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Novi, Michigan

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INSIDE



Start your engines!

The annual auto show kicks off this Saturday. Get a jump start with our preview.

Special Section

MARKETPLACE



Club Elite

Wendy Corriveau demonstrates the new super squat machine for toning the abs, hips and legs. Learn more about Club Elite and how they are helping women lose weight and get in shape.

— Page 4B

INDEX

Business	7A
Calendar of Events	13A
Classifieds	1D
Obituaries	3A
Opinion / Letters	10 / 11A
Police Report	5A
Regional Marketplace	4B
Schools	19A
Senior Calendar	13A
Sports	1B

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Damman closes doors

W. Bloomfield store also closing

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Damman Hardware at 22104 Novi Road in the Oak Pointe shopping center closed its doors at the end of the business day Monday.

"The store was closed because it wasn't doing the volume necessary to maintain the business," said Rick Damman, president.

The store had been a tenant of the center for nine years, according to Damman.

The chain also closed its West Bloomfield store, bringing the number of stores in the metropolitan

Detroit area from 17 to 15. Larry Atkinson, store manager of the Novi location, said Monday was the first he and other employees had heard about the closing.

"It was a surprise to me also," he said. Atkinson had worked there two years. "We locked the doors last night," he said Tuesday.

The future of about 13 employees, most of whom work part-time, are now in question.

"Some employees will be transferred to other stores wherever we can find a place for them. Others will not," Atkinson said.

"We really value the Novi area. For some reason, it just didn't reach our expectations. And we have neighboring stores in Livonia at Five Mile and Newburgh and in downtown Farmington at Grand

River and Farmington Road," Damman said.

Damman said employees at the Novi and West Bloomfield locations will remain until the inventory can be moved to the other 15 stores. Employees began arranging to have inventory transferred to other stores Tuesday.

"They'll still be working for awhile. It will take several weeks for the inventory to be transferred to other stores," he said.

Damman isn't sure why the Novi Road store stopped generating enough business.

"I don't know if we had too many stores located too close together or what. We may have cannibalized our own company by putting stores too close together. It's definitely an area we want to serve," he said.

Damman noted that the Livonia and Farmington stores are somewhat larger than the Novi Road store.

"The Novi store was 15,000 square feet, where the Livonia and Farmington stores are 23,000 square feet," he said.

Damman said the company does not plan to close any other stores in the near future.

"We enjoyed serving the area. It's always a difficult decision to close a store. We have great associates. It was strictly a business decision," he said.

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

Christian school jazzed up over show

Pianist Cyrus Chestnut set to perform Feb. 14

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Following the Novi Rotary Club's successful Wynton Marsalis concert last year, Tony Musu knew he was on to something.

Shortly after the June concert, Musu and a few other club members formed Concerts For A Cause to help non-profit groups in Novi and surrounding communities raise money. "This is my passion," said Musu. "I've done so much charity work in Novi and it's hard to watch groups work hard all year just to make \$3,000 to \$4,000."

With ticket sales and sponsorships, Musu believes his group could raise that much in just one event. Concerts For A Cause will be taking its first shot at that target when it brings jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut to Novi Valentine's Day for a concert to benefit Franklin Road Christian School.

Musu is recruiting sponsors for the event ranging from silver sponsors at \$250 up to premiere at \$2,500. "This is a unique opportunity for businesses. We'll have vendor tables at the school. It's an ideal setting for car dealerships, cell phone companies and other companies to promote their business."

Gold and platinum sponsors will each get a display table in the sponsors' area, and the event's sole premiere sponsor will get two tables. The premiere sponsor will also get a full-page advertisement in the concert program, their banner displayed in the concert auditorium, 20 prime seat tickets, their logo included on the show's Web site and their name included in all promotional materials.

Musu added it will also be an opportunity to help support a good cause while bringing top shelf talent to Novi.

Franklin Road Christian School moved to Novi from Southfield four years ago. The K-12 school has 380 students and is a ministry of the Brightmoor Christian Church. "I am totally impressed with the

continued on page 3



Cyrus Chestnut



Photo by John Heider

Special teacher

Teacher Melissa Mooradian dances with Michael Manning as Zack Hanson (right) joins in as part of a reading exercise in her Village Oaks classroom. Mooradian is the Novi News Feature Teacher for January. Her story is on page 9.

Barn Again: Volunteers needed for Smithsonian exhibit

Civic Center display opens Friday, Jan. 23

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

The clock is ticking. With only a little over two weeks left until a national traveling exhibit opens in Novi, volunteers are needed to help.

Kathy Mutch, site coordinator of "Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon," the traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit coming to Novi, encourages local residents to get involved.

The exhibit is being brought to Novi by Preservation Novi, a local historic preservation group headed by Mutch, in cooperation with the City of Novi.

The display consists of five

free-standing kiosks that feature photographs, artifacts and models. Its goal is to depict the role of barns in American culture.

The traveling exhibit will be in Novi from Jan. 23 through March 7 at the Novi Civic Center.

A special program is planned for 7 p.m. Jan. 15 at Historic Novi Township Hall, located just west of the Novi Public Library on Ten Mile Road. Glenn Ruggles of Commerce Township, oral historian and author, will present a slide show featuring history through the eyes of everyday people he has interviewed over the years.

An all-day workshop is also scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Novi Civic Center for those interested in learning more about how to conduct the art of oral history.

The "Barn Again!" exhibit is free and open to the public.

continued on page 3



Photo by Pam Fleming

Natalie Paul, left, and Tejasvi Nerusu, fourth-graders at Novi Woods Elementary School, draw images relating to harvest during Isolda Sarnecki's art class Tuesday. The images will go into an artists' book — one of the supplemental exhibits to the Smithsonian Institution's "Barn Again: Celebrating an American Icon," traveling exhibit coming to Novi Jan. 23 through March 7.



Photo by Phil Foley

Judy Buresh sorts tiles for the Lasting Impressions project.

Assarian project takes on a life of its own

Lasting Impressions unveiled 2 p.m. this Saturday

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It's been nearly a year in the making, but the Providence Center for the Healing Arts will be making Lasting Impressions with its community arts project Saturday when it takes the wraps off hundreds of tiles made by thousands of community members.

When Elena Weissman, the Center for the Healing Arts supervisor, introduced the project last February, she and her co-workers were thinking of lining maybe 50 feet of the tunnel connecting the Assarian Cancer Center with the main buildings at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers' Novi Campus.

However, 11 months later, 4,000 people had gone through 12 gallons of glaze and 750 pounds of clay, producing 980 tiles that once framed were enough to cover a 280-foot-long stretch of wall with messages of hope and encouragement.

Kicking off with a Michigan Association of Community Arts Agencies grant, Weissman said the project "took on a life of its own," growing bigger than anyone ever expected. The original plan, she said, was to make 300 tiles, but that quickly grew to

continued on page 2

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Cassis gears up to fight for Wixom Road Bridge

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

Last year Novi City Manager called it a "broken" project, but while work is moving forward on replacing the aging Beck Road Bridge over I-96, state highway officials have not put the five-year plan.

State Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) has been busy this week rallying the troops to attend what the Michigan Department of Transportation is billing as a "listening session" at the Troy Marriott hotel tonight.

Last month DOT officials announced they would hold a series of 11 "listening sessions" to get more input on the Michigan Transportation Summit held in Lansing early in December as

well as the latest version of the Five-Year Transportation Program.

Local officials say they're puzzled about why the Wixom Road Bridge was left off the list again.

"We'd like to see the bridge built immediately following Beck," said Craig Bryson, spokesman for the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Last year road commission officials went ballistic when Governor Jennifer Granholm pulled replacement of the Beck Road Bridge from the DOT's workplan as part of her "Preserve First" program just as they completed work on free-lancing Grand River Avenue between Wixom and Beck roads in support of that project. "We're still paying interest on money we borrowed for that," said Bryson.

He noted that both the Wixom and Beck Road Bridges were built in the 1950s and "have both outlived their design." They were among 34 projects removed from the state's five-year plan last April.

Last year Frank Cardiman, head of the Traffic Improvement Association, told members of the State Transportation Commission that two people had died and 225 were injured in 810 auto accidents between 1995-99 at the Wixom Road Bridges. Cardiman called replacing the Wixom and Beck Road Bridge a matter of public safety.

"I don't know why it wasn't included," said Cardiman, who said he plans on attending tonight's meeting. "If the Beck Road is a two-year project, I don't know why Wixom is not on the

list in the third or fourth year. The whole thing was supposed to be sequenced.

Bryson agreed noting, "If you do one, that only partially solves the problem."

According to Tom Davis, a spokesman for Senator Cassis, "a lot of people were rather disappointed," adding that the senator "will not let this drop."

He said it's important for the Wixom project not to lose momentum. "A draft plan was done. They've got the environmental clearances. The design is underway," he said.

"They'll build it," said Wixom City manager Michael Dornan, added he plans on "taking a raft of people" to Troy tonight.

Dornan, who was very vocal in his support of the Beck Road project, said his city is relying on the support of Novi officials. State Representative Craig DeRoche came to Novi City Council Monday night and urged their support of the project.

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

Speak up on Wixom Rd. interchange project

MDOT will receive public input tonight regarding the Administration's latest version of their Five-Year Transportation Program. Senator Nancy Cassis (R-Nowi) encourages citizens to attend this meeting to discuss with MDOT officials their concern for the Administration's plan to once again defer the Wixom Road Interchange Project.

The meeting is planned for 7-9 p.m. at the Troy Marriott (200 West Big Beaver). Call (888)-38-NANCY.

BUSINESS

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

Win an all-expenses-paid dream wedding

"Marry Me at Twelve" contest open until Feb. 1

A wedding that requires no planning and no expense is most couples' dream. Twelve Oaks and Emerald City Designs, one of the most sought-after wedding design firms in Metropolitan Detroit, have teamed up to present "Marry Me at Twelve" to help make this dream a reality.

This contest, which runs January 5-February 1, will award one lucky couple an all-expenses-paid dream wedding at Twelve Oaks February 15 at 7 p.m.

To enter, pick up an entry form at any participating Twelve Oaks store. Entrants, who must be 21 years of age or older, must submit a photo of themselves and their future spouse and write a 100-word-or-less essay on why they would win an elegant wedding planned and paid for by Emerald City Designs of Farmington Hills and Twelve Oaks.

Three couples will be chosen as finalists and will be interviewed on 100.3 WNIC-FM in February. A panel of celebrity judges will select one winning entry based on creativity and persuasiveness. The winning couple will be announced Feb. 6.

The wedding, which will take place in the Center Court of Twelve Oaks, will consist of a beautiful ceremony and reception for up to 100 people. Catering will be provided by Epoch Events Catering of Novi. Emerald City Designs will create the entire set for this magical wedding fantasy at Twelve Oaks, including full wedding coordination for the bride and groom, personalized invitations, floral designs, exquisite linens and china, ceremony arrangements and more.

Each week of the contest Emerald City Designs will be changing the design elements on the "Marry Me at Twelve" displays at Twelve Oaks, providing fresh flowers and unique trends for all to admire.

The wedding presentations will include cutting edge styles using floral, moss and grass textures," said David McKnight, owner and founder of Emerald City Designs. "We will use European designs, hanging elements and a graceful aisle way and canopy for the ceremony. It will be a whimsical, magical event."

Additional services will be provided by Paul Kubek, photographer; VideoMagic Productions, videographer and Cassens-Murphy Band, live entertainment. Hotel Barometre will provide a room for the couple on their wedding night. In addition, a honeymoon will be included. The winning couple will also choose wedding items from the following Twelve Oaks stores:

- Heidi's Salon—hair and makeup for bride and maid of honor
- After Hours by Tuxedo World—tuxedo for groom and best man
- JB Robinson—wedding bands
- Things Remembered—bridal party gifts, toasting glasses and cake serving set
- Godiva Chocolatier—table favors
- Papyrus—thank you notes
- Max & Erma's—rehearsal dinner
- Travel 2000 Luggage and Gifts—luggage for the honeymoon
- Pottery Barn — Bridal Registry

All entries must be received by mail by January 31, or can be dropped off at the Twelve Oaks Management Office by 5 p.m. on February 1 to be eligible. Entrants can submit essays in person at the Management Office at Twelve Oaks weekdays between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or by mail to:

"Marry Me at Twelve" c/o Management Office, Twelve Oaks, 27500 Novi Road, Novi, MI 48377

"Marry Me at Twelve" is presented by Twelve Oaks and Emerald City Designs and sponsored by Epoch Events Catering and 100.3 WNIC-FM. For more information go to the Twelve Oaks Web site at www.shoptwelveoaks.com.

