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Look inside for your

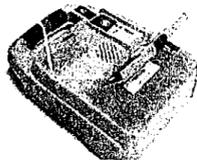
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INSIDE

Life-or-death fundraiser

Wixom Police are counting on the community to help save lives by donating to the Wixom Heart Savers fund, which will buy 10 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for police cars and municipal buildings. — Page 3A



Fatoosh - alive and well

Despite the eerily empty market below, Main Street's Fatoosh Mediterranean Cuisine is trying to thrive and is still alive, says co-owner Rana Matar. — Page 2A



CLARIFICATION:

Last week's article "Parkview Elementary hosts theater company" also should have stated that the event is co-sponsored by grants from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Michigan Humanities Council.

SPORTS

Running in Ireland

Tim Moore made his mark on his conference, region, state and nation this year, and he has finally had the chance to make his mark on the world in Dublin, Ireland. — Page 1B



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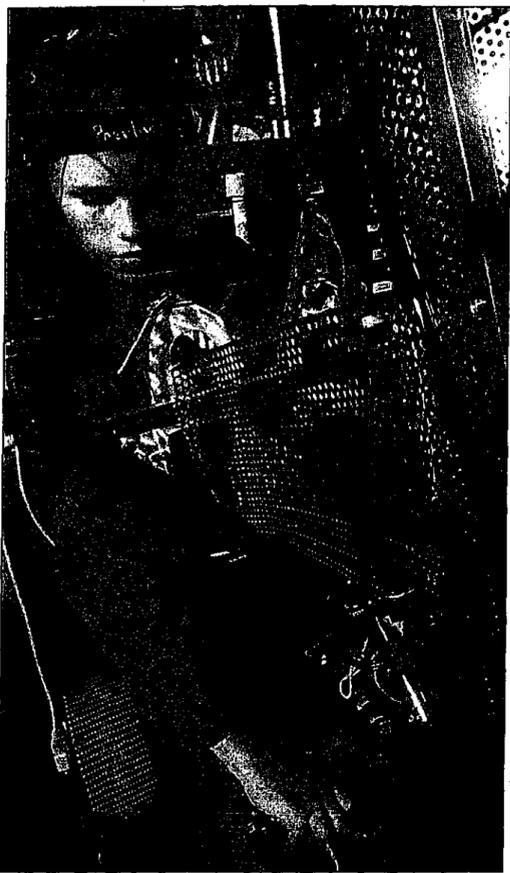


Photo by Tom Hibbeln

Novi High School sophomore, Joe Belter, makes a few adjustments on "Guenther", the robot, at the FIRST Robotics Competition, on Saturday.

Novi heading to World Championship

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

After an impressive show at the regional competition in Ypsilanti last weekend, the Novi High School Robotics Team has their sights set on the world championships in Orlando, Fla.

The student robotics team won the Motorola Quality Design Award at the 2002 For Inspiration and Recognition of Science



Photo by Tom Hibbeln

Northville H.S. senior Chris Doktorcik uses the control pad to manipulate his school's robot in a game of "Zone Zeal."

and Technology (FIRST) Great Lakes Regional on Mar. 21-23, ensuring themselves a spot in the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship in April at Walt Disney World.

"This is a huge award because it qualifies them for the nationals," said Novi Robotics Team mentor Jennifer Harvey.

The team is sponsored by Intier and Magna Automotive.

The award recognizes the innovative design of the team's "E-clamp" — a part of their robot that can clamp onto metal, allowing it to maneuver objects.

Furthermore, the Novi Robotics Team was runner-up for the FIRST Chairman's Award last weekend.

"This is for the team who has proven not only competition success, but has an impact on their communities as well," Harvey said. "This is the highest award that can be given to a team."

In part, the runner-up award recognizes the Novi team's efforts in bringing the FIRST Lego League — a junior robotics program for kids from 9-14 years old — to the Novi Middle School. The junior robotics teams build Lego robots that are maneuvered by computers.

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Novi rebuts group's racism allegations

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A quick response by members of the Novi Police Department last week countered allegations that the city of Novi unfairly targets black motorists.

Days after a travel advisory was issued by the Michigan Chapter of the National Action Network telling blacks to avoid the city, Novi Police Chief Douglas Shaeffer ordered an instant hand-count analysis of all traffic tickets issued since Jan. 1, showing 5.01 percent of all tickets issued were issued to African Americans.

In addition to showing the percentage of tickets issued to blacks, the analysis showed 2.48 percent of violations were issued to Asians and .5 percent issued to Hispanics.

There was a group of tickets where the race was not marked, but the rest were issued to white motorists.

"That is much less than what we feel represents African Americans visiting Novi," Shaeffer said.

Shaeffer said a major cross section of people, including African Americans, visit Novi's Expo Center, restaurants and shopping centers.

In addition to reviewing the city's more than 2,700 citations, Shaeffer also reviewed the city's complaint log for the past several years. He found only one complaint of racial profiling which was later withdrawn.

The complaint was originally

CITY OF NOVI PROFILE

Population by Race:	
White	41,532
Asian	4,113
Black	908
Multi Racial	705
American Indian	90
Other Race	223
Pacific Islander	8
Total Population:	47,579

Source: SEMCOG, April 2000 Census

Three-Month Traffic Citation Analysis - Tickets by Race:

White and unidentifiable	2,551
Black	139
Asian	69
Hispanic	14
Total Tickets Issued:	2,773

filed by a black man who was stopped by a Novi police officer for traveling in excess of 10 m.p.h. on Meadowbrook Road.

"He thought he had been profiled," Shaeffer said.

An investigation was conducted by department personnel using video and radio tapes from the squad car. Shaeffer said after the complainant reviewed the video of the traffic stop he apologized for making the complaint.

"The point being, we are aggressive about responding to allegations of this type," Shaeffer said.

Members of the department

Continued on 16

Restoration of Novi Woods begins July 6

Completion of school overhaul targeted for August 2003

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The hallways of Novi Woods Elementary will soon swap the sounds of kids' scuffling feet for the echoes of workmen's pounding hammers, as students and faculty ready themselves for a "year-long" adventure in a new home.

In June, the school will move into the Novi Technology Center — located between the fifth- and sixth-grade houses at Novi Meadows — for the 2002-2003 school year, with the kindergarten students temporarily headed for Parkview Elementary.

The move will facilitate the 13-month construction project that will completely renovate Novi Woods, including the additions of a new media center, a new gymnasium and an expanded playground. (Novi Woods) will be totally

restored into a new environment," said James Koster, Novi Schools assistant superintendent of finance.

The building overhaul is expected to be completed in August 2003, when students will move back into their remodeled school for the 2003-2004 school year. Construction bids for the Novi Woods' project are expected to be awarded by the district July 1, with work beginning July 6. The school's overhaul is part of the \$75 million bond issue passed by Novi voters last June.

Novi Woods Elementary principal Pam Quitiquit said the one-year relocation — as opposed to coordinating the construction work around classroom instruction — ensures the kids' safety and will help minimize any delays to the project.

"This was the best solution to the problem," she said.

Teachers, administrators, secretaries and custodians will all begin breaking down the school and packing it away into boxes in early April, with the big move planned for June 14-17, which follows the

Continued on 16

Repaving project raises questions

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

A Novi subdivision resurfacing project paved the way for problems prompting city officials to provide an explanation of what went wrong.

Questions surrounding the 2001 Village Oaks resurfacing project began when Novi Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Bononi pulled a \$644,298.80 payment to Cadillac Asphalt Paving Company with a questionable description off the March 4 city council warrants list and requested more documentation.

Two weeks later, the payment came before members of the city council in the form of a change order needing approval by council members at their March 18 meeting.

How did a payment of a materi-

al amount that was a project change order almost skip the procedure of being approved by council? It seemed to some that if the payment had skipped Bononi's radar it may have went through as a standard payment.

"It was an oversight," said Novi Assistant City Manager Clay Pearson. "We caught it before and we reissued it as a change order."

Pearson said the city caught the error at almost the same time Bononi pulled the check, and officials were not going to let the payment go out.

He also stated it is the city's policy to put any change orders in front of city council members, and the policy will be followed in the future.

"We're concerned with providing advance notice of change orders," Pearson said. "The reality is it happened."

Pearson said when something like that does happen, city officials look into why and improve the process.

During the March 18 city council meeting, Novi City Manager Richard Helwig mirrored the same sentiments, saying it was an oversight that will not occur again.

"If someone did make errors, I need to know," said Novi city council member Craig DeRoche. "I expect a lot more complete, accurate and timely accounting of information than the council received from this project."

DeRoche explained council members need to rely on the information they receive because as a volunteer they have no way to track every project to personally monitor and manage.

"I'm really concerned with the

Continued on 14



Photo by John Heider

Next year at this time, Novi Woods students Eric Hopton, left, and Jacob Zimmer will be eating their lunches in the ITC building during their school's renovation efforts.



Fatoosh restaurant's Rana Matar wants to let people know that her kitchen is still open despite losing their downstairs neighbor; Vic's World Class Market. Matar displays some of her restaurant's fares: a strawberry fruit smoothie and a shish kabob combo platter.

Fatoosh is still alive, despite Vic's demise

Mediterranean restaurant's owners frustrated by public's misperception

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Despite the eerily empty market below, Main Street's Fatoosh Mediterranean Cuisine is trying to thrive and is still alive.

Owners of the second floor restaurant, overlooking the recently closed Vic's World Class Market, said their business was crippled the day the grocer closed his doors.

Fatoosh co-owner Nabil Matar said everyone assumed they were closed too — which couldn't be further from the truth.

Matar said along with numerous phone calls from people asking if they were open for business, customers quit walking through the door.

"It was like silence," said Fatoosh co-owner and Nabil's wife, Rana Matar. "It is so unfair we have to pay this price."

Since the downtown development anchor Vic's closed its doors to the public last month, Rana said the campaign to bring restaurateurs into the once crowded

eatery has been more difficult than when they first opened in August.

She said because the Middle Eastern-themed restaurant overlooked and could be entered into through the market, people assumed it was a part of Vic's.

Ironically, Fatoosh's adjacency to the market was one of the factors that drew the Matar's to the Novi location in the first place.

"Every middle Eastern person came in and said 'Wow,' because of how the restaurant took them back," Matar said.

She explained the restaurant's setting is how restaurants in the Middle East are. They overlook the hustle and bustle of markets and shoppers.

But just because the market is gone doesn't mean the cultural experience has disappeared.

The culturally-rich establishment boasts an outdoor terrace overlooking Main Street shoppers and a lounge area focusing on traditional Arabic seating where customers may enjoy a pot of Arabic coffee, Mediterranean music and

fresh, made-from-scratch cuisine.

"We offer ancient homemade cooking," Matar said, "things like my grandmother used to make."

On Friday and Saturday nights, guests dining in Fatoosh's 250-person banquet room may enjoy a Mediterranean band and belly dancing show.

The cozy and well-decorated banquet room is also available for weddings, showers, confirmations or any other special gathering.

"We really love Novi," Matar said. "The support in the past has been tremendous."

Matar hopes spreading the "we are still open" word will restore her second home to the energy level it once exuded.

The entrance to Fatoosh Mediterranean Cuisine is located on Main Street across from Quinco's Subs, kiddie-corner from HD's Mongolian Barbecue and is above Globe Furniture Rentals.

For more information or to make a weekend dinner show reservation, please call (248) 465-1060.

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More than Mediterranean

Celebrants are not limited to the eatery's specialty cuisine, any type of cuisine or a combination of both may be ordered from Fatoosh's seasoned chefs.

The sprawling restaurant's daily menu also offers a choice for those who may prefer Mediterranean cuisine, including a children's section featuring hamburgers and chicken tenders.

Traditional menu offerings include Hommus, Kibbia and Falafel appetizers ranging in price from \$4.45 to \$6.95 and dinner entrees including different varieties of Shish, Mashawi, Ghalabab, Lamb Chops, Salmon fillet, fried jumbo shrimp and a charbroiled T-bone steak ranging in price from \$10.95 to \$13.95.

"It is a lot of food," Matar said. "People always take something home with them."

The co-owner said entrees include soup, salad and Fatoosh's wonderfully flavored rice.

The downtown eatery also offers smoothies, freshly squeezed juices, deserts, sandwiches ranging in price from \$2.25 to \$5.45 and a \$5.95 lunchtime all-you-can-eat-buffet weekly from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A \$10.95 dinner version of the buffet is also offered from 4 to 9 p.m.

A Way With Words

Author shares her love of writing with Meadowbrook

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Children's author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos brought her passion of history and her love for Michigan to Meadowbrook Elementary students Monday.

