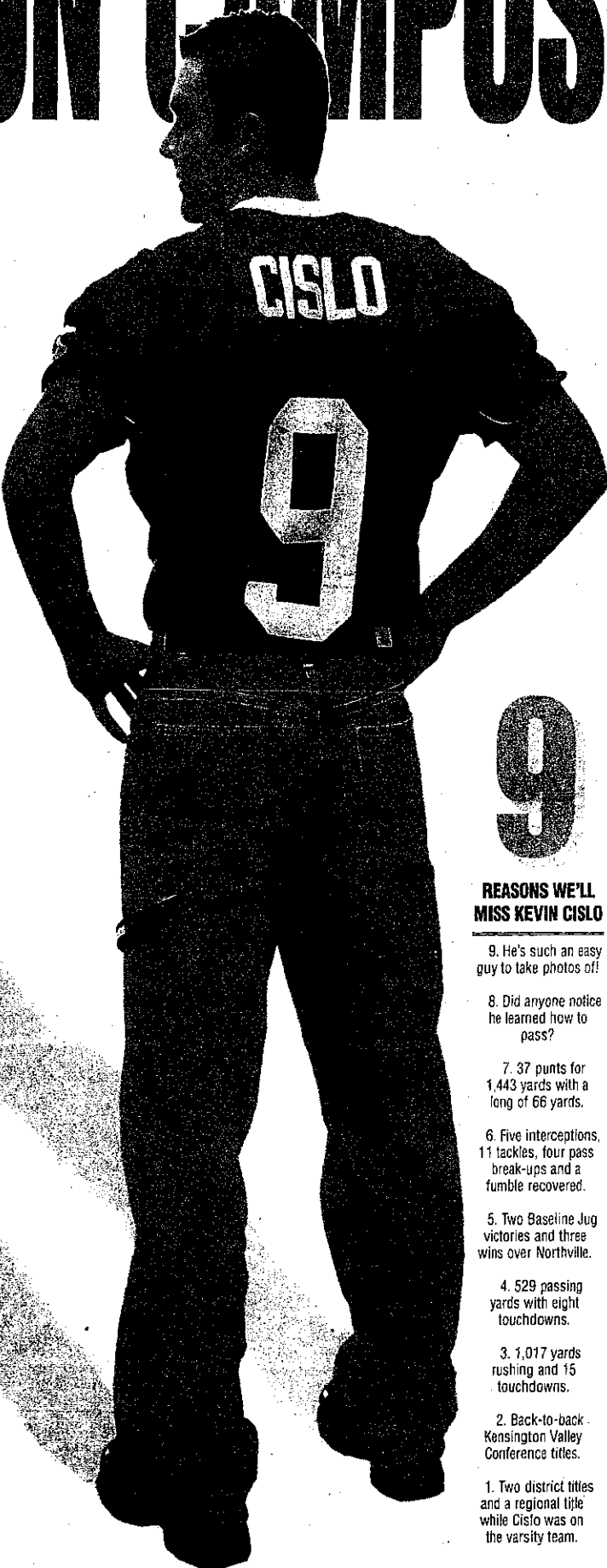
The love for both baseball and football is strong in Cislo. It's so strong he nearly gave up a scholarship with a team like the University of Michigan to play both.

"It's one of the reasons I didn't want to pursue Division I baseball at first," he said. "I could have probably played both football and baseball at Division II. But the decision was made. It's the right choice."

Cislo may have given up football through the remainder of his athletic career, but his impact on Novi football will be remembered.

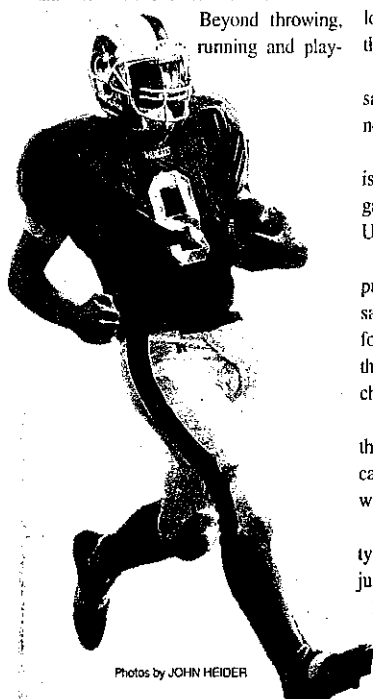
"It makes me feel pretty good and pretty confident that I can excel in more than just one area," said Cislo.