Novi firm helps Roseville woman in need

Furnace repairs enable resident to return home

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

When her furnace broke, Eva Bourdeau of Roseville, a diabetic who lives alone, was moving from place to place, staying with different friends who would have her.

Since she couldn't afford to have the furnace fixed, she even resorted at one point to using a space heater, which is not the safest way to heat a home.

Then, on the day after Thanksgiving 2003, workers from Day & Night Heating & Cooling at 27629 Haggerty Road in Novi came to her rescue. They repaired her furnace as part of an annual charity program organized by the Southeast Michigan Chapter of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America.

The contractors received Bourdeau's name from the Area Agency on Aging I-B, headquartered in Southfield.

"This group goes out every year and helps people who may need safety checks or repairs on their furnaces. They do it for free for people in need. The people they help are mostly senior citizens, but they'll help others, too," said Sallie Justice, public relations coordinator for the agency.

"One neat thing about the program is when all the different heating and cooling contractors congregate at our location. Just seeing all those trucks lined up with the different logos is something. Normally they're competitors, but on that one day, we're all working together," said Cliff McCourt, owner of Day & Night Heating & Cooling and a member of the charitable organization for many years. Last year, the event took place Dec. 6.

"We probably average 60 to 70 calls a year. In 2003 we put in two new furnaces and repaired many more. The manufacturers are great, too. Everyone participates — from the manufacturers to the contractors to the suppliers who donate parts. It's been a fun program," McCourt said.

"We have about 80 members in our local chapter. There's a state and national organization, too," he added.

McCourt is a past president of the organization, with Craig Jones of Sisor Heating and

AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

A to Z Total Heating & Cooling	Dearborn Heights
A-1 Comfort Control	Farmington Hills
Airtronic Heating & Cooling	Redford
Day & Night Heating & Cooling	Novi
Dearborn Heating & Cooling	Dearborn
Diversified Heating & Cooling	Farmington Hills
Family Heating	Garden City
Guardian Environmental Services	Livonia
Keith Heating & Cooling	Plymouth
Curt's Heating & Cooling	Plymouth
Kritsch Heating Inc.	Taylor
Liberty Total Comfort	Redford
Moore Furnace Co.	Livonia
National Heating & Cooling	Detroit
Reckinger Heating & Cooling	Dearborn
Robin Air Heating & Cooling	Milford
Royal Oak Heating & Cooling	Royal Oak
Sisor Heating & Cooling	Livonia

Cooling Inc. in Livonia serving as the current president. Bourdeau is now back in her own home with a smoothly-running furnace.

"My furnace is working good now, which is so nice, because I was staying all over before," she said.

"She was very appreciative. That's what gives you a good feeling and makes it all worthwhile," McCourt said.

The organization started

continued on next page



Smoke billows from an eastside apartment Tuesday as Novi firefighters bring a cooking fire under control. Officials estimated damage at \$70,000.

Fire guts kitchen; two unhurt

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

A Novi woman and her daughter escaped injury during a lunchtime fire in their apartment Tuesday, but smoke and flame did \$70,000 damage to their second-floor residence at the Pavilion Court Apartments, according to Novi Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Jeffrey Johnson.

Johnson said a crew from Station Three at Nine Mile and Ruethel was dispatched to 27288

Cottage Court at 11:46 a.m. and arrived within four minutes to find smoke billowing from the apartment. Fire fighters found and rescued two cats in the apartment.

Johnson said management at Pavilion Court Apartments was able to put Pike and her daughter in a vacant furnished apartment following the fire.

The burning oil, said Johnson, "gutted the kitchen." He estimated damage to the building at \$59,000 and \$20,000 to the apartment's contents.

He noted Pike had renters insurance.

He said while fighting the blaze, fire fighters found and rescued two cats in the apartment.

Johnson said management at Pavilion Court Apartments was able to put Pike and her daughter in a vacant furnished apartment following the fire.

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

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Pickup Game

Novi resident's device creates a lot of hoopla

By Pam Fleming
STAFF WRITER

Who says you need a driveway or a basketball court to shoot hoops? With Novi resident Jason Parr's invention Pickup Hoops, all that's required is a pickup truck and a vacant lot.

"This is my revenge for not making the high school team when I tried out," he said about his invention.

The patented device is basically a full-size basketball hoop that is bolted to the back of a pickup bed — either directly to the bed or on a special metal rack.

Parr's uncle, Jim VanHagen of West Bloomfield, an engineer and 15-year veteran of Danaher/Chrysler, assisted Parr on the engineering of the product.

"We're co-inventors," Parr said. The duo has a patent on the product and is trying to pique interest in the aftermarket piece with one of the Big Three automakers.

Parr's inspiration to create the device obviously came from his love of the game.

"I'm a hoop head. I have to get my basketball fix every day. We were trying to figure out a way to put up a basketball hoop in the parking lot at work," he said. Parr works for Iron Mountain Off Site

Data Protection, a company that stores important computer information for a variety of clients in the event of a disaster.

"The hoop folds down inside the bed of the pickup similar to a convertible top folding inside a car," Parr said.

Parr wants the device to be incorporated by one of the big name automakers into a special edition pickup.

"What we want is a brand name, like the Michael Jordan or Ben Wallace edition of a pickup. It's a perfect marriage. It's not like a kayak rack or a bicycle rack where you're using that to haul something, and when you get to the destination you remove it. Pickup Hoops is more of a lifestyle thing you interact with your own vehicle while it's on your vehicle," Parr said.

The Novi resident said he owned a truck and was going to buy a portable hoop.

"But you have to worry about getting sand or water in the base to stabilize it, and that's not convenient. You're spending all your time setting it up and taking it down. That's when I decided to build one on the back of a truck. A truck is already there, it's on the ground, and a regulation hoop is 10 feet," he explained.

Parr said he and VanHagen are trying to license the patent rights,

PATENT PROBLEMS

Jason Parr, 38, said obtaining the patent was the most difficult part of their project.

"It took me almost six years to get it. About 85 percent of patents are granted to major corporations. The other 15 percent, if you happen to be lucky enough to be in that percentage, go to private individuals or groups. You have to fight a lot of money, effort and time spent before you receive one," Parr said.

Patent attorney Joe Carrier of Novi assisted in the patent process.

"For more information about Pickup Hoops, call Parr at (313) 534-8734, check out the Web site at www.pickuphoops.net or e-mail Parr at pickuphoops@hotmail.com.

to bite on it," Parr said.

He's already sold two of the devices to the sporting goods giant Nike.

"It took me a year and a half just to get my foot in the door," Parr said.

He and VanHagen hope the ease of operation will help sell the device.

"It sets up in 24 seconds with no tools required. It's too good to be true," Parr said.

Their goal is to eventually have Pickup Hoops as a listed option on a pickup truck.

Parr hopes that his device will encourage more pickup basketball games — both at home and away.

"Twenty years ago, if you didn't have a garage, you didn't have a hoop. That's how they all started out. Then they got the stand-alone poles. My hoops are so portable that with two trucks, you can make a full court," Parr said.

His work buddies love Pickup Hoops.

"We play at lunch and after work. They'll say, 'Get the hoop out. We want to play.' And, if you want to play at nighttime, you can play in a lighted parking lot," he said.

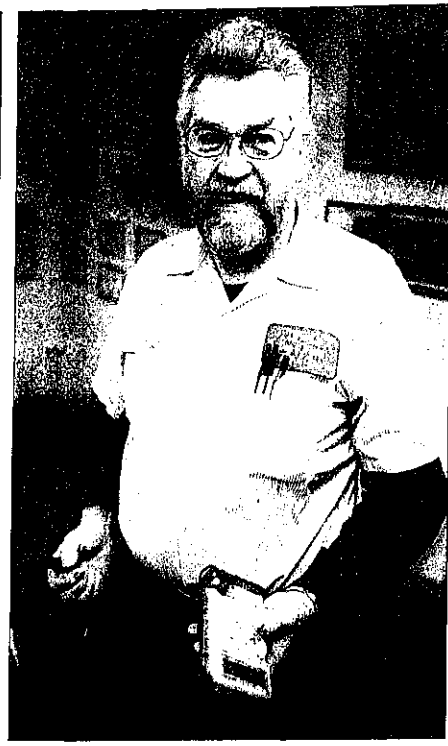


Photo by John Heider

Cliff McCourt, owner of Novi's Day and Night Heating, was part of a group of Air Conditioning Contractors of America volunteers that repaired and replaced a number of Novi home's furnaces for the recent Al Keats Day

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

Firm helps woman in need

continued from page 7

labor would have cost from \$1,200 to \$1,400 if Bourdeau had to pay for the repairs herself.

"I think it's wonderful that Day & Night workers drove all the way from Novi to Roseville to ensure that Eva was safe and warm over the holidays," Justice said. "Now she'll be warm all winter."

Local contractors also installed carbon monoxide detectors in everyone's home they visited. Wisconsin-based Research Products, which has a local representative, donated the detectors.

McCourt came to Bourdeau's aid even though his firm is in Novi because the organization doesn't have a contractor in Macomb County, and he wanted to help her.

He estimated the parts and

repairing furnaces for those in need 17 years ago.

"We got the idea from another chapter in Colorado," McCourt said.

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VO Plus Program educator loves to help others succeed

Mooradian improves special ed students lives on a daily basis

By Ramez Khuri
STAFF WRITER

Melissa Mooradian describes her job as the most rewarding thing she has ever experienced in her life. In fact, while most people were enjoying their time off from work for the holidays, she was counting the hours till it was time to go back.

Mooradian is a PLUS Program teacher at Village Oaks Elementary School, which means she works exclusively with special education students. Though the job description is a little different than a traditional elementary educator, helping the kids learn is something that Mooradian believes is her purpose in life.

"The kids I work with day in and day out never fail to make me realize how wonderful they are," Mooradian said. "Everything I do is for them, whether they know it or not. When that little light bulb goes off and I can finally realize that they have understood what I'm trying to teach them, that's so wonderful. It happens daily and they are very small accomplishments. But in the end, when you look back over the year and you think, 'Wow, look at where this student started and now look where he or she has gotten,' that's what it's all about. I missed all of them over vacation."

Mooradian grew up in a home with three other sisters and her mom ran a daycare, so she was constantly around children growing up. In high school she was offered a job as a teacher's aide as part of her curriculum and she chose to do it at a nearby special education school.

"I just fell in love with working

MELISSA MOORADIAN

- School: Village Oaks Elementary School
- Grade: K-4 PLUS Program (Special Education)
- Subject: Daily Living, Communication, Social Skills, Early Cognitive Skills (Academic)
- Years Teaching: two
- Years in Novi Community School District: Two
- College: Western Michigan University
- Spouse: Dennis
- Interests: She is a workout fanatic. She loves doing all types of athletic and physical activities, she's very involved in the gym in Novi, she enjoys spending time with both her family and her husband. She also has a niece and nephew she spends a lot of time with back in Grand Rapids, where she's from.



with kids with special needs at that point in my life and decided to finish high school and continue working as a teacher aid for the next couple years," she said. "I then enrolled at Western because of their program."

Mooradian knew that she wanted to be a teacher since high school, but before that there was always different things she wanted to do. As far back as she can remember, however, all of her career choices involved working with children.

While she was student teaching

in Livonia, Mooradian had a mentor teacher named Carrie Dery, who had a hand in making her into the person she is today.

"She was absolutely the number one person who had a positive impact on my confidence, on my know-how, just everything," Mooradian said. "She really helped me realize what it was that I needed to do to become a successful teacher. Without that experience I wouldn't be where I am now."

In only her second year at Village Oaks, Mooradian has had many memorable moments, but one stands out the most. Last year she had a student who made many accomplishments and improved dramatically in everything she was teaching — and the fact that she was helping that student made her very proud.

"I don't think anybody thought that student could improve so much in such a short time," she said. "The made so many accomplishments and he trusted me. Seeing kids grow and become independent — some parents might think that their children may never learn, or how to write his or her name — is what I love about my job."

Though it is a job she enjoys tremendously, as in any other job there are hard parts. She said that one of the hardest parts is keeping a positive attitude daily.