Panagopoulos' visit to Meadowbrook was her first stop on a tour of all Walled Lake Elementary schools. It was made possible by elementary PTA members, who sponsor an author visit for children in Walled Lake schools every year.

The children's author, who grew up in Owosso and now resides in Illinois, was chosen as Michigan Author of the Year by the Michigan Library Association in 2000. Most of her books have chapters.

However, her only picture book, "A Place Called Home," which takes place on Macina Island, was selected for the "Must Read Michigan" list by Governor John Engler.

Panagopoulos, who is currently working on her 14th book, prides herself as a historical researcher first and an author second.

"I started writing when I was in third grade," Panagopoulos told the group, who were third grade students themselves. "I was a good student and loved school but I was just too yucky."

Her teacher became her first "mentor" by encouraging her to put her chatter down on paper then critiquing what she had written.

She found she had a knack for the written form and began entering and winning writing contests before her middle school days were finished.

Panagopoulos, who writes about children and their families living in Michigan long ago, told the students that they should keep a journal of their lives.

"Writing in a journal is for people two, three or four hundred years in the future," Panagopoulos said. "Because maybe one day people will be writing about you."

Panagopoulos said it's important for her to write about events from yesterday.

"We know history from the eyes of presidents, church leaders and from higher education, but there is little written about the average, common person," she said.

Carol Trembath, media specialist at the school, pointed out that it's important for children to meet published writers.

"They need to see firsthand that authors are real people and hear about their personal stories on how and why they became authors," Trembath said.

Nathan Fournat, third grade, said he plans to purchase her book about the Gold Rush after listening to her speak when it comes out next year.

"It was fun," Fournat said. "She talked a lot about our history in Michigan, the books she's come out with and the historical sites she's been to."

Rachel Shuman, third grade, also got a kick out of meeting Panagopoulos.

"I've always liked history myself," Shuman said. "It was cool listening to her talk about all the things she has learned and where she has been. It really made me want to read her books."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeel@lakesarea.com.



Children's author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos enthusiastically describes to Meadowbrook Elementary School students how she became a writer. Panagopoulos was at the school Monday morning to celebrate March is Reading Month.

Library's fundraiser will bring more space

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

The Walled Lake City Library needs donations for a large-scale garage sale, which will raise money for more library space.

The white elephant sale is scheduled for June 8 at the city-owned "Bando" site.

The fundraiser is a necessary one, according to Donna Rickabaugh, library director. The library needs more space for books and for updated ware.

Library officials are hoping to build a new library or enlarge the existing one within five years. However, funds do not come easy to the library.

The library takes in most of its money from Commerce Township residents, who are contracted with the library, but Rickabaugh has previously said that Commerce Township officials could always decide not to renew the contract and build their own library.

The library takes in little money from state funds, which are given to the library through traffic tickets.

Therefore, Rickabaugh is counting on residents to help make the sale a success.

"We're asking the public to donate the kinds of things that you would put in your garage sale if you were to have one," Rickabaugh said.

Houseware items, small appliances and some furniture will gladly be accepted, she said. However, there could be a transportation problem with some furniture.

Some items can be dropped off at the library. However, residents with larger items are encouraged to call the library to make arrangements.

"They also need a large tent so that they can sell their collected wares," Rickabaugh said.

"We're just starting to collect for the sale," she said.

Rickabaugh hopes residents will donate to the sale and become involved in future fundraisers for the library.

"We have a sign-up sheet at our desk for volunteers to do fundraisers and to take suggestions for fundraisers," Rickabaugh said.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeel@lakesarea.com.

Cathy Metevia joins elite group of clerks

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake's Cathy Metevia was awarded the prominent designation of Certified Municipal Clerk, which only 197 city clerks in Michigan have earned.

Metevia had to have the experience, education and service to the community to be awarded the certification. She obtained the certification through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks approved program at Michigan State University with the Department of Resource Development.

She took more than 100 hours of in-depth courses in management and leadership skills, social and interpersonal concerns and technical training to be considered for the

designation. Metevia has also taken courses through several colleges and universities as well as numerous seminars and conferences.

She attended Michigan State for one week each year for three years, which earned her 50 points toward her certificate.

"Then you have to earn 50 points in a municipality," Metevia said. "You also count experience as going to state conferences and city level conferences."

Metevia began her career with Walled Lake City Hall in 1997 as an administrative secretary after leaving a municipal job in Wixom. She began the certification process the following year. She was appointed city clerk in 2000.

"When Marianne Cornelius went to go to Novi, they did not advertise outside for the position," Vawter said. "They knew she was going to be a dedicated employee."

Walled Lake mentors encouraged her to start the certification process shortly after she began her career in Walled Lake.

Council members acknowledged and congratulated Metevia's success at a March council meeting for her.

"We're all certainly proud of Cathy," said Philip Vawter, city manager.

Metevia began her career with Walled Lake City Hall in 1997 as an administrative secretary after leaving a municipal job in Wixom. She began the certification process the following year. She was appointed city clerk in 2000.

"When Marianne Cornelius went to go to Novi, they did not advertise outside for the position," Vawter said. "They knew she was going to be a dedicated employee."

Walled Lake mentors encouraged her to start the certification process shortly after she began her career in Walled Lake.

"The previous clerk, Marianne Cornelius, led me down this path," Metevia said. "I'm just following in her footsteps."

However, others helped her achieve her goal.

"I feel fortunate that the council allows me to attend these conferences so that I could become certified," Metevia said.

She said she enjoyed learning with fellow clerks from other Michigan cities while in East Lansing.

"You just go and ramp up at Michigan State University," Metevia said. "It's a lot of fun. You would be sitting around with eight or 10 different people in this position. People always have ideas and suggestions. It's a great sharing opportunity."

Metevia has a large job description.

She is the clerk to the mayor, city council members and members of boards and commissions, and she prepares and distributes meeting agenda information packets to them.

She also is in charge of all city elections, supervises six city employees, heads up city records, advertisements, maintains personnel files and benefits and performs some financial duties. There are also a variety of other duties and tasks too numerous to count.

"There's never a dull moment," Metevia said.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeel@lakesarea.com.

New method for processing bonds created

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Walled Lake officials have found a new way to expedite the processing of interim court bond checks of those who have made unlawful bond.

"We have contacted city auditors to determine the possibility of setting up a separate city account to be used strictly for court bond processing," said Jerry Walker, director of public safety. "The account would be set up as a separate account at Standard Federal and would be based upon having authorized check signers in the police department or city hall."

Police departments, including the Walled Lake Police Department, accept interim bond money for the Michigan courts as standard practice. However, the department needs Mayor William Roberts or Mayor Pro-Tem Dianne Carter to come into the police department to sign it. This will make it easier for city and police staff to handle bond money taken in if they do not have to call the pair from city council to come in.

Walker and Cathy Behrens, administrative assistant, are now authorized check signers within the police department. Cathy Metevia, city clerk, and Philip Vawter, city manager, are the new check signers at city hall.

The city treasurer, deputy city treasurer or the city manager will authorize issuance of

Continued on 6

Funding is life-or-death matter for Heart Savers

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

Wixom Police are counting on the community to help save lives by donating to the Wixom Heart Savers fund, which will buy 10 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for police cars and municipal buildings.

The Wixom Heart Savers is a group of residents, business owners, police and fire workers who are doing their part to fund the purchase of the life-saving equipment. The AEDs will be carried in each of Wixom's six police cars. There will be one at city hall and one in Wixom's Community Center. They also plan to replace the fire department's two current AEDs with the latest technology.

An AED analyzes the heart rhythm of a person who may be having a sudden cardiac arrest. It tells the user, who may have little medical training, if any, to deliver a shock to the person in trouble. If necessary, however, it will not deliver the shock to a person with a normal heart rhythm.

George Spencer, Wixom fire chief, said the heart starts working at a normal pace after a shock from the AED is administered to a person having a sudden cardiac arrest. Oftentimes the only way a person will survive is by the electric shock from the equipment, he said.

Paramedics and the Wixom Fire Department have been using the AEDs for years but they were too expensive for police to carry them as well. At that time, people without medical training were not authorized to use the devices. Soon people started shaking up legislators to change the law to allow non-medically trained people to use the equipment.

"The device is such that if there is something wrong with it, it won't operate," said Clarence Goodline, Wixom chief of police. "You can't mess up with these things. It checks itself to make sure it works."

Goodline said more than 350,000 people nationwide experience a sudden cardiac arrest that makes their heart quiver, beat erratically and unable to pump blood throughout their bodies. Only five percent of the people who have this malady will survive.

Nevertheless, cities that have their police officers equipped with AEDs have a much higher survival rate, he said. Seattle, Wash. and Rochester, Minn. now have 30 to 40 percent survival rates for heart attack victims after utilizing the equipment.

"It's a tremendous difference," Goodline said. "When someone has a sudden cardiac arrest, they only have about four minutes before they start suffering from brain damage that can result in fatal injuries."

Therefore, Goodline said every second counts when getting the needed life saving equipment to victims who are having a sudden cardiac arrest. Police officers can get to anyone in the city in about one or two minutes.

Spencer said the AEDs used by firefighters have saved lives a number of times.

"If we wouldn't have had it and had to wait for an ambulance to come, they would not be alive," Spencer said. "It's a very essential tool. With that out in the community, it will help us save more lives than we are doing now. It's a wonderful program."

Goodline said they had first considered getting state grants to fund the AEDs, but there's only so much money to go around and they could not receive a grant for the equipment. However, he is proud of the community for backing the needed equipment.

The purpose of doing fund raising is to make it a community project so that the whole community can share in the good that these devices will make," Goodline said. "I feel real excited about it. I think it's another step for the community to enhance public safety and police health."

The police department needs \$25,000 to complete their goal. However, they are halfway there



Wixom Police Chief Clarence Goodline demonstrates the department's newest acquisition: Automatic External Defibrillators that can be used to restore normal heart rhythms and aid people suffering from sudden cardiac arrest.

Continued on 6

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S&P gives Walled Lake district thumbs up

But administration says it's just one way to evaluate schools

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

The Standard and Poor's school evaluation is in, but according to Walled Lake Consolidated School officials, the statistics should be considered with a grain of salt. "We have MEAP. We have the state accreditation system that will be coming out and the Detroit News' evaluation," said Bill Hamilton, assistant superintendent of curriculum. "Now we have Standard and Poor's."

This is the second year the company has evaluated Michigan schools. The statistics came out earlier this year. "A lot of the information was collected in a lot of different ways," Hamilton said. "It's also interpreted and analyzed in many different ways. It needs to be viewed with scrutiny."

Standard and Poor's evaluated the school district's strengths, challenges and concerns and other key factors. "Relative to other K-12 school districts in Michigan, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools achieves well above average student results with comparatively high spending," according to the summary. "Among the student results considered are the ACT, SAT, PSAT and SAT scores and corresponding participation rates, as well as graduation and dropout rates. The district's spending per student is well above the state average and higher than the average of a group of peer districts with similar demographic characteristics."

They listed strengths such as moderately above average MEAP composite passing rate, participation and MEAP grade 11 excellent rate. It also cited the district as having moderately above average ACT test participation and well above average advanced placement participation. "The evaluation also listed several other key factors such as average ACT scores, a moderately above average graduation rate, average dropout rate, well above average operating expenditures per student and operations and maintenance expenditures per student."

The evaluation based their statistics on other schools in Michigan, including districts with similar demographic characteristics. Hamilton encourages residents to look at all indicators of success in the school district instead of focusing on Standard and Poor's for all of the answers. "Test scores are one indicator and individual school improvement plans are another indicator," he said. However, parents should also look at the administrators' willingness to talk to them when addressing a school district to move into.

Hamilton noted that administrators have their own checks and balances to analyze the success of the district. "We look at our own growth trends," Hamilton said. "Since the district's growth trends have been upward, test scores will also continue to rise, as well as graduation and dropout rates. The district's spending per student is well above the state average and higher than the average of a group of peer districts with similar demographic characteristics."

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddel@nlh.com.com.net.

Novi approves summer project plans

Over \$5 million allocated for Middle School

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Board of Education paved the way last week for a new concession building, as well as additional tennis courts and basketball courts, for the Novi Middle School. On March 21, the board unanimously approved (with secretary John Sirel absent) the \$57,718,000 project, which will be completed by 12 different contractors, including Jack Anglin Civil Contractors of Novi who received the contract for the concession building and site utilities bid.

