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THURSDAY
March 5
2009

NOVI NEWS

online at hometownlife.com



It's playoff
time for
Wildcats
Sports, B1

Community Weeklies

Volume 53
Number 41

50 CENTS

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3/5/09

NOVI NUTSHELL

Ready to spring?

It's that time again, daylight-saving time. Remember the adage to spring forward. Before you go to bed on Saturday night, set your clocks ahead one hour. That means the morning will be a little darker when you go to work on Monday, but the skies will stay lighter an hour longer in the evening.



Seussical Jr.

Sixty actors, ages 7-15, will bring Dr. Seuss characters to life in the Novi Theatres production of "Seussical Jr." at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Performances are March 6, 7, 14 and 15. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children and seniors and are available online at www.cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Parks office.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society invites the Novi community to celebrate cancer survivorship, remember loved ones and fight back against cancer at this year's Relay For Life event. Residents will kick off the American Cancer Society's signature event 6 p.m. today at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. For more information about the kick-off event, contact Carmie Novak at (248) 663-3427 or carmelle.novak@ cancer.org.

Bowl-A-Thon

Novi Youth Assistance is hosting the 27th annual Bowl-A-Thon 1-4 p.m. Saturday. The goal is to raise \$25,000 to benefit the Novi community. The Bowl-A-Thon is held at Novi Bowl, 21700 Novi Road. For more information, contact the Novi Youth Assistance at (248) 347-0410.

Conferences

The Novi High School Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the high school, 24062 Taft Road. The conferences were originally scheduled for March 18. A letter is being sent home explaining the reason for the change.



Novi Woods fourth-grade student Taylor Kalemaj tries out an eyeglass mask and cane to see what it's like to be blind during a disabilities workshop last week.

Living with disabilities

District students participate in annual awareness day

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

Think if you were sitting in class trying to listen to your teacher, but all you could really think about is how to balance in your seat?

Parent volunteer Tim Matson asked Novi Woods students this question last week as they attempted balancing on a teeter-totter like device during the school's disability awareness learning day.

Groups of fourth-graders made their way

through stations representing what it would be like to be disabled in their daily lives.

Students tried buttoning a shirt while wearing gloves, walking with braces, maneuvering with wheelchairs and writing with a vibrating pen and pliers. All exercises simulated a specific physical disability.

"I was really struggling," said student Brent Mennerich after trying to move about in a wheelchair.

Please see **AWARENESS, A8**

Novi property owners dispute assessments next week

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

Assessment values may not be ideal for property owners in a declining housing market, but Novi City Assessor Glenn Lemmon doesn't anticipate an increase in appeals from last year, during next week's Board of Review hearings.

"As of the end of the day Friday, we had 107 appointments given out," he said. "I had right around 250 appointments (total) last year. We're hoping that we end up somewhere under that."

Property owners interested in appealing their assessed or taxable values have until 5 p.m. tomorrow to make an appointment to appear in front of the board, or until 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, to submit a written protest.

In order to make an appointment, property owners must complete a petition, which can be found at the City Assessor's office in the Novi Civic Center or by visiting www.cityofnovi.org.

The hearings are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, March 9; 1-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 10; and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.

"If we fill up all those appointments we will open up appointments for Thursday," Lemmon said. "We're trying to accommodate everybody that's trying to be heard."

The three-member board reviews property assessments set by the city assessor, and will determine whether to grant appeals to the property owners who choose to dispute them.

"I think the people we're getting are more sophisticated than five to 10 years ago," Lemmon said. "Most of the people who are coming in have done their homework."

Property owners may prove their assessment is incorrect by a bank or independent appraisal, or through an assessor's correction, which requires substantial evidence to prove the assessment includes inaccurate information, such as the square footage of the property.

In such a case, the assessor will go to the board on the person's behalf.

Lemmon said about 20 percent of the residential property owners who appealed last year via a hearing or letter received some relief.

If a property owner is still not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Review, he or she may take the appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.



Lemmon

kmurad@qanet.com | (248) 349-1700, Ext. 263

BOARD OF REVIEW HEARINGS

9 a.m. to noon and 2-6 p.m. Monday, March 9
1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 10
9 a.m. to noon and 2-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11
All hearings are by appointment only and will be held in council chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Appointments must be made by 5 p.m. Friday.

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Novi roads will reap the rewards of stimulus funding

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

A portion of Oakland County's \$26.6 million in federal stimulus funding will go to the City of Novi for three road projects, slated for completion in 2009.

The Oakland County Federal Aid Task Force Funding Committee granted the City of Novi \$1.8 million for restoration of Nine Mile Road, from Novi to Taft roads; Meadowbrook Road, from Eight Mile to Nine Mile roads; and Nine Mile Road, from Meadowbrook to Haggerty roads.

"These projects are just rehabilitation projects," said City

Engineer Rob Hayes, explaining they are not reconstruction projects. "Our goal is to start construction late summer, and complete them by late fall."

The projects were previously prioritized and scheduled to begin during the 2011-12 fiscal year.

"It was good we already had these projects scoped out," Hayes said.

Novi will also benefit from more than \$800,000 awarded to the Road Commission of Oakland County for the rehabilitation of Novi Road, from Interstate 96 to 12 Mile Road.

The City of Novi also received about \$850,000 in

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Brownies make a difference for petite Providence patients

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

The girls of Brownie troop 6754 made a Novi Providence Park Hospital emergency room visit a lot less scary for 8-year-old Caroline Kawada.

As part of a community service act, the Brownies made stuffed animals for donation to pediatric patients at the hospital, and Kawada was the first to receive one last Tuesday night.

"It makes a world of difference for those kids to get that little token," pediatric nurse Danielle Donaldson said. "It's not everybody that gets one, but those patients who do, there's a smile from ear to ear."

Even through the tears of a knee injury suffered at dance class, Kawada, who happens to be a former member of the

troop, smiled at the sight of the white furry pet, generously donated by her friends.

"When you girls go home, you get to know you made a difference in someone's life," Donaldson said. "That's pretty cool when you're 8."

The girls made the stuffed pets and played with live animals at Family of Pets, in Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, last month.

"We try to think of things they can do for the community," said Jackie Pringle, whose daughters Alexandra and Emily Pringle are members of the troop. "They paid for the animals with the money they raised from last year's cookies."

Other Brownies in attendance were Kady Simsick, Arianna Carballo, Morgan

Lemieux, Alexis Johnson, Lily Cusick, Jaclyn Kempisty and Kacy Shaheen.

Along with their act of kindness, emergency room director Jeff Brown believes having the girls present in the emergency room and pediatric unit makes the concept of a hospital less intimidating for everyone involved.

"There's just something about little kids, they make everyone smile," he said.

The girls also received a first-hand look at patient rooms, X-ray machines and instruments used to acquire patients' blood pressure, heart rate and pulse.

"I was a Brownie, then I went to college and became a nurse, so I think this is a good start," Providence Park nurse Rochelle Igrisan said.



The girls of Brownie Troop 6754 make a Novi Providence Park Hospital emergency room visit less scary for 8-year-old Caroline Kawada. As part of a community service act, the Brownies made stuffed animals for donation to pediatric patients at the hospital. Brownies at the hospital last Tuesday included Kady Simsick, Alexandra Pringle, Emily Pringle, Arianna Carballo, Morgan Lemieux, Alexis Johnson, Lily Cusick, Jaclyn Kempisty and Kacy Shaheen.

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Experience Japan

The Japan Foundation has chosen Novi as the only Michigan stop for its world touring exhibit, The Spirit of Bushi: The History of Japan's Martial Arts. The exhibit will be available for public viewing 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, until March 13 in the atrium of the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

A partnership between the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, the City of Novi, Novi Public Library, Novi Community Schools, Novi Chamber of Commerce, Suzuki Myers & Associates and Arts Novi has created a number of opportunities for community members to learn and take part in the Japanese culture while the exhibit is in town.

■ 6-7 p.m. Monday, March 9
Event: Kendo & Judo Demonstration - Experience Kendo and Judo with local practitioners.

To learn more about the martial arts visit detroitendotoyo.com and michiganjudo.org.

Location: Novi Civic Center
■ 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11
Event: Manga/Anime - Meet Mark Crilley, manga creator and author, and see him demonstrate his drawing techniques, and tell stories of his many visits to Japan. Ages 8 and older welcome.

Location: Novi Civic Center
■ Japan Photo Display
Event: Photos from School Superintendent Peter Dion's trip to Japan in 2006 will be on display throughout February and March. Origami created by Novi Meadows students will also be on display.

Location: Novi Public Library.
For more information regarding the activities and events, visit www.cityofnovi.org.

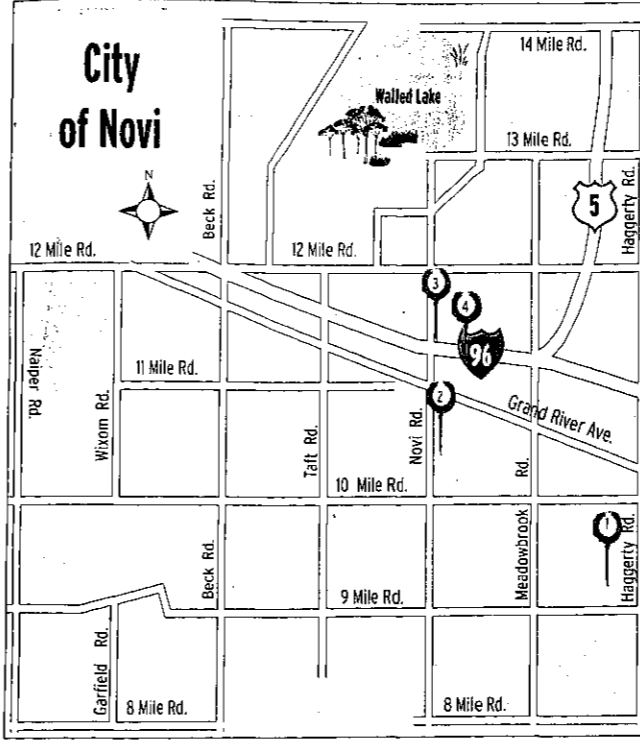
PUBLIC SAFETY

Investigation of Novi school bus shootings continues

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER



Ashley Beane Alex Schmidt



The ongoing investigation continues into the Jan. 8 school bus BB shootings in Novi.

Novi resident Alexander Jay Schmidt, 21, and 17-year-old Ashley Beane of South Lyon were scheduled to appear in front of Judge Brian MacKenzie of the 62-1 District Court yesterday.

But Jeff Beane, of South Lyon, believes his daughter is innocent and said she was not involved.

"I'm just trying to help Ashley get back to school and face the world," he said.

According to Jeff, the principal of South Lyon High School verified Ashley was in her sixth-hour class, and the parking lot monitor said she did not leave early from the school, which is located at 11 Mile Road and Lafayette.

charges of malicious destruction of property, which is a felony carrying a penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Novi Police Chief David Molloy said it is possible charges will be amended, but it is believed the South Lyon female was involved in both incidents. Ashley has no previous criminal record.

Schmidt is currently on probation in Wayne County for intent to deliver marijuana. His criminal record also includes convictions for identity theft in Novi in 2006, and breaking and entering in Garden City in 2004.

If anyone has information regarding the incident, contact Detective Mike Wilson at the Novi Police Department at (248) 348-7100.

kmurad@hometownlife.com
(248) 348-1100, Ext. 263

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Missing chrome wheels and tires
Four chrome wheels and Michelin tires are suspected stolen from a black Lincoln Zephyr between 7 p.m. Feb. 20 and 6:30 a.m. Feb. 21, reports said.

The vehicle was parked in front of the victim's Pavilion Court apartment on Fireside Court, near Nine Mile and Haggerty roads.

The unknown suspect(s) placed the Lincoln on two patio blocks and left the lug nuts on the ground, police said.

According to reports, it is unknown if there was damage to the vehicle's undercarriage during the incident.

Police nab two brothers
The driver of a silver Chevy Trailblazer was arrested for operating while intoxicated, just before 2 a.m. Feb. 24, while his brother, who was the passenger, had an outstanding warrant in Livingston County for child neglect.

An officer observed the vehicle cross the double yellow line and weave within its lane while heading south on Novi Road from Main Street, reports said. A traffic stop was initiated in the parking lot of the Speedway gas station at 10 Mile and Novi roads.

The officer smelled an odor of intoxicants and the driver said he drank two beers at home, then went to pick up his brother from the bar. A preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol concentration of .14 percent.

According to reports, the brother's arrest warrant was for evil child neglect, and he was also arrested.

Drunk driving arrest
The driver of a beige Toyota Corolla was arrested for operating while intoxicated just after 2 a.m. Feb. 21, reports said.

An officer observed the vehicle change lanes abruptly without using a turn signal on northbound Novi Road, near Interstate 96. While following the vehicle, the officer noticed the suspect was driving on the fog line and initiated a traffic stop in the Haggerty carpet parking lot, on 12 Mile Road east of Novi Road.

The officer smelled an odor of intoxicants coming from the driver, who admitted to having three beers, the last of which was finished 30 minutes prior, reports said.

A preliminary breath test registered the driver's blood alcohol concentration at .16 percent.

Vehicle damaged in T.G.I. Friday's lot
A vehicle parked in the lot of T.G.I. Friday's on Town Center Drive, near Novi Road and Interstate 96 was damaged between 11 p.m. Feb. 21 and 9 a.m. Feb. 22, reports said.

An unknown suspect punched the lock of the passenger door, but nothing was missing from the vehicle, police said.

According to reports, the estimated damage is \$500.

Cheer for the hometown, read today's SPORTS section

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NEIGHBORS

Novi resident represents Indian community as Michigan Democratic Party treasurer

BY KELLY MURAD
STAFF WRITER

The office walls in Ramesh Verma's Novi home are covered with pictures of Democratic leaders inspiring the Indian native's political career.

"The Democratic Party is very accepting of diversity, and they encourage you to get involved," said Verma, 71.

The retired Novi resident is actively involved in politics, and was recently elected treasurer of the Michigan Democratic Party.

"He's the first person of Indian descent to hold a state-level officer position with the Democratic Party in Michigan," said Michigan Democratic Party chairman Mark Brewer. "It's a goal for us to be broadly represented by the entire population of Michigan."

As treasurer, Verma will be responsible for the party's campaign finance reports and fundraising efforts.

"I'm so honored that I've been asked to be the treasurer for Mark Brewer," he said. "I feel like I will be doing something for my community."

Verma said his interest in politics began before coming to the United States in 1972.

"Even in India I liked politics, but because I was in the Army I couldn't get involved in it," said the former Indian Army Captain in the Corps of Engineers.

"When I retired 12 years ago, then I fully got involved with the Michigan Democratic Party."

Verma said one main difference in U.S. politics is the public has more contact with politicians than they do in India.



PHOTO BY JONAH REJER/NOVI NEWS

Novi resident Ramesh Verma was recently elected Michigan Democratic Party treasurer. Verma stands in his Novi home office with photographs of a few Democrats who have inspired his political career, including Hillary Clinton and Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

"Here I find the politicians are very approachable. There's so much openness," he said. "There (in India), it's not that easy. Security is so tight. It's very, very different."

Verma has served on the Oakland County Democratic

Party executive board, as chairman of the Michigan Indo-American Democratic Caucus and worked with different Asian-Pacific communities campaigning for various democratic candidates.

"He's demonstrated leader-

ship over the years," Brewer said. "We're very pleased he's joined the leadership team, and I'm looking forward to working with him."

Verma also serves as vice president of the Novi Library Board.



PHOTO BY JONAH REJER/NOVI NEWS

Smooth Moves!

Ed and Shirley Handley, right, and others, take part in a line dance during the regular fourth Tuesday of the month dance at the Novi Senior Center. The dance takes place at the Meadowbrook Commons senior center and begins at 1 p.m.

Cheer for the hometown read today's SPORTS section



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PHOTO BY JONAH REJER/NOVI NEWS

NOVI BIRTH
Khloe Delores Duneske and her 4-year-old sister, Kayla, and grandparents, Tony and Gail Kolman of Commerce and John and Donna Duneske of Novi. Her great-grandparents are Floyd and Delores Duneske of Dearborn.

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Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
101 Lafayette
South Lyon, Michigan 48178
Periodical
At South Lyon, Michigan
Subscription Rates:
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Publication Number USPS 396290

CITY OF NOVI NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF REVIEW
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review shall convene in its first session at 9:00 a.m. EST, Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 in the Novi Assessing Department at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment roll.
Notice is further given that the second session of the Board of Review will meet for the purpose of hearing and considering assessment appeals in the Novi City Council Chambers at 45175 W. Ten Mile Road on March 9, 10 & 11, 2009. All appearances before the Board will be by appointment only. If you or your representative want to appear in person, the appointment must be made on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 6, 2009. Appearances before the Board of Review are limited to five (5) minutes or less. Petitions are available at the Assessor's Office or at www.cityofnovi.org. NO APPOINTMENTS WILL BE GIVEN UNTIL A PETITION IS RECEIVED BY THE ASSESSING DEPARTMENT.
Letters of protest will be accepted on or before 5:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Postmarks will not be considered. When submitting a letter of protest for the Board of Review consideration, you must attach a completed petition along with any supporting information.
All agents protesting values on property other than their own, MUST HAVE written authorization from each property owner they are representing.
Persons on fixed or limited income may be eligible for a reduction in property taxes due to poverty. Applications are available at the Assessing Department, or at www.cityofnovi.org.
BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULE
Monday, March 9, 2009 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10, 2009 - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11, 2009 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Any questions should be directed to the Assessing Department at (248) 347-0485.
MARIANNE CORNELIUS
CITY CLERK
Publish: February 12, 19, 26 and March 5, 2009

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NOVI BRIEFLY

Red Wings vs. Novi PD

Novi Police Officers will face off against Red Wing Alumni 8 p.m. Thursday, March 12. The annual hockey game will be played at the Novi Ice Arena, 42400 Arena Drive, off Novi Road just south of 10 Mile Road. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance.

are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children and seniors, and are available online at www.cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Parks office in the Civic Center. For more information, call the parks office at (248) 347-0700.

Board of Review hearings

The 2009 Board of Review hearings will be held 9 a.m.-noon and 2-6 p.m. March 9; 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. March 10; and 9 a.m.-noon and 2-6 p.m. March 11, in council chambers at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. All appearances before the Board of Review will be by appointment only. If you or a representative wish to appear, a completed petition must be turned in, and an appointment must be made by 5 p.m. Friday, March 6. Blank petition forms are available upon request at the City Assessor's Office or by visiting www.cityofnovi.org.

Relay for Life kick-off

The American Cancer Society invites the Novi community to celebrate cancer survivorship, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer at this year's Relay For Life event. Residents will kick off the American Cancer Society's signature event 6 p.m. March 5 at the Novi Civic Center, located at 45175 W. 10 Mile Road.

The Relay For Life of Novi will take place June 6-7 at Novi Middle School, but now is the time to get involved and learn how to become part of the overnight event that can lead to a cure for cancer.

Donations can be made to the local Relay For Life event by visiting www.relayforlife.org/novimi. Community members can also start or join a team by following the links to the local event at www.relayforlife.org.

For more information about the kick-off event, contact Carmie Novak at (248) 363-3427 or carmelle.novak@ cancer.org.

Anyone not wishing to appear before the Board of Review may submit a written appeal for the Board of Review's consideration, at which the formal petition, along with any supporting information.

Novi Theatres presents Seussical Jr.

Sixty actors, ages 7-15, will bring Dr. Seuss characters to life, in the Novi Theatres production of Seussical Jr. March 6-15 at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 14; and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 15. Tickets

Novi Youth Assistance Bowl-A-Thon

Novi Youth Assistance is hosting the 27th annual Bowl-A-Thon 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7. The goal is to raise \$25,000 to benefit the Novi community.

The Bowl-A-Thon is held at Novi Bowl, 27700 Novi Road, just north of High Mile Road. Free bowling, pizza, refreshments and prizes will be provided. Anyone interested can form a team, sponsor a bowler, or sponsor a lane for \$100. For more information or pledge sheets contact the Novi Youth Assistance at (248) 347-0410.



PHOTO BY JONAH REJER/NOVI NEWS



Terrific Tourney!

The weather may have been snowy and cold, but that did not stop kids from coming to the Novi Library on Saturday, Feb. 21 to take part in a Mario Kart video game tournament. The library had 30 kids who participated in the tournament hosted by the Novi Public Library's Youth Department under the direction of youth librarian Suzanne Carpenter. (At left) The winners of the Mario Kart video game tournament, Alex Fouch, left, and Sarah Erno, runner up, pose with their trophies. Gaming in libraries has become the newest craze for kids to take part in and the Novi Public Library is the destination place for great gaming fun.

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25875 Novi Rd. • Novi, MI 48375
(We are located on the Southwest corner of Grand River & Novi Rd. next to Panera Bread.)

AWARENESS
FROM PAGE A1

Disabilities simulated included vision, speech and hearing impairment along with gross motor impairments. "It was hard to keep on the stool," said student Joyce Cucksey, after her turn at Matson's balance station. The exercise was created to demonstrate what it would be like to have an inner-ear deficiency. "I learned if you don't have mechanisms in your ear, it would be hard to do activities. You would spill breakfast all over yourself." When asked if she would view those with disabilities differently now, Cucksey said, "No. They are just like me and you. They are just people." The awareness event is hosted at Novi district schools each year by parent volunteers.

"Teachers allocate their time as well," said parent Melissa Matson. Matson was one of the parents involved with bringing the awareness day to Novi Woods. Other parent organizers included Karen Katinas and Natasha Goodman. "It's really an excellent program," Katinas said. "The kids really enjoy it." The materials are provided through Oakland Schools. The event was preceded by a visit from paraplegic and group speaker Tom Houtlin from the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living. The students also received a visit from Pat Boyd, Margaret Fee and many furry friends representing Eyes Against Darkness, a group that socializes canines for Leader Dogs for the Blind. "I think it is a great opportunity for the kids to learn about all people and have understanding and compassion," Matson said.



Bagel Buddies
Matthew Bednarski enjoys a bagel with his dad, John Bednarski, at Orchard Hills Elementary School's Bagel with a Buddy event.

ROADS
FROM PAGE A1

normal federal funding, which is allocated every year, for two projects slated for 2013. "For 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, there were already projects in the pipeline," said Hayes, noting the funds could be available sooner since the stimulus program moved other projects forward. The two projects include Meadowbrook Road, from 10 Mile to Cherry Hill roads, and Nine Mile, from Beck to

Fall roads. The county was also awarded funding for the rehabilitation of Grand River Avenue from Novi to Haggerty roads in 2013. The city submitted a list of about \$5 million worth of road projects to the county to be considered for funding, following President Barack Obama's signing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a nationwide effort to jump-start the economy. The \$787 billion stimulus plan includes job creation, tax cuts, economic investments and public spending on infrastructure, among other efforts.



Rich Carrell with son, Sean Carrell, and Steve Davis with his son, Jonny Davis, at the Orchard Hills Bagels with a Buddy event held three mornings during the week of Feb. 9.



Students and parents at Orchard Hills Elementary School's annual Bagel with a Buddy Event. Students had the opportunity to enjoy breakfast with their dad, grandpa, uncle or other significant male in their life. Of course, if mom or grandma was their buddy of choice, they were welcomed as well.

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Novi/Northville

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Jeffrey Placzek, M.D. Phone (248) 596-0412 Fax (248) 596-0418

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From left: Roz Leiser, owner/Audiologist; Joan and Kim, Front Desk/Hearing Aid Technicians

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NOVI SENIORS

Novi Senior Activities Center
 LOCATION: Located in the Meadowbrook Commons Senior Complex, 25075 Meadowbrook Road.
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0414
 Massage by appointment: 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday
 Thursday
 9:15 a.m.: Line Dance
 9:30 a.m.: Hearing exams by appointment
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Income taxes by appointment
 Noon: Lunch
 12:15 p.m. Contract Bridge
 Friday
 9 a.m.: Stretch & Strength
 10 a.m.: Body Recall
 Noon: Lunch
 12:30 p.m.: DuPont Bridge
 Monday
 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
 10 a.m.: Body Recall
 Noon: Lunch
 12:30 p.m.: Pinochle
 6-7 p.m.: Filates Mat Work
 6-7 p.m.: Yoga
 Tuesday
 8:30 a.m.: Panera Bread
 9-11 a.m.: Line Dance
 Noon: Lunch
 1 p.m.: Bingo
 Wednesday
 9 a.m.: Stretch and Strength
 10 a.m.: Body Recall
 11 a.m.: TDPS: Blood Pressure
 Noon: Lunch
 1:30 p.m.: Humana Presentation
 6-7 p.m.: Dancing with the Stars

CONTACT: (248) 735-1500 or e-mail waltinwood@wevecas@sigmail.com

Open House
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily
 DETAILS: Join us for tours and refreshments.
Fox Run
 LOCATION: 41000 W. 13 Mile Road
 DETAILS: More than 800 people live at Fox Run in Novi, an Erickson full-service retirement community that combines a vibrant maintenance-free, active lifestyle with an ever-expanding host of amenities, social activities and wellness and medical centers.
 CONTACT: Please call (248) 926-5200 for additional information on the community's apartment homes. For general information, call (248) 668-8600.

SCHOOL & GOVERNMENT

Novi City Council Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. first and third Monday of month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0470
Novi Youth Assistance General Citizens Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 6 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 347-0410

Novi Community Education
 CONTACT: To register, call (248) 449-1206 or visit nrc.k12.mi.us/district/communityeducation

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Novi Chamber of Commerce
 LOCATION: 41875 11 Mile Rd., #201.

Novi

CONTACT: For more information, call (248) 349-3743 or www.novi-chamber.com
Novi Chamber of Commerce
 CONTACT: (248) 349-3743 or www.novi-chamber.com
 Pistons Game with members of the Men's Round Table
 TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 9.
 DETAILS: Join members of the Men's Round Table in a suite. \$85 per person includes refreshments, but not dinner.
CONTACT: J.R. Atyeh for tickets and car pooling information, (248) 380-6669
Business to Business Breakfast and New Member Reception
 TIME/DATE: 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, March 11
 LOCATION: Network Source One, 39625 Lewis Dr., Novi
 DETAILS: Networking and refreshments. \$5 payable at door.
Business to Business Breakfast
 TIME/DATE: 8-9 a.m. Tuesday, March 17
 LOCATION: Modern Floors, 4145 N. Pontiac Trail, Walled Lake
 DETAILS: Network with local business professionals on this celebratory holiday. \$5 payable at door.
Job Fair
 TIME/DATE: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25
 LOCATION: Novi Civic Center
 DETAILS: Hosted by The Relational Church. Call (248) 767-8626 for more information.

SWOCO Studio Tours

CONTACT: Commander Dennis Strickland (248) 378-7841, dstrick@novi.net or Service Officer Paul Erickson (248) 344-7193, paerick@aol.com
 LOCATION: 33300 Nine Mile Road, Farmington.
 DETAILS: Come in for an up-close look at the Southeast Oakland Cable Commission Studio's local, regional and national artists.
CONTACT: Melissa Cohn (248) 473-2840
Gardeners of Northville and Novi Monthly Meeting
 Gardeners of Northville & Novi Social Time & Garden Lecture on Pruning Plants.
 TIME/DATE: 6:30 p.m. second Monday of month, Sept.-May
 LOCATION: Northville Art House at 215 W. Lady Street, Northville
 DETAILS: Visitors welcome.
CONTACT: Contact: Marla (248)349-2352 or visit gardeners-northville-novi.org

Line Dancing

DATE: Mondays and Fridays
TIME: 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginners; 7:30-9:30 p.m. intermediate
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: No partner needed; pay-as-you-go. Novi residents \$5, non-residents \$6.

Novi Toastmasters

TIME/DATE: 7-8:45 p.m. first and third Tuesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center Activities Room, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills; voice your opinion; polish your presentations and practice leadership.
CONTACT: Amy (248) 752-2800

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place.com for more information.

Great Lakes Art Fair
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, April 17, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19.
 DETAILS: The Great Lakes Art Fair replaces the successful touring Sugarloaf Art Fair, which has visited the area bi-annually for the past 10 years. The Great Lakes Art Fair will combine exclusive and desirable works from local, regional and national artists.

2009-11 Economic Forecast for Oakland County at 24th Annual Economic Luncheon

TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., April 30
DETAILS: Top economists from the University of Michigan will present their report on the economic future of Oakland County at the 24th Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon on April 30. The 2009-2011 Employment Forecast for Oakland County, a joint venture of the Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services (PEDS) and the Institute for Research on Labor, Employment and the Economy at the University of Michigan, will be presented at the luncheon. Hosts for the luncheon are Chase, Oakland Community College and Oakland County. The cost is \$40 per person. Online registration begins March 16.
CONTACT: Call (248) 858-8706 for information.

HEALTH

St. John Providence Hospital
 LOCATION: 47601 Grand River Ave., corner of Beck Road, use Beck Road entrance.
CONTACT: (248) 465-5455 or e-mail James.Tester@stjohn.org
Colored Pencil Workshop
 TIME/DATE: 1-3 p.m. second Tuesday of every month
DETAILS: Beginners welcome.
Ceramics Class
 TIME/DATE: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Thursday
DETAILS: Explore the Art of playing with clay. Express yourself in this

three-dimensional art form.

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
 March 12, 2009
 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Novi Civic Center
 Conference Room B
M-5 NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL BETWEEN 13 AND 14 MILE ROADS WITHIN THE CITY OF NOVI
 Notice is hereby given that a public open house will be held by the Michigan Department of Transportation on Thursday, March 12, 2009, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375. The public Open House is being held to receive comments on the proposed construction of a 10-foot wide non-motorized trail from 13 Mile to 14 Mile Roads on the west side of M-5. MDT is currently completing design of the trail segment and would like to solicit public input prior to finalizing design. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2010.
 At the Open House, members of the design team will have preliminary design plans/maps and be available to discuss the project and gather comment.
 Publish: March 5, 2009

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March 5th - 6th

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THURSDAY
March 5
2009SECTION B
(NN)Jeff Theisen, editor (248) 349-1700
Ext. 228 jtheisen@qanet.comLOCAL
SPORTS

online at hometownlife.com

Novi finishes
season strong
Page B3Wildcats
set to begin
postseasonNovi faces Salem on
Monday at homeBY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

It's playoff time, and the Wildcats can't complain about where they will play their district tournament... at home. The Wildcats begin 7 p.m. Monday against Salem, a divisional opponent Novi swept this year.

While head coach Cory Heitsch is excited to get things going, his goal is fixed down the road.

"Obviously we would like to finish the job this year, and that has been the mindset of this group all season," he said. "We have a very tough draw by being on the same half of the bracket as Salem and Canton.

"It should be a good tournament with several quality teams."



Wildcat Samer Ozeir goes in for a layup.

Canton did receive a bye and awaits the winner of Novi and Salem for a 7 p.m. March 11 game.

It's no secret who makes the Wildcats run. Chris Bellamy averages 23 points a game, leads in rebounds with seven and in steals with a little more than two a game.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

Novi's Brandon Bryant, left, and Brad Kotlyo team up to pressure a South Lyon Lion.

While Bellamy needs to have a good run to keep the Wildcats alive, it takes more than one person to keep the ship afloat.

Brandon Bryant is next with nine points a game, and sophomore center Samer Ozeir averages six as an inside-outside threat. Ozeir also averages 5.2 rebounds. Nick Brockman leads

the team with 4.5 assists.

"I think we are one of the rare teams that is continuing to improve even this late in the year," Heitsch said "we are starting to get much better production from some underclassmen like Jeremy Mims (teams' top defender) and Samer Ozeir. That just makes us that much

deeper and offensively potent."

The finals are set for 7 p.m. Friday. On the other side of the bracket is Catholic Central. The Shamrocks won last year's district against the Wildcats last year.

Check www.hometownlife.com for results after each round.

GAME
WRAPSNOVI FRESHMEN FINISH
UNDEFEATED

The Novi girls freshman team finished the season a perfect 20-0 with wins against Plymouth and Milford.

In the 35-24 win against Plymouth, Taylor Scott had seven points and six rebounds to help on both ends of the floor. Natalie Kosma and Emily Bielski each helped lead the defense.

The perfect journey was capped by a 44-12 win against Milford.

The game was close in the first half with the Wildcats holding an 18-10 lead. Novi went on a 26-2 run to blow the game wide open.

"As was the case all season, Novi was led by a balanced attack," Novi head coach Corey Markos said. "Each girl made significant contributions towards the team's success."

"The team played aggressive and together, and their commitment to the program was evident each time the team took the floor."

POSTSEASON RUN ENDS
FOR NOVI WRESTLER
CALDWELL

Novi wrestler Clayton Caldwell was eliminated from the regional tournament with two losses.

Caldwell lost by fall to Belleville's Tommy Kozak in the opening round at 130 pounds.

Lincoln Park's Jason Vanvasshenova beat Caldwell by technical fall in the next match to end Caldwell's postseason run. He finishes 22-15.

NOVI JV GIRLS
BASKETBALL

The Wildcats finished the season with a split in the final week.

Novi started with a 35-18 victory against Plymouth.

Ally D'Annibale led the charge with 10 points and eight rebounds. Alyssa Mills added eight points, and Megan Henry provided four points and five steals.

On Friday, the Wildcats came up short in a 40-32 loss to Milford.

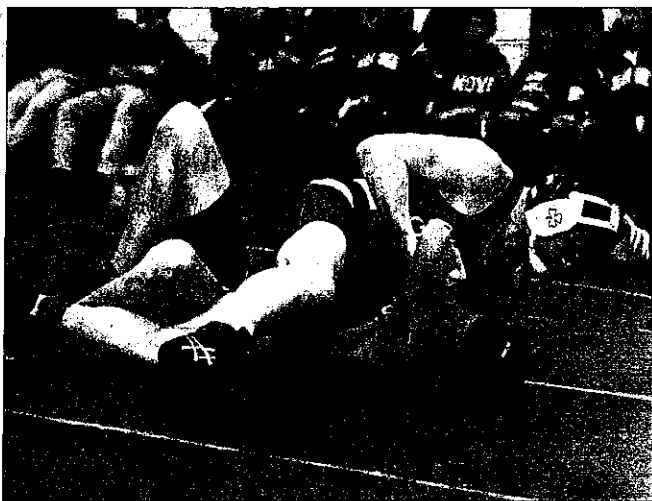
Rachel Staudt led Novi with seven points. D'Annibale scored six points and snagged 11 rebounds.

CC STARTS BASKETBALL
DISTRICTS MONDAY

Fresh off a run to the CHSL basketball A-B finals, the Shamrocks begin postseason play Monday.

CC will face Plymouth 5 p.m. at Novi. The winner faces Northville, which received a bye, 5 p.m. Wednesday, also at Novi.

The finals are 7 p.m. March 13 at Novi. Check www.hometownlife.com for all local basketball results.



CC's Alec Mooradian puts the finishing touches on a pin against his Grosse Pointe North opponent at the team regionals. He improved to 43-0 this weekend with an individual regional title at 112 pounds.

Shamrock wrestlers
well represented
at state finalsBY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

It was a very successful week for the Catholic Central wrestling team.

On Feb. 25, the Shamrocks rolled through team regionals and punched a ticket to the team state finals this weekend in Battle Creek.

The night started with a 43-19 win against Livonia Churchill. The win put the Shamrocks in the regional finals, where it was no contest.

CC won all but two matches for a 63-9 whipping of Grosse

Pointe North to capture the regional title.

The team state finals begin Friday at the Kellogg Center. Division begins at 3:15 p.m. with fourth-seeded Catholic Central (15-4) taking on Lake Orