

# Merry Christmas

## Novi News

THURSDAY December 25, 2008

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### Our wish for the holiday season

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

All fourth-grade student Bradshaw Grady wants for Christmas is for his father to come home safely from his new house in Denver.

In his holiday wish-list letter, he writes the reason he wants his dad to come home safely is because he was watching a movie where the dad's plane was delayed. Also, he just wants to see him at Christmas time.

"Plus I miss talking to him in person, and

I miss hugging him because all I can do right now is talk to him on the phone and I'm getting tired of that," Grady writes.

Grady and his fellow Novi Woods classmates spent the past few weeks writing their holiday wish list letters.

On the minds of the fourth-, second- and kindergarten students this year is everything from Bakugan to world peace.

But the best wishes of all are for a wonderful holiday season filled with family, good health and cookies.

#### WHAT IS YOUR WISH FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Read more holiday wish letters on Pages A8-10

Name: Jan Schneider

Age: 10

Grade: 4

Teacher: Mrs. Chandler

All I wish for this Christmas is snow. When we moved here I was excited about all the snow they get here. You must know how disappointed I was when there was no snow on Christmas. All since second I have not experienced snow on Christmas in Michigan.

Name: Brandon Kour

Age: 10

Grade: 4

Teacher: Mrs. Donberger &amp; Mrs. Dell

I have a lot of wish's for the holidays. My first wish is that the stock market's go down so when my dad come's home he's not always talking about it. And my second wish is that everybody has a great Christmas. And my third wish is that every body stay's healthy because I want

every body to have a wonderful Christmas. My fourth wish is that people don't argue. My final wish is that everybody gets what they want for Christmas.

Name: Sarena Lanyon

Age: 9 1/2

Grade: 4

Teacher: Mrs. Chandler

My wish for this holiday season is to have my family together on Christmas Day and have a nice, fun and exciting day too. My gift wish is a Nintendo DS. I've been saving up my money but I still need tons. So my biggest wish I have is to get lots of great presents. Have a great Holiday season!

Name: Austin Morton

Age: 9

Grade: 4

Teacher: Mrs. Donberger &amp; Mrs. Dell

My wish for this holiday season is for everyone in the world to get at

least one gift. First because they'll be happy. Second if they're happy they'll probably do something nice and then someone wise will be happy and they'll do something nice. But most importantly, if they get just one good gift they'll know that someone, somewhere cares about them. And I think that is a better gift than any other in the world.

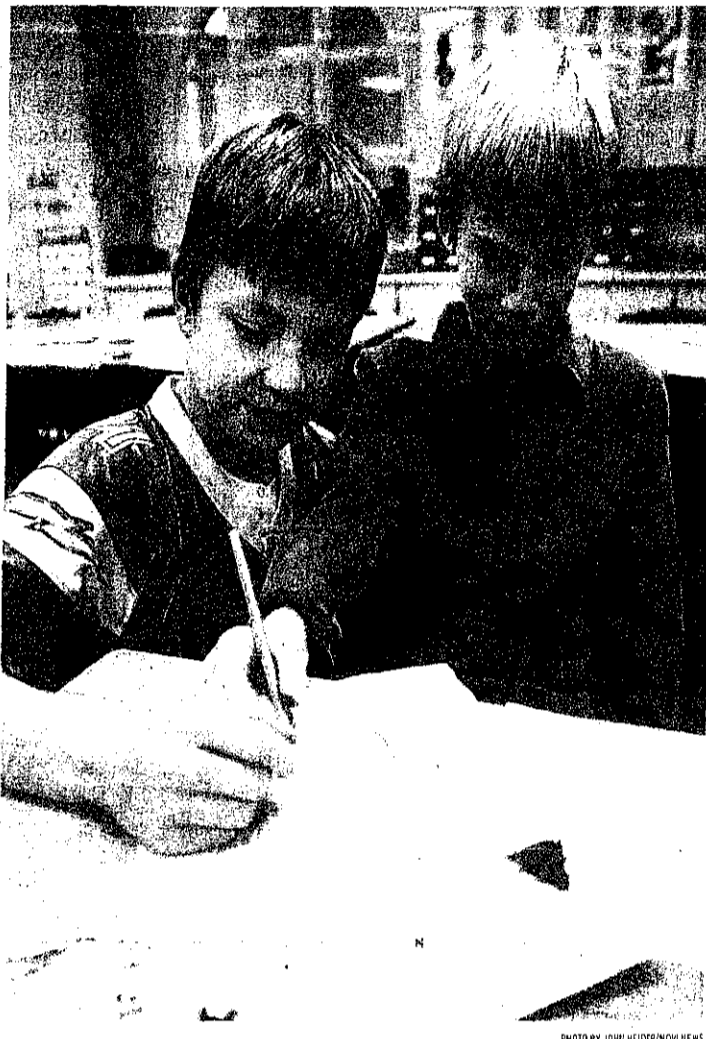
Name: Alexis Malecki

Age: 9 1/2

Grade: 4

Teacher: Mrs. Chandler

My wish for this holiday season is for all the homeless and poor get the presents they deserve. I wish this because there are so many people that are having a tough time keeping warm and don't have a lot of money for presents. They need to keep warm during this cold winter season. I wish they can have a happy and warm holidays and a happy new year.



Novi Woods fourth-grade student Ryan Welch, left, helps out second-grade student Andrew Engelsen in writing his holiday wish list.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

### A special partnership

Students help ring in the holidays at Novi hospital

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL  
STAFF WRITER

Lauren Parent had an extra responsibility this month — help Providence Park Hospital employees celebrate the holiday season.

Parent was one of 10 Novi High School special-needs students working at the hospital's annual party last week as part of the Partners in Excellence partnership between Providence Park Hospital and Novi Community Schools district.

"I'm enjoying it," she said during the event last week. "I love cleaning the tables."

Parent and her fellow classmates travel to the hospital three days a week working in



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi High School life skills students Kyle Korona, right, and Nick Bush receive help in setting tables from teacher Jodie Sikaitis during last week's employee party at Novi Providence Park Hospital.

the Fresh Inspiration Cafe and the neurosciences building.

The students, in grades nine-12 with differing ability levels, work at Providence through the high school life skills class taught by Jodie

Sikaitis.

"We love it," Sikaitis said.

"The students learn how to be a part of a team."

Before the hospital's holiday

Please see HOSPITAL, A2

### Novi's winter wonderland comes early

BY KELLY MURAD  
STAFF WRITER

A winter storm blew through Novi last weekend, bringing blustery weather, frigid temperatures and more snow than the City of Novi has seen in December in decades.

"We got about 11 inches," said Benny McCusker, director for the Novi Department of Public Works. "The last time we had snow falls like this, this early in the year was in the 1970s."

According to a DPW report, snow began at about 4:30 a.m. Friday, accumulating 1-2 inches per hour between 5-7 a.m. and 9:30-11:30 a.m., and ending at about 2:30 p.m.

"We worked on the main roads probably for about 15 hours," McCusker said. "It took us from about 4 p.m. (Friday) to 5 a.m. (Saturday) to do all the subdivision roads."

Novi police Chief David Molloy said officers responded to about 20 accidents during or after the weekend winter storms.

Molloy said the best advice for driving in inclement weather is to not drive at all, but for those who must venture out in the bad weather, one of the most important things to remember is to slow down.

In cooperation with the police department, the Novi Fire Department responded to a number of the reported accidents, resulting in mostly minor injuries, said fire Chief Frank Smith.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Dennis Watt clears the driveway at his home last week.

"We are most concerned about the amount of snow near and on top of fire hydrants," he said. "The citizens could help us enormously by shoveling fire hydrants in front of their homes so that they are visible if we need to use them for water supply at a fire."

Along with plowing and salting Novi roads, McCusker said his department assisted in the cleanup of county roads.

"I have a contract to do all the county roads in Novi except for Eight Mile, Haggerty and 14 Mile roads, but we picked up all the county roads," he said. McCusker expected to see another three inches of snow Monday, and warmer temperatures causing rain and sleet Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

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#### Inside



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## HOSPITAL

FROM PAGE A1

fete, Sikaitis helped the students practice and prepare for their responsibilities of rolling silverware and setting and clearing tables.

The Providence staff said they enjoy having the students working with them.

"It's good for our staff,

they learn too," said Mark Omedean, Providence Park Hospital head of human resources for food services.

Omedean said every child makes a different contribution.

"To have these students here, working so hard, is so meaningful," he said.

Bill Dunbar, Novi High School science department chair and partnership coordinator, said the Partners

in Excellence program is celebrating its second year. Partnering with the hospital was an idea conceived Dec. 26, 2006.

He said the joint-effort with the district's special-needs students is just one element of the program.