Fans have to wonder just how good Cislo will be when he concentrates on just one sport.



REASONS WE'LL MISS KEVIN CISLO

9. He's such an easy guy to take photos of!
8. Did anyone notice he learned how to pass?
7. 37 punts for 1,443 yards with a long of 66 yards.
6. Five interceptions, 11 tackles, four pass break-ups and a fumble recovered.
5. Two Baseline Jug victories and three wins over Northville.
4. 529 passing yards with eight touchdowns.
3. 1,017 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns.
2. Back-to-back Kensington Valley Conference titles.
1. Two district titles and a regional title while Cislo was on the varsity team.

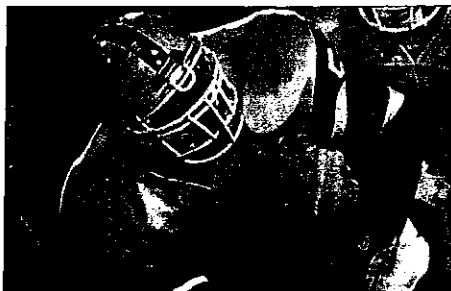


Photos by JOHN HEIDER

OTHER TOP ALL-AREA FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO WILL BE HARD TO REPLACE



JOSH WOODS, SENIOR RUNNING BACK

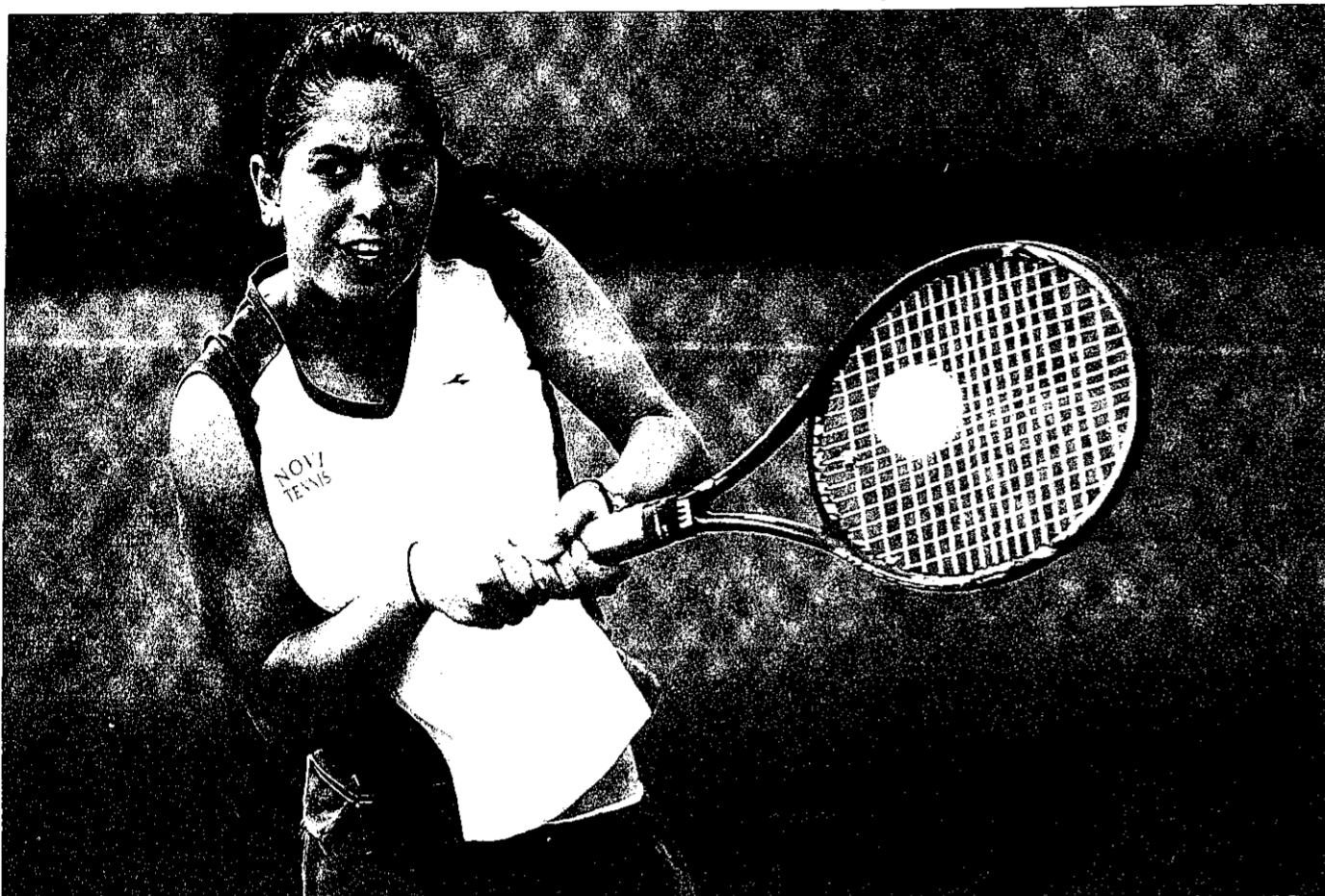


RYAN PRITCHARD, SENIOR CENTER



ROBBIE CARTER, SENIOR LINEBACKER

Ruiz selected as All-Area Player of the Year



Diana Ticu was selected to this year's All-Area squad. She's a junior at Novi High School.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

When it comes to HomeTown Newspapers coverage areas, the Northville Record and the Novi News are truly blessed when it comes to the sport of tennis.

There are few teams that can actually compete with these squads. Be it off-season training, superior coaching or just incredible talent, the Novi Wildcats and the Northville Mustangs are, quite simply, dominant on this list.

Sophomore sensation
There was a buzz in Northville when sophomore Christina Ruiz decided to move back to town instead of playing tennis in Texas at a national tennis academy.

People were excited well, most of them — and they knew it could only be a positive for the Mustangs.

Player of the Year
"Christina Ruiz didn't disappoint. She came in, earned a place at one singles, and marched to an impressive 20-3 record as the top player in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