Along with the concession building, the project includes plans for 12 new tennis courts and three new basketball courts. "The economic market is such now that bidders are hungry," said James Koster, Novi Schools assistant superintendent of finance. "We received a good amount of bids on this."

The bids came in well under the estimated project budget of \$57,718,000, allowing Novi Schools to extend the middle school plans and take additional bids for an expanded school parking lot and improved underground drainage around the new courts.

"The bids were so good that we were able to accept alternate bids and still remain under budget," Koster said.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@nlh.com.com.net.

The project will be funded by the \$75 million bond issue passed by Novi voters in June 2001. Furthermore, Novi Schools plans to improve its transportation fleet next school year.

The Novi Board of Education also unanimously approved March 21 the purchase of four new school buses for \$241,505 from Hookstra Truck Equipment Company of Troy. The new vehicles — three 65-seat passenger buses and one special education bus — will replace three older buses on the fleet, increasing the Novi bus count by one to 39 school buses.

The fleet increase was anticipated two years ago for additional routes in the school district, including those west of Novi Road and north of 12 Mile Road.

"Every year the replacement of buses is part of an overall plan," Koster said.

The new buses will have the same make-up as the rest of the current Novi fleet, with a Thomas Built body and a Freightliner chassis. "This will retain the consistency of our fleet," Koster said.

Novi Schools will include these purchases in the 2002-2003 budget, which will be adopted in June. The school has not yet determined whether they will purchase or lease the vehicles.

James Koster
Novi Schools Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Bid Category	Contractor	Bid Award
Earthwork/Site Utilities	Jack Anglin Civil Contractors, Novi	108,350.00
Paving	T&M Asphalt Paving, Milford	151,900.00
Concrete	Albanelli Cement, Farmington Hills	46,300.00
Fencing	Nationwide Fence and Supply, Chesterfield	38,257.00
Site Equipment	Michigan Fence Company, Utica	24,596.00
Tennis Court Coverings	Goddard Coverings Co., Auburn Hills	28,700.00
Concession Building	Hicks Construction Co., Shelby Twp.	98,200.00
Carpentry/Finishes	Sterling Image, Royal Oak	57,520.00
Painting	Century Painters & Decorators, West Bloomfield	1,700.00
Standing Seam Roof	Ritchie Metals, LLC, Walled Lake	22,000.00
Plumbing	J.F.'s Plumbing, Madison Heights	21,500.00
Electrical	Mutual Electric Company, Livonia	18,655.00
TOTAL		\$57,718,000

CHURCH DIRECTORY

For Information regarding rates call
The Northville Record or Novi News (248)349-1700

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
9 Mile & Meadowbrook
Wacoporton Ev. Lutheran Synod
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:45am
Worship 10:00am
Thomas E. Schroeder, Pastor - 349-0565

CHURCH OF TODAY WEST (Unity)
New Location
Meadowbrook Cemetery School - Walled Lake
(South of 13 Mile on Meadowbrook Road)
(248) 460-8000
Services at 10 AM
Children's Church at 11 AM
Minister: Barbara Cleveland

NOVI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4101 W. Ten Mile - Meadowbrook
349-2850 (248)
Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m.
Newcomer Open House 10:00 a.m.
Lucy R. Orr, Pastor

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
21355 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi or 8 1/2 Mile
Morning Worship 9:30 a.m.
Church School 10 a.m.
248-346-7757
Minister: Rev. Dr. S. Bill Hunt
Minister of Music: Patrick Kuhl

COMMUNITY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Sunday 10:30 a.m. at BECC (Old Scranton)
125 S. Church St., Brighton
Rev. Suzanne Papp, Minister
(810) 223-2892
laun@uua.com

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NOVI
4325 W. Nine Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48374
Phone: 349-5100
Sunday 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Parish Office: 347-7778

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
2420 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Worship: Sat. 5:00 p.m., Sun. 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.
Novi Holy Family: Sun. 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Father: John Budde, Pastor
Father: Joseph C. F. Pastor
Parish Office: 349-8847

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A Christian Family Church
Pastor: Rev. J. McGee
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 AM
The Sanctuary: 4800 W. Meadowbrook St.
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Web: www.wc2.com

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Rev. Anne Schaefer, Associate Pastor
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Parish Office: 349-8847

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Sunday Evening Church Service 6:30 PM
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Sunday 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
11 a.m. Sunday School & Nursery

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Worship 11:00 a.m.

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The Rev. Leslie Harding Victor

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Dr. James M. McGuire, Senior Pastor
4000 S. W. Road, Northville, MI 48161-7400
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Contemporary Services 8:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Live Service Center: 248-349-1100

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200 E. Northville Rd., Northville 48161-9911
Worship & Church School - 9:30 & 11:00am
Children's Church - 10:00am
Novi Holy Family: Sun. 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Novi Holy Family: Sun. 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Parish Office: 349-3310
Parish Office: 349-3310

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN MISSOURI SYNOD
4101 W. Ten Mile - Meadowbrook
349-2850 (248)
Church: Sun. 9:30 - School: Sun. 9:45
Sunday Worship at 9:45 a.m.
Newcomer Open House 10:00 a.m.
Lucy R. Orr, Pastor

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340-1144 S. Mill & Tott Roads
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Contemporary Service
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. - "The Sound of Your Home"
Festive Service - 5 Chorus

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Sun. School: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Dr. Gary Ethel, Pastor
349-3477
www.novibaptistchurch.org

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217 N. Wing
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Worship: 10:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Boys Brigade 7 p.m., Pioneer Girls 7 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

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23200 Wacoporton Rd., Novi, MI 48375
Worship: Sun. 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
Novi Holy Family: Sun. 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Discipleship Service 6:00 pm
www.fcncna.org
Dr. Carl L. Lam, Pastor

DEDICATION AND A DESIRE TO EXCEL

City of Novi Engineer Nancy McClain grabs top honors in her profession

By Victoria Sadlocha
STAFF WRITER

Nancy McClain, the City of Novi's engineer, received the Outstanding Engineer in Government award from the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers at an excellence awards banquet held Feb. 23 in the Frederik Mejer Gardens in Grand Rapids. "I was very surprised," McClain said. "I certainly didn't expect to win."

McClain found out she had been awarded the distinction less than two weeks before the actual event. She knew she had been nominated by her fellow board members of the society, but did not think she would be chosen as the winner.

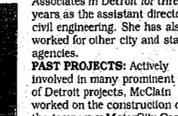
The Civil Engineer was hired by the city in August, filling a position created to reduce Novi's reliance on outside subcontractors. Having a full-time city engineer also decreases the response time for site plan reviews and streamlines the entire approval process.

"We feel very fortunate to have her as a member of our team," said Novi City Manager Richard Heilig. "She's been doing a fine job."

Heilig said he has been very impressed with McClain's ability to coordinate tasks and perform in such a varied and complicated divi-

PROFILE

NAME: Nancy McClain
POSITION: City of Novi, engineer since August 2001
HONOR: Outstanding Engineer in Government award from the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers
DEGREE: bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University
RESIDENT: Redford
MEMBERSHIPS: Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, Detroit metro chapter; National Society of Professional Engineers, American Business



Nancy McClain

of our continually growing city. As a city engineer, McClain is in charge of making sure all utilities and roads scheduled for installation in Novi meet the city's standards while complying with state

and federal requirements. In order to accomplish the sometimes overwhelming task, she spends many hours attending meetings, dealing with various officials and reviewing submitted site plans in her newly-developed Plan Review Center. On top of her daily responsibilities, she is also trying to pave a brand new path and create a department that will eventually oversee support employees. "It's exciting because I get to create a department," McClain said. "It's been rewarding getting it moving and watching it flow."

McClain said she feels the leadership role she undertook by accepting the job to serve in a position, which is a brand new concept to the city, helped earn her the award. She said the only thing that could have made the honor more meaningful would have been if her parents were still alive to share in her accomplishment.

The Michigan Society of Professional Engineers was founded in 1946 and created the awards program to increase public understanding of how engineering and surveying impacts citizens lives in a positive way, recognize the achievements of teams and individual engineers and surveyors who produce projects and share information on professional techniques which may be used to benefit future projects.

Victoria Sadlocha is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 105 or at vsadlocha@nlh.com.com.net.

PROFESSOR

Deerfield Elementary in Novi earned national recognition last month for its cutting-edge building design. Fanning/Hovey Associates, Inc. of Williamston was awarded Feb. 14 the Shirley Cooper Award by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) for its design of the educational facility. Deerfield Elementary - Novi's school of choice - was an \$11 million project which brought the essence of the outdoors into the school with a variety nature themes. The 83,000 square-foot building opened in 2000.

Co-sponsored by the AASA, the American Institute of Architects and the Council of Educational Facility Planners, the award recognizes Deerfield's superior planning, design and construction. Fanning/Hovey Associates, Inc. is the first architecture and engineering firm to win this honor three times, following the 1993 and 1999 Shirley Cooper Award for Williamston High School and the Fishback Creek Public Academy in Indiana, respectively. Fanning/Hovey Associates, Inc. has built more than 800 schools in the past five years.



A few students enjoy some books inside the award-winning Deerfield Elementary School library last Wednesday.

Deerfield earns national recognition

Deerfield Elementary in Novi earned national recognition last month for its cutting-edge building design. Fanning/Hovey Associates, Inc. of Williamston was awarded Feb. 14 the Shirley Cooper Award by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) for its design of the educational facility. Deerfield Elementary - Novi's school of choice - was an \$11 million project which brought the essence of the outdoors into the school with a variety nature themes. The 83,000 square-foot building opened in 2000.

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Good Friday - March 29 1pm & 7pm
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Rev. John Hice

GOOD FRIDAY - March 29, 2002
Community "Tender" Service
7:00 p.m. - "Lift High The Cross"
Rev. James Russell

EASTER SUNDAY - March 31, 2002
8:30 a.m. - The Stations of the Cross
9:15 & 11:00 a.m. - "The Sound of Your Home"
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Bonds: New method for processing

continued from 3

each individual check. The treasurer's department will be responsible for creating a monthly reconciliation on the court bond account. The police department, on the other hand, will be responsible for listing the date, check numbers amounts and payees on their monthly report.

It will be very easy to finally

keep track of," Walters said. The department accepts bond approximately three or four times a week. Those arrested make checks out for amounts between \$100 and \$1,000.

Offentimes arrests are made over the weekend. According to state law, some defendants must be assigned the next available court date. That court date is 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday at the 52-1 District Court in Novi for Walled Lake arrests. Therefore, it's tough to get the bond processed and returned in time for Tuesday hearings.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeed@lt.hometown.com.

Heart Savers: Funding is life-or-death matter

continued from 3

because of the donations that have been coming in. Goodlein said 10 people have already donated to the cause since the fundraising began only weeks ago. Some people have donated as much as \$6,000 and others have given \$25. Each AED costs \$3,500 including disposable pads that deliver the shock and revive the victim. The cost also includes training for personnel.

"All of the donations have been wonderful," Goodlein said. "Everyone has given what they feel they can afford. It's been a wonderful experience for me to

see just the sense and spirit of the community that people who live in the city or who run businesses in the city have."

Residents should feel good about themselves by giving money to the fund raising project.

"The first time this saves someone's life, people in the community can feel like they helped make that happen because they participated in the fundraiser," Goodlein said.

Diane Dempsey Deel is a staff writer for the Lake Area Times. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700 ext. 110 or ddeed@lt.hometown.com.

"If we wouldn't have had it (an AED) and had to wait for an ambulance to come, they would not be alive. It's a very essential tool. With that out in the community, it will help us save more lives than we are doing now. It's a wonderful program."

George Spencer
Walled Lake Fire Chief

EASTER SERVICES

Church of the Holy Cross
Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday 7:30 p.m.
Easter 7:45 a.m., 11 a.m.

Church of the Holy Family
Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday noon, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday Easter Vigil 7:30 p.m.
Easter 7:30, 8:45, 10:30 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.

Faith Presbyterian
Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Easter 7, 9, 10:30 a.m.

First Baptist of Novi
Easter 11 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran
Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.
Good Friday 7 p.m.
Easter 7:30, 10 a.m.

Meadowbrook Congregational
Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Easter 9, 11 a.m.

Novi Methodist
Good Friday noon (at Holy Family Catholic Church)
Easter 7:30, 9:45 a.m.

Orchard Hills Baptist
Easter 11 a.m.
Easter Cantata 6:30 p.m.

St. James Catholic
Maundy Thursday 7 p.m.
Good Friday 1 p.m.
Saturday Easter Vigil 8 p.m.
Easter 8, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Lakes Baptist Church
Easter Breakfast, free 10 a.m.
Easter 9, 10 a.m.

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40% OFF Career separates from Parisian Signature. Reg. 40.00-120.00, sale 24.00-72.00. IN CAREER.

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SALE 29.99 Selected Easter dresswear for girls in sizes 2T-16 from Bonnie Jean, Jonathan Martin, Goodlad and more. Reg. 40.00-70.00. IN CHILDREN'S.

SALE 19.99-29.99 Great selection of girls' dress shoes from Nina, Sam & Libby, Rachael, Esprit and more. Reg. 34.00-44.00. IN CHILDREN'S SHOES.

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FIRST: Novi Robotics team on to Florida

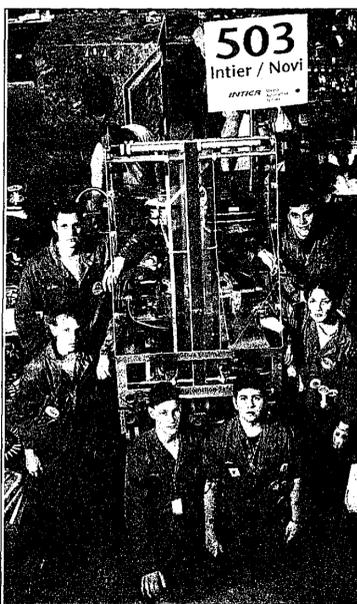
continued from front

"FIRST tries to get kids excited about technology and science at an early age," Harvey said.

Over 20,000 high school students and 600 teams will compete in FIRST competitions across the country this year. Each team attempts to build a fully-functional robot that can out-maneuver and out-muscle rival machines.

The next stop for the Novi Robotics Team is the FIRST West Michigan Regionals in Grand Rapids April 4-6.

Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or aparlove@lt.hometown.com.



The "pit crew". From left to right: senior Dan St. Clair, sophomore Joe Belter, sophomore Peter Kalinowski, sophomore A.J. Francho, sophomore Kimberly Koch, and senior Derek Granzow.



Blair Bowman honors robotics competitors with five scholarships

Photo by John Heider

FIRST supporter and Novi Expo Center president Blair Bowman received this plaque, designed by Novi artist Nina Cambron, as a thank you for his support of the FIRST Robotics program. Five winners of the Blair Bowman Scholarships, a \$1,400 scholarship given to FIRST Robotics competitors across Michigan, were announced at Saturday's competition. The 2002 winners are Kyle Shipp of Flint, Vanita Srinivasa of Ann Arbor, Ying Zheng of Ann Arbor, Mike Mroch of Warren and Stephen O'Keefe of Novi. The scholarships were given to robotics competitors who showed academic excellence and community involvement.

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Okemos, Mettishall (517) 549-4008

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Middle schoolers get a glimpse of different career paths

By Angelo Parlove
STAFF WRITER

The Novi Middle School hosted its 12th annual Career Day last Friday. Each year the event gives the students an opportunity to meet, talk and listen to professionals from nearly 40 different career choices.

The day aims to connect the students with the educational benefits of a career pathway in the global world of work. The Middle School PTO, which hosted the event, asked Novi News' municipal reporter Victoria Sadlocha and myself to be guest speakers at the 2002 Career Day.

We gladly agreed.

It was not our job as working journalists to show the middle school students what it was like to be a newspaper reporter. That

journalists spread across the school, interviewing principals, counselors, teachers and other students. They gathered the elements that told the story of Career Day and the human reactions that supported it.

Next, the students assembled the gathered news into their own words for the reader, as well as choosing the direct quotes they felt accurately expressed the event.

Victoria and I quoted them and answered questions, but they did all the work. These are their stories about 2002 Career Day, as written by the eighth-graders at Novi Middle School.

I will stop here and let the student reporters tell you the rest of the story for the Novi News.

We checked each class into four groups, assigning them a section of the story. Then, the students were off to get the information they needed to fulfill their part. The would-be

journalists spread across the school, interviewing principals, counselors, teachers and other students. They gathered the elements that told the story of Career Day and the human reactions that supported it.

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Why does a doctor become a doctor?

It all starts in middle school. Novi Middle School hosted a Career Day March 22 where 40 volunteers from the professional world came in to introduce students to a plethora of different careers.

Doctors, lawyers, journalists and a host of others talked about their jobs and introduced their occupations to eager students in the process of deciding which career to pursue.

"I am very excited about this," said Milan Olenovitch, principal of Novi Middle School. "The students see new careers and learn about them. It's a good experience for the students, as well as the speakers. I think that when we have Career Day, it really hits the adults that the kids have a future."

Leslie MacDonald, Novi Middle School seventh grade counselor, said Career Day is significant for many reasons.

"It is important for kids to be exposed to a variety of careers," she said. "A lot of people are focused on a few careers, and it is beneficial for students to hear about others."

Career Specialist Bill Schoff said coordinators of Career Day — the PTO and staff — do not try to get a certain type of career, but they try to keep an even balance between females and males.

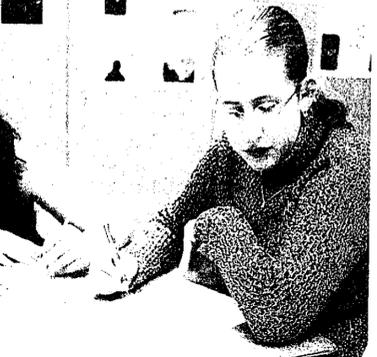
"It takes a lot of work to get this done," said Dina Asencio, chairwoman of the PTO. "Fliers could be picked up at our open house. They needed 40 speakers — two females and two males speaking for each team — each with a different career pathway."

Asencio said letters were sent out to the various volunteers.

"I thought it was a great plan," said Patrick Pederson, seventh and eighth grade Novi Middle choir teacher. "It's never too early to think about your career."

Photo by John Heider

Novi Middle School students Kristen Bradford, right, and Georgia Katopodis work on completing their journalism story during last Friday's career day. Students crafted a new story with the assistance of Novi News' reporters Victoria Sadlocha and Angelo Parlove.



Angelo Parlove is a staff writer for the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 108 or at aparlove@nuv.honemcom.net.

Novi Middle School Principal Milan Olenovitch said the day was created to stimulate career interests for students who have not chosen a yet. Olenovitch also hopes that when current students pursue their careers, they will come in and tell the younger students what is out there.

"It reaches students about all careers," said Dina Asencio, chairwoman of the PTO. "It shows them a little bit about every career, not just what they are interested in."

Fifteen years ago, the PTO at Novi Middle School noticed that kids were following in their family and friends' career pathways, so the PTO came up with the idea of Career Day to expose the students to many different job options.

Career Day is when the students dress up and listen to four different speakers who talk about their jobs and how to get there.

When Career Day was first started, the speakers were mostly males. But lately, they have been trying to get more females and people doing careers not typically associated with their gender, such as a male nurse.

"It's a great experience for middle school kids to be exposed to a variety of careers that they might not be familiar with," said Leslie MacDonald, Novi Middle School seventh grade counselor.

Written by Debra Leary's Novi Middle School eighth grade civics class.

Firefighters, pilots, FBI agents, reporters and more. Imagine all these people with so many interesting jobs

Life's a beach for students

By Diane Dempsey Deel
STAFF WRITER

"I just got tatted!" said Cody Nolte of the fake print placed on his hand, as older children carrying beach blankets and wearing shorts and swimwear were lining up to eat.

No, Nolte, a second grade student at Walded Lake Elementary, wasn't having a dream of summer fun. Instead, he and other students were living out their summer fantasies right in their own lunchroom at the school's annual "beach party" March 22.

The students sat on beach blankets to eat submarine sandwiches and nachos chips while listening to summer tunes and going at blow-up palm trees. After they were done eating, they were able to get a fake tattoo and other small summer gifts.

It's the third year that school leaders have thrown the beach party while the snow is still flying. According to Alison Walsh, school counselor, the event is always a success.

"In the middle of winter it's nice to

have a day for the kids to chill out and have time to experience a picnic-style lunch," Walsh said.

The event also has a more serious purpose. The children typically eat with their own classmates. This event helps them widen their social horizons.

"I think it helps with their peer relationships," Walsh said. "It's a time for everyone to get to know each other a little better. The kids enjoy it because they can dance and eat on their towels."

Rosario Agurto, a parent volunteer agreed.

"There's a lot of pressure of studying," Agurto said. "This is different for them because they are relaxing and sharing this fantasy world."

Lynn Dodds, school secretary, said the summer theme is a great way to welcome spring but it also helps student-teacher relationships.

"It's nice to see teachers and students interact on that level," Dodds said. "Usually it's a student-teacher thing. This way they were at the beach."

It took parents and school staff to get the event off the ground. Student council members raised money for the beach party as well as helped with the summer theme decorations.

Sara Hockin, fifth grade student and student council member, said

the group had a good time getting the lunch room ready to look like a day at the beach.

"We blew up all of the palm trees and beach balls and we colored the fish," she said, pointing to the paper decorations on the wall.

Joshua Coon, second grade, said he enjoyed the experience because he could eat with his best friend, Nolte, while having fun.

"You can get more comfortable on the beach towel," Coon said.

Sharon McConnell, school secretary, got in on the summer action. She was doctored out to summer wear and a hat with a flower on it.

"It's great to be able to wear a hat to school and break the dress code for a change," McConnell said.

It seems like summer in the building, with everyone wearing summer clothes and Beach Boys music playing in the hallways, she said.

"With spring break right around the corner, it's getting everyone geared up," McConnell said.

Nolte didn't want the summer excitement to end.

"It's very cool," Nolte said. "I wish we could have it every day."



Taylor Coleman, with her clamdiggers and beach chair, enjoys a tropical lunch inside Walded Lake Elementary School last Friday afternoon.

Novi High duo tackle state's MAA math contest

Novi High School students Eric Liao and Sven Nyberg each earned an honorable mention in the annual mathematics competition at the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

The competition is broken into a two-part examination covering many topics in high school mathematics. More than 14,000 students took the first test, with the students completing a 40-problem multiple-choice test. The 1,000 highest scorers were then invited to take the second exam, where students work on five problems, showing their solutions with full justification and proofs. The final scores were graded by college professors and professional mathematicians.

"It was pretty hard with some pretty tough questions," Liao said.

Liao and Nyberg did not win scholarships, but placed in the top 100.

The competition was funded by the Michigan Council of Teachers

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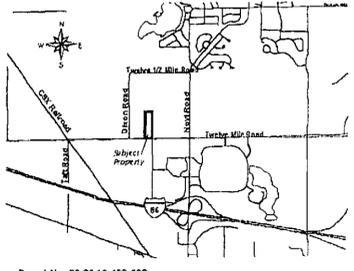
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CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing at their Regular Council meeting on MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2002, at 7:30 PM, in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, Michigan, to consider entering into a Consent Judgment with Certain Properties, L.L.C. that would result in change of use of the following described property to allow uses in the OS-1 district under certain conditions.



Parcel No. 50-22-10-400-033
Property located on the north side of Twelve Mile between Novi Road and Dixon Road, in the Special Assessment district #155 project.

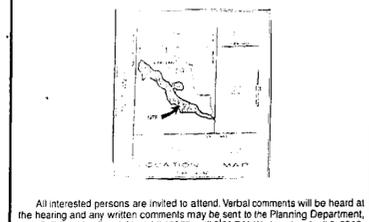
If you have any comments regarding this matter, they may be presented in writing or during the Audience Participation section of the Agenda.

MARYANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
248-347-0565

(3-28-02 NR/NN 1101116)

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 3, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider ISLAND LAKE OLEMON GRASSES, L.L.C. located east of Nine Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider YAMS SKATE PARK SPO156, located in the Fountain Walk development west of Novi Road on the south side of Twelve Mile Road for RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN APPROVAL AND SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT.



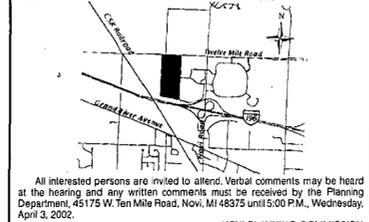
All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments will be heard at the hearing and any written comments may be sent to the Planning Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 until 5:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 3, 2002.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LODIA RICHARDS, SECRETARY

(3-28-02 NR/NN 1101675)

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION
LODIA RICHARDS, SECRETARY

(3-28-02 NR/NN 1101677)

2002 OHL Playoffs Round 1

Plymouth Whalers Get Hooked

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Game 7
if necessary
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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the home towns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

Racism allegations border on libelous

Calling someone something they are not will usually get you in trouble. Putting it in print for anyone to read can land you in court.

The Rev. Horace Sheffield III, who leads the Michigan chapter of New York-based National Action Network, may escape from learning that lesson the hard way.

His civil rights organization cited Novi (as well as Warren and Flint) as cities African Americans should avoid in their travels. Based on complaints his group has received, these three cities are deemed hostile towards blacks.

The intent is to hurt these areas economically, and the NAN may actually be successful in their effort.

Only problem is, the claims that Novi is a racist city are clearly unfounded.

The numbers don't lie: In a three-month traffic citation analysis, breaking down tickets issued by race, there were 139 given to blacks out of 2,773.

That's only about 5 percent. We'd say that's hardly enough to ruin a city's reputation over.

Kudos to Novi Police Chief Doug Shaeffer for jumping on those numbers (via a hand count, no less) and disproving the NAN's claims so quickly after this mess all started with a Detroit News article March 20.

Chief Shaeffer also found over the past several years only one complaint of racial profiling — and that was later withdrawn after the complainant reviewed the squad car's video and radio tapes.

Additionally, the Michigan State Police and the Oakland County FBI office both say they have never received complaints against Novi.

Other allegations made by NAN, such as black shoppers being unfairly followed, are again without basis. It's pretty hard to get customers coming back if you're chasing them away.

The travel advisory comes down to this: Rev. Sheffield was frustrated that his requests to meet with city officials to discuss the matter were getting nowhere.

If everybody who experienced similar results when dealing with the government started making accusations like NAN's, we'd be in serious trouble.

And ambushing somebody, like Blair Brown of the Novi Express Center, is equally ill-advised when trying to get answers. Schedule a meeting, have your questions prepared, and make sure your facts are in order.

We hope Rev. Sheffield's and NAN's plans to post the travel advisory on a Web site will be nixed. Enough damage has already been done in print for readers of newspapers in southeast Michigan. Don't make it worse by spreading these false accusations on the Internet.

We are not suggesting Novi or anyone in the city take up a lawsuit against NAN. Far from it, in fact. The thought is to make it clear that the reputation of a city — just like an individual — is worth fighting for.

liel n. 1. A written, printed, or pictorial statement that defames one's character or reputation or exposes one to public ridicule.

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

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Michigan House of Representatives
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ncassis@house.state.mi.us

A new job and happy about it!

Instead of torturing and intimidating one of my staff writers by making them interview "the new editor," I'll give you the lowdown myself.

My first official day at work was March 18, but actually I'm no stranger to this area or this company.

For nearly four years, I was the editor of the Livingston / West Oakland edition of the Insider Business Journal, a bi-weekly business publication based in Brighton. Our definition of West Oakland County included everything from Northville up to Holly.

The Insider was owned by HomeTown Communications Network, the parent company of this newspaper. Like countless other businesses hit by the recession, the Insider (which also included a Washtenaw County edition) was shut down January 18.

Prior to that, I was an editor for another HomeTown community newspaper, The Grand Ledge Independent, and I've done journalism stints in my current hometown of Charlotte, St. Johns and Perry. I have a bachelor's in journalism from Oakland University.

Blacks make up approximately 2 percent of Novi's population, but the number of African Americans who come here to shop is impossible to estimate. Nobody keeps track of that. Nobody cares.

The travel advisory comes down to this: Rev. Sheffield was frustrated that his requests to meet with city officials to discuss the matter were getting nowhere.

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A Sure Sign of Spring



Construction is slowing northbound traffic on Meadowbrook Road near Ten Mile Road.

The other day my colleague, Chris Davis (editor of the Northville Record) asked me what I do when I'm not working or with my family. I drive it's an hour-and-a-half commute from Charlotte to our downtown Northville office. I'm in the process of convincing my wife to move this way, although the amount of traffic scares her.

But this is not traffic. I tell her, Los Angeles — that's traffic. I know, I drove a cab there for about six years in the early '90s. More stories, no room....

My hobby — or better yet, my passion — is music. If I'm not listening to it, I'm playing it. I play upright bass in a band

called The Jump Cats. We hit every-where from the Red Doggie, the South Lyon Hotel and the Library Pub to clubs in Lansing, Detroit, Rochester and wherever else they'll tolerate a jumpin' blues band.

My livelihood, however, is made as an editor. I am always accessible to readers, and I hope this is the beginning of a long relationship with the Novi community. Tell next time....

Cal Stone is the editor of the Novi News. He can be reached at 92480 349-1700, ext. 113, or by e-mail at cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

Community That Cares Coalition: Novi Community Schools; Novi Education Association; Novi Expo Center; Novi High School Athletic Assoc.; Novi Jewelers; Novi Parks & Recreation & Forestry; Novi Pizza Hut; Novi Police Company; Novi Police Department; Novi Post Office; O'Brien Family O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home; Pam Elstrom Sales; Papa Romano's; Quizon's Subs; Red Hot and Blue; Red Robin; Red Lobster; Salom Agape; Santino's Place for Pasta, Salbar, Keast & Associates; Seven Eleven Food Stores; Staples; Steve and Rocky's; T.G.I. Friday's; Targe/Commerce Township; The Little Flower Shop; Top Hit Video; Tubby's Grilled Submarine; Varsity Lincoln Mercury; Walgreen's; Wyndham Garden Hotel; and special thanks to the Novi Seniors and Mrs. Diane Dorsch.

John P. O'Brien
Bowl-a-Thon Committee

Share your opinions
We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Letters to the Editor
Cal Stone
Novi News
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Northville, MI 48167
E-mail:
cstone@ht.homecomm.net
Fax:
(248) 349-9832

Dear Editor,
A dozen roses plus to Linda Weickert, her production staff and a fantastic, well-chosen cast. We witnessed an outstanding performance of "Sound of Music" at the Saturday matinee.

Never have we witnessed such a profes-

sional production of "Sound of Music" at the Saturday matinee.

Never have we witnessed such a profes-

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Never have we witnessed such a profes-

Let's look at the next governor

With the August primary election just four months off, now's a pretty good time to take a look at what's happened so far in the race for the governorship.

Politically attuned readers with long memories will recall this contest: It was the first in a decade without a sitting governor on the ballot. Congressman Jim Blanchard was first elected Governor in 1982, winning again in 1986. Gov. John Engler won an upset victory over Blanchard in 1990 and went on to win two more elections before being term limited out of office this year.

In notable lock step, the institutional Republican Party has dented the candidacy of Gov. Dick Engler's designated successor, notwithstanding the fact that his campaign has so far obtained so little traction that he's far behind both Blanchard and Attorney General Jennifer Granholm in head-to-head polls and only runs even with U.S. Rep. David Bonior.

Posthumus is a nice guy and, as Engler's understudy, he certainly knows his way around Lansing. But he pales in the shadow of his giant patron without so far having had much success in carving out any singularity of appeal. Several months ago he spoke for a couple of hours with a group of editors of these newspapers; most were unimpressed, some were bored.

Running against Posthumus in the primary is John H. (Doc) Schwarz, also a term limited state Senator from Battle Creek. Schwarz's strategy is to keep hanging around until even dyed-in-the-wool GOP functionaries realize that Posthumus has no chance of beating any of the possible Democratic nominees.

Most of the sound and fury has been confined to the Democratic primary, where Blanchard, Bonior and Granholm are so far running far ahead of State Sen. Alma Smith, who is able, experienced and so far has not succeeded in attracting the attention of a jacked Lansing press corps.

With high name ID stemming from his years as Governor (especially among Democratic voters in Detroit, who make up a big bloc among primary voters), Blanchard ahead of Schwarz, but a new one published last week in Inside Michigan Politics put the two essentially neck and neck.

The same poll put Bonior far behind, but

neither Blanchard nor Granholm should dismiss the former minority whip in Congress. Bonior is smart, tough and a good campaigner. Whether he can find a way to break out of his limited base in Macomb County and his embrace by the UAW leadership remains to be seen.

Over the past month, I've been reading with steadily growing admiration two biographies of former President Theodore Roosevelt by Edmund Morris, "The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt" and "Theodore Roosevelt: The Untold Story." Both are widely read, with an amazingly varied background for a politician — rancher, hunter, soldier, ornithologist, conservationist. Most important, to me at least, was his ability to cut to the heart of problems and respond with far-reaching and creative solutions that broke the molds of conventional thinking.

If these are the standards by which the current crop of candidates should be rated, professional editorship in the campaign so far suggests Granholm and Schwarz deserve close attention.

Undeniably charismatic, Granholm has so far on the campaign trail been relatively quiet in her approach to public policy. But those who know her well say that she's like Teddy Roosevelt in her ability to get quickly to the heart of a problem and to find unconventional solutions. Schwarz, on the other hand, reminds me of T.R. in his courage and straight talk to a party rigidly locked in an ideological straight jacket.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net.

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Diesel debate will add fuel to the fire

A fuel tax increase — proposed to pay for repairs to Michigan roads — is likely to be a contentious issue in Lansing later this year. It will pit motorists against truck drivers over who should be paying for those improvements.

Drivers of passenger cars are already paying 19 cents per gallon in gasoline taxes. Increased as recently as 1997. By contrast, diesel-fuel taxes are just 15 cents per gallon plus trucks get a 6 cent discount.

Motorists already have trouble understanding why they're paying more in taxes than the owners of those big, heavy motor carriers whose vehicles put more wear and tear on the roads. Their anger will surely only increase if

Michigan lawmakers take up suggestions that the gasoline tax should be hiked further still, especially if diesel fuel taxes aren't brought to a comparable level at the same time.

Truck drivers, on the other hand, argue it is a little hard to compare the two taxes. For one, trucks don't get the kind of mileage that passenger cars do, so even though their rate may be lower, they are actually paying more in taxes per mile anyway.

Perhaps more importantly, they'll just have to pass their costs along, eventually to the consumer, if their fuel taxes are increased.

But if the issue of who should pay more for road upkeep, motorists or trucks, gets too much attention in this debate, it will make it easy for lawmakers to overlook, or ignore, an equally important issue — where the money goes.

In that debate, it will be the residents of southeast Michigan and their communities who will be pitted against just about everybody else in the state. If past experience is any indicator, southeastern Michigan suburbs aren't likely to fare well in this contest.

Already pending before the House Transportation Committee is a four-bill package, House Bills 5733-36, sponsored by Reps. Jason Gilbert, Keith Stallworth, Doug Hart and Larry Julian, to increase diesel taxes to 19 cents per gallon.

As good a deal as that may sound for motorists, it's a bad deal for southeast Michigan communities.

The package would toss out the standard formula for distribution of road funds. Instead, 85 percent of the money would go to a new Commercial Highway Fund. The remaining 15 percent goes to local communities, and analysis in Lansing put the best possible spin on that: "The department has elected not to compete with local road agencies for critical bridge program funds — it is effectively a 100 percent local program."

Sounds good, but the folks at the Michigan Municipal League have put a calculator to the proposal and the results are startling. Under this proposal, municipalities would get but a small fraction of what they would normally receive. For instance, in Oakland County, instead of the \$28,731 Birmingham would receive if the usual formula, the package would give that city only \$2,229. Instead of the usual \$122,011, Farmington Hills would get only \$9,469.

Novi's typical share of \$91,564 would be only \$4,001.

In Livingston, Howell would get only \$931 instead of \$11,997. Brighton would be in

line for only \$698, not \$9,000.

In Wayne, Livonia would get \$11,852 instead of \$152,718. Plymouth would receive only \$988, not \$12,733. Westland would get \$8,698 instead of \$112,048.

Much has been said in recent days of reversing the trend of treating Oakland County as a "donor county." Livingston County, in fact, falls into that same category, and has since 1997. But if the new formula is used, it would reverse that status as donors to rest of the state would be badly exacerbated.

Many policy makers and candidates for political office like to take the approach that the state should fix up the roads it

fixes up. In the past 15 years, traffic has increased by 33 percent, by a full third. But only 3 percent more road miles have been added.

That means more cars in the same space, more congestion, more time in traffic jams for motorists and longer commute times. It is southeast Michigan that is hit the hardest.

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Mike Malott



Diane Dempsey Deel

people die of heart attacks and other heart conditions than any other cause in the nation.

However, some victims of sudden cardiac arrest can be spared if life-saving equipment is given to them in time. Others who have

not had the opportunity to have the equipment administered to them may not see their next birthday.

Victims of a sudden cardiac arrest only have about four minutes before brain damage occurs. Therefore, every second counts.

That's why I applaud Wixom officials for doing their part to save lives. They have formed a group of residents, business owners and police and fire workers who are trying to raise money for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that shock a person's heart to go back to normal rhythms.

The AEDs will be placed in all six Wixom police cars. Police officers will be trained to use them. However, very little if any training is required. The AEDs tell the person using it what to do and how to use it. It won't even operate on someone who doesn't need it.

The equipment will also be placed at city hall and the community center, where senior citizens socialize.

They need \$35,000 to purchase the life-saving equipment. They have already completed half their goal. However, that will only pay for five of the 10 needed AEDs since each AED costs \$3,500. Therefore, more money is desperately needed to fund the program.

I commend all of the people who have already given. It doesn't matter how much

they have given; only that they have given to save someone's life.

EBV
Construction, Ford Motor Company, Pocono Construction, Calyx Enterprises and DOT have already donated to the cause.

I encourage everyone who either lives or works in Wixom to give what they can to the cause. After all, the life that residents may be saving may be their own or their loved one.

Lets stop the killer from taking more lives in the city.

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HomeTown selects All-Area teams



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Novi's Robbie Overfield may have fallen on the ice in this photo, but he fell to no one in both the KVC scoring title or in the HomeTown East's Player of the Year race. Congrats to Overfield and the other area athletes.

Robby Overfield named this season's best on ice

By Sam Eggleston,
Steve Bell and
Tran Longmoore
HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS

This was a great year for area hockey, and nothing proves that more than the players that we have chosen for the 2002 HomeTown East's All-Area Hockey team. These are the players that best represent the talent, dedication and determination of this area's high school hockey teams:

FIRST TEAM

Robby Overfield
Senior
Forward

Novi Wildcats
With 36 goals, senior Wildcat Robby Overfield not only led the number two team in the state, but also one of the toughest conferences in the state -- the Kensington Valley Conference. On his way to this scoring title, Overfield collected 31 assists as well in his 27 games. Overfield was named to the All-State First Team this year.

Dan Morrison
Sophomore
Goalie

Novi Wildcats

Dan Morrison. The name alone means brick wall in Novi right now. The beginning of the season found Morrison sharing much of his time in goal with fellow top-notch goalie Trent Sisson. But, as the year wore on, Morrison made it his home right in front of the net. Morrison was faced with 361 shots this season and stopped all but 41 one of them for an 88.64 save percentage. The sophomore goalie allowed 2.65 goals per game in the 16 games that he guarded the net this season.

Brian Francis
Senior
Forward
WLC Vikings

A steady player who led his struggling team in points this season, senior Brian Francis was part of a rebuilding year. Although he will be graduating this year, his efforts will be remembered as the team continues to progress. Francis collected 12 goals and 16 assists and spent 48 minutes in the penalty box. Selected to honorable mention All-WLAA team, Francis was picked as a member of the All-State Academic Team with

Continued on 2

Josh Churella named wrestler of the year

By Sam Eggleston
and Steve Bell
SPORTS WRITERS

Talk about talented. This season's Player of the Year, Josh Churella of Novi, hasn't experienced a loss in two years while snatching up two state crowns in the process. Not only Churella, but the rest of the 2002 HomeTown East's All-Area Wrestling Team has plenty of talent to go around.

Wrestler of the Year

Josh Churella 125 pounds
Novi junior

There was little more that could be said about Churella this season except "champion." A tough competitor with a willingness to improve and succeed, Churella showed that a mix of incredible talent and outstanding determination is exactly what the doctor ordered when it comes to a winning formula. The Novi junior has stayed undefeated for two seasons and continued that streak through the state championships for the second season in a row. Look for this wrestler to make it three in a row — just like his brother, Ryan, and his

dad, Mark — come next season.

Craig Hearn 103 pounds
Novi senior

Hearn, who took fourth in state individuals this season, is the definition of unstoppable. This guy just never quit. He went into matches looking to be the best competitor he possibly could be. Did he win every match? No, but he sure gave his opponents a run for their money every time. A player that had the respect of his coaches and his teammates, Hearn was never blown out of any match and always looked to do whatever he could to be a positive

mark on a top-shelf Novi squad.

Matt Thome 112 pounds
Milford junior

Despite the ubiquitous shoulder brace, Thome's results throughout the season were more like those of a healthy man. He was the runner-up at the Oakland County Meet and finished third at 112 pounds at the KVC Championship. Thome was the lone Redskin to advance to the regional level where he unfortunately had to forfeit in the state-qualifying match after dislocating his shoulder. Thome



J. R. Muldoon



Scott Kortlandt



Vince Slovan

Continued on 3

Spring has sprung for Novi athletics

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Well, it is that time again — it's time to start the Spring sports season.

This, I have to say, is one of my favorite seasons of the year. Baseball, softball, track and field, rugby among other sports are beginning to dig down and pull up their dedication and their determination to be one of the last teams standing come the end of the season.

For seniors, this will be the last chance many will get to participate in organized athletics. For the underclassmen, this could mark the beginning of a very, very bright athletic career.

With spring comes the birth of new life — both animal and plant — as well as the birth of many new and enthusiastic sports teams.

For all of the sports teams I covered this school year, save one or two, this has proven to be a very trying athletic year. Some fought just to earn wins while others fought to stay alive in some of the toughest playoffs around. Some found individual champions while others found teams getting so close to a title they could taste it.

So far, this year has proven to be one of great triumphs, such as that for the players named to our All-State teams, as well as a year of great loss, such as some of our players missing much of their season due to injury. Spring offers a chance to repeat the success and change the defeats. For athletes who play multiple sports, as many of them do, this season will mark another chapter in their quest for division, conference and state titles. This will give them a chance to rebound from that injury or that tough season and to build the memories they want and they deserve. For those who have had great seasons for Fall and Winter, this will give you a chance to build on that and continue with



such success.

Yes, I definitely love Spring. Maybe it is the smell of flowers and blooming foliage, or perhaps it is because I, too, get to start anew. I really couldn't tell you why I have always enjoyed Spring. I can just tell you that I always have.

For those coaches and athletes who will be participating in this Spring season, I, along with everyone else at our HomeTown newspapers, wish you the best of luck. For those who will be in attendance at these games, I wish you the best of viewing. For the seniors who are looking at this season as their last, I just want to say that there will be plenty of opportunity to play games in the future — just not with these teammates, these coaches and these high schools.

Good luck everyone. I hope you enjoy this Spring season as much as I am planning on enjoying it.

Moore runs Ireland

Novi harrier competes against world's best

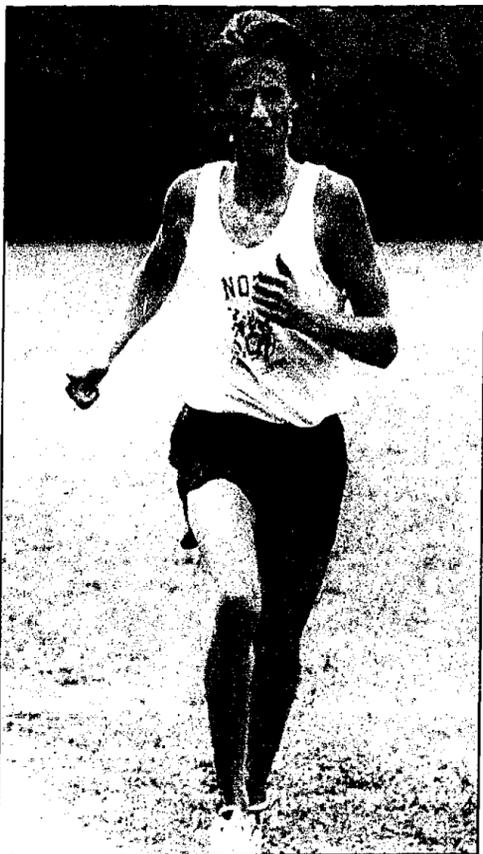


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Tim Moore competes in a cross-country meet in September 2001.

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Tim Moore made his mark on his conference, region, state and nation this year, and he has finally had the chance to make his mark on the world.

Moore, a Novi High School senior, had been undefeated until his recent run against the best cross country runners on Earth. The Wildcat harrier took to the challenge with a lot of dedication and determination but came up short as he captured a still-impressive 54th place with a time of 25 minutes, 47 seconds.

Moore, who competed in a field of 126 runners in Dublin, Ireland, just could not keep up with the hectic pace of the Kenyans and the Ethiopians, who took nine of the top 10 finishes in the race. Kenya's world team took the gold for the event while Ethiopia notched a second-place team finish and Uganda took third.

Novi's top harrier, as well as the state of Michigan's and the United States', won two U.S. national titles as well as a state title this season. Moore signed his intentions of running for the University of Notre Dame during his freshman year.

The Novi harrier had some of the best competition anywhere to run against when he took on the likes of Ethiopia's Gebregziabher Gebremariam, who took first in 23:18, and Kenya's

Abel Cherulyot, who was second with 23:19. Uganda's Boniface Kiprop was third in 23:38.

Gebremariam won the world title at the Leopardstown race-course Sunday with just one shoe — which he lost at the beginning of the race. Gebremariam said that it took him a few kilometers to get used to the sensation of running with just one shoe — but it must not have changed the outcome of the race by much. Gebremariam's full name translates to Servant of God, Servant of Mary.

The Ethiopian harrier became the first runner from the southern province of Tigray to win a title on the global stage since 1980.

Kiprop won Uganda's first-ever individual world cross country medal with his third place, bronze medal-winning finish. Kiprop and the second-place finisher, Cherulyot, both come from the same Kelenjin tribe that inhabits the Rift Valley. Despite representing different countries in the World Championship run, the pair live only a few miles apart and are separated only by a border established in colonial times.

The nearest U.S. finisher to Moore was Yong-Sung Leal, who took 41st with 25:30, while William Nelson lead the Americans with a 33rd-place finish in a time of 25:18.

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

Hockey: Three from Novi make All-Area

Continued from 1

his 3.77 grade point average.

Tim Hillebrand
Senior
Center
Northville Mustangs
An amazing offensive player, Tim Hillebrand became known by the Northville fans as "Fat Trick Hillebrand." The aggressive scorer became the first Mustang in the short history of the program to be named All-State First Team while collecting 25 goals and 37 assists. Hillebrand was also named to the All-Conference Western Lakes Activities Association First Team.

Adam Haberman
Senior
Winger
Novi Wildcats
The Novi Wildcats knew they were a third period team this season. One of the things they were going to rely on was a player who could lead them with as much energy in the third period as in the first period. Adam Haberman was that player. The Wildcat senior proved his worth by scoring 10 goals and 29 assists. Haberman, who is a team captain with the Wildcats, was named to the All-State First Team this year.

Alex Wright
Junior
Defenseman
Lakeland
When Lakeland was successful this year, it was due to a disciplined, suffocating style of defense. Alex Wright is the stabart of a strong defensive corps. He was the guy Coach Sawchuk turned to when the game was on the line. He practiced slim leads in the waning minutes. He blocked shots and cleared the crease on the penalty kill. Offensively, he was unapologetic, but productive. Coach Sawchuk often employed Wright's accurate point shot on the power-play. Wright finished the season with three goals and eight points. He led all Lakeland defenders with a plus/minus of 6.

SECOND TEAM

Kyle Francis
Sophomore
Defenseman
WLC Vikings
Though the Vikings had a tough season this year, one of the signs of the future was defenseman Kyle Francis. Francis, who played 26 games this season, collected seven goals and 11 assists while notching 65 minutes in the penalty box. Francis was named to the All-Lakes Division Defense Team this season.

Adam Griffin
Sophomore
Forward
WLC Vikings
An all around player, Griffin made his presence known on both the defensive and offensive ends of

the rink. Collecting 16 goals and nine assists in 26 games for the WLC Vikings, Griffin only spent six minutes in the penalty box — making his two-year varsity penalty minute total a whopping eight minutes. Griffin was honorable mention for the All-WLAA Team.

Jason Engelland
Senior
Forward
Northville Mustangs
Jason Engelland, one of the leaders for the Northville Mustangs this season, collected 10 goals and 22 assists on his way to being named All-State Honorable Mention. Engelland, who was one of the Mustangs captains, was named to the All-Western Division in the WLAA as well.

Mike Kall
Senior
Winger
Lakeland
Kall doesn't take out defenders. He doesn't stickhandle through traffic. He goes to the net and bangs home rebounds. Kall was the one big guy on an otherwise small team, so he took a lot of abuse from bigger teams. In return, Kall delivered more hits than Matt Drudge. Kall scored five goals and added seven assists. But stats don't measure the impact Kall makes on the ice.

Tom Riley
Senior
Center
Milford
One of just two seniors to complete the season on this year's struggling Milford team, Tom Riley was one of the few bright spots. Riley led Milford with seven goals and 16 points and played in every situation for Milford. Not the fastest of skaters and lacking a sniper's shot, Riley worked hard in the corners and went hard to the net to create scoring opportunities for a team which was outscored by a 2-1 margin over the season.

Collin Lindsay
Sophomore
Center
Lakeland
When Lindsay touched the puck, good things happened. Lindsay led the Eagles in goals (12), assists (12), points (24) and plus/minus (18). The smooth skating, rocket-firing center was Lakeland's one true offensive threat. Lindsay's great speed enables him to rush from end to end. He could stickhandle in a phone booth. He's got a raucous for a slapshot and he's got baby-soft hands around the net.

Sam Engleston is the sports writer for the Northville Record and the Novi News. He can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleson@ht.home.com.net. Steve Bell can be reached at shell@ht.home.com.net and Tran Longinoore can be reached at longinoore@ht.home.com.net.

Sports shorts

Spring leagues forming

Men's 35 and Over Basketball Leagues: Mondays, leagues start April 22. \$340/team, 8 weeks. Contact: Northville Parks & Rec. (248) 449-994.

12 & Under Lacrosse: April-May, 11 games. Boys & Girls teams. Coaches need at all levels, including travel team. Contact: Northville Parks and Rec. (248) 449-9947.

Women's Spring Basketball League: Wednesdays, league starts April 24. \$340/team, 8 weeks. Contact: Northville Parks and Rec. (248) 449-9947.

The Northville Parks and Recreation Department is accepting player registrations for its spring 2002 Boys Youth Basketball Programs (eighth and ninth grade boys in one league, 10th through 12th grade boys in another). Registration will be processed through March 22 or until the leagues fill (a \$10 late fee will be assessed for all registrations after March 22). Each league will participate in an eight-game schedule, April 13-June 1. The team practices will begin April 8 for two hours per week through May 30. Adult coaches are needed for

Continued on 4

Seniors crucial to Novi's success

Experience could be the difference for lacrosse team this year

By Brian Doyle
SPECIAL WRITER

Novi's lacrosse team will benefit from the experience of 17 seniors this year. A few of those are returning as starters at the varsity level for their third year.

Novi coach Stan Zajdel is confident that they have a solid lineup and aren't lacking at any position. "We're consistent at all three positions," Zajdel said.

At the attack position, seniors Aaron Marson and Kirk Salford will look to lead the offense. Last year Marson was the team's leading scorer, and this year he brings more than just offense to the team.

"He has good leadership," Zajdel said. "However, the Wildcats will still look his way when the team needs a goal."

"He's one of those guys that we

want to have the ball," Zajdel said. "He goes pretty hard to the cage."

As midfielders, seniors Drew Doll and Matt Ludwig, along with junior long stick midfielder Drew Hunt, will lead the way. Hunt is returning to the team this year after having a very successful season in 2001 and earning second team all-state honors.

"He's coming in this year as the top long stick midfielder in the state," Zajdel said.

Zajdel feels that Novi has the premier players in the state at many different positions, but the squad lacks a number of strong midfielders.

However, Zajdel is not very worried about that because of the quality of the players that are midfielders.

"The ones we do have play really good defense," he said. "As a result of this, the Wildcats will rely heavily on their attack to

produce most of their scoring. Along with the midfielders, starting defensemen Dave Cavan, Dave Gianni and Mike Vellewald will try and keep opponents out of the goal's sights. All three are seniors with a lot of game experience.

"We have an experienced

defense," Zajdel said. Behind the defense sits third-year goalie, senior Kelley Demers. Demers has earned all-state honors before and looks to another successful season in the net.

"We've got a top-notch goalie," Zajdel said. "He will be a huge factor for us this year."

Novi opened their season last Thursday against lacrosse powerhouse Brother Rice. Novi lost the game 14-6, but performed very well against a nationally-ranked team. The game was tied at 4 at halftime, and was 10-6 halfway through the fourth quarter.

"I was happy with our performance in the first half," Doll said. Although the score may not have shown it, Novi played a very strong game. Marlon led Novi with

three goals and Doll, senior Fred Nopier and junior Shaun Dicken each had one.

"It was probably our best showing against one of the top teams in the country," Zajdel said.

Brother Rice had already played a couple of scrimmages and a game before they faced the Wildcats. Some first-game problems plagued the Wildcats.

"We had problems with getting on and off the field in a game situation," Zajdel said.

Novi hoped to improve that for their March 26 game Tuesday against another state powerhouse, Catholic Central.

To be successful this season the

Wildcats feel they have to play

Continued on 3

Lacrosse: Experience and seniors crucial to success

Continued from 2

After a tough season opening loss to a very talented Brother Rice team, the Novi Wildcats are going to be looking to get wins with top-notch play from top-notch, experienced players.

Novi coach Stan Zajdel is confident that they have a solid lineup and aren't lacking at any position. "We're consistent at all three positions," Zajdel said.

At the attack position, seniors Aaron Marson and Kirk Salford will look to lead the offense. Last year Marson was the team's leading scorer, and this year he brings more than just offense to the team.

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"We've got a top-notch goalie," Zajdel said. "He will be a huge factor for us this year."

Novi opened their season last Thursday against lacrosse powerhouse Brother Rice. Novi lost the game 14-6, but performed very well against a nationally-ranked team. The game was tied at 4 at halftime, and was 10-6 halfway through the fourth quarter.

"I was happy with our performance in the first half," Doll said. Although the score may not have shown it, Novi played a very strong game. Marlon led Novi with

three goals and Doll, senior Fred Nopier and junior Shaun Dicken each had one.

"It was probably our best showing against one of the top teams in the country," Zajdel said.

Brother Rice had already played a couple of scrimmages and a game before they faced the Wildcats. Some first-game problems plagued the Wildcats.

"We had problems with getting on and off the field in a game situation," Zajdel said.

Novi hoped to improve that for their March 26 game Tuesday against another state powerhouse, Catholic Central.

To be successful this season the

Wildcats feel they have to play

Continued on 3

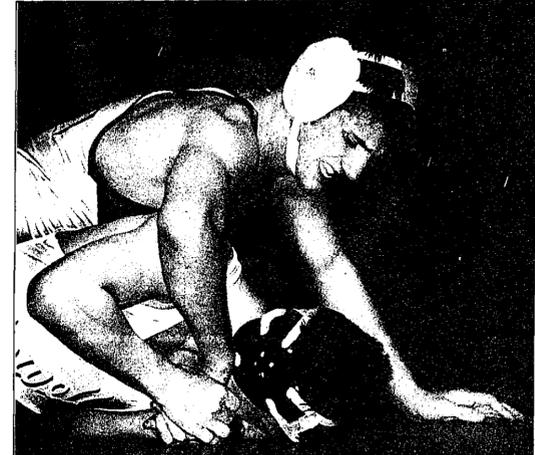


Photo by HAL GOULD

Novi dominated All-Area teams...much like this Wildcat dominates his Howell opponent.

Novi grapplers dominate

Continued from 1

Ravi Saran 119 pounds
Northville senior

A tough competitor with great leverage ability, Saran used his speed and death-grip to punish his opponents throughout the entire season. Saran came into the state individual tournament as one of the underdogs and walked out with a second place notch in his belt. This wrestler not only led team on mat, but also off of it. Northville wrestling coach Joel Smith considers Saran a true leader and a top-shelf competitor. This wrestler, who took second in the state in 112-pound division, which is his real weight class, grappled in the 118s and came away with win after win after win. Not only that, he gave Northville something to stride for next season.

David Edwards 140 pounds
South Lyon senior

Moving up a weight class every year, for Edwards the results have been largely the same as he's been

finished the season with a 37-6 record.

Matt Doyle 130 pounds
Northville senior

There is much that can be said about a competitor like Doyle. Doyle, who was one of Northville's team captains, didn't quite make it as far as he would have liked in the post-season individual tournaments, but he sure ended his season in style. A grueling match was all that was between him and the regional tournament and Doyle had one of his toughest matches ever. A single — just one point — was what decided that Doyle would not be heading to the tourney as his opponent earned a single point in a 1-0 decision by getting an escape in the match.

David Edwards 140 pounds
South Lyon senior

Moving up a weight class every year, for Edwards the results have been largely the same as he's been

Continued on 4

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Volleyball: Simkins earns East All-Area team position

Continued from 6

54 aces and led Milford with 468 digs.

Jessica Petkus sophomore setter Milford
Milford's RVC championship all started with Petkus. She looks for her school's single-season records, and has two more years to better them yet. She had 818 assists, or 2,207 sets, an average of 9.73 assists per game. Petkus' service percentage of .957 was the best on the team, and she had 33 aces.

Leah Kastamo senior outside hitter South Lyon

"I think most coaches would agree she was the number one outside hitter in the league," South Lyon coach Rich Lamb said of Leah Kastamo.

She led one of the most prolific seasons in school history, finishing the year with 397 kills, just 12 off Kelly Jones' school record. She likely would have broken that record had she not missed a tournament.

Kastamo proved a versatile player. "We also played her at middle hitter and on the right side, so teams couldn't key on her," Lamb said. "She's just one of those kids who finds a way to put the ball down. A lot of times, she'd start with some big hits and get teams on their heels, then hit some easy shots."

"Leah was our emotional leader as well. When she had a good day we won."

SECOND TEAM

Angie Schmitt Junior Middle Blocker Novi Wildcats
Junior Angie Schmitt is one of the players on the second place RVC Wildcat team that shows some competitive this season. In the next season, Schmitt collected 133 kills and 65 blocks on her



Carmen Simkins Novi senior

way to being one of the top players on the Novi team this season. The junior spiker collected 32 aces and an 84-percent serving percentage.

Kelsey Cross Junior Amy Rathsburg Senior WLC Vikings

These two players collected numerous points with the Walled Lake Central Vikings on their way to winning their district tournament before bowing out in the first round of the regional tournament. Both players are very competitive, and with one graduating this season, it frees up more room for the other to shine. Watch next season for Cross to be one of the top players in the WLC, where both players were named to the All-Lakes team.

Whitney Fuelling sophomore outside hitter Milford
Her coach often spoke of her potential, which is a scary thought for opponents given the number's production this season. Fuelling used her wingspan and quick tips to make 202 kills and 21 solo blocks (17 total). She

also had 20 service aces, 269 digs and the team's highest passing percentage — .788.

Kelly Eastwood Junior outside hitter Milford
Though maybe not as versatile as some of her teammates up front, Eastwood proved to be one of the biggest hitters in the league — the kind of player who could change the momentum of a match with one swing. She was second on the team with 255 kills and a hitting percentage of .330.

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

Steve Bell is the sports writer for the Milford Times and the South Lyon Herald and he can be reached at sbell@ht.homecomm.net, or at (248) 685-1507. The All-Area teams are the opinion of HomeTown Newspapers and not always based on statistics or win/loss records.

Wrestling: All-Area selected

Continued from 3

one of the area's best the last three seasons. In 2002 Edwards won his second-straight KVC championship and made his second-straight appearance at the state finals.

J. R. Muldoon 145 pounds Novi senior
A third place wrestler in his weight class for the state of Michigan, Muldoon used his speed and ability to think on the go to stun many opponents this season. A scrapper with a lot of heart, Muldoon didn't let his lopsided wins over his opponents down — he gave them a great match every time. Being a senior this season, there is no doubt Muldoon came into this season looking to give it his all and left in third-place while making sure to have left everything on the mat.

Vince Slovan 171 pounds Novi senior
Vince Slovan, a steady force for the Novi Wildcats this season, showed that his dedication and talent in the sport of wrestling combined with his competitive nature was all that it took to make a name for himself this season. The 171-pound Slovan entered the state individual wrestling tournament and came away with a second

place finish in his weight class.

Scott Kortland 189 pounds Novi senior
Scott Kortland knows what it takes to succeed. A top-stuff football player, wrestler and baseball player, Kortland has within him one of the greatest competitive spirits at Novi. This senior just doesn't give up and, while having an impressive grade point average and intellect, doesn't know the meaning of fail. One of the many Novi players plague stricken with injuries this season, Kortland didn't allow something like that hinder his season. His performance throughout the regular schedule and beyond marked his spot on the All-Area team.

Josh Buck 215 pounds Novi senior Feather weight? No. Lightweight? No. Heavyweight? Not quite. Josh Buck, a senior athlete with the Novi Wildcats, proved his worth with his heart and dedication. He is respected by his coaches, his teammates and his opponents while being a positive and impressive point-scorer for the Wildcats this season.

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

UP NEXT FOR ALL-AREA

HomeTown East will be presenting the All-Area Boys Basketball team next week, featuring players from Novi, Walled Lake Western, Walled Lake Central, Northville, South Lyon, Lakeland and Milford.

■ Will David Zeilinn and his amazing abilities at the point find him on the team?

■ Thom Knapp and his seven-foot frame — are they good enough?

■ Is there room enough for a sophomore like Brandon Casside of the Walled Lake Central Vikings?

■ What does the All-Area team hold for players from the KVC? Who was the best of the best? Find out in next week's sports section to see who is who out of the area's top basketball players.

Steve Bell can be reached at sbell@ht.homecomm.net, or at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or seggleston@ht.homecomm.net.

WLC softball ready to go

By Brian Doyle SPECIAL WRITER

For the past 11 of 12 years, Walled Lake Central's softball team has been on top of their division. This year they hope to do the same. "We will be in the hunt," Walled Lake Central head coach Gordon Glennie said.

"We have very good defense," Glennie said. "According to Glennie, another key to the team's success this year will be to work hard. The team will also have to come together with unfamiliar teammates. Only six of the 14 players on the team are returning players."

"We must get together as a unit," Glennie said. "The team had one of the most successful runs last year not only in their record, but in the team's dynamics."

"They were selected on past performance and leadership abilities," Glennie said. "All three of those players have been on the varsity team since they were freshmen. The team's 14-member roster is made up of three seniors, eight juniors and three sophomores."

Last year, Walled Lake Central managed to go 25-8. Many of the players on that team were lost to graduation, including one very strong pitcher.

"Probably the hardest one to replace will be the pitcher," Glennie said.

However, two juniors that are currently on the varsity squad will try and step up into that role. Tiffany Jorgensen and Renee Ritz both are pitchers that are on the varsity squad for the first time. "The team's strength this year will be their play in the field."

"More important than those goals, the team has a commitment to academics which they want to uphold. "Our team has been all-state academic for the last nine years," Glennie said.

"The team hopes to extend that to 10 straight years. Glennie feels that the team's performance in the classroom is more important than anything that they could do on the field."

"Academics are key, more so than the athletics part of it," he said. "Glennie recognizes that during their high school experience what they take away from their education will be more important than the skills acquired in the game."

"You can be the very best athlete," he said, "and if you don't have an education you're going nowhere."

Brian Doyle is an intern for the Northville Record, Novi News and the Lake Area Times. Comments can be directed to the sports department at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104.

Western wants something to show for team's talent

By Sam Eggleston SPORTS WRITER

The Walled Lake Western Warriors softball team isn't afraid of the elements or what Mother Nature may bring during a practice, and they are definitely not afraid of the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"The Warriors, led by coach Ron Ripicky, will be looking to come into this season — which was meant to start Monday, but was postponed — being competitive in their league."

"Last year we did really well in our tournaments," Ripicky said. "We did well in all of the tournaments we played in and beat some of the teams that went to Battle Creek (for the state tournament). We just couldn't step up to play the teams in our league."

Ripicky noted that this season, he and the Warriors are going to be looking to change that. "I had the girls go around and find the newest (softball) trophy in the school," he said.

"At least two of the girls were not even born the last time we won the league title. We are hoping to be very competitive in the Western Lakes this season."

"The Warriors may be able to do just that. Having graduated only three of his players — a center fielder, a second baseman and a designated hitter — Ripicky is confident his team will be able to overcome the losses."

"We have some players who will be able to fill those positions," he noted. "I am confident in the defensive end, they will be able to play the positions just fine. The question is, how well are they going to be able to hit? I guess, after everything I have said, it all comes down to experience."

Experience is something the Warriors have plenty of. With players like Lauren Talbot and Kristen Burgess returning this season, the Walled Lake softball team has five seniors coming back this season and four of those have starting experience.

As for the league and the division, Ripicky thinks

Churchill, North Farmington, Canton, Walled Lake Central and Northville are going to be the teams to watch out for.

"Those are probably the best teams in the league," he said. "There are not a whole lot of surprises because a lot of the teams are really good. Central graduates a ton of players every year and he still manages to be good over there."

"The Warriors may have a lot of experience and some players that have started since they were freshmen, but there is just one small problem."

"We don't have anything to show for it," Ripicky said. "There is nothing at the school to show how good these girls are. Our goal is to make it in the league this year and I think we have the horses to do it. This isn't just a pipe-dream."

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



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Sports Shorts (continued)

Continued from 2

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All-Area spikers chosen

Rademacher, Bongero on HomeTown's first team

By Sam Eggleston
and Steve Bell
SPORTS WRITERS

It is never easy to pick an All-Area team out of a group of schools with so much talent — but it has to be done. After weighing the options, the *Northville Record*, *Novi News*, *South Lyon Herald* and the *Milford Times* present this year's HomeTown East's All-Area Volleyball Team:

FIRST TEAM

Carmen Simkins
Senior
Setter
Novi Wildcats

Carmen Simkins played a massive role for the Wildcats this season. Not only did she collect 1,424 set attempts, but also 513 set assists, 71 service aces and an 89-percent serving percentage. Simkins helped lead her team to a second-place finish in the Kensington Valley Conference and just one game away from winning the district tournament. Novi coach Julie Fisetto said that Simkins would be missed on a Novi program she

greatly helped this season.

Katie Rademacher
Junior
Setter
WLC Vikings

The Walled Lake Central Vikings were one of the top teams in the area this season and went on to win their district before falling in the first round of the regional this season. Junior Katie Rademacher was a huge part of the success. Rademacher was the only area player named to the All-Western Lakes Activities Association First Team.

Lauren Temple
Junior
Northville Mustangs

Lauren Temple made quite a name for herself this season, collecting an All-Western division selection for her hard work. Though the Mustangs had a tough season, Temple is a glimpse of where the future of this team is — in good hands.

Danielle Bongero
Senior
WLV Warriors

This proved to be a tough rebuilding season for the Walled

Lake Western Warriors under the careful and patient guidance of coach Fritz Tallan. Senior Danielle Bongero was a big part of the success the Warriors managed to muster as she led the squad with 134 kills and a 95.5 service percentage. The 5-foot-6 senior collected 144 service points and was named to the All-Western squad in the WLAA.

Erica May
senior
outside hitter
Milford

May makes her third appearance on the all-area team, and it's well-earned. After past experiences, teams tried to play away from her. When that happened, her teammates took advantage of the opportunities and Milford had its most successful season ever. And if that approach didn't work, well, May made them pay.

The senior led the Redskins in kills with 327 on a hitting percentage of .402. Her 111 blocks — 49 solo — were the most on the team. And it wasn't just at the net that May got the job done. She served for a team-high

Continued on 4

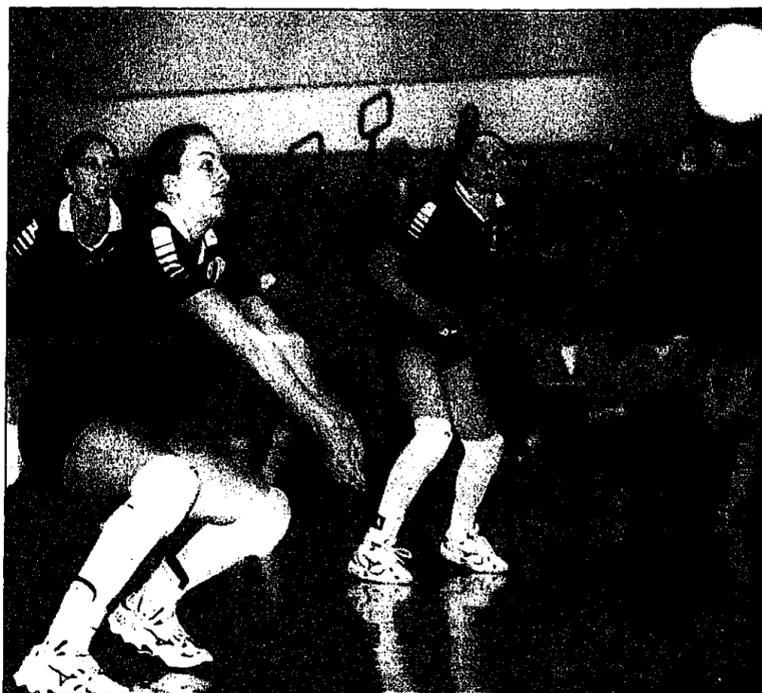
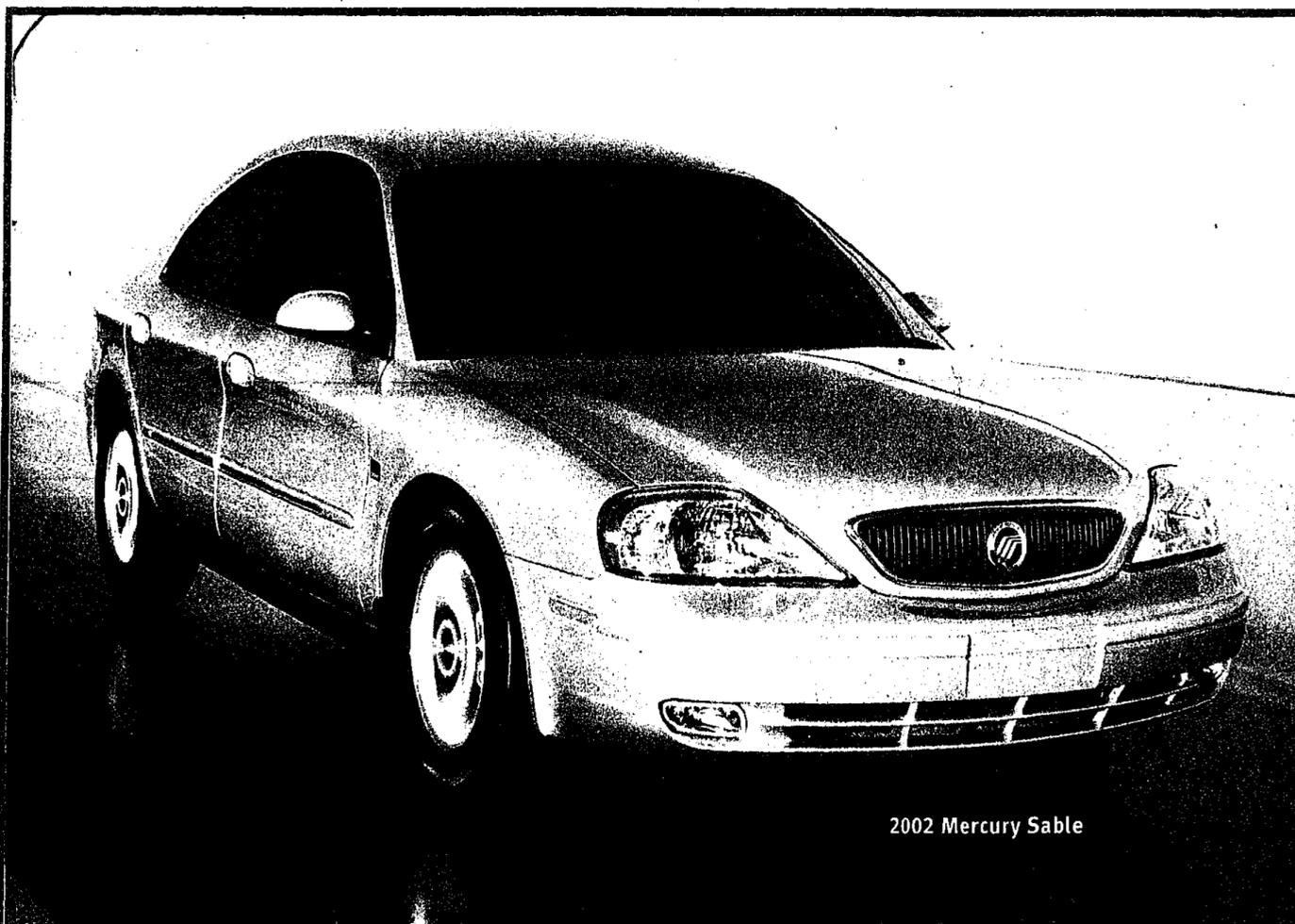


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

A Central defenseman returns a Northville serve during a January game at Walled Lake Central. The Vikings, as well as the Western Lakes Activities Association, were well represented in this year's All-Area Team.



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