"Everybody has had days sometimes," she said, "but I can't have a bad day on this job because then the kids will have a bad day. I always have to be upbeat, positive and have lots of energy and lots of patience, especially with kids with special needs."

Another hard part of the job is the fact that most students with special needs won't necessarily remember her outside of the classroom unless they see her. Mooradian said she just wants the kids to think of her as someone they can trust and someone that they know deep down on a professional level who loves them and would do anything for them.

"Trust is huge," Mooradian said. "You have to gain the kids' trust in order for them to take steps out of



Photo by John Heider

Village Oaks' Elementary School teacher Melissa Mooradian works with one of her pupils on a reading exercise Monday morning.

their box that they don't want to come out of. This job is all about the kids. I love to help them succeed."

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

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Timar named sales vice president

Siegel-Robert, Inc., recently announced the appointment of Jeffrey E. Timar as vice president, sales, of the Siegel-Robert Automotive Division.

Timar will have full responsibility for the sales performance of the division. He is based in the Detroit sales and engineering offices to enhance customer relationships and development.

He will focus on sales of the global operations of the Siegel-Robert Automotive Division which has more than 2,700 employees and \$330 million in sales.

Timar is a graduate of Youngstown State University in Ohio.



J. Timar

Crosswinds clothing drive

Crosswinds Communities, a Novi-based company building single family homes and town homes in more than 18 locations in southeast Michigan, is having its second annual clothing drive through the end of January.

Last year's drive resulted in more than 250 bags of clothing for the area's needy families.

The company is requesting that area residents donate new and used

Borders investing workshop

Lynnette Khalilani, former Wall Street Journal reporter for CNBC, will discuss personal finance and investing tips at a workshop and book signing at 7 p.m. Jan. 16 at Borders Books & Music at 43075 Crescent Blvd. at Novi Town Center.

Khalilani's new book is titled "Investing Success: How to Counter 30 Costly Mistakes & Multiply Your Wealth."

Business workshops set

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend several seminars this month offered by the Oakland County Business Center in Pontiac.

"Choosing the Best Legal Entity Sole Proprietorship" Limited Liability Company (LLC); Partnership? Corporation?" will take place from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 15. Each entity offers unique advantages and disadvantages. Learn the key considerations for each and the affects on the business operation. For location and pre-registration, call (248) 858-0783. The fee is \$30 per person and includes materials.

"How to Write a Business Plan," a workshop for small business owners who want to develop a plan to serve as their road map to success, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 29. This program, co-sponsored by the Oakland County Business Center and the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), will focus on sales promotion, advertising and publicity and the various decisions each of these tools require. The fee

Business workshops set

is \$40 if attendees register by Jan. 20, \$45 after that date.

Meal checks made payable to SCORE with your contact information to Nancy Peter, Oakland County Business Center, 1200 N. Telegraph Road, Pontiac, MI 48341-0412. Contact Lynda Earhart at cearhart@ocsbkland.mia.or (248) 858-0783 with additional questions.

Compiled by Pam Fleming

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155 Jerry Brown
160 Michael Cheeseman
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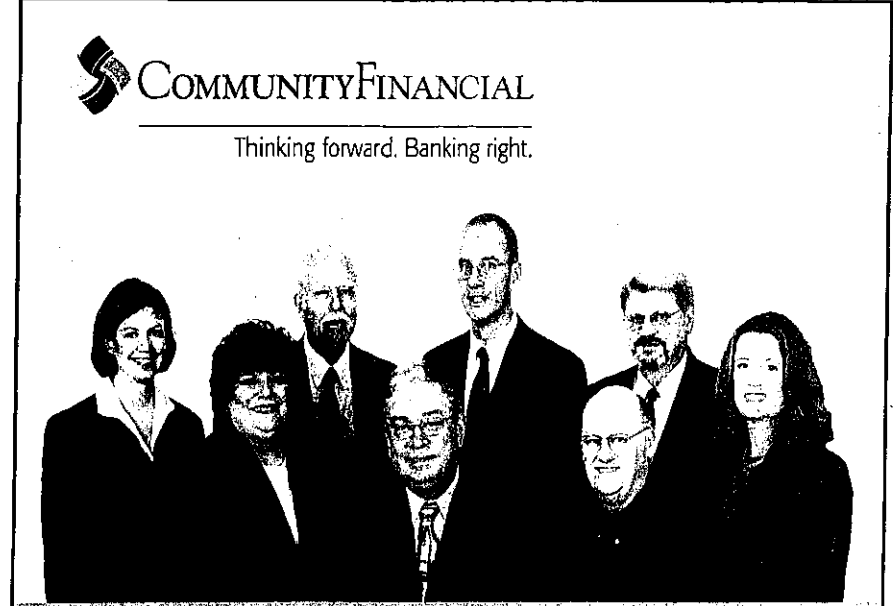
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- Back Row, Left to Right: Denise Varner, Volunteer Coordinator, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church; Thomas McHugh, Architect, McHugh Architect Engineering; Daniel Herriman, CEO, Herriman & Associates, Inc.; Hank Salla, Certified Public Accountant; Michele Kelly, Attorney, Kelly & Kelly PC
- Not Pictured: Phillip Curtiss, Retired Information Technology Manager

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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.

Wixom Bridge a high priority

The Michigan Department of Transportation is holding a "listening session" tonight regarding its Five-Year Transportation Plan.

We urge Novi and surrounding area residents to speak up - loudly - and let our state officials know the importance of putting the Wixom Road Bridge (at I-96) back into their plan.

The Wixom and Beck road bridges are both approximately 50 years old. Both need replacing. Both were included in the 34 projects dropped from the state's plan in April 2003.

The Beck project was later reinstated - thanks to the efforts of our local Lansing voices, Sen. Nancy Cassis and State Rep. Craig DeRoeche - and work began last month.

But when that bridge is completed, it will only "partially" solve the problem, according to Craig Bryson of the Road Commission for Oakland County. And it's not a small problem, either. There were over 800 accidents at the Wixom/I-96 bridge from 1995-1999.

There is that other problem that Gov. Jennifer Granholm is forced to deal with, the state's budget crisis, but there is a point where spending money now will save money - and possibly lives - in the future.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease. Sure, it's a cliché, but for good reason. It usually works. It did for the Wixom Road Bridge project, and it can for the Beck Road Bridge project.

Tonight, from 7-9 p.m., at the Troy Marriott (200 West Big Beaver), the state is willing to listen. Let's make sure we're heard.

GOVERNMENT

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

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

Dakland County
Executive
L. Brooks Patterson
County Services Center
Building #34 East
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0484
7th Commission
Christine Long
1342 E. Commerce Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
(248) 366-2666
longc@co.oakland.mi.us

United States Congress
11th District
Thaddeus McCotter (R-Livonia)
415 Cannon HOB
Washington D.C. 20515-8171
(202) 225-8171
FAX: (202) 225-2657
Local office:
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 161
Livonia, MI 48152

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

State Senate
15th District
Nancy Cassis (R-Novi)
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-1758
senncassis@senate.michigan.gov

State House of Reps
38th District
Craig DeRoche (R-Novi)
50887 House Office Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(517) 373-0827
FAX: (517) 373-5873
craigderoche@house.mi.gov

Cities
Novi
45175 West Ten Mile Road
Novi, MI 48375-3024
(248) 347-0460
FAX: (248) 347-0577

Walled Lake
1495 E. West Maple Road
PO Box 99
Walled Lake, MI 48390-0099
(248) 624-4847
FAX: (248) 624-1616

Wixom
49045 Pontiac Trail
Wixom, MI 48393-2567
(248) 624-4557
FAX: (248) 624-0863

39th District
Marc Shulman (R-West Branchfield)
351 Capitol Building
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

OPINION

novinews.com



Photo by John Helder

Short days cast long shadows
In the short days of early winter, shadows of trees lengthen across the hill of Novi's North Lakeshore Park on the afternoon after New Year's Day.

LETTERS

Great job, Novi officials

It was great news to read that Moody's Investors Services has upgraded the city of Novi's bond rating to Aa2. The state of Michigan rating has been reduced to Aa1, affecting about 1.1 billion dollars of debt. Michigan state does not have any dollars in reserve now. The good rating for the Novi is due to city's financial position which remains healthy because of conservative budgeting and maintaining

satisfactory reserves and available operating tax-rate margin. I foresee the city of Novi will flourish well under the new leadership of new Mayor and council. Kudos to everyone for keeping the high standard and looking for the right way.

Ramesh Verma
Novi

GUEST COLUMN

Senator wraps up a productive year

My first year in the Michigan Senate has been an exciting and rigorous experience! Throughout the year, I have been a strong advocate for making the tax code more simple and fair. I have worked hard to ease the tax penalty employers face on healthcare benefits, streamline reporting requirements for schools, and address local transportation and economic development issues, including reconstruction of the Beck and Wixom Road interchange and funding an Access Management Study for the M-59 corridor through White Lake Township.

It has always been my mission to introduce and shepherd legislation that simplifies the state tax code for Michigan taxpayers and makes our state more competitive for job providers. The Cassis Care and Competitiveness package to reduce Michigan's tax penalty on employer-funded health benefits by 50 percent is now law. This accomplishment represents a new era of economic development in Michigan and makes our state more competitive, better able to create and retain jobs, and more effective in protecting private healthcare for our employees and their families.



Nancy Cassis

In August, my bills to change the Michigan "homestead exemption" to the "primary residence exemption" were signed into law. I introduced this legislation to alleviate confusion between Homestead CREDIT (for which only certain taxpayers are eligible) and the Homestead EXEMPTION (for which all homeowners are eligible). Confusion between the two terms sometimes caused taxpayers to not take full advantage of the tax relief they are entitled to. Sometimes the smallest change can have a very large impact when it comes to saving your hard earned dollars. As a former public school teacher, I also sponsored legislation to save school districts money by streamlining their data reporting requirements. This bill was signed into law in October. Now, instead of having to submit their data to multiple state agencies, schools need only send information to one place, the Center for Educational Performance and Information. Making CEPI a clearinghouse

for educational data saves taxpayer dollars and allows schools to direct more of their education funding toward their students - where it belongs.

With regard to transportation issues, construction has finally begun at the Beck Road interchange. I am so proud that this vital project, for which Novi taxpayers, local officials and I have fought so long and hard, is finally coming to fruition, despite Governor Granholm's initial veto of the funding. I have been working on both the Beck and Wixom interchange reconstruction projects since 1997 and look forward to their completion.

While we have accomplished a great deal this year, our work in Lansing is far from done. I am still fighting for legislation I have introduced to restrict out-of-state trash, promote increased parental involvement in schools, and protect the privacy of your social security number. These bills have passed the Senate and are pending action in the House of Representatives.

Thank you for the honor of serving you in the Michigan Senate. I invite you to contact me with any questions, concerns, and ideas you may have as we look forward to the New Year.

Nancy Cassis
State Senator
15th District

Pie in the sky? Not this contest

When friends invited my wife and I to come to their New Year's Eve party, they asked us to bring a dessert to pass. No problem. We had a cherry pie that was frozen, so we just took it out a couple days prior and put it in the refrigerator to thaw before baking.

Only problem was, we put the box on its side and all the filling oozed out.

My wife was angry. I was hummed. I really like pie, especially cherry.

I like pie so much that we're having a pie contest here at our office - and it's open to readers of the Novi News and Northville Record, our sister publication.



Cal Stone

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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OTHER OPINIONS

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

Long-term damage being done to state's universities

The trouble with really big mistakes is they have a way of sneaking up on you, so that by the time you notice things are going badly wrong, nearly irreversible damage has been done.

Historic examples abound. In the 1930s, the British government thought it was smart to appease Hitler and the Nazis. It took nearly a decade and a world war for them to discover their mistake. In more recent times, President Lyndon Johnson for years thought the war in Vietnam was yet another battle against the world-wide Communist menace, when it actually turned out to be a civil war between the north and south with the Americans in the role of the foreign invader hated by both sides. By the time he realized his mistake, thousands of young Americans were dead and he was forced to step aside, his presidency in ruins.

In today's Michigan, I fear we're also in the process of making a really big mistake, one that doesn't seem particularly consequential now, but will likely have terrible results long term: The profound cuts in state support for higher education over the past several years.