What does the future hold for Ruiz? Coming in next season as a junior, she'll be expected to pick up where she left off. Expectations are high, but they are always high for her age group.

"I expect she'll have a good career here at Northville," said Woodfall. "She's aggressive and smart."

Pressure isn't something that seems to worry anyone who knows Ruiz.

No change in intensity
Senior Erica Dobson found herself in a position she wasn't used to earlier this year when she was bumped down to two singles following the arrival of sophomore Christina Ruiz at Northville High School.

Always competitive
Novi junior Diana Ticu never gives up. No matter how far behind she is in a set or how the match is playing out, she keeps going and keeps going strong.

Familiar face
Some players are just comfortable as members of the All-Area squad. Novi junior Ayano Nakamura is one of them.

Welcome back
Both Lauren Thomas and Emily Holt made all area last year as juniors for the Novi Wildcats. That year, they were on separate doubles teams. This year, they're together.

Player of the Year
"Christina Ruiz didn't disappoint. She came in, earned a place at one singles, and marched to an impressive 20-3 record as the top player in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

with the top players from every team in the Wildcat play.

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Ann Arbor Pioneer's top squad in the doubles flights — that alone makes a highlight moment for any tennis team.

Was there any doubt?
Jackie Taylor and Shannon Parris played the best tennis of their careers this year. It showed with the way they rolled through their opponents and right onto the HomeTown All-Area tennis team.

Doubles trouble
Northville seniors Jen Harkness and Amanda Darish are used to being a pair. They've played together for a number of years and this year they used their talents to take on the top doubles teams any squad could throw at them.

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There aren't many doubles teams that play together as well as these two Wildcats. They bonded well, played even better together and no one seemed to have the recipe to beat them on a regular basis.

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File photo by JOHN HEIDER

Folino named HomeTown Player of the Year

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Basketball is a game of individuals who are asked to play as a team. Individuals can control a game. They can take it over and dominate it. Individuals can rise above the rest as stars.

Folino earns top honors
Just what is it about Rachele Folino that makes her such a successful player? Is it her ability to drive with the ball? Her ability to shoot from beyond the three-point arc? Is it all of the above?

Player of the Year
"We need more kids like that," said Novi coach Bill Kelp. "Basketball is her main sport. I've got no problems with players having more than one sport, but basketball is Rachele's main sport and it shows. It has really helped her on her path to success."

Currently, the stellar forward has netted 14 points and eight rebounds per game. She's posted in 22 here, 20 there. Assist? She does that too. Basically, she does it all.

Because of her pure talent, defenses were forced to adjust to Folino. They focused on her. They double teamed her most of the time and triple teamed her when it became clear she wasn't going to be deterred.

Such a force deserves recognition. The HomeTown Newspapers All-Area squad's Player of the Year nod is fitting.

Point man
Few guards can handle a basketball like Jessica Haggerty, a senior from Novi. When she received two fouls early in a game this year, someone in the stands mentioned that they hoped she wouldn't be taken out of the game because no one else could bring the ball up on the court.

Though that statement is rather drastic, the truth is there is no guard that can bring the ball up the court at Novi quite as well as Haggerty.

Mustang Evonna Karchon tries to get a shot off against Salem this year. Karchon is a senior this year.

Mustang Evonna Karchon tries to get a shot off against Salem this year. Karchon is a senior this year.

File photo by JOHN HEIDER

one of her best and hopefully it leads her into an even more promising future of college basketball."

And what college wouldn't be lucky to get her? Quick on her feet, agile, aggressive and pretty darn talented — she's everything a recruit should be.

Ms. Mustang
Ask anyone on the receiving end of it and they'll tell you being kicked by a horse is one of the most painful experiences ever. A Mustang, being untamed and unbridled, would most likely hurt even worse.

That's basically the same feeling an opposing team got when Northville senior Evonna Karchon was on fire. A threat both inside and out, Northville's leading scorer with 10.4 points per game was capable of controlling a game with her skill.

"She's an integral part of our team," said Northville coach Pete Wright. "She's so quick and so athletic she was able to surprise a lot of people."

Karchon was hardly just about offense. She netted 6.8 rebounds per game and snagged 3.1 steals thanks to her quick hands and court awareness.

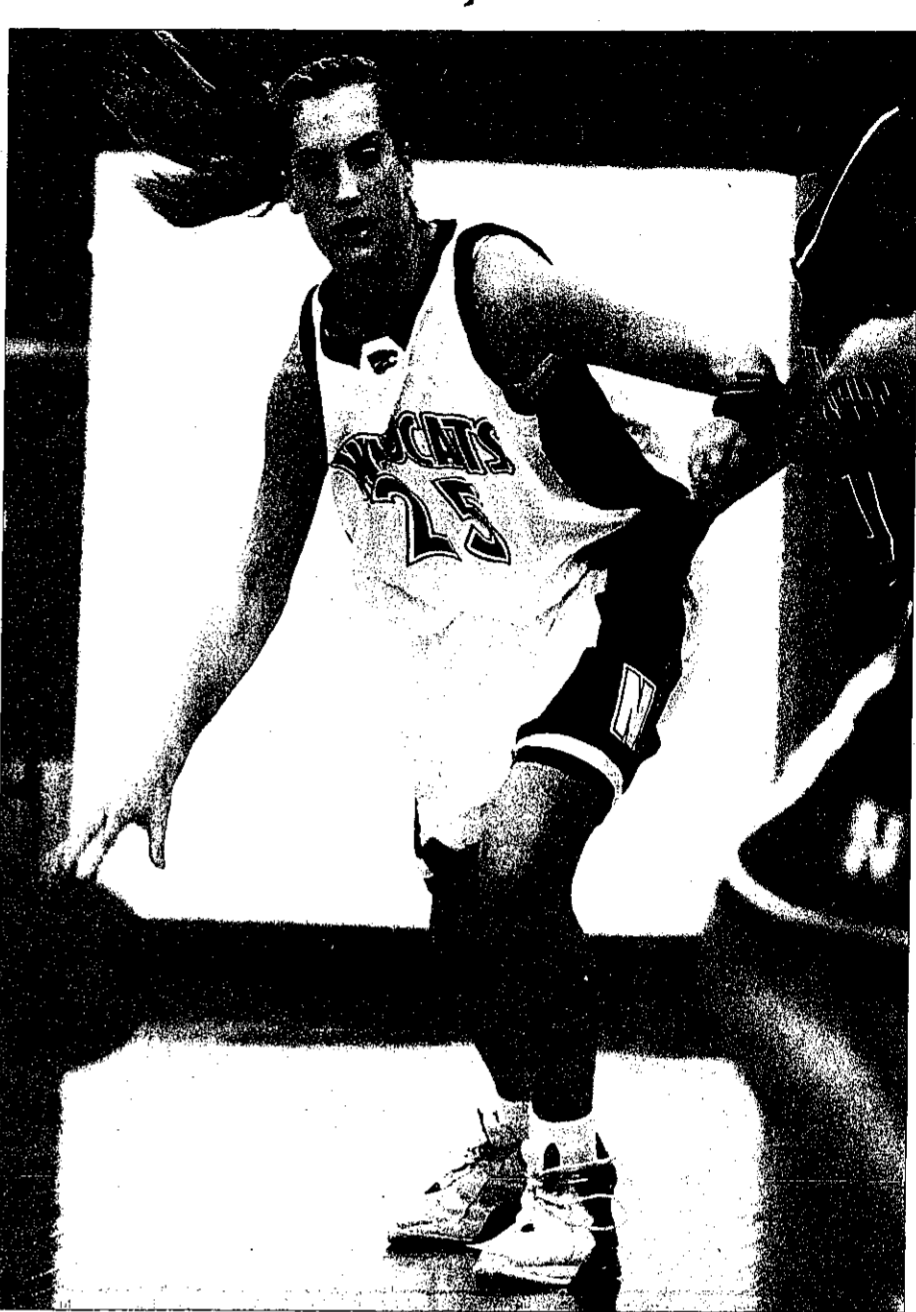
For her abilities and impact on Northville's game, Karchon was given All-Western Division honors.

"On defense we asked her to guard both perimeter players and interior players as well," said Wright. "We relied on her athletic ability to guard post players a lot bigger than her. Her athletic ability was needed to guard on the perimeter."

Karchon, a three-year member of the varsity team, was key in Northville's largest upset of the year when they topped Plymouth Salem in their regular-season contest. Her season high was 22 points in a single game.

Her graduation will leave big shoes for Northville to fill.

"It's a big gap," said Wright. "She's so versatile and can play so many positions. It's always nice to have a player like that. She's going to be hard to replace."



Novi's Rachele Folino tries to bring the ball around the perimeter against Northville. She was named Player of the Year for HomeTown's All-Area team.

The other coaches in the Kensington Valley Conference must have noticed Haggerty's ability too. She was selected as a second-team All-Conference player this year.

With an average of six points per game and 3.5 rebounds, Haggerty's impact was felt by every team she played against. The senior also

snagged two assists a game and 1.5 steals.

"We match her up with the other team's best guard," said Kelp. "They're probably quicker than her, but she plays with them and quite often beats them. Why? Because of her heart and because of her desire. She works harder than the girls she plays against."

Toney, Toney, Toney
She's agile, she's aggressive and she hates to lose.

Northville junior Simone Toney is a natural selection to the All-Area basketball team. She's quick off the dribble, can drive when she needs to and has been known to bury a few shots from downtown in three-point land as well.

despite playing against some of the best the KVC has to offer.

"The KVC is just loaded with post players," said Kelp. "Look at the first-team All-KVC. Six of the eight players were in the post. Everyone is strong in the post in this league and I like to think we are too."

Though Stephen has been charged with the task of keeping out post players like the likes the KVC has not seen in a long time, she did her job and did it well. In addition to her impressive scoring totals, Stephen went up to capture 3.2 rebounds off the boards per game.

There's no denying the excitement when Kelp talks about having her back for another stint next season.

"If she can make the jump like she did between her sophomore and junior year, she's going to be real key to our success," said Kelp. "When she scores over eight points a game we win 90 percent of the time. She's definitely one of our most improved players from last year to this year. Hopefully she can do it again."

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Mustang Evonna Karchon tries to get a shot off against Salem this year. Karchon is a senior this year.

Along with her impressive shooting abilities, Toney has been known to drive into the lane and kick it out to her teammates, gathering assists along the way. She also snagged 3.2 rebounds per contest and grabbed up 2.4 steals.

"She's a three-year varsity player that we're expecting to step up and take a leadership role next year," Wright said. "She's a very capable ball player that can get everyone else involved in the game."

Give her the rock
If there's one thing that has held Novi junior Nicole Stephen back this year it's the fact that she's on a team with some very talented ball players.

Stephen, who earned a nod as an honorable mention selection in the Kensington Valley Conference this year, snagged 7.1 points per game with her inside presence

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File photo by JOHN HEIDER

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Rolling Stone Best Movies

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CLOSER

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JEFFREY M. ANDERSON, San Francisco Examiner

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STAR GREAT LAKES MASSING	STAR JOHN R	STAR ROCHESTER
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Northville's Christina Ruiz takes a swing at an incoming volley this season.

File photo by JOHN HEIDER

File photo by JOHN HEIDER

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 8B

Novi News

Thursday, December 2, 2004

Veterans: Following business tradition

Americans look forward to the day when men and women serving in combat far from home return safe and secure to their families, friends and communities around the nation.

For as long as this nation has existed, it has been defended by citizen-soldiers, the first of whom appeared on a small gathering spot in Lexington, Mass., nearly 230 years ago. "Minutemen," they dubbed themselves, for they vowed to be "ready in a minute" to take up arms against an oppressing enemy. As soon as the threats were repelled,

Jack Faris

America's first entrepreneurs put down their muskets, picked up their tools and went back to work as farmers, craftsmen and shopkeepers.

Like their risk-taking forebears, today's veterans have a strong entrepreneurial spirit. According to a study recently released by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, who has been charged with developing programs to assist veterans, nearly one-quarter of the veterans polled said they were either purchasing or starting a new business, or giving it some serious consideration. True to their Minutemen roots, nearly two-thirds of those classified as "new-veteran entrepreneurs" planned to initially open their businesses entirely from their homes and 67 percent foresaw expanding beyond their residences in the near future. Almost two-fifths of current-veteran business owners surveyed indicated their operations were entirely home-based small businesses. Of these, nearly 36 percent had plans to grow their enterprises outside of their homes.

Of course, today's armed forces are the most organizationally and technologically sophisticated our nation's history-applying their skills to meet the needs and challenges of modern combat. Those men and women who have returned and are starting new businesses are making good use of the training they received during their military service. For example, the SBA study found that 11 percent of the new-veteran entrepreneurs plan to be entirely Internet-dependent, while nearly one-third said their business would be 50 percent or more tied to the Internet. Almost a quarter of current-veteran business owners reported that their enterprises were 50 percent or more Internet-dependent.

Overall, the study determined that military service appeared to have provided a significant proportion of both new-veteran entrepreneurs and current-veteran business owners with skills necessary to operate a business. More than one-third of those queried in the study (both new-veteran entrepreneurs and current-veteran business owners) confirmed that they had gained skills while in military service that were directly relevant to business ownership.

It is comforting and re-assuring that after more than two centuries of answering the call to defend their nation, America's veterans retain the citizen-soldier tradition. That's the good news; the better news will come when those men and women bravely serving the nation throughout the world return—many of them to pursue the American Dream of small-business ownership.

To learn more about services available to veterans interested in beginning a business, visit www.sba.gov/vets.

Jack Faris is president of the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB represents the consensus views of its 600,000 members in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals.

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Advertorial



Santa: 'At Milford Jewelers, I feel special'

Great Elf dazzled by world's 'friendliest, most affordable' jeweler

Every year he arrives the same way, unexpectedly, thistles jingling, reindeer stomping. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" he rumbles as he floats from rooftop to cobbled sidewalk, along Main Street in picturesque downtown Milford. "Ho! Ho! Ho!... Ho! Ho! Ho!... HO! HO! HO!"

Santa Claus arrives at Milford Jewelers each year, heart filled with love, gift bag slung across his burly shoulder, eager to renew old friendships. His first stop when entering the 441 N. Main St. store never changes: the cookie dish.

"Mrs. Claus said I can eat whatever I want between now and Christmas," he said. "All she wants in return is a something nice from Milford Jewelers — that's easy!"

Indeed, the world's most famous professional shopper knows just where to go when time is short and quality craftsmanship is essential. He knows when it comes to relaxed, friendly customer service and 30 years of professional expertise, sister and brother tandem Tamar Aguilar and Jacques Chopjian represent a family steeped in professional pride and unsurpassed for its attention to detail.

Santa also keenly understands the value of having your own workshop. "I couldn't imagine asking a third party to make our toys," he said. "That's why I shop here."

At Milford Jewelers, the story is the same. The family-owned business features three retail jewelry stores and its own jewelry manufacturing facility.

While most jewelers boast on-site repairs and custom-carved waxes — minimum industry standards — as featured practices, Milford Jewelers also humbly casts its own platinum, gold and silver and uses high-tech laser equipment for intricate repairs. The net result: ultimate customer design flexibility — and significant cost savings.

The family is well-known from the North Pole to Northville for its meticulous, hand-crafted dedication.

"Because we control the entire process, customers end up with exactly what they want — for less," Tamar said.

Even Santa. Tamar refused to divulge Mrs. Claus' gift. "That's a secret," she said, defiant. "He likes to buy her unique gifts. He's really good at finding just the right thing."

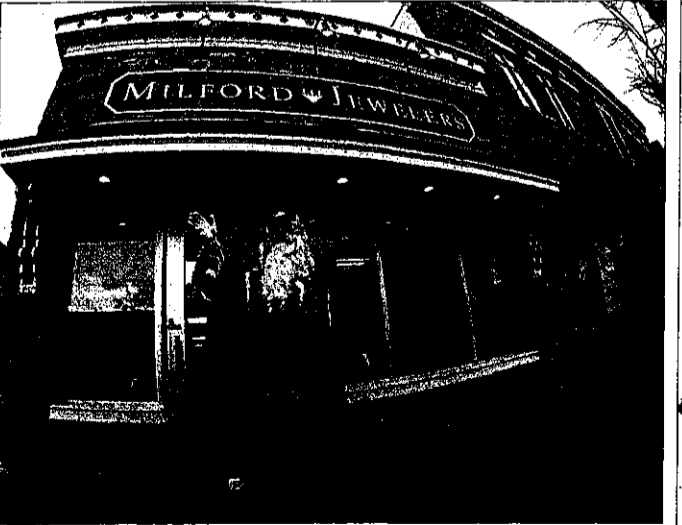
— Photos by Milford Jewelers —



Jacques Chopjian and Tamar Aguilar comprise the brother-sister tandem who own Milford Jewelers, located at 441 N. Main St. in downtown Milford. The siblings are also proud members of a 30-year-old family-owned jewelry operation featuring four brothers, one (baby) sister, three retail jewelry stores and a jewelry manufacturing facility which provides customers unprecedented custom design flexibility — and significant cost savings.

MILFORD JEWELERS

441 N. Main St. • Milford, MI 48381
(248) 676-0721 • www.milfordjewelers.com
Mon.-Fri. 10-6; Saturday 10-5; Sunday 12-4



For quality craftsmanship and affordable prices, Santa Claus knows what to do: see Tamar Aguilar at Milford Jewelers, located at 441 N. Main St. in downtown Milford.