Other components of the program include a medical explorations class headed by Dunbar, giving students a look at medical professions other than being a nurse or doctor.

Medical exploration students have experienced many aspects of the hospital rang-

ing from the operating room to food service.

"It's really a community effort," Dunbar said. "The opportunities have been great... it's a win-win."

He said as the hospital expands, so will the student opportunities.

But Dunbar said his joy comes from watching the faces of Sikaitis' students, filled with smiles.

"They love that they get to wear scrubs," he said. "When they walk down the hall in those scrubs, they are so full of pride."

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# Stay-at-home mom turns inventor

■ New product prevents rips in pool table felt

BY PAM FLEMING  
STAFF WRITER

Who knew that Jill Wylie, a stay-at-home mother in Northville Township, would turn out to be an inventor?

But after some research and ingenuity, she now has a billiards-related product on the market — the Junior Shark Guiding Wheel.

The small, white, plastic device has two uses: It helps protect pool table felt from scrapes and tears and assists beginners by guiding their use of the cue stick.

She even created her own limited liability corporation, the Wylie Group LLC, and has a Web site for the product, [www.juniorshark.com](http://www.juniorshark.com).

"I am really excited about the Junior Shark Guiding Wheel," she says on her site. "This idea came to me when I saw how much kids really wanted to play pool and how nervous this made the owners of the pool tables."

If a pool table's felt is ripped, it cannot be patched or repaired because that will leave an uneven surface. Thus, the entire pool table cover must be replaced at a cost of several hundred dollars.

"The biggest worry with novice players or children playing pool is the risk of scratching and tearing the felt," Wylie said. But, with Wylie's new device, there are no worries.

"It's a happy coincidence that it also assists novice players by guiding their stroke," she said. "It is a win-win for everyone."

She adds that children under age 3 should not be allowed to handle the guiding wheels because they might choke on them.

The Junior Shark Guiding Wheel is placed on an old cue stick and pushed down to where the ferrule (the white tape-looking part) joins the shaft of the cue stick. The wheel can be used on any size cue stick.

IT REALLY WORKS  
Wylie can attest to the fact

## WHEN THE SHARK BITES

The Junior Shark Guiding Wheel can make those who own pool tables less stressed when a child steps up to their table. Just clip it over the tip of the cue stick and slide it down below the ferrule (the white tip). No more rips or scratches. It retails for \$5.99 and is available at Dunham's Sporting Goods stores and at Allstate Billiards & Patio in Novi, Livonia and other locations.

"We've been trying it out with our friends' little kids, and it's working great," she said. "The product is available at Dunham's sporting goods stores and at Allstate Billiards & Patio in Novi, Livonia and other locations."

This cue stick guiding wheel was Wylie's first invention as an inventor. The Wylies purchased a pool table a few years ago, and they have three children — Michael, 15, a sophomore at Northville High School; Joseph, 13, an eighth-grader at Meads Mill Middle School; and Rachel, 10, a fifth-grader at Winchester Elementary School. The table is located in the Wylies' basement.

"My husband, Chris, is the one who really wanted a pool table," Wylie said. "But, once we brought it downstairs, we were really nervous about the kids damaging the table felt."

The product was born when Jill took a broom clip holder that one might use on a wall of a garage or storeroom and a model airplane wheel and duct-taped, wired them together and attached the apparatus to a cue stick.

NEW-FOUND FAME  
Wylie said she was thrilled her children took her idea seriously.

"My son came home from his Spanish class, and he wrote (in Spanish) that his dad was



Jill Wylie, inventor of the Junior Shark, center, watches as her kids Michael, right, and Rachel use the pool table felt-saving device.

an accountant and his mother was an inventor," she said.

That inspired her. The next day, she made calls to firms that manufactured plastic injection moldings.

"My husband brought home books about trademarking, patenting and copyrighting," she said. "It was a great learning experience. It was neat to have the kids see the thing come to life. It's doing well so far."

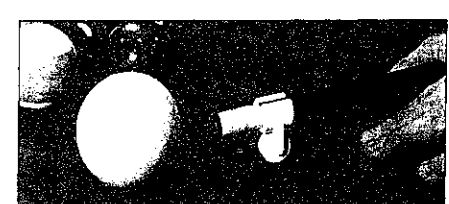
Dunham's asked for 1,200, and the Junior Shark retails for \$5.99. Also, billiards.com said it was one of the best new products of 2009. "That was

very cool," she said.

On the Junior Shark Web site, Wylie encourages others who have the itch to be an inventor to go for it.

"We all of you who have great ideas, but have not thought it possible — do it! It is such a great feeling seeing an idea come to life!"

phleming@hometownlife.com  
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The Junior Shark, invented by Northville's Jill Wylie, which slips on the end of a cue stick to save a billiard table's felt from accidental scrapes.

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**SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR DENTAL HEALTH**  
Presented by  
Andrea S. Vivian, D.D.S.  
**SIDE NOTES**  
An estimated 30-40 million Americans grind their teeth when they sleep. Not only does bruxism (tooth-grinding) raise a ruckus, it causes premature tooth wear. In addition to the biting surfaces of grinding moving wearing down, as one might expect, bruxism can also cause tooth loss on the sides of teeth. This bruxism-related loss of tooth material or gum level is caused by "abfraction," which involves flexing of tooth structure. As the affected teeth grind, the force creates tension on one side of the tooth and compression on the other. As a result, notches develop as enamel is lost. Addressing this restoration of the lost tooth material that bruxism causes.

Bruxism isn't only a nighttime activity. Some tooth-grinders continue this damaging practice throughout the day. Whether you are in our office for bruxism or just for a simple cleaning, our personal, casual, and relaxed style in providing quality dental care will help put you at ease. We'll take the time to get to know your needs, answer your questions about the latest techniques and materials, and make sure that you are comfortable. Find out just how pleasant a visit to the dentist can be — call us at 734-453-4413. Complete family dental care is available at 496 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Ste. 201, Plymouth.

P.S. Notches in teeth related to abfraction can be effectively restored with dental bonding.

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DECEMBER 25, 2008

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Oldtime Pepper Jack Cheese \$4.99 lb.	Florida Crisp & Sweet Grape Tomatoes 2/\$3.00	Spanish Sweet Darling Clementines \$4.99 5 lb. box	Fresh California Broccoli 2/\$3.00	Oldtime American Yellow Cheese \$4.99 lb.
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## HOLIDAY WISHES

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Name: Niley Patel  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Donberger & Mrs. Dell  
My wish for the holidays is that my family has the best Christmas ever. Also, the present I want the most is Guller Hero World Tour because I play the guitar and I love it. I also like World Tour comes with drums and microphone I want that gift so much. But the bad thing is that I am going to put the hard work to easy so I could better and better still get to hard. Also my brother wants it to be the holiday do medium then hard. If I win I would lose to today that is how much I stink.

Name: Alex Fouch  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Donberger & Mrs. Dell  
My wish for this holiday season is for pokémon to be real because then I can love and care for them. We could have many adventures, and we would have fun times together. That is what my wish is for this holiday season.

Name: Nicole Ristovski  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Donberger & Mrs. Dell  
My Christmas wish is for my grandpa and grandma to come back from Europe to spend Christmas with me. Ever since I was born, but I get to spend Christmas with the rest of my family. It would be even better if my grandpa and grandma. That's my Christmas wish for this year.

Name: Matthew Ross  
Age: 9 years, 241 days  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is for my family to have the best Christmas ever. Some reasons are that we will have lots of perfectly gift wrapped presents. Another reason is that we will have a huge Christmas tree with lights, ornaments, electronic ornaments, hook up electronic ornaments (hook them up from the lights) and garland. A last reason is that relatives, aunts, uncles,

grandmas, grandpas, cousins, and grandmothers to share what is the meaning of Christmas. Those are three reasons why I wish it to be the best Christmas of my life.

Name: Bashir Khatib-Shahid  
Age: 9 3/4  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this Christmas is a Bakugan Booster Pack. Either a club penguin plush, car, jigsaw puzzle, or a club penguin figure (All includes secret code) If I got something else I would want one of those cars with remote that makes extremely sharp turns and can go up to at least 150 ft with the signal from remote or I would want a remote control car that has a camera from wow wee and it has a video clip, or I would want a night vision from wow wee.

Name: Taylor Banks  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
I wish I can have a Nintendo DS because I always say to my mom "mom where is my NDS?" She says "you don't have one." Have you heard about Wii? Well I don't want one because Wii are hard to plug in. There are a lot of cards. A DS has one card. If I can get a DS maybe we'll get a puppy!

Name: Emily Kaley  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Donberger & Mrs. Dell  
My wish this Christmas is just World Peace. Please just for one don't yell and don't argue! We can all have peace if we just calm down. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Name: Andy Lee  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Donberger & Mrs. Dell  
My wish for this holiday season is for lots of presents and time with my family. I said this one wish because I love having my family around during the holidays. I want lots of presents because it's fun going other people presents so I hope to get a lot. Also I want a great NEW YEAR. At every new year's eve, we stay up to midnight.

Name: Joshua Foster



Novi Woods fourth-grade student Jason Hansen, left, assists second-grade student Noah Mikkelsen in writing his letter to Santa Claus.

Name: Jack Helferman  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is to have every body at Novi Woods elementary school to have the best holiday ever by doing nice things to friends. And by breaking up fights and not fighting and by helping around the house. That is what my wish is for this holiday season.

Name: Anthony Zuparo  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is to get the best presents for Christmas. I want a car because I put the best stuff on my Christmas list this year. The present I want the most is a iPod nano I am finally going to ask for one this year for Christmas. If I get all my presents or my Christmas list this year will be the best Christmas ever. Merry Christmas!

Name: John Stefan  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is for lots of presents and time with my family. I said this one wish because I love having my family around during the holidays. I want lots of presents because it's fun going other people presents so I hope to get a lot. Also I want a great NEW YEAR. At every new year's eve, we stay up to midnight.

Name: Andrew Christopher Keblaris

Name: Preston Brown  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is for the poor people living on the streets in big cities get plenty of presents from other kind people. Or I wish on Christmas that nobody will be greedy or brag about what they got. My last wish I would want instead of those toys and a nice, big awesome, perfect wish that me and my family have a perfect Christmas with some nice music from Spirit 66. The Christmas is the holiday I want to be the best for everybody. And that is my Christmas wish that I want and I mean WANT to come true.

Name: Taylor Kalamaj  
Age: 9 1/2  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is for me to get presents and for my family to be happy. I want a lot of presents because I Santa bring something for the whole family we will all be happy! And if my family is happy I will be happy!

Name: Emily Robinson  
Age: 9 1/2  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is that I want all of my family and all of my extended family to come together for Christmas. The reason why I want this wish to come true is because I hardly get to see my extended family because they live in Canada and in Cleveland. A lot of kids think that Christmas is about presents, but for me it's all about being with my family no matter how many presents I get. My family is so important to me no matter what we're doing. Whether it's playing outside in the snow, watching T.V. and drinking hot chocolate or just listening to music while we decorate our Christmas tree. I feel the same way about my extended family because I feel like when I see them I just want to shout in excitement!

Name: Shirley Hao  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is to have world peace for my community, my family, America, and the world. I don't want global warming or animals dying. Also I would like to have me and my family to have the best Christmas ever. Finally, I would like my brother to have the best year ever with me because he is going to college next year and I want it to be the best year for him in school and at home and with me.

Name: Anthony D'Annibale  
Age: 9 3/4  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish is for my family to have the best Christmas ever. I also wish to get some of the presents I wanted. Also, I want my grandpa, grandma, dad, mom and Ally and Christy to all the presents they want. Also, I want my dog Macy to have a 2 dozen of her favorite bones. I also, want my uncle John and uncle Chris to get all they want for Christmas. Also, I want my dad and mom to get everything they want for Christmas even if it is over one million dollars so that is my wish for this holiday season.

Name: Jack Helferman  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is to get the best presents for Christmas. I want a car because I put the best stuff on my Christmas list this year. The present I want the most is a iPod nano I am finally going to ask for one this year for Christmas. If I get all my presents or my Christmas list this year will be the best Christmas ever. Merry Christmas!

Name: Andrew Christopher Keblaris

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## HOLIDAY WISHES

Community Weeklies | Thursday, December 25, 2008 (NN) A9

Name: Aaron Thibodeau  
Age: 10  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish is to have a great Christmas because I want to have fun and be good at the same time. Also, I want to eat all my family and play games and eat Christmas cookies.

Name: Praneth Medepalli  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is to make my family always happy because when my family is happy I'm happy and then when I go to school my classmates become happy and then it spreads to the parents and then they spread to some other people. Also if my parents are happy they'll be nice to me.

Name: Kyle Kosirzewa  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is to get a lot of presents because it will give me a lot of stuff to do. I will be food off Christmas. I will do chores and won't fight. If I get a lot of presents and food presents I will thank everyone.

Name: Ariyanna Gray  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Chandler  
My wish for this holiday season is that I get all the Christmas presents I want. What I really want is a iPod. I have 20 to 30 presents on my list. If I get all the stuff I want for Christmas then this will be the best Christmas very!!!!!!

Name: Jessica Lypha  
Age: 9  
Grade: 4  
Teacher: Mrs. Donberger & Mrs. Dell  
My wish for this holiday season is to stop the war in Iraq, there is my reason why this is my wish because I would like the gorgan-tuan amount of people in the war to go back to their blissful homes and children if they have children.

Name: Ryan Fariss  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
I want Halo two. I like this game because the guns. My dad likes it because he likes the rocket launcher. I can play it with my eyes closed!

Name: Devin Zhang  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley

Name: Anurag Chaudhary  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
My wish for this holiday season is for the poor people living on the streets in big cities to get lots of presents. My second wish is for my family to have the best Christmas ever. P.S. I mean it!

Name: Trey Mullins  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
On Christmas I want to see Santa come down the chimney. And put lots of toys under the tree. Because I never did. Also I wish I could see Santa reindeer. I also wish it snows on Christmas because last year it did not snow.

Name: Ethan Hunsinger  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is to have the best Christmas because 2007 was good but I want better. My second wish is to have a dog that does not bite. My final wish is that every body has a wonderful Christmas.

Name: Haavika Kartapalli  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
In Dwell I want everyone see lights or fireworks in the sky. Everybody to see beautiful colors on the ground. The colors that are there are yellow blue green and red.

Name: Nandini Keneru  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to have a happy time on New Years day because some people are not as lucky as some other people and they deserve the happiness, shelter, presents, food, water, and warmth. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Name: Isabelle Llan  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
My wish for this holiday season is to the community to get better. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley



Novi Woods fourth-grade student Emily Robinson, right, helps second-grade student Samantha Ross and kindergarten Marissa Kuzma, center, as they write their holiday wish lists.

Name: Riley Balconi  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
Dog because I like to cuddle with them. For Christmas I would like web-kinz. For a good life of me and the other people too. A hot pink ipod that plays music and movies.

Name: Tim Schneider  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is more snow because we can have more sledding times. Also, we can have more snowdays. If there is lots of snow, there's gonna have more hot chocolate. That's my holiday wish.

Name: Danielle Gordon  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is that everybody brings a little magic to the world so that everybody has a happy Christmas. I believe that everybody should have a happy Christmas. That is why I have this wish. And one more thing... HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley

I wish Xmas 360. I have been good boys. I have helped other people. My brother hopes it.

Name: Ayaka Salani  
Age: 6  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
My wish for the holiday season is more friendship around the world. Like if there was someone who wanted a friend someone could spend time with the lonely one.

Name: Michelle Wang  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
A small Christmas tree and a new shiny nutcracker. For a pet I would maybe want a pet hamster with a wheel inside to the cage. And the last thing I want a Pink DS and I want new clear Isopetacular clothes. And last but not least I have a iPod! These are my wishes for this holiday season!!

Name: Megan Balda  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
Disney World. It is fun I hope my wish comes true.

Name: Luka Sakic  
Age: 8  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
For people to be nice and get a toy for Christmas this year and everyone is very happy. I want everyone to get what they want for Christmas too.

Name: Andrew O'Connor  
Age: 8  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
1,000,000,000 in cash in 50's and 100's and in 20's and 10's and 5's and in 2's and golden dollar and quarters and to go to Lego land for free. And a T-shirt and the Eiffel Tower. And a rich.

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley

Name: He Eun Shin  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
I would a Christmas for candy. I want to go to the Korea.

Name: Shree Mysore  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mrs. Karbousky  
I wish to have a great life. So I can have fun. And go to Disney World. And go to space, moon, mars, Disney cruise ship, Disney World resort. And have the best Christmas ever.

Name: Anna Lena Pural  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
I would love to be with my whole family on Christmas. I would love that my whole family is with me on Christmas. I wish for candy on Christmas. Samiha no yade etrovet ym evol duum I

Name: Sayaka Mori  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
For Christmas I would like Candy Land board game because, it looks like a fun game and I would like to have it. And I won't play with my family!

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is for everybody to be happy. I want this because people are moving out of the state. Another reason why is people are now losing their jobs. This holiday season I would like the community to get better.

Name: Anna Kaley

## Novi/Northville MEDICAL SERVICE directory



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Small prices effective now through Tuesday, December 30, 2008. All prices adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Excludes jewelry, watches, and home decor. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale. Not necessarily during the past 90 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intended for merchandise only. Some items may be excluded. Sale excludes Bonus Buy, Fine Jewelry Super Values, Fine Jewelry special event merchandise, Miscellaneous Jewelry Collection and Fine Watches (1/18/09)

Now through Tuesday, December 30, 2008  
EXTRA 20% OFF  
fine jewelry  
Valid on one entire purchase;  
choose as many items as you like.

**PARISIAN**  
CO02001004W

extra 10% off  
DIAMONDS  
ALREADY 40% off  
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON

extra 10% off  
GEMSTONES  
ALREADY 40% off  
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON

extra 10% off  
GOLD, ALREADY 50% off  
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON

extra 10% off  
STERLING SILVER  
ALREADY 50% off  
PLUS, USE YOUR 20% OFF COUPON

**PARISIAN**  
COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE

Small prices effective now through Tuesday, December 30, 2008. All prices adjustments for previously purchased clearance merchandise. Excludes jewelry, watches, and home decor. Regular and original prices reflect offering prices in effect during the 90 days before or after this sale. Not necessarily during the past 90 days. Savings may not be based on actual sales. Intended for merchandise only. Some items may be excluded. Sale excludes Bonus Buy, Fine Jewelry Super Values, Fine Jewelry special event merchandise, Miscellaneous Jewelry Collection and Fine Watches (1/18/09)

## Announcing!

**CORE Rhythms**  
NOW AT Arthur Murray!  
**FIRM UP FAST**  
Losing inches has never been so fast...  
and so much fun! The passion and technique  
of World Champion Rhythmic & Latin dancers,  
packed into the perfect fitness system.  
You'll love it and anyone can do it.  
**TRIM DOWN NOW**  
Core Rhythms is the revolutionary exercise concept  
that uses *sexy Latin dance moves* to raise your  
heart rate, while toning and tightening your  
entire core. You'll be swept away while  
getting a 360° total core workout.  
**CALL TODAY**  
Certified Core Rhythm instructors are ready,  
exclusively at Arthur Murray Dance Studios.  
Call today and schedule your first session.

NO Contracts! NO Monthly Payments! NO Membership Fees!  
Pay only for the sessions you use! Call now to schedule your FREE introductory workout!

Drop-Ins Welcome • Start Anytime  
Call For Class Schedules

**Arthur Murray**  
Franchised Dance Studios  
42000 Six Mile Rd., Suite 250  
Northville  
(between Northville Rd. & Haggerty)  
248.349.1133  
1926 South Telegraph Rd.  
Bloomfield  
(next to Cad's Golfland)  
248.338.6390

Name: Maddy McSweeney  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
I wish I could have an American doll as candy. Next, the best Christmas ever in the world.

Name: Ashley Lu  
Age: 8  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is that I get a MP3 player. Because I want to have music.

Name: Sabrina Ma  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is a happy year in 2009 because I want to be with my family.

Name: Catherine Yoon  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is a new game it is called club penguin. I would play it in the car on to Aunt Penny's house. I would want this game because sometimes I get bored at home during the week and weekend. That's why I would like club penguin for my DS.

Name: Jessica Bandyk  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is a stuffed animal. Because I want to add it to my collection. The kind of stuffed animal I want is weebie. I wish this Christmas to be the best Christmas I had ever had.

Name: Amanda Putti  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for this holiday season is a stuffed animal. Because I want to add it to my collection. The kind of stuffed animal I want is weebie. I wish this Christmas to be the best Christmas I had ever had.

Name: Alivia Hart  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
American girl doll. Wekin and a DS game. I would like a Wii game too. I want a dress and a candy. I want a ornament too. I also want a ring. I want to go to Korea! I wish for world peace.

Name: Noah Mikelsen  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
My wish for the holiday season is to go to lego land and an Itoch. And I want a million dollars.

Name: Andrew Engelsen  
Age: 7  
Grade: 2  
Teacher: Mr. Kenrick  
I wish that Christmas is perfect. First I open up all my presents then I go to grandma and grandpa's house then tomorrow I go to my aunts uncles and cousins house. It is fun time.

Name: Jimmy Samson  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
Kawaii. I want a Bakugan. I want to have the best kawaii ever!

Name: Ian Dixon  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
Bakugan toy talking turkey lightning meowen toy chocolate santa drum

Name: Justin Levine  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
My wish for this holiday season is a stuffed animal. Because I want to add it to my collection. The kind of stuffed animal I want is weebie. I wish this Christmas to be the best Christmas I had ever had.



PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDERNDY NEWS

Novi Woods fourth-grade student Jessica Lypha, center, helps out second graders Amanda Putti, left, and Alivia Hart as they compose their holiday wish lists.

Action figures from star wars and Bakugan. Bat man and The Joker. And a Star Wars Waker.

Name: Emma Lyons  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
My wish for this holiday season is a horse stuffed animal because I like stuffed animals. I like stuffed animals because they are cute. Also I would like a pet bunny because they have very cute ears. I want the bunny's color pink. I want a Bakugan with the book rough the red nose reindeer.

Name: Nanao Mori  
Age: 6  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
Weebie, weebie doll, necklace, play cards, Uno, shirts, hair ties. My puppy, kuno ball vovye. I want to go to Disney world.

Name: Matt Harding  
Age: 7  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
My wish for this holiday season is a stuffed animal. Because I want to add it to my collection. The kind of stuffed animal I want is weebie. I wish this Christmas to be the best Christmas I had ever had.

Name: Alex Awdish  
Age: 7  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Balconi  
My wish for this holiday season is a stuffed animal. Because I want to add it to my collection. The kind of stuffed animal I want is weebie. I wish this Christmas to be the best Christmas I had ever had.

For everyone to have a good Christmas.

Name: Matthew Gostitus  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
For Christmas I want a book about a sad dog. Because I like to read about dogs. That is why I want a book about a sad dog.

Name: Marissa Kuzma  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
My wish for this holiday season is a puppy because they're lovable, they are soft, and they're fun to play with. A puppy would also be a great wish for the holiday season because he or she would be a friend to me and my family. (No! Dad because he is allergic) I really hope my wish for this holiday season comes true.

Name: Jacob Handloser  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
I want a Bakugan for Christmas also I want a toilet. Finly, I want a pokemon.

Name: Allen Gu  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
I want a Bakugan because I like to play outside.

Name: Samanta Bolisely  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
My wish is this holiday season is to be happy with my family. For Christmas I want dolls. A Christmas tree toy!!!

Name: Parker Jones  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
Playstation 2 game. I like it because I like playstation 2.

Name: Monika Mochizuki  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
I like playstation 2.

Name: Austin Balconi  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
My wish is no poor people and pocket-mon cards for Christmas.

Name: Diego Burgess  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
This holiday season I would like from my brother 6 bakugan and a DS I will clean my room for two weeks. And for the bakugan I will clean my room for 3 days. Also, I want my family to have the best Christmas ever, with my DS I want 2 games which is sonic unleashed and pokemon please!

Name: Riku Iwata  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
I want the best Christmas ever because I want a lot of presents. I want to have fun outside. Another wish I want to have fun with my dad. One reason is because it is fun to play outside.

Name: Tomoya Yamazaki  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
I want a Bakugan because it has powers. Also, it is cool because I can go in a ball and roll. Happy holidays!!!

Name: Monika Mochizuki  
Age: 5  
Grade: kindergarten  
Teacher: Mrs. Malczewski  
I like playstation 2.



PHOTO BY JANEY FLORES

The first-graders at Village Oaks Elementary perform "Jingle Bell Rock" during the school's annual holiday program.

## CLASS NOTES

## Novi students participate in Player Escort Program at U.S. versus China soccer match

Twenty-two local soccer players, ages 6-10, had the opportunity to meet their role models last week at the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team versus China soccer match at Ford Field in Detroit. Player escorts from Novi included: Deerfield Elementary School students Jonathan Bean, Heather Blair, Nicole Blair, Michael Jernan, Madison Scott, Clay Simmons, Katie Valade, Karenia Roest and Evan Yoki; Novi Woods Elementary School students Anna Dixon, Avery Fenchel and Laine Fenchel; and Novi Meadows student Celin Roest. The Women's National Team includes 2008 Olympic gold medalists and Michigan natives Kate Markgraf and Lindsey Tarpley. The 11 starting players from both teams were escorted onto the field by the local students, who are all avid soccer players. The Player Escort Program is part of McDonald's partnership with U.S. Soccer.

## Ski equipment wanted

The Novi Meadows Outdoor Education program needs your help. If

you have new or gently used cross-country ski equipment, consider donating it to Novi Meadows Outdoor Education. The program is looking to supply enough equipment so it is able to take groups of 14-18 students cross-country skiing. Boots, skis and poles of all sizes will be accepted. All donations may be dropped off at Novi Meadows Fifth Grade office. Proceeds are used to purchase uniforms, equipment, training and so more students can participate at a higher level.

## Novi High School Athletics Web site

The Novi Athletic Boosters' new Web site is [www.noviatheleticboosters.com](http://www.noviatheleticboosters.com). The site is the source for upcoming Novi Athletic Boosters events, fundraising events and Wildcat game schedules. The Novi Athletic Boosters raise money to support Novi Wildcat student athletes at Novi high and middle schools. Proceeds are used to purchase uniforms, equipment, training and so more students can participate at a higher level.

## Raising Resilient Kids

Novi School District is pleased to present: Raising Resilient Kids. The free workshop with parent coach Nancy Prishy will take place 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 inside the Community Education (ITC) - Forum. Has your child ever felt left out? Had challenges getting along with other kids? Been faced with other difficult situations? Conflict and emotional pain are a part of life and kids can actually become stronger from these experiences and better able to deal with them in the future. This is resilience - the ability to draw strength when bad things happen. Participation in this workshop will provide strategies to help children become more resilient.



## Stacking Success!

Village Oaks second-grade student Lily Trimmer works on stacking a group of plastic cups during a visit by student volunteer Jim Merrill's. Merrill's facilitated a day long, rolling assembly where each student participated in stacking. The program worked with kids to build their skills on concentration, teamwork and hand-eye coordination as they attempted to build various stacks of cups.

PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDERNDY NEWS



Lily Trimmer yells out as her stack of cups tumbles down to her hands during a cup-stacking assembly at Village Oaks Elementary.



Village Oaks students get busy stacking cups during a recent afternoon assembly.

## 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 14, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48240. The subject of the hearing is a proposed rezoning of the following property: 18.683, 18.685, 18.686, 18.687, 18.688, 18.689, 18.690, 18.691, 18.692, 18.693, 18.694, 18.695, 18.696, 18.697, 18.698, 18.699, 18.700, 18.701, 18.702, 18.703, 18.704, 18.705, 18.706, 18.707, 18.708, 18.709, 18.710, 18.711, 18.712, 18.713, 18.714, 18.715, 18.716, 18.717, 18.718, 18.719, 18.720, 18.721, 18.722, 18.723, 18.724, 18.725, 18.726, 18.727, 18.728, 18.729, 18.730, 18.731, 18.732, 18.733, 18.734, 18.735, 18.736, 18.737, 18.738, 18.739, 18.740, 18.741, 18.742, 18.743, 18.744, 18.745, 18.746, 18.747, 18.748, 18.749, 18.750, 18.751, 18.752, 18.753, 18.754, 18.755, 18.756, 18.757, 18.758, 18.759, 18.760, 18.761, 18.762, 18.763, 18.764, 18.765, 18.766, 18.767, 18.768, 18.769, 18.770, 18.771, 18.772, 18.773, 18.774, 18.775, 18.776, 18.777, 18.778, 18.779, 18.780, 18.781, 18.782, 18.783, 18.784, 18.785, 18.786, 18.787, 18.788, 18.789, 18.790, 18.791, 18.792, 18.793, 18.794, 18.795, 18.796, 18.797, 18.798, 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# OPINION

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Thursday, December 25, 2008 Community Weeklies

[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

## OUR VIEWS

### When celebrating, play it safe

For most of us, December, and the beginning of January, is a whirlwind of activity. Whether it's finding those last presents or attending holiday or football gatherings, there's little time for rest.

It seems there's little time for some peace and quiet; most of the time is spent sharing with families and friends. That's what the season is all about, after all.

But while it's a time to be festive, there's always a chance to indulge in a little too much holiday cheer, which can create problems that last far beyond the New Year.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving, a person is killed every 40 minutes because of someone who chose to drive after having one too many. In 2007 alone, an estimated 13,000 people lost their lives in drunk driving-related crashes.

According to surveys conducted by MADD in 2002, Americans took more than 159 million alcohol-impaired trips, compared to 116 million taken in 1997. Of those 159 million trips, more than 10 percent (18 million trips) were made by 18- to 20-year-olds, who are not even old enough to legally consume alcohol.

Awareness of these statistics is only the first step in being part of the solution. If you are hosting a gathering over the next several weeks, here are some tips to ensure that your guests can arrive safely home for the holidays.

■ Provide non-alcoholic drinks, such as hot chocolate, hot apple cider, or alcohol-free eggnog for your party guests.

■ If children or young adults under the legal drinking age are invited, keep adult beverages separate from those intended for younger guests.

■ Make sure that guests who do choose to imbibe have a safe method for returning back to their homes, once the party has ended.

■ Have phone numbers on hand for the safe ride programs (such as The Designate) available in Metro Detroit.

■ If the celebration runs later than expected, offer lodging for the night to ensure guests a safer time period for their return trip home.

Beyond being a responsible party host, your actions during this festive time of year sets the tone for younger people in your lives. If you want your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to make the right choices, it starts by giving them the proper model to follow.

Have fun when celebrating, but remember to be smart about it.

## EARLY DEADLINES

With the upcoming holidays, the Novi News will have early deadlines for both the editorial and advertising departments.

For the Dec. 25 edition, display advertising and editorial deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. The deadline for classified advertising is 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22.

For the Jan. 1 edition, display advertising and editorial deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26. The deadline for classified advertising is 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29.

News submissions can be sent to [venitchev@gannett.com](mailto:venitchev@gannett.com) or by calling (248) 685-1507 Ext. 262. Display advertising inquiries should be directed to (248) 685-1507 Ext. 241. The classified advertising department can be reached at (888) 999-1288.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

Submit via Web: [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)  
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48188.  
Fax: (248) 437-3385.  
E-mail: [venitchev@gannett.com](mailto:venitchev@gannett.com).  
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

## Novi News

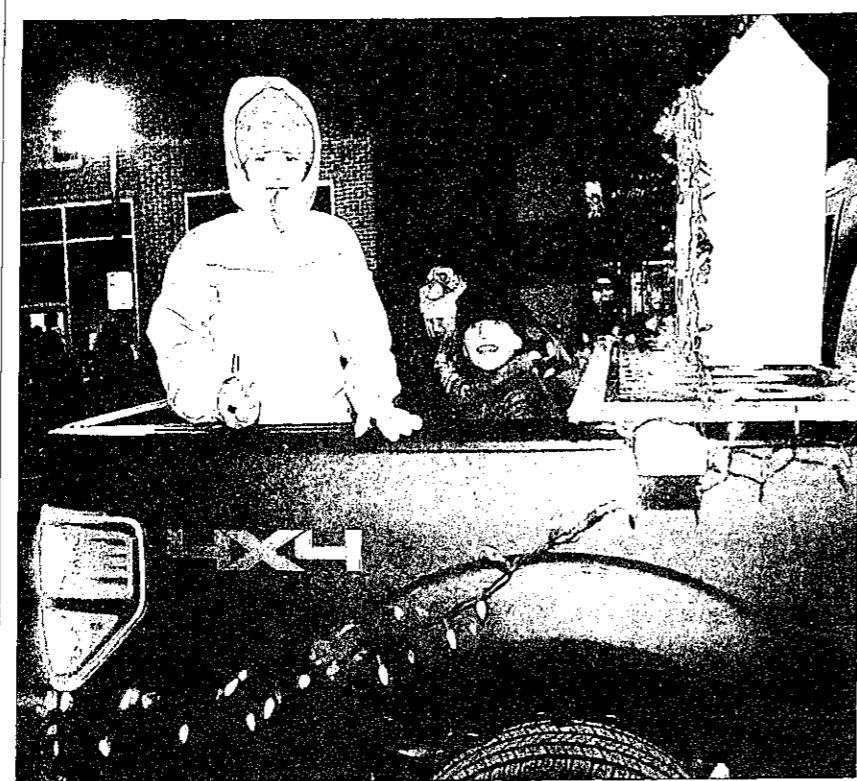
GANNETT

Published each Thursday

Victoria Mitchell  
Community Editor  
Susan Resick  
Executive Editor

Jeanie Parent  
Senior Director of Sales & Marketing

Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.



PHOTOS BY JOHN FIEDOR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## In the Spirit

A few kids, sitting in the back of a truck decorated with colorful lights, enjoy the Novi Ringing in the Holidays parade through Main Street Novi.



Novi City Councilman Dave Staudt tosses necklaces to visitors of this month's Ringing in the Holidays night parade.



Novi dance students entertain during the celebration.



The Redford UICYC Club rolls through this month's Ringing in the Holidays parade.

## Dying for a breath - please stop smoking

Cigarettes killed my Mom. In fact, I could visualize Joe Camel there with his hooves around my mom's throat as she lay dying in the hospital recently. Of course, Joe Camel was not literally there in the hospital room squeezing the oxygen out of her as she gasped for each breath like a guppy out of a fish tank; but he killed her just the same.

No, this is not about "blaming" anyone for my mom's death. She made the decision to smoke. Yet, when she began smoking more than a half century ago there were not the public health concerns that there are today - and clearly, the tobacco industry hid the damage cigarettes would cause. After WWII, the country was abuzz with energy. The stars on the big screen and on the TV screen were shown puffing away as a subliminal message was broadcast that it was cool, the "in" thing to do.

According to the American Lung Association, lung disease is the number three killer in America, responsible for one in six deaths. Today, more than 35 million Americans are living with chronic lung disease such as asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), otherwise known

as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

### COPD Lung Damage Is Irreversible

My Mom had COPD, a hideous disease she contracted by hooking up with Joe Camel when she was a young and impressionable young woman. Smoking is the leading risk factor for COPD. More than 12.1 million U.S. adults age 18 and older were estimated to have COPD in 2006. COPD is called the "silent killer" because it can slowly creep up on you, making you think it is "just a cough" and is just an "irritant," not life-threatening. Stopping smoking is the single most effective way to reduce the risk of developing COPD and slow its progression.

COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in this country, claiming the lives of 118,171 Americans in 2004. Preliminary data show this number increased to 127,000 in 2005. That is one death every four to five minutes. COPD is expected to become the third leading cause of death by the year 2020.

### Taking My Mother's Life - Priceless!

This disease takes a heavy toll on the economy. According to estimates by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, in 2007 the annual cost to the nation for COPD was \$42.6 billion. This includes \$26.7 billion in direct health care expenditures, \$6 billion in indirect morbidity (illness-related) costs and \$9.9

billion in indirect mortality (death-related) costs. Taking my Mother's life - priceless!

If someone you love is smoking, try to help in any way you can - beg, encourage, and even nag - to get them to quit. Try the patch, gum, hypnosis - anything - but try. Cigarettes will ultimately choke the life out of a smoker. Watching my Mother die from this hideous disease was awful.

### Cigarettes Killed My Mom

Please do what you can to help prevent this tragic loss of life. The Lung Association offers smoking cessation programs such as Freedom From Smoking and Not On Tobacco as well as self-help programs to assist smokers who want to quit.

The American Lung Association Lung Help Line (800) LUNG-USA; 1-800-586-4872, staffed by registered nurses, respiratory therapists and quit-smoking specialists, offers free counseling and support to callers, including those seeking information about COPD. Call them to find out how you can get help to stop smoking or how you can help. You can also go to the American Lung Association Web site, [www.LungUSA.org](http://www.LungUSA.org) and make donations to help.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant in the U.S. and China. He served as Michigan's State Superintendent of Schools from 2001-2005. He can be reached at [twatkins@aol.com](mailto:twatkins@aol.com).

[www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com)

## SAVVY SENIOR

Community Weeklies | Thursday, December 25, 2008

(NNNN) A15

### Smart Auto Features for Older Drivers

Dear Savvy Senior,  
Are there any good resources that offer tips on what older drivers should look for when purchasing a new car? My wife and I have been looking around, but at ages 69 and 71 we want to make sure we get a good vehicle that meets our future needs and current budget.

Senior Drivers

Dear Senior,  
The National Older Driver Research and Training Center at the University of Florida and AAA recently developed a handy new guide called "Smart Features for Mature Drivers" that's perfect for seniors who are in the market for a new car or those evaluating their current one. Here's what you should know.

### SHOPPING GUIDE

Even healthy seniors face some degree of physical challenge (reduced vision, mobility, strength, range of motion and reaction time) that can make driving more difficult. Finding a vehicle with features that meets those challenges can make a big difference in both pleasure and safety.

"Smart Features for Mature Drivers" is a great tool to help seniors evaluate a vehicle, by focusing on the different features that address age-related problems. Here are some of the features they recommend you look for, depending on what ails you:

- Limited range of motion: Drivers with limited flexibility in the neck, back and arms usually have a difficult time looking over their shoulder to back-up or to merge into traffic, and have a hard time reaching for their seat belt. These drivers can benefit from large, wide-angle mirrors which minimize blind spots, a tilt and telescoping steering wheel that offers more comfortable positions to alleviate neck and shoulder pain, adjustable seat belts that are easier to reach, and heated seats with lumbar support to help those stiff aching backs.

- Limited mobility: If you suffer from hip or leg pain or limited knee range of motion, look for vehicles that have low door thresholds, six-way adjustable power seats, and seat heights that come up to your mid-thigh level. These features make it easier for you to get into and out of the vehicle.

- Arthritic hands: Drivers who have hand or wrist arthritis or a weak upper body can benefit from thick steering wheels which are easier to grip, keyless entry and ignition that eliminates twisting and turning, power mirrors and seats that are easy to operate, larger dashboard controls with buttons versus knobs that are easier to manipulate, and four-door models versus two-door cars which have longer

heavier doors that are harder to open.

- Diminished vision: Drivers with diminished vision and sensitivity to glare will find extendable sun visors helpful, as well as larger audio and climate controls with contrasting text which are easier to see.

- Short drivers: For older drivers that are small in stature it can be a challenge to comfortably reach the pedals without being too close to the airbag or being able to see over the steering wheel safely. To help with these problems, look for vehicles with adjustable foot pedals, tilt and telescoping steering wheel and six-way adjustable seats.

### SAFETY FEATURES

AAA also recommends that all seniors, regardless of their health issues, look for vehicles with solid safety features and a proven safety record. Start by checking the vehicle's crash test and rollover ratings which you can find at [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov). Other safety features to look for include: side and dual-stage/threshold air bags that adjust the deployment force based on the severity of the crash; adjustable head restraints and extra padding that moves forward to cushion the head, reducing neck injuries when a car is hit from the rear; anti-lock brakes that prevent the wheels from locking during emergency braking; and dynamic stability control which helps prevent loss of control in a turn.

### SAVVY TIP

To get a copy of the "Smart Features for Mature Drivers" brochure, call your local AAA (call 800-564-6222 to get your local number). You can also view it online at [www.aaa.com/seniors](http://www.aaa.com/seniors) along with their list of 2008 vehicles that provides these senior-friendly features.

### HELP IS AVAILABLE

As the number of cancer survivors in the U.S. grows

to more than 11 million, so, too, does the need for support services to help patients and family members deal with the physical, emotional and financial side effects that can come with it. Today, a variety of services and programs exist that can help with a wide spectrum of cancer-related issues such as depression, anxiety, fatigue, pain, family and caregiving issues, financial and insurance concerns and more.

Depending on your husband's needs, for example, there are counselors, social workers and cancer support groups that can help with depression, anxiety and other psychological issues; nutritionists and dietitians to help deal with nausea, loss of appetite, fatigue or mouth sores; and physical therapists, pain specialists, acupuncturists and massage therapists that can assist with pain and discomfort.

### FINDING SERVICES

To find out what kinds of cancer support services and programs are available in your community, start by asking the clinic, medical center or hospital that's treating your husband. His doctor or nurse

should be able to provide you with referrals. Larger health care or cancer treatment centers usually offer a wide variety of on-staff support services. However, if your husband is being treated in a small clinic or you live in a rural area, finding help may be more difficult. You can also visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or <http://www.cancer.org>, type in your zip code and search for services online.

If you don't find any programs locally that meet his needs, there are a growing number of Internet support services that can be mighty helpful too. Here are some to check out:

- CancerCare ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)): A national nonprofit organization that provides free professional support services to cancer patients and caregivers, including counseling, education, financial assistance and practical help. You can also call 800-818-4673, and get help over the phone.

- American Cancer Society Cancer Survivors Network ([www.acsn.org](http://www.acsn.org)): This site has online support, social networking, personal survivor Web pages, links to support services and a free "Life After Cancer Treatment" book.

- The Lance Armstrong Foundation ([www.livestrong.org](http://www.livestrong.org)): Provides counseling and referrals to local resources, helps address financial and insurance concerns and more.

- National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship ([www.canceradvocacy.org](http://www.canceradvocacy.org)): Provides a free online "Cancer Survivor Toolbox" audio program that helps with decision making, finding information, tips for older persons, paying for care, living beyond cancer and more.

- National Cancer Institute ([www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)): Offers a free online "Cancer Topics" 800-422-6237. Provides a wide variety of helpful information on coping with cancer, along with a section dedicated to cancer survivors - see [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov).

- American Society of Clinical Oncology ([www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org)): Provides information and support through their Internet mailing lists and cancer-related Web-based resources.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 3443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [www.savvysenior.org](http://www.savvysenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

PHOTOS BY JOHN FIEDOR/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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## Senior party

Attendees of last week's Northville Senior Center's holiday luncheon enjoy a performance by the Timberland Studio of Dance.



Members of the Timberland Studio of Dance's Beautiful Worship Dance Ensemble perform at the Northville Senior Community Center's senior holiday luncheon on Dec. 18.

### Support Services Help Seniors Living with Cancer

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What kinds of resources or support services are available to help seniors living with cancer? My husband is being treated for prostate cancer and has become exhausted and very depressed about it.

Looking for Help

Dear Looking,  
Most people, when they think of cancer support and treatment, think of chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. But there's a lot more to fighting cancer than destroying cancer cells. Here's what you should know.

As the number of cancer survivors in the U.S. grows

to more than 11 million, so, too, does the need for support services to help patients and family members deal with the physical, emotional and financial side effects that can come with it. Today, a variety of services and programs exist that can help with a wide spectrum of cancer-related issues such as depression, anxiety, fatigue, pain, family and caregiving issues, financial and insurance concerns and more.

Depending on your husband's needs, for example, there are counselors, social workers and cancer support groups that can help with depression, anxiety and other psychological issues; nutritionists and dietitians to help deal with nausea, loss of appetite, fatigue or mouth sores; and physical therapists, pain specialists, acupuncturists and massage therapists that can assist with pain and discomfort.

To find out what kinds of cancer support services and programs are available in your community, start by asking the clinic, medical center or hospital that's treating your husband. His doctor or nurse

should be able to provide you with referrals. Larger health care or cancer treatment centers usually offer a wide variety of on-staff support services. However, if your husband is being treated in a small clinic or you live in a rural area, finding help may be more difficult. You can also visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) or <http://www.cancer.org>, type in your zip code and search for services online.

If you don't find any programs locally that meet his needs, there are a growing number of Internet support services that can be mighty helpful too. Here are some to check out:

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Rick Kozak, right, and other members of the double deck pinocle crew enjoy some food along with friends at the Northville Senior Community Center during their annual holiday party.

### SAVVY TIP

The Institute of Medicine also provides a comprehensive list of resources for cancer patients and caregivers at [www.iom.edu/cancer](http://www.iom.edu/cancer) - see [www.iom.edu/cancer](http://www.iom.edu/cancer) for more information.

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## LOCAL EVENTS

## Pleasant Dystopia Fundraiser

**TIME:** Regular business hours  
**LOCATION:** Pleasant Dystopia of Novi  
**DETAILS:** According to predictions of "what-ifs" scenarios, mutants and zombies are being unleashed during the holiday season. Help off combat the coming regular business hours. For tickets and directions, contact us at 424-4110 or visit [www.pleasantdystopia.com](http://www.pleasantdystopia.com)

## Kasper, Twilight Ball and Event

**TIME:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24  
**LOCATION:** Rock Financial Center, 1660 Grand River Ave.  
**DETAILS:** Local food, entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$30. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.  
**CONTACT:** [twilightball@comcast.net](mailto:twilightball@comcast.net) or 424-896-0182

## Java and Jazz New Year's Eve Party

**TIME:** 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24  
**LOCATION:** Biggie's Office, 1601 Grand River Ave.  
**DETAILS:** Enjoy a live jazz band and a DJ. Free food and drinks. Tickets are \$10. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.  
**CONTACT:** [biggiesoffice@comcast.net](mailto:biggiesoffice@comcast.net) or 424-896-0182

## Strike and Ostriches Screening Coming to Novi

**TIME:** 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 24  
**LOCATION:** Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road  
**DETAILS:** A screening of the movie "Strike and Ostriches" followed by a silent auction. Tickets are \$10. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.  
**CONTACT:** [noviciviccenter@comcast.net](mailto:noviciviccenter@comcast.net) or 424-896-0182

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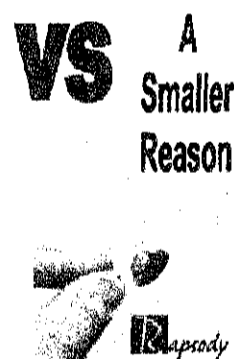
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# All-Area Tennis: CC's Snyder caps career with state title

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central teams had a pair of players competing for the All-Area Player of the Year honor.

No. 2 singles player Jack Snyder rose to the top by capturing a state title.

"He capped off a great senior season with a state title," CC head coach Joe Stafford said. "He was so dominant during the season, not losing a set."

His teammate, Joseph Dubé, could've easily been selected to the same honor, finishing runner-up at No. 1 singles, his only loss of the year.

Snyder brings a huge 6-5 frame to court. His biggest strength is a crushing serve, but the rest of his game isn't far behind.

"He serves over a 120 miles per hour," Stafford said. "He's an aggressive baseliner. He has a lot of power."

Snyder finished All-State all four years at CC.

## FIRST TEAM

Three schools dominated the Novi regional, with Novi, Northville and CC accounting for all the players in the regional finals.

They also head up the All-Area First Team honors.

In singles, Snyder's teammate Dubé made quite a case for the top honor. He went the undefeated through the season

and into the finals before losing 7-5, 6-2 to Aaron Pfister from Grand Blanc.

Dubé (29-1) was the state champ at No. 2 singles last year and is only a sophomore.

"He had such a solid season," Stafford said. "We knew he had the game to take it all the way."

"We finished second in the state. I attribute a lot of it to the best 1-2 punch that CC has ever had."

Novi's Mani Mahadavan played just about every top player from the area and still managed a 21-8 record as Novi's No. 1 singles player.

He has a Novi career record of 83-30 and was a four-time conference champion for the Wildcats.

"A 21-8 record is outstanding considering the strength of our schedule," Novi head coach Jim Hanson said.

Northville places a pair of players on the singles list in No. 1 Tim Wasieleski and No. 2 Melvin Joseph.

Wasieleski was 21-9 at No. 1. He was a KLAIA runner-up and regional finalist, losing to Dubé.

Tim has been one of top players since his freshman year, but this was his breakout season. Northville head coach Matt Nelson said, "He will be returning next year as one of the top players in the state."

Joseph brought home a KLAIA title at No. 2 singles

and finished runner-up at regionals to CC's Snyder. He ran up a 20-6 record.

"Melvin was a rock for us at #2 singles," Stetson said. "When we needed Melvin the most at conference and Regionals, he played his best tennis."

Novi lands a pair of doubles teams on the All-Area First Team.

The No. 1 tandem of Justin Paroq and Amey Solami combined to go 26-5. They captured a KLAIA and regional title before making a run to the state semifinals.

Both players averaged 25 wins a year during their three years with varsity.

The No. 2 team of Peter Zhang and Greg Richard teamed up for a 24-6 record and a run to the state quarterfinals.

"Greg and Peter represented the excellent depth that we had on this year's team," Hanson said.

The Northville No. 1 doubles team of Lee Schechter and Nick Kalweit receive First-Team honors.

They combined for a 16-7 record, a runner-up finish at regionals and a win at the state tournament.

"Lee and Nick were paired together a few weeks into the season and settled down the start," Stetson said.

Joseph brought home a KLAIA title at No. 2 singles



Central Catholic's Jack Snyder is the All-Area Tennis Player of the Year after winning the state title at No. 2 singles.

# Novi boys basketball stays perfect

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

The Novi boys ended the 2008 calendar year on a perfect 4-0 with a 50-42 win at Waterford Kettering last Thursday.

Chris Bellamy continued to lead the offense, scoring 15 points. He also filled out the stat sheet by grabbing six rebounds, snatching four steals and dishing out four assists.

Will Mikkelson reached double digits in scoring with 10.

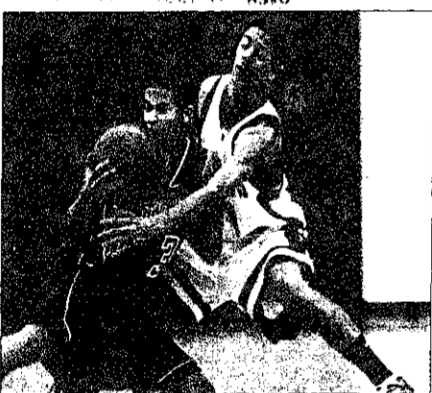
Sophomore Samer Ozeir contributed seven points and eight rebounds.

## NOVI HOCKEY

The Wildcats were unable to get past Davison in the first game of the Clarkson Invite, losing 3-7 Saturday.

They Perich scored the only goal of the first period in the final minute on the power play. Erik Aepelbacher picked up an assist.

Davison took the lead with two goals in the second and one in the third.



Wildcat Chris Bellamy, defending, led the Wildcats in scoring against Northern (35 points) and last Thursday against Kettering (15 points).

The Wildcats rebounded nicely with a 6-1 win against host Clarkson on Sunday.

Novi speciality units led the way, pouring in four power play goals.

"We came out hungry and had a total team effort," Novi head coach Todd Krygier said. "We played one of our most

complete games this season and the results followed."

"Clarkson has an excellent team. They took Cranbrook to two overtime games in their previous game, and then didn't play well against us, just like we played extremely well against Clarkston and didn't play well against Davison."

# Novi girls finish 2008 at 2-2

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

The Wildcats got back to even at 2-2 with a 47-39 win at home against Waterford Kettering last Thursday.

Chantel Hill led Novi with 14 points and five steals. Kelsey Masserant also had a big game with 12 points and eight rebounds. Jessica Cingel provided eight points and seven rebounds.

Novi led 30-18 at the half but entered the fourth quarter tied at 32. The Wildcats didn't panic and hit clutch free throws to pull out the victory.

"I'm very proud how the girls played in the fourth quarter after giving up a 12-point lead in the third," Novi head coach Bill Kelp said. "They could have folded because Kettering had the momentum, but we hung in there making our free throws."

"It's a good win going into Christmas, and hopefully it will build confidence for rest of season."

The Wildcats will be off until Jan. 6.

**WALLED LAKE NORTHERN 50, NOVI 40**

The Novi girls suffered a 50-40 loss against Wall Lake Northern on Dec. 16.

The Wildcats trailed 11-7 after one, 24-16 at the half and 40-30 after three. Masserant led the Cats with 10 points. Cingel was next with six.

Novi was without Caroline Johnson for both games. She is out with an injury.



Novi's Jessica Cingel, left, and Chantel Hill, right, try to get a rebound away from Wall Lake Western's Amanda Schwardt.

**NOVI JV WINS**

The Wildcats beat Wall Lake Northern 43-26, improving to 3-0.

Colleen Kolis led the team with 11 points and nine steals. Ally D'Annibale had nine points and Rachel Staudt scored eight. Shamita Kandru had six steals.

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# CC wrestlers impress at County Meet

BY JEFF THEISEN  
SPORTS WRITER

Wintery weather did its best to try and dampen the Oakland County meet, but the area wrestlers were going to have none of it.

The two-day meet turned into a one-day marathon Saturday at the Oxford and Troy host sites.

The Shamrocks put in an impressive effort, landing seven in the top four of their weights.

Alex Mooradian highlighted the meet with a win against last year's state champion Victor Vettese of Auburn Hills Avondale in the finals at 112 pounds for the title.

Trevor O'Connor finished runner-up at 153 pounds. Third-place finishes went to Todd Melick (103), Doug Eldridge (135) and Mike Kinville (189).

CC won a tri-meet Dec. 10, beating Canton 39-20 and John Glenn 58-18 before competing at the Kent County Tournament on Dec. 13.

Picking up wins against

Canton were Todd Melick (pin, 103), Mooradian (pin, 112), Nick Mason (4-0, 119), Justin Melick (11-0, 125), Charlie Joseph (15-4, 130), Eldridge (5-2, 135), Rolan Neal (11-2, 145), Kinville (pin, 189) and Andrew Johnson (5-4, 215).

Wins against John Glenn came from Todd Melick (13-0), Mooradian (void), Justin Melick (pin), Joseph (void), Eldridge (pin), Avery Hasenauer (pin, 140), Neal (pin), O'Connor (pin, 152), Kinville (pin) and Johnson (pin).

The Shamrocks wrestled to a second-place finish Dec. 13 at the Kent County Invite. CC champions included Todd Melick, Mooradian and O'Connor.

Eldridge placed third. Fourth-place finishers were Justin Melick, Joseph and Kinville.

**CC BASKETBALL** Catholic Central basketball started its season with a 62-48 victory against Redford

Please see CC, A20

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Cleveland at Pittsburgh

Jacksonville at Baltimore

St. Louis at Atlanta

Chicago at Houston

Denver at San Diego

Seattle at Arizona

Washington at San Francisco

## TENNIS

FROM PAGE A18

CC's Young Tae Kim and Brandon Kosinski played No. 1 doubles for state runner-up CC.

### SECOND TEAM

The Second Team All-Area would be First-Team material in just about any other part of the state. The quality of players on the team only shows the depth of great players from the area.

Novi's Ryan Bell, a No. 2 singles player, racked up an 18-11 record and finishes his Wildcats career with an 80-34 record.

Kondapi proved he was a force to be reckoned with at states, where he made a run all the way to the finals before finishing runner-up. He finished the year 23-10, won the KLAA title and finished regional runner-up.

Northville's Steve Irvine went 22-4 at No. 3 singles, won the KLAA title and regional title.

CC's Wilson was just another force in the Shamrock singles lineup. He made a run all the way to the state semifinals. Shamrock teammate Eric

### ALL-AREA TENNIS

Player of the Year

Jack Snyder, CC Junior

First Team

Tim Wasielewski Northville singles

Melvin Joseph Northville singles

Mani Mahadavan Novi singles

Joseph Dubé CC singles

Justin Farooq and Ameya Sohani, Novi doubles

Peter Zhang and Greg Richard, Novi doubles

Lee Schechter and Nick Katwe, Northville doubles

Young Tae Kim and Brandon Kosinski, CC doubles

Second Team

Ryan Bell, Novi singles

Goutham Kondapi, Novi singles

Steve Irvine, Northville singles

Willy Willson, CC singles

Eric Guindi, CC singles

Don Adriansen, Lakeland singles

Nick Petrucci, Robbie Guindi, CC doubles

Derek Turowski and Patrick Bowers, CC doubles

Peter Rustad and Conner Matterson, Lakeland doubles

Nikhil Devarakonda and Nathan Farooq, Novi doubles

Honorable Mention

Northville: Mike Hagan, Ian Jay, Mike Bucrek, Andrew Ginnard, Matt Satterfield;

South Lyon: Alex Whybra and Kyle Sitar

Lakeland: Alex Garrigo and Joshua Matusky

Novi: Carson Crandall, Derek Richard and Vishnu Venugopal

Catholic Central: Zach Wisniewski and Kevin Hodges

Guindi also reached the semifinals at No. 4 singles. He finished 25-5.

Lakeland's Adriansen was a steady rock at No. 1 singles. He finished the season 22-4.

The Shamrocks were loaded at singles, but showed they also had some depth in doubles.

Nick Petrucci and Robbie Guindi went 25-5 at No. 3

singles and made a run to the state semifinals.

The No. 4 combination of Patrick Bowers and Derek Turowski also made a run to the state semifinals. They fin-

ished with a 26-3 record.

Novi also had a doubles team in the state semifinals.

Nikhil Devarakonda and Nathan Farooq ripped off a 27-3 record along the way at No. 4 doubles.

### HONORABLE MENTION

The Honorable Mention list also has several state-tested players as well as top players from teams that did not make the state finals.

Receiving Honorable Mention are Northville's Mike Hagan, Ian Jay, Mike Bucrek, Andrew Ginnard, Matt Satterfield; South Lyon's Alex Whybra and Kyle Sitar; Lakeland's Alex Garrigo and Joshua Matusky; Novi's Carson Crandall, Derek Richard and Vishnu Venugopal; and Catholic Central's Zach Wisniewski and Kevin Hodges.

Milford did not nominate any athletes, and South Lyon East did not respond to requests for submissions.

## CC

FROM PAGE A19

Thurston on Dec. 9.

Steve Harding led the way with 17 points. Tim Dezelki scored 14, and Brett Smith added 11 for the Shamrocks.

The Shamrocks won every quarter, leading 13-12, 28-23 and 44-36 after the first three quarters.

### CC 65, REDFORD ACADEMY 46

The Shamrocks blew open a close game with a 22-7 edge in the second quarter, improving to 2-0.

Dezelki led CC with 14 points. Matt Doneth was next with 12, followed by Harding with nine and Brett Smith with eight.

Redford stayed within 14-12 after the first quarter, but trailed 36-19 by halftime. Redford pulled within 49-37 heading into the fourth, but

CC shut the door with a 16-9 final-quarter advantage.

### SWIMMING

The Shamrocks finished seventh at the Warrior Relays, hosted by Brother Rice at Waterford Kettering on Dec. 13.

CC's 800 free relay team of Joe Brinkman, Brady Small, Nick Baldus and Tony Thibodeau finished third in 7:44.43 to lead the Shamrocks.

CC won a double-dual meet Dec. 18 to finish off the 2008 portion of the schedule.

The Shamrocks knocked off Cranbrook and Country Day by identical 94-89 scores.

Highlights included Small winning the 100 free (50.63) and the 200 free (1:51.17). Brinkman with wins in the 200 IM (2:09.68) and the 500 free (5:07.81) and Derek Turowski in the 50 free (23.50).

The 200 free relay team of Small, Turowski, Thibodeau and Colin Bonathan won in 1:34.18.



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