Time was when our colleges and universities were regarded as among our state's crown jewels. No more, at least not in the budget and policy makers in Lansing. Consider these facts:

- Current state support for the 15 public universities in Michigan is \$1.29 billion, the lowest in four years.
- In a little over year, nearly \$250 million has been slashed from state appropriations for universities, after 15 percent.
- After absorbing another \$73 million in budget cuts for this fiscal year, universities now get \$200 million less in state funding for operations ... than does our



Phil Power

prison system!

- University of Michigan Provost Paul Courant estimates the cuts have stripped away \$1,500 in per-student state support, and other universities are reporting similar reduction.
- How come? One easy answer, of course, is that when the state's budget is as badly out of whack as it is, everybody has to suffer - including colleges and universities.
- Another is that for more than a decade, experienced university appropriations legislators like former State Sen. Joe Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, fought for university appropriations. Schwarz was term-limited, Sen. Joe Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, fought for university appropriations. Schwarz was term-limited, Sen. Joe Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, fought for university appropriations.

What surprises me, however, is that two of our most senior political leaders - Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikema - are complicit in all this. Granholm has degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard Law School, while Sikema has a Harvard BA and a U-M business degree. Of all people, they ought to know what a great university can do for a state and how much damage can be done to once-great universities by systematic strangulation over time.

As Peter Luke, the able Lansing columnist for the Booth Newspapers, pointed out a year ago, former governor John Engler made it a matter of basic policy to link spending for public universities with overall spending for education. Granholm has chosen to decouple the two, favoring spending on K-12 schools over higher education. And she's done it in a somewhat gratuitous way, taking public

slaps at "new buildings and weight rooms and the great capital improvements on campus" and making remarks to the effect that any institution (universities, get it?) can easily find ways to cut budgets by 5 percent. (Remember, it was the Republican legislature in the budget negotiations back in December that stayed Granholm's hand from cutting university aid by another \$15 million.)

The fact is that state universities are being starved, long-term damage is being done and it will take years and years to recover. The U-M is losing some of its brightest and best faculty members to other schools, while class size is going up and morale is going down.

At one of the nation's best schools, Michigan Technological University, President Curtis Tompkins is best faculty members to other schools, while class size is going up and morale is going down.

Stanford University, probably today the best in the country, got that way by following the strategy of "spires of excellence" propounded by Frederick Terman, the former dean of engineering. The idea was that the only way to achieve a seriously excellent university was to erect a few centers of very great quality and use them as the lever by which to ratchet up everything else. Of course, it is also logically possible to follow the reverse policy and achieve morasses of mediocrity.

But that's what you get when you are in the process of making a really bad mistake and nobody is able, or willing, to realize what is going on.

Phil Power was a U-M regent from 1987 to 1999. He is the Chairman of the Board of the company that owns this newspaper. He would be pleased to get your reactions to this column either at (734) 953-2047 or at ppower@homecomm.net.

Another water rate increase? You need to know Mr. Mercado

Victor Mercado is a tough, short and pudgy engineer who came here a year and a half ago to do a vital and largely thankless job.

But is the man who runs Detroit's Water and Sewerage Department, most of whose customers don't live or work in the city at all, but in the suburbs and beyond.

Once upon a time, nearly everyone lived in Detroit, and what tiny suburbs existed were more than happy to be able to buy service from the city. Today, the population has moved out, and the water and sewer lines have expanded with them. Detroit's water pipes alone run 3,796 miles.

But the era of good feeling is much shorter. Today, more than a third of all Michiganders depend on Detroit for water. But since the city runs the system, suburbanites - especially, their politicians - often scream bloody murder when there is a rate increase, as there is now almost every year.

Nobody says it openly, but everybody has heard the whispers that the blacks who live in and run Detroit just want to fleece the wealthier white suburbanites. Naturally, many Detroiters see the suburban reaction as just one more case of more affluent whites wanting to get out of paying their fair share.

All this tends to exasperate Mercado, a non-nonsense type who, apart from occasionally lusting after a 1956 Crown Victoria, is mainly interested in his job.

"People should come to our board meetings - they are open to the public, and they are posted on our Web site (www.dwsd.org). What we charge the suburbs is based on cost of service. This has some-

thing to do with how far away they are - but also on how much water they use and how consistently they use it."

The suburbs also piggyback on their own charges, and rate increases, onto the city's, which sometimes leaves suburbanites the impression that their entire bill goes to downtown Detroit, when it may be less than half.

Rates are set based on the cost of providing services at peak usage times. (For sewer use, the peak is always during commercial breaks in the Super Bowl.) Mercado also says that since arriving here he has wrung much of any waste and efficiency out of the system. Why then does he need another rate increase?

"Basically, we are keeping our costs flat. The only increases are because of capital improvements," Mercado said. Last year, a water main broke on the east side that dated to 1877, a year when Detroit had barely 100,000 people. In the summer, they often pump a billion gallons of clean water a day, and can treat even more sewage.

What's the biggest misconception about his job? "That it is easy," Mercado says with a short laugh. "People also tend to think it is very political, and it is not. In my position you need to know how a waste water system operates. If you don't know how it works, you don't know how to make it more efficient."

He gets a little testy when asked what he makes: \$240,000, more than the mayor or the governor. Not that he doesn't earn it. Imagine what it would mean to civilization in this or any other place if the water and sewer system broke down. Seeing that most people never think about that may be the biggest part of Victor Mercado's job.

Jack Lessenberry is editorial vice president of HomeTown Communications. He can be reached by phone at (248) 901-2561 or by e-mail at jlessenberry@homecomm.net.

NOVI NEWS STAFF



Grace Perry - Publisher
gperry@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 120



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



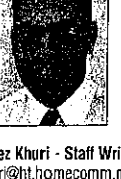
Jennifer Dimming - Asst. Exec.
jdimming@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 102



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



Phil Foley - Staff Writer
pfoley@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 108



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



Sam Eggleston - Sports Writer
seggleston@ht.homecomm.net
(248) 349-1700, ext. 104



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



Karen Whitehart - Receptionist



Marcia Cromas - Receptionist
rcromas@ht.homecomm.net
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Spreading holiday cheer at Neinas Elementary

■ Meadows adopts three kindergarten classrooms

By Sharon Fillips

As a school, Novi Meadows adopted three kindergarten classrooms totaling nearly 90 children at Neinas Elementary School in Detroit. Students at Meadows mentored those children in a holiday celebration on Dec. 5.

Although Meadows was only able to send a representative from each team to the actual mentorship/celebration day (18 students in all who actually go to Neinas to deliver gifts and be a mentor), all Meadows students participated in the service.

This year 270 fleece blankets were cut, fringed, and tied. The fabric came from an educator grant given by JoAnn Fabrics. Originally printed fabric was to be purchased to make 90 blankets for

the 90 kids, but it was decided to purchase solid fabrics at one third of the price and make triple the amount of blankets for 270 children.

Nearly 300 yards of fleece fabric was turned into warm blankets for 270 Neinas children. Additionally, the Novi students made cards, wrote letters, turned brown grocery bags into gift bags with hand made decorations, made boy/girl decorated gift tags, and wrapped gifts of Barbies for girls and matchbox cars for boys.

One team made fleece hats, another tie dyed T-shirts and students donated gloves and socks. All were wrapped by students at the gift wrap station and placed in the 90 decorated gift bags.

During the day of service at Meadows, students were reminded that one of the key devastations of living in poverty is the feeling of being unseen, insignificant and unimportant and that offenses such as racism is very low. Therefore, it was pointed out to them that their highly valued than the material possessions received is the

knowledge that students at Meadows recognized their value, care, and deem them important and worth spending time on.

Going to Neinas has really helped me understand how people feel who are not as fortunate as I am," Meadows sixth grader Gwendolyn Greer said. "The kids at Neinas were so sweet. They wanted to give everything they received to other people. They definitely aren't selfish."

The care and attitude students participated with and the care that went into the product were deemed more important than the material possession it accompanied. It was very evident on the Meadows service day that great heart, love, and care went into every product that was part of the service to Neinas children.

Additionally, countless teachers, PTO volunteers, and individual families gave with the same spirit of concern for others and desire to make a difference.

Many Meadows teachers prepared the fleece blanket material for students to cut and tie over

their Thanksgiving break. Others were instrumental in getting a power point presentation of slides of the entire service experience presented to all students prior to winter break. There is a link of photos, quotes, and information on the Novi Meadows web page for all parents, students and others to enjoy and there was also a book drive that brought in over 1000 books for the children at Neinas.

One family donated the Barbies and another the matchbox cars. Students donated gloves, books and toys for the 90 gift bags and for gift baskets. Some people even gathered volunteers for the service day at Meadows, helped with the mentorship day at Neinas, and work throughout the year to coordinate monthly food baskets from Meadows to Neinas.

"I know they treasured the gifts and the love we gave them," Meadows fifth grader Courtney Kramer said. "I was overjoyed when they all took time to hug and say good-bye. I think every kid wants to be loved. Just caring

can bring so much joy to someone in need."

PTO supports this endeavor in countless ways and the Meadows administration manage many necessary details to allow all of this happen. It is truly a collaborative



Novi Meadows student Aly Bond reads a Neinas kindergarten her new book that she received during the Neinas Christmas Party.

effort by many.

Sharon Fillips is a Neinas party organizer for Novi Meadows.

New career classes approved for Novi High

■ Career Technology Education Programs set to begin next fall

By Ramez Khuri

STAFF WRITER

Students attending Novi High School next year should consider themselves lucky.

Starting in the 2004-05 school year, kids will have the opportunity to take part in Career and Technology Education Programs which will give them skills for successful career entry and/or continuing education.

Courses such as Auto Technology, Child Development and Computer Aided Design, which were just approved by the Novi Community Board of Education, were taught at the high school before, but never like this. Students will be doing many hands-on activities and learning by doing, rather than just reading it in a book.

According to Jennifer Cheal, education director of instructional initiatives, when students take these courses, they will not only learn work skills, they will learn life skills as well. "Kids can take these courses and they can figure out their interests. And if they end up being a CEO or an entrepreneur, these hands-on opportunities are going to serve them well no matter what career field it is," she said.

According to a report that the board received, beginning in spring 2001, members of the Career Technology Program and Life Management Department researched and visited exemplary secondary programs.

Following the direction of the board, the staff sought to create a series of courses that would provide Novi students with the opportunity to make meaningful connections to the current and emerging world of work leading to successful career exploration and life-long learning.

Cheal explained that there is an old perception that for students who try to work at the local mill shop, but that's not the case at all.

"We want students to understand how broad these courses are and that the wealth of information that they can get from them is tremendous," Cheal said. "When you look at the curriculums that were written for them, the teachers are reinforcing skills the students learned in their regular high school classes."

Some examples of class reinforcement are when students use what they've learned in science, math, language arts, social studies and even physical education classes while they're doing hands-on work in the new career programs. That is what aligns them with the State of Michigan Career and Technical Education Programs.

"If a student wants to be an engineer, they have to have that hands-on experience," Novi High School Career Specialist

COMING SOON

New courses being offered at Novi High School in the near future:

- Auto Technology 1
- Auto Technology 2
- Child Development
- Child Development I & II
- Child Care
- Drafting/Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Pre-Engineering and Design
- 2-Dimensional Computer Aided Design
- 3-Dimensional Computer Aided Design
- CAD Graphics and Programming
- Graphic Communications/Digital Imaging
- Graphic Communications I
- Graphic Communications II
- Materials Processing
- Power Technology

Bill Schoff said. "They need to know what it's like to actually do it. Within these courses, they will be working with the local shops and businesses in Novi to get college credit in many cases for doing it. That's important to know as well."

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

SCHOOL BRIEFS

WL meeting rescheduled

The January 8, 2004 Regular Meeting of the Walled Lake Consolidated School District Board of Education has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 15, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Room, Educational Services Center, 850 Ladd Road, Bldg. D.

ON CAMPUS

Novi residents Brandon Henkel and Ann Nelson and Walled Lake resident Paul Waling have been named to the Dean's List for fall term 2003 at Northwood University.

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE

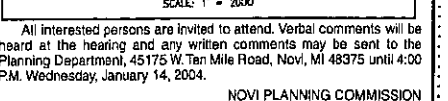
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 14, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **SITE PLAN NUMBER 03-15, ISLAND LAKE OF NOVI A PART OF PHASE 2B, LOCATED WEST OF WIXOM ROAD BETWEEN ELEVEN MILE AND TWELVE MILE ROADS, FOR A PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN, SITE CONDOMINIUM, WOODLAND PERMIT AND WETLAND PERMIT.** The applicant is proposing twelve condominium units within three buildings.

"We're preparing kids to know and have the skills that the businesses and industries need," Cheal said. "No matter which one of these programs students take, they can continue their skills at another venue and then get college credit in many cases for doing it. That's important to know as well."

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

CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 28, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING MAP AMENDMENT 18.634 FOR POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR REZONING ON PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTH OF GRAND RIVER AVENUE EAST OF BECK ROAD FROM B-3 (RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE) TO OS-1 (OFFICE SERVICE).** The property is approximately 3.4 acres.



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 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, January 14, 2004.

NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY (1-8-04 NN 106363)

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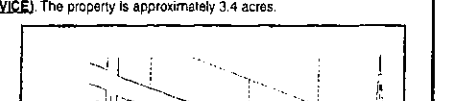


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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY (1-8-04 NN 106366)

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NOVI PLANNING COMMISSION JOHN AVDOULOS, SECRETARY (1-8-04 NN 106404)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Novi Camera Club Meeting

DATE: Thursday, Jan. 8
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Meadowbrook Commons Senior Center, 25037 Meadowbrook, Novi

DETAILS: Tonight's program is "Russia in Brief" guest speaker: Jim Halleran. Everyone is welcome.

PHONE: For more info, (248) 380-6980.

Providence Park-Nov, "Lasting Impressions"

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 10
TIME: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

DETAILS: a community art project. Everyone is invited to witness and experience the unveiling of the completed project.

PHONE: (248) 465-4490

Gardens of Northville and Novi Meeting

DATE: Monday, Jan. 12
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Northville Public Library

DETAILS: Pam Palachek will speak on "English Gardens--How to get the look!!!". The public is invited to join us in planning our gardens for the spring.

PHONE: (248) 348-2424 or www.gardensofnorthville-novi.org.

"Dreams & Reflections" Program at Oakland Center for Health Improvement

DATE: Monday, Jan. 12
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River Avenue, between Haggeny and Meadowbrook

DETAILS: From this workshop, tap into your inner wisdom and learn how to interpret your dreams. Fee: \$45. PHONE: call (248) 477-6100

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Morning Connection

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 14
TIME: 8:30-9:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Wren's Nest Bed and Breakfast, 7405 West Maple, West Bloomfield

DETAILS: Free, a wonderful breakfast will be waiting for you. Come prepared to mix and mingle, reservations necessary.

PHONE: (248) 624-2826

Novi Chamber of Commerce Jan. Luncheon

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 20
TIME: 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Rd., Novi

DETAILS: The public is cordially invited to join the Chamber and the City of Novi for the 2004 "State of the City" address featuring Mayor Lou Cosardis. Cost is \$18 and reservations must be made by Friday, Jan. 16. PHONE: (248) 349-3743.

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Luncheon

DATE: Tuesday, Jan. 20
TIME: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
LOCATION: Oakland Schools Technical Campus SW, 1000 Beck Rd., Weston

DETAILS: Installation of new Officers. The speaker will be from the Oakland County Businesses For Better Road addressing road congestion in Oakland County.

Spotlight Players Dinner Theatre "Steel Magnolias"

DATE: Feb. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15

LOCATION: Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton

DETAILS: Jennifer Camilleri of Novi, producer. \$30 includes family style Southern cuisine and performance. Tickets must be purchased 48 hours in advance. PHONE: (734) 394-5460, www.spotlightplayers.net.

ON-GOING

Novi Ice Arena Winter Session Learn to Skate Classes

DATES: through Saturday, February 21

LOCATION: Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive, Novi

DETAILS: Classes are offered at a variety of times Tuesday through Saturday. Skate rental is available. In addition, Learn to Skate students with their registration receipt get free admission to open skating at Novi Ice Arena throughout the seven-week session.

PHONE: The Learn to Skate Program is very popular, so call the Novi Ice Arena at (248) 347-1010 or visit www.noviicearena.com today to inquire about the proper class for your skater.

Send your calendar items to Cal Stone, editor, Novi News, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; fax to (248) 349-9832; or e-mail to cstone@ht.homecomm.net.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Thursday 1/8

9 a.m.-noon: Massage Therapy
9:30 a.m.: Line Dance*
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Sundry Shop Open
noon: Lunch
12:15 p.m.: Bridge*
12:30 p.m.: Book Discussion at Novi Library
10 a.m.: Beginners 1/2 p.m. Adv. Line Dance

Friday 1/9

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall-new session
10 a.m.: Crafts with Loreita
11 a.m.: Medicare Jack Man
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Sundry Shop Open
noon: Lunch & 12:30 p.m. Bingo
noon: Clogging*
12:30 p.m.: Dupl. Bridge*

Monday 1/12

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength-new session
10 a.m.: Body Recall
11 a.m.: Goodie Lady
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.: Sundry Shop Open
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Pinochle*
1 p.m.-3 p.m.: Healing Touch
2 p.m.-3 p.m.: TEA

Tuesday 1/13

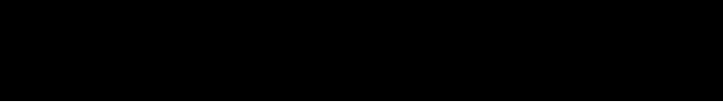
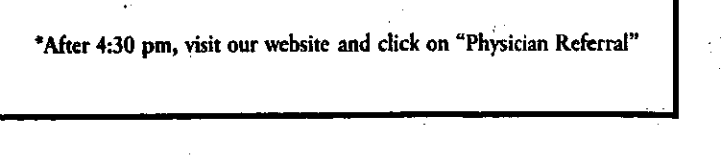
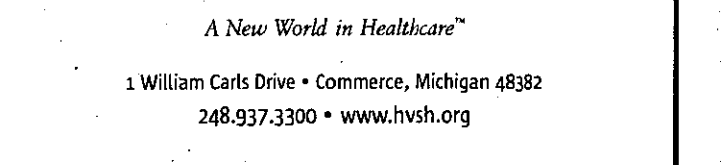
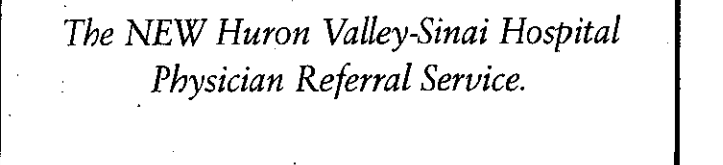
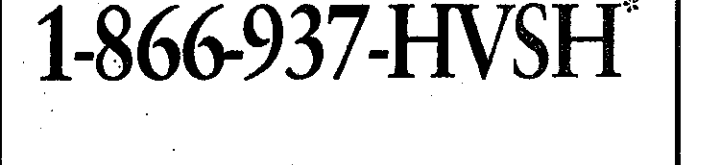
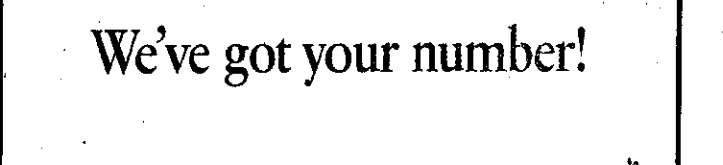
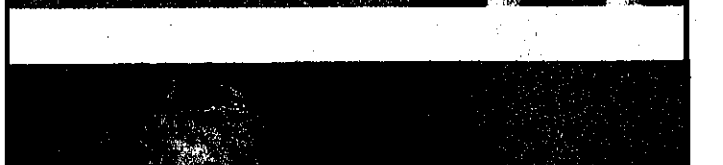
9 a.m.-12 p.m.: Massage Therapy
9 a.m.: Pancake bread
9 a.m.-11 a.m.: Computer Class-Intro
9:30 a.m.: Line Dance*
10 a.m.: Asian Pacific
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Bingo
12:30 p.m.: Focus Hope Distribution
1-3 p.m.: Computer Class-Windows
7 p.m.: "Russia-in-Brief" slide show

Wednesday 1/14

9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
10 a.m.: Body Recall
10:30 a.m.: Quilting
11 a.m.: Blood Pressure
11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: Sundry Shop Open
11 a.m.: TOPS Class
noon: Lunch
12:30 p.m.: Clogging
Greenwood Casino Trip

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

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Quick Hits

Wildcats have strong Oakland County meet

The Novi wrestling team qualified seven grapplers to compete in the second day of the competitive Oakland County tournament. Senior captain A.J. Morris had a great showing, earning a fourth-place finish.
— See page B2

Gymnastics team falls short against Canton

Though the combined Northville-Novi Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team couldn't get the win over the Canton Chiefs, they still made it clear why they are always considered a contender for the state finals.
— Full Story, Page B3

Did you know...

Novi's football team has been named as an Academic All-State squad in Division II for the 2003 season. It marks the third time in four years the team has earned such an honor along with 2001 and 2000.

Brad Simpson going to be a Bearcat come soccer season

Brad Simpson recently signed a letter of intent to play soccer for the Cincinnati Bearcats.
— See page B3

Novi's Brent Pantaleo gets gift of going to the Rose Bowl

Novi's own Brent Pantaleo was given a trip to the Rose Bowl via the Make-a-Wish Foundation and was on hand to watch the Wolverines fall to a strong squad from the University of Southern California.
— Full Story, Page B2

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, January 8, 2004

Fly like an Eagle

Hart signs letter of intent with EMU

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

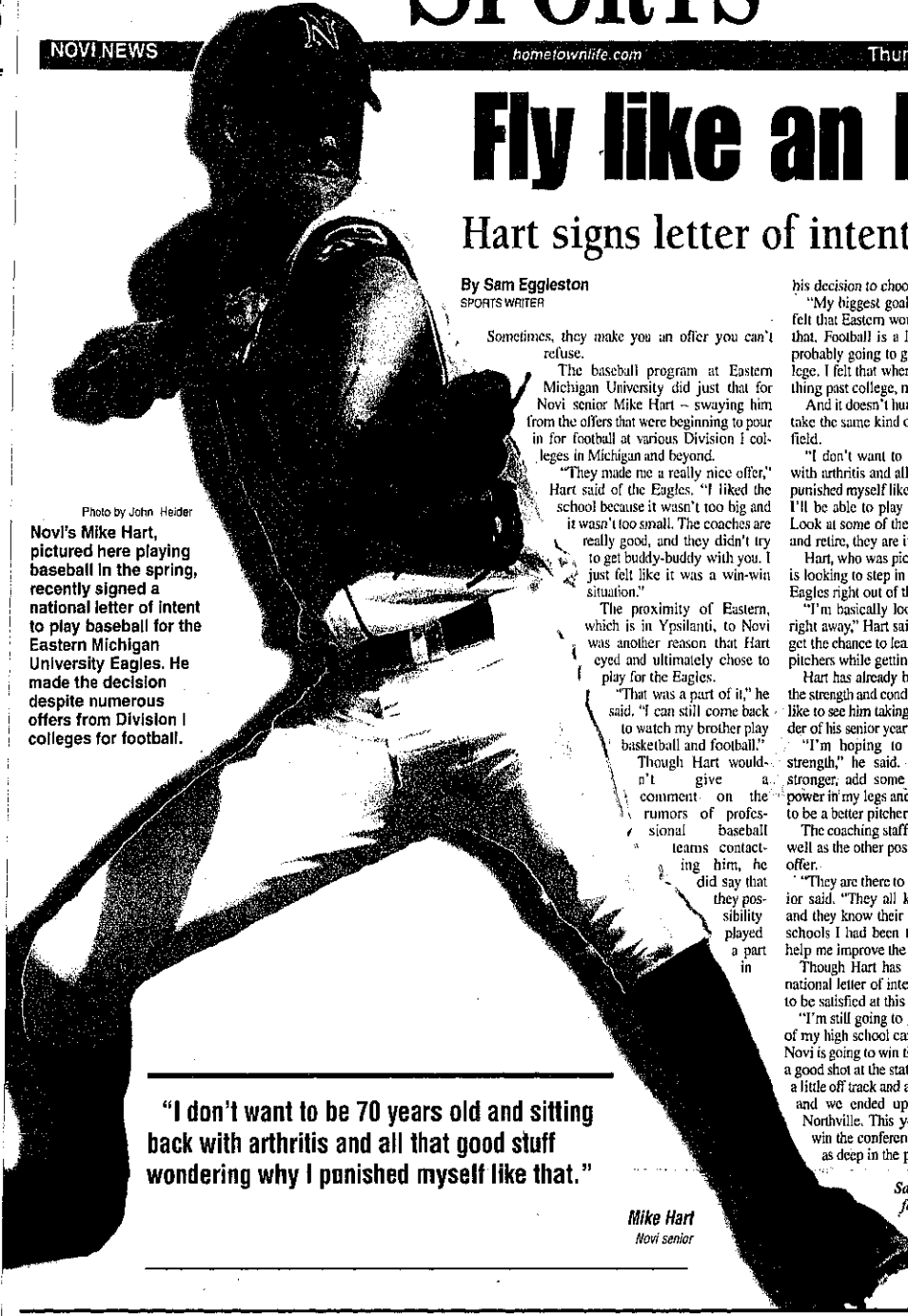


Photo by John Heider
Novi's Mike Hart, pictured here playing baseball in the spring, recently signed a national letter of intent to play baseball for the Eastern Michigan University Eagles. He made the decision despite numerous offers from Division I colleges for football.

Sometimes, they make you an offer you can't refuse.

The baseball program at Eastern Michigan University did just that for Novi senior Mike Hart — swaying him from the offers that were beginning to pour in for football at various Division I colleges in Michigan and beyond.

"They made me a really nice offer," Hart said of the Eagles. "I liked the school because it wasn't too big and it wasn't too small. The coaches are really good, and they didn't try to get buddy-buddy with you. I just felt like it was a win-win situation."

The proximity of Eastern, which is in Ypsilanti, to Novi was another reason that Hart eyed and ultimately chose to play for the Eagles.

"That was a part of it," he said. "I can still come back to watch my brother play basketball and football."

Though Hart wouldn't give a comment on the rumors of professional baseball teams contacting him, he did say that they possibly played a part in

his decision to choose baseball over football.

"My biggest goal is to make the pros," he said. "I felt that Eastern would give me the best shot at doing that. Football is a lot of fun, but I figured I wasn't probably going to go any further in football past college. I felt that when it came to the chance to do anything past college, my best chance was in baseball."

And it doesn't hurt that Hart's body probably won't take the same kind of beating it would on the football field.

"I don't want to be 70 years old and sitting back with arthritis and all that good stuff wondering why I punished myself like that," he said. "I think in baseball I'll be able to play longer and have a longer career. Look at some of the pitchers who make it to the pros and retire, they are in their 40s sometimes."

Hart, who was picked up by Eastern to be a pitcher, is looking to step in and be an impact player with the Eagles right out of the gate.

"I'm basically looking to be one of their pitchers right away," Hart said. "I'll be in the rotation, and I'll get the chance to learn from the coaches and the other pitchers while getting the experience of playing."

Hart has already been given the team workouts and the strength and conditioning program the Eagles would like to see him taking advantage of through the remainder of his senior year and the summer.

"I'm hoping to increase my all-around body strength," he said. "If I can get my arm a little stronger, add some more endurance and get more power in my legs and my waist, I'm going to be able to be a better pitcher."

The coaching staff at Eastern was a draw for Hart as well as the other positives the Eagles' program had to offer.

"They are there to help you improve," the Novi senior said. "They all know what they're talking about and they know their baseball. I felt that out of all the schools I had been talking to, Eastern was going to help me improve the most."

Though Hart has his signature all inked out on a national letter of intent, that doesn't mean he's going to be satisfied at this juncture.

"I'm still going to go out and play my best baseball of my high school career this spring," he said. "I think Novi is going to win the conference, and we really have a good shot at the state title this year. Last year, we got a little off track and a little cocky. That kind of hurt us, and we ended up losing in the District against Northville. This year, we want to correct that and win the conference, play our best baseball and go as deep in the playoffs as we can."

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

Mike Hart
Novi senior

"I don't want to be 70 years old and sitting back with arthritis and all that good stuff wondering why I punished myself like that."

Novi boasts eight All-State athletes

All-State honors is something that I never had the chance to accomplish in my high school career. Does that mean I was a bad athlete? Of course not. It just means I wasn't elite.



Sam Eggleston

Out of all of the years my high school has been competing in sports, I don't believe there was ever an All-State-caliber athlete. Novi, on the other hand, has eight — and that was just in the fall sports season.

Brad Simpson, a senior soccer player, earned the highest honors this year as he not only made First-Team All-State, but was also selected to the best-of-the-best even among his All-State peers by earning a Dream Team nod.

Brockman, a senior, and Emily Holt, a junior, were selected as First-Team All-Staters as well. Their accomplishments in tennis are nothing to scoff at, especially considering they were part of the All-State selections last year as well. Their talent and determination paid off as they made a lot of noise this year and were honored for their efforts.

Mark Moore and Amol Huprikar played a major role in the success of Novi cross country this year — heck, they've been playing a major role since they first started running in the sport. This year, however, both earn All-State nods thanks to their performances at the state finals meet — a performance that found the 'Cats finishing in the top-10 yet again.

Brandon Cigna is a name that pretty much every high school golfer in Division I is aware of. He has one of the best drives at this level and can put together scores that make college players envious. His skills on the links was awarded this year as he and his fellow 'Cats made

another run at the state title.

Josh Buck and Mike Hart had the pleasure of being named to the All-State teams in the most competitive field of sports in Michigan — high school football. The names that make the All-State team in this sport are almost always sought after by Division I or Division II teams and these guys aren't any different. Thanks to an undefeated run during the regular season and a post-season display the fell just six-inches short of the state finals, Buck and Hart were both awarded state recognition for their efforts.

It's amazing when you sit back and think about the amount of talent that Novi has on their fields of play. Be it football, tennis, soccer, golf or cross country, the Wildcats are literally fielding the elite of the various sports. Most schools are lucky to have one All-State

athlete, and Novi, like always, is keeping the bar raised by having eight.

Nearly every one of these athletes play multiple sports too, and for those who don't there is another All-State caliber player waiting to fill in for them in the winter and spring seasons.

I'd like to extend a congratulations to each and every one of these eight All-Staters. Great job, and thanks for all the great sports moments you've let me write.

Photo by John Heider

Novi's All-State athletes, from left to right: Mark Moore, Colene Brockman, Amol Huprikar, Brandon Cigna, Mike Hart, Emily Holt, Josh Buck and Brad Simpson.



GAME OF THE WEEK



New Year's Resolutions

So you say you want a resolution? Well, this is the time to do it with the new year upon us and all. Novi News sports writer Sam Eggleston has a few resolutions of his own — including better sports coverage, defending his Michigan Press Association awards and getting more names in the paper one way or another.
— Full story, page B3

A.J. Morris
Senior
Wrestling

Morris is the kind of wrestler that a team can be built on. So far this year, the grappling senior has made some major impressions on the opponents he has faced. One of those opponents was Matt Turner, of Holly, who took second in the state last year and squeaked out a win over Morris in the Oakland County Wrestling Tournament. Morris took fourth in the extremely competitive field.



Athletes OF THE Week

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

Jenn Mehl
Senior
Gymnastics

Mehl, who is a member of the combined Novi-Northville Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team, earned an 8.4 on the bars, an 8.2 on the beam and an 8.55 on the vault against the strong squad from Plymouth Canton. Though Mehl and the Wild 'Stangs didn't get the win in the 143.1-140.55 loss, they showed why everyone expects the Wild 'Stangs to be one of the top teams in the state year in and year out.



Pantaleo gets his Rose Bowl wish

By Phil Foley
STAFF WRITER

It's been a year of hell for Brent Pantaleo and his family. Since Brent's father, Rick, had things are looking up.

If you scanned the crowd carefully during televised coverage of the Rose Bowl, you might have caught a glimpse of Brent and his family at the New Year's Day classic.

Days before Christmas, the Novi High School senior discovered that the Make-A-Wish Foundation had selected him to attend the 115th Tournament of Roses Parade and the 90th Rose Bowl football game. Brent, his family and best friend Chris Gaddis were slated to fly to Pasadena, Calif., Dec. 30.

Still, Brent said if he could have his leg back the way it was a year ago, he'd gladly give up the Rose Bowl trip and the 1997 Grand Prix GT that a Metro Detroit Chevrolet dealership customized earlier this year.

In the fall of 2002, Brent was practicing for his junior year at Novi's varsity football squad. He left some pain in his legs, which is not terribly uncommon for young teenage boys, but then a lump formed.

It was eventually diagnosed as osteogenic sarcoma, a form of cancer that cost Ted Kennedy Jr. his leg more than 30 years ago. "They've made a lot of improvements since then," said Rick. "The options for Brent were a lot greater."

However, none of the options were what anyone would call pleasant. They included removing the cancerous bone and replacing with a titanium rod that would likely have to be replaced in a decade, months of chemotherapy and surgery followed by replacing either the bone with one from a cadaver, or amputation and a prosthesis.

Rick recalled that surgeons suggested that the best alternative would actually give his son more mobility and that the transplant surgery would "limit him to walking and playing golf."

Brent decided if there was a chance to save his leg, he wanted

to take it. That was followed by three months of chemo, followed by surgery to remove a six-inch section of his right femur. The process included hair loss and months of flu-like symptoms caused by the chemotherapy.

"He is a trooper," said his mom, Nancy.

While preparing him for the bone surgery, Brent's surgeons found spots on his lung. This was followed by surgery in June and September that turned up cancer cells that had been killed by the chemotherapy.

Nancy said that now, however, Brent's final treatments are behind him and there are just quarterly check-ups to look forward to.

Rick noted that Brent's school was tremendously supportive during his son's illness. "We were told it was a great school system when we moved here," said Rick. "We didn't realize how good until this. They helped us in every possible way."

Nancy said the Rose Bowl trip came as a total surprise. It was put together by the Detroit Area Chevy Dealers, a 43-member trade group. Nancy said she thought they picked her son because of his age and the fact he played football. "A lot of the young ones want to go to Disney World," she noted.

"This trip to the Rose Bowl is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we wanted to share with a local family who needed extra cheer this holiday season," said Bill Wink, president, Detroit Area Chevy Dealers. "We can't wait to hear about his experience when he returns home."

Brent said he'd like to go to Disneyland or Six Flags while they're in California and check out the rollercoasters. He'd also like to see an eighth-grade friend who moved to Valencia the summer before the freshman year in Novi.

"Considering that his parents graduated from Michigan and that his uncle and grandfather are both season ticket holders, there's little doubt who Brent was cheering for when the Number four ranked Wolverines and the top ranked USC Trojans had the 114th and 115th annual weight class and is a captain on the team, took seventh in the tournament. According to Huss, he wrestled well but "lost two close matches that hurt."

"He has become a real leader for our team," Huss noted.

Lichorobric, a 112-pound wrestler, qualified but didn't place in the tournament. Lichorobric, a sophomore, has shown marked improvement throughout the year.

At the 135-pound division, Baum earned a nod into the second day but didn't place.

"If he continues to improve, he'll have a very good year in a very tough weight class," Huss said. "He's a junior, and he has a lot of potential."

Also qualifying but not placing in the extremely tough tournament was Ballantyne, who wrestles at 145.

"He's been fighting asthma for two years, and it has hindered him," Huss said. "He's also a junior with as much ability as anyone around. If we can get him in the line-up consistently, we believe he can do some outstanding things for the team and individually."

The Wildcats will be back in action when they compete against Rochester Adams on the road Saturday at 10 a.m. Their next match will then be against South Lyon at home at 5:30 p.m. January 16.



Wildcat Jason Sierra, top, looks for the referee to halt his match with Mustang Nick Didia as Sierra's hand is caught under Didia.

Wildcats show talent at tough Oakland County tournament

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi Wildcats wrestling team is well aware of how hard it is to qualify wrestlers for the second day of a two-day tournament.

Out of the entire team, only six were able to move on to their most recent tournament — and six is nothing to scoff at when that tournament happens to include all of Oakland County.

"We are improving with each match," Novi coach Brad Huss said. "We're improving, but we're very inexperienced at many of the weights."

Fighting made into the second day of competition were Nick Lichorobric, Scott Bergeson, Jason Sierra, Alex Baum, Jason Ballantyne and A.J. Morris. Each and every one of the wrestlers have shown marked improvement on the year, and all of them are looking to compete when the league competition rolls around.

"We have high hopes for this season," Huss said. "The league is tough as usual, but we believe that if we can get healthy and have our fall line-up, we can compete with anyone. The key is getting pins when we can, and not getting pinned when we lose matches. We've been doing a good job with that so far this year."

Senior captain Morris had the best showing of the tournament, placing fourth in the 160-pound weight class.

"He's having a great year," Huss said. "One of his losses was to Matt Turner from Holly, who placed second in the state last year. The other loss was 4-2 to Weston Wilke of Ferndale."

Taking fifth in the tournament was 135-pound wrestler Sierra.

"He's a junior with a ton of potential," Huss said. "We expect good things from him this season and next."

Bergeson, who wrestles at the 119-pound weight class and is a captain on the team, took seventh in the tournament. According to Huss, he wrestled well but "lost two close matches that hurt."

"He has become a real leader for our team," Huss noted.

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The Wildcats will be back in action when they compete against Rochester Adams on the road Saturday at 10 a.m. Their next match will then be against South Lyon at home at 5:30 p.m. January 16.

SALEM INVITATIONAL RESULTS		
Wrestler	Weight Class	Finish
Alex Baum	135	2nd
A.J. Morris	160	2nd
Eric Hansen	125	3rd
Andrew Kristofik	215	3rd
Brett Bucilli	152	4th
Nick Lichorobric	112	4th
Al Velathottam	103	5th
Joe Czapski	140	5th
Mike Cash	130	6th

So you say you want a resolution?

Is it that time of year again already?

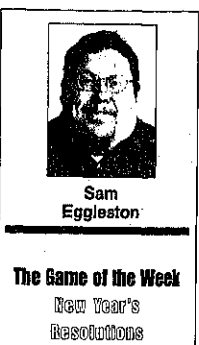
Like usual, I'm running late on my resolutions. I just get in this quandary where I don't know if I want to lose weight (yeah, I know I should) or if I want to be a more active father (yeah, I know I should) or if I want to buy that Microsoft Xbox I've been eyeing (Yeah, I know I shouldn't).

This time of year is crunch time for me, and instead of worrying about my personal resolutions (probably the weight thing, considering I get winded thinking about walking to the fridge for a snack) I'm focusing my attention on my professional resolutions.

This year, I'm looking at improving our sports coverage. What that means is more names through more concise and to-the-point stories. There will be more reading when it comes to the number of stories, but also more visually appealing elements to the sports coverage such as graphics, photos and statistics. Hopefully, all of the sports-hungry readers out there will be happy to note the changes that have already started to take shape since about the first week of December.

In 2003, I am proud to say, the sports department of the *Northville Record* and the *Novi News* came away with six Michigan Press Association awards. We had a mix of writing, photography and feature stories, as well as the first-place finish for sports coverage in our class of newspapers. What that means is out of every weekly issue, we had the best sports coverage of all of these fine newspapers, and it also meant we have to buckle down and defend those titles. Much like the Mustangs and the Wildcats, when we earn an honor one year, we have full expectations of winning it again next year.

And while I'm at it, I might as well pencil in a resolution that hopes to find more readers than hits the pages of the sports section. If you have junior varsity or freshmen scores you'd like to submit, drop me a line and



Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

The Game of the Week
New Year's Resolutions

ask me how to get the information to me and in what form it should come in. This will help make the transition from source to print that much easier and will allow me to get more names in the paper, and allow readers to get to know some of these athletes before they hit the varsity level.

It's a whole new year already, which is just mind-boggling in some ways. I've been at the papers since 2001 and I've had the chance to see some incredible athletes so far — I don't expect that will change any time soon. I hope some of the resolutions that athletes have made this year include winning some titles, playing the best they have ever played and leaving everything out on the field in each and every competition.

I hope everyone has a great new year and that they meet any and all of their resolutions. As for me, I better get back to writing the sports that you've hopefully come to enjoy over the years — maybe it will get my mind off that last doughnut on the counter. Yeah, that's right, the one with the sprinkles. Man, who came up with the idea of resolutions anyway?

Simpson going to Cincinnati

■ Stellar Novi soccer player will be a Bearcat come fall semester

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

It's not an easy decision — especially when you're being sought after by some of the top schools in the country.

Yet somehow, Novi senior Brad Simpson made a decision on Friday he'll be attending college to play soccer. His choice? The University of Cincinnati.

"I want to go into engineering and they have one of the best engineering programs around," Simpson said. "Out of all the coaches I talked to, I really felt that the Cincinnati coach connected with me the best and treated me a lot better than the other coaches."

And it's not a problem that the Bearcats were ranked in the top 25 of men's soccer throughout the entire year.

"They were upset in the first round of the tournament," Simpson said of Cincinnati's post-season run. "They are a program on the rise, and they lost only three or four seniors from last year. They should be very competitive next year."

Simpson is hoping to step right into the role of an impact player starting next year. The Novi senior played mostly defense with the Wildcats this year, and spends the majority of his playing time as a midfielder with his club soccer team.

"I like to play both positions," Simpson said. "Whatever the team needs to play, I'll play. Just to be playing would be awesome."

Simpson said that the fact that Cincinnati is far enough away that he will have his collegiate freedom and close enough that

REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES
A Public Service of the USDA Forest Service and Your State Forester.

Wild 'Stangs fall to Canton

By Sam Eggleston
SPORTS WRITER

Though the Wild 'Stangs gymnastics team wasn't able to pull out a win in their first meet of the year, they were definitely able to put up some numbers that indicate they will be competitive again this year.

The Wild 'Stangs, who are coached by Lindsay Schultz, fell to Plymouth Canton in mid-December, 143.1-140.55.

"Canton has a great team this year and we look forward to competing with them again," Schultz said.

The Wild 'Stangs earned some impressive numbers across the board. Senior Sara Wilchowski collected a 9.0 on the beam to help her squad in the losing CHIEFS 143.1 effort. WILD 'STANGS 145.55.

Bars also found Trish Brownfield scoring an 8.45, while Maggie Mills collected an impressive 8.95 and Sarah Ilkhani-Pour scored an 8.6. Jenn Mehl notched an 8.4 and Jessica Glancy recorded an 8.6 for her efforts.

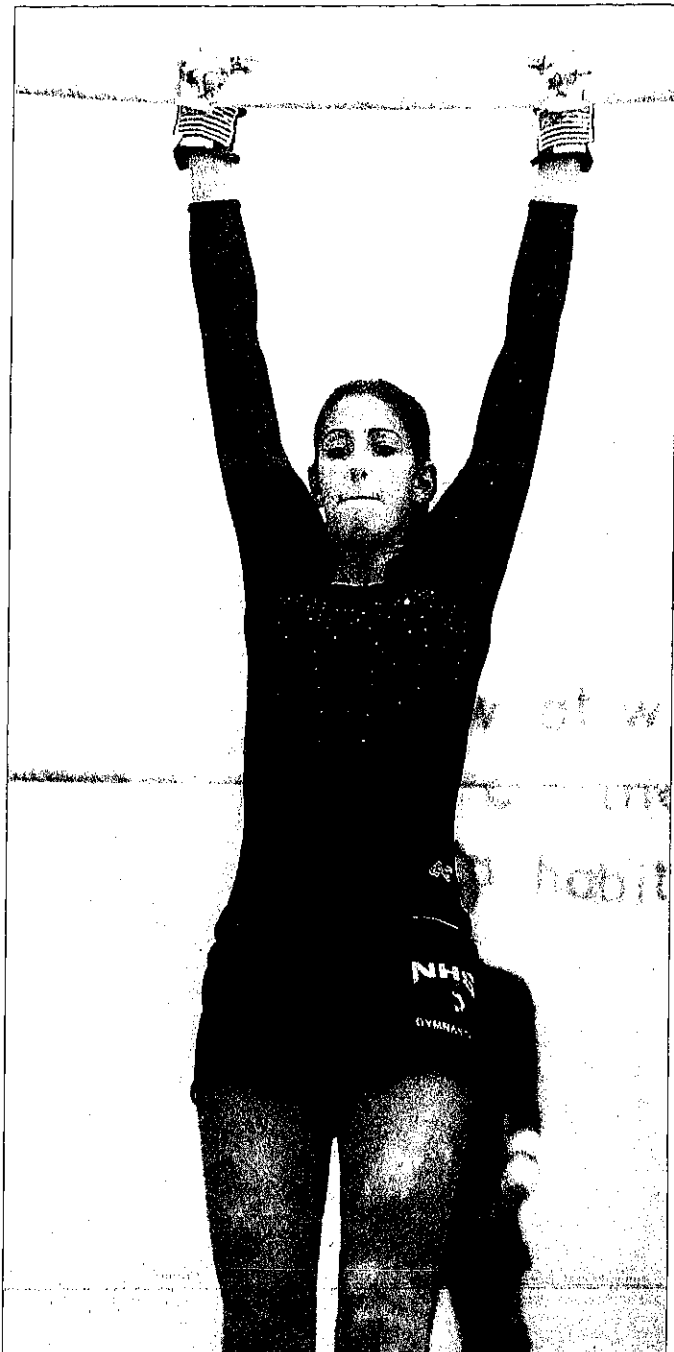
On the beam, Rachel Deneau collected a 9.0 to make a statement on her abilities, while Ilkhani-Pour recorded an 8.8 and Jacqueline Gazette notched an 8.45. Brownfield also had a solid showing, earning a 7.95.

The final routine found Julie Foucher leading all Northville and Novi scorers with a 9.35. Janna Ramsey wasn't far behind though, collecting a 9.0 through an impressive showing. Deneau also made an impression on the judges, earning an 8.75, while Ilkhani-Pour recorded an 8.45 and Lauren Duda collected an 8.40.

The vault found Janna Ramsey leading the way with an 8.85, while Deneau, Glancy and Mehl each earned an 8.55 for their efforts. Rounding out the scoring was Duda's 8.25.

"Even though the girls didn't win the meet, they did a fantastic job," Schultz said. "This was one of the best first meets my team has had in the past five years. They showed a lot of potential and determination, and I expect that they will continue to improve each meet."

The Wild 'Stangs are scheduled to be back in action when they host Brighton today at 7



Wild 'Stang gymnast Jenn Mehl warms up on the uneven bars before an intra-squad match at Northville High in early December 2003.

and I expect that they will continue to improve each meet."

The Wild 'Stangs are scheduled to be back in action when they host Brighton today at 7 p.m. at Northville High School. The gymnastics squad will then host Salem January 14 at 7 p.m.

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



The beginning of 2004 was a lot brighter for Brent Pantaleo and his parents, Nancy and Rick than the start of 2003. Last year the Novi High School Senior was facing the possibility of losing his leg to cancer. This year he's on the mend and the Make-A-Wish Foundation with the help of the Detroit Area Chevy Dealers sent Brent and his family to the Rose Bowl.

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PHOENIX 40	SHOWCASE CLARKSON	SHOWCASE STEELING 18
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PHOENIX 40	SHOWCASE CLARKSON	SHOWCASE STEELING 18	STAR FAIRLANE 21	STAR GRATIOT
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STAR TAYLOR	UA COMMERCE			

Visit Showtimes.SonyPictures.com

SPORTS SHORTS

AU Wolfpack tryouts
2004 Western Wayne Wolfpack (Northville) AAU Girl's Basketball Tryouts will be held Thursday, Jan. 8 from 14:00, 15:00 and 16:00 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Northville High School; Sunday, Jan. 11 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Hillside Middle School (Northville Recreation Gyms) and Monday, Jan. 12 from 7:30-9 p.m. at Northville High School for 12's and 13's; and Tuesday Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 16 from 4:30-6 p.m. at Hillside Middle School (Northville Recreation Gyms) for 11's.

For more information contact Jeanne Holmes at (248) 347-6425.

Ski and snowboard club registration
Northville Parks and Rec is currently taking registrations for the popular ski and snowboard club. All students in middle school and high school are encouraged to participate and membership includes luxury motor coach transportation to local ski areas on Friday evenings and some Saturday evenings as well as group lift tickets, rental equipment discounts and lessons at Mt. Brighton Ski Area. The club membership is limited to 300 participants. The fee is \$135 for city and township residents; \$138 for non-residents.

S.W.A.T. Hitting Classes
James Bottrick, a scout for the Tampa Bay Devilrays, will lead this intense baseball hitting class every Tuesday and Thursday starting January 8 and running through February 12 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Players will be taught professional mechanics of batting, while working with athletic trainers to improve bat speed and body strength. For players 13-18 with a fee of \$30 per player.

For more information, or to register, call (248) 668-0166 or e-mail totalballhaw@aol.com.

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Rev. Dr. C. E. Mel Hurt
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Thomson Middle School - 349-0565

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1 Mile & Macomb
Worship 9:30 am
Sunday School 10 am
Adult Bible Class 8:30 am
Religious Education 3:45-2:59 pm
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10 Mile between 10th & Beck
Worship 9:30 am & 11:00 am
Sun. 7:45 & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
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www.churchoftheholycross.com

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3461-1144
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Worship Services 8:00 am-10:00 am
11:00 am
Rev. John Hoke
Rev. Jennifer Shady

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45301 11 Mile at 1st St.
Discipleship & In-Service School
Discipleship 12:15-1:15 pm
Sun. School 9:45 am - 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
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Rev. Jennifer Shady
www.northvillefirstbaptist.org

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NOVI
46320 10 Mile Rd.
Pastor: Keith J. McCa
Sunday Worship 8:00 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Reverend George Conroy, Pastor
448-3721

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
2425 Meadowbrook Rd. N. on I-75
Mass 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm
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Meeting at New City Center
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CHURCH DIRECTORY
For information regarding churches in the Northville Record & Novi News area, call (248) 349-1700.

REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

PAGE 4B

Thursday, January 8, 2004

MONEY MATTERS

Set goals for better finances

While you're drafting your New Year's resolutions to improve health and harmony, don't forget to include some financial resolutions in your mix. Here are some ideas to consider.

Organize. Before anything else, organize your financial documents. Should your home be struck with a natural or man-made disaster, you'll want these documents safe. Begin by making a list of all your bank and credit card accounts. Include account numbers, expiration dates, credit limits and phone numbers. Also list the contact information for your phone, gas and electric companies. Then, for insurance purposes, make a list of all your possessions. (Some insurance experts recommend making a videotape of your possessions.) Place this information, along with your will, insurance policies, proof of residence (deed or lease), mortgage information, Social Security cards, birth and marriage certificates, family records and any other documents you deem appropriate, in a fire-proof box in your house or a safe deposit box. Inform a family member or trusted friend where these documents are housed.

Next, set up a filing system for all of your other financial related information. Create one folder for your financial institution receipts—statements, cancelled checks and deposit receipts; another folder for your investment account information; and a third folder for all of your tax-related items including W-2 forms and 1099 forms from brokerage and mutual fund companies. Place receipts for your deductible expenses like paid medical bills, property tax bills and charitable contributions in this folder. Keeping all of your tax information in one place will help preserve your sanity at tax time.

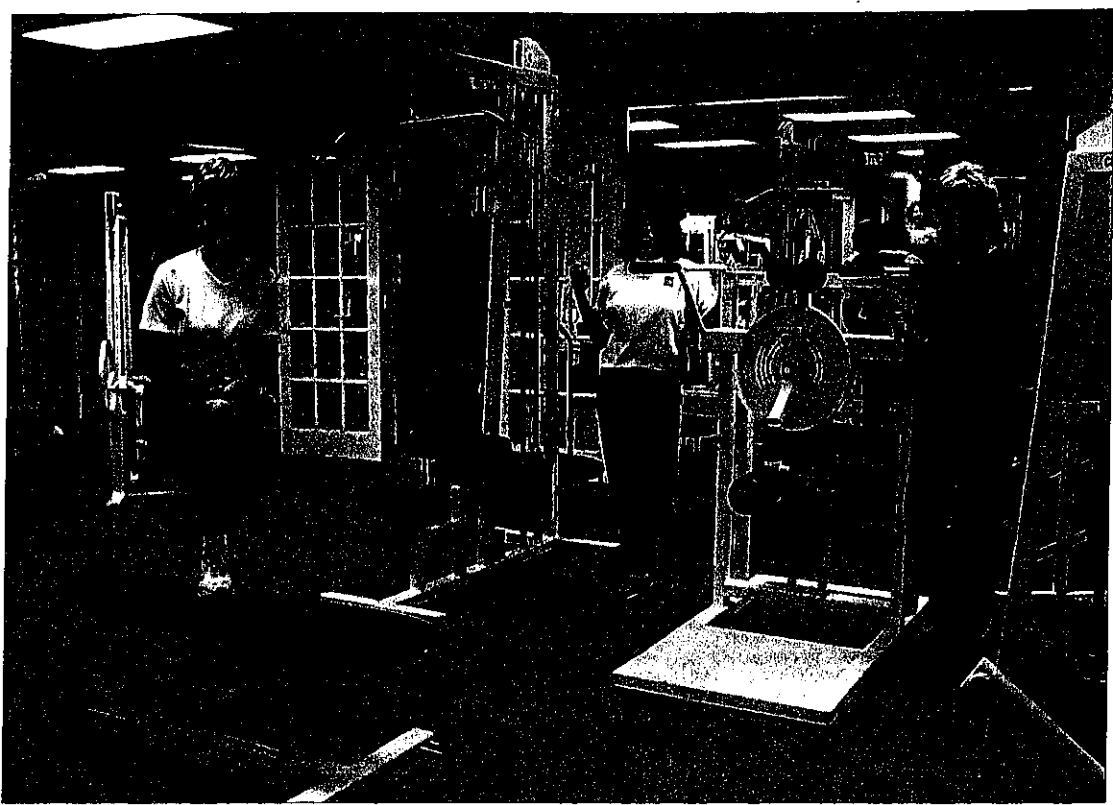
Economize. If you're truly committed to paying down debt in 2004 or saving more money for retirement, you've got to spend less money than you make. You probably have a good idea of how much you spend each year on your mortgage and car payments because these expenses remain the same from month to month. But do you know how much you fritter away on frivolities? If you haven't already, consider purchasing software like Quicken or Microsoft Money to help you track what you spend every month. As long as you're in the dark about how much you actually spend on things you don't need, you likely won't commit to reforming your habits.

Cut costs. For example, do you feel you're spending too much on groceries? Consider going beyond just tracking your expenses, and look at your habits and your tendencies. Sometimes when we examine how we manage our time and responsibilities, we find clues to the mysteries of why we spend the way we do. **Build an emergency fund.** If you don't have at least three months' expenses (preferably six months) stashed away in a savings account for an emergency, move this resolution to the top of your list. If you don't trust yourself to make a deposit every month in this account, consider having an amount deducted from your paycheck. Once you've built your fund, tap it only for emergencies.

Get help if you're in over your head. If you're neck deep in credit card debt and barely making ends meet each month consider seeking help from a legitimate non-profit credit counseling service such as GreenPath Debt Solutions. They're a member of the National Foundation for Consumer Counseling. GreenPath's counseling services are offered in person, over the phone and via the Internet. Phone them toll-free at (800) 550-1961, or contact them via their Web site at www.greenpath.com.

Mary Davis manages public affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League. Send questions to "Your Money Matters" c/o the Michigan Credit Union League, P.O. Box 8054, Plymouth, MI 48170-8054, or mcd@mcu.org. Visit www.mcu.org.

Advertorial



Submitted photo

Cindy Sofen, Anna Heverly and Lorraine Walsh take a break from their workout at Club Elite, Fitness for Women, in Novi. The focus at Club Elite is on circuit training that includes a full-body workout in just 26 minutes.

Club Elite offers fitness solutions for women

By Duane Ramsey
SPECIAL WRITER

Club Elite, Fitness for Women, is the perfect post holiday solution for women in the community who are looking to become more physically fit.

Whether you'd like to shed a few extra pounds gained over the holidays, fulfill your new year's resolution to lose weight, or strengthen and firm your body to keep yourself healthy, Club Elite will help you reach your fitness goals.

"Our members will get the personal service and results they are looking for," said Wendy Corriveau, co-owner of Club Elite in Novi. "Everyone comes to the club for a different reason. It's important to get to know our members so we can address each member's fitness needs."

The key to successful fitness results is finding an exercise program that is proven effective and one that an individual can easily integrate into a busy lifestyle and schedule. Most women can fit 30 minutes three times a week into their schedule.

"Club Elite makes it easy because we take the guess work out of working out," said Krissie Owens, co-owner of Club Elite. "That's why so many of our members have lost inches and weight."

Along with an effective workout, Club Elite offers its members a welcoming, comfortable atmosphere with elegant surroundings and added amenities.

"If you don't feel at home in your fitness center, you're not likely to maintain your program," said Corriveau. "We want

our members to feel as though Club Elite is their home away from home. We want you to look forward to coming in here."

The focus at Club Elite is on circuit training that includes a full-body workout in just 26 minutes.

The circuit incorporates both strength and cardiovascular training. It includes eight machines and eight rebounders, which allow you to firm and tone

muscle mass while you are burning calories and losing weight.

"Circuit weight training is the most widely known and effective form of conditioning and weight loss," Corriveau said. "It combines weight bearing exercise needed

for firming, toning and strengthening muscle tissue, and cardiovascular exercise for burning calories and losing weight."

In addition to the circuit equipment, Club Elite provides free-weights, exercise balls, an abdominal roller and a new super squat machine for toning the abs, hips and legs. The club also offers an inviting, comfortable lounge and lobby area, private rest rooms and showers, a changing room and tanning facilities.

Every new member gets a free initial consultation, which includes a one-on-one personal training session. It is an opportunity for the staff to get to know each new member and find out the member's personal fitness goals.

An instructor shows each member around the circuit and teaches the member how to use each machine correctly. Instructors also provide key

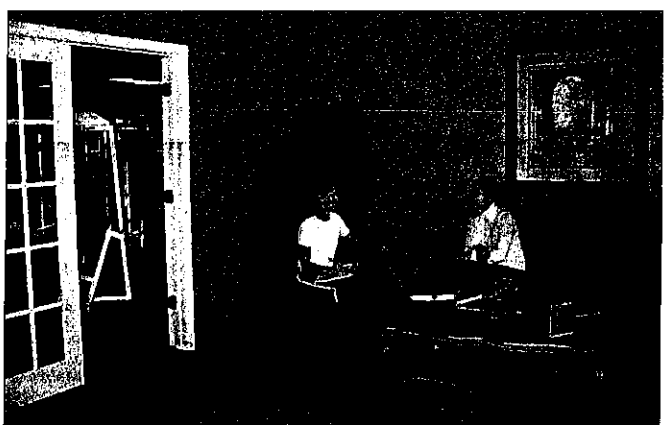


Photo by DUANE RAMSEY

Wendy Corriveau, co-owner of Club Elite, reviews the fitness club's membership roster with Carrie Sofen, a member of her staff, in the club's lobby.

information and advice on the overall workout, Corriveau added.

"It doesn't matter what current physical condition you are in or whether or not you've ever worked out before. Club Elite will work with you to reach your goals," says Corriveau.

Some of the members at Club Elite were so happy with their results, they joined the staff. Anna Heverly of Novi joined the staff after achieving her fitness goals as a member.

Heverly came to the club three years ago, employed full-time and a mother of a young son. She wanted to lose weight and immediately lost 10 pounds on the circuit.

She realized that she also needed nutritional help and started on a balanced diet in addition to the circuit workout three times a week. After losing 64 pounds and 23 inches, she has maintained her current build and weight by continuing her workout routine.

"I'm proof that this really works, and I wanted to help other ladies achieve their goals," Heverly said.

Lorraine Walsh of Novi found out about Club Elite from a friend who was a member and joined over a year ago. She is a teacher at the Northville Early Childhood Center, so it's conveniently close to her home and work.

"I was uncomfortable in other clubs and was looking for one specifically for women," Walsh said.

Walsh likes the idea of the circuit to lose weight and get in shape with the half-hour workout. She regularly uses the free weights after completing the circuit.

Cindy Sofen of Canton, another teacher at the Northville Early Childhood Center, learned about Club Elite from Walsh. She and Walsh had taken aerobics together but Sofen said it hurt her knees.

"I was looking for cardiovas-

THE DETAILS

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cular exercise with weight training and something just for women," Sofen said.

She likes the convenience of the club being close to work and on her way home. The teachers usually come right from the school after work.

"It's nice coming with friends as it helps you to stay motivated," Sofen said.

Both Sofen and Walsh credit the Club Elite staff of instructors and personal trainers for helping them to achieve their goals.

"Many of your neighbors are reaching their fitness goals. You can too," said Corriveau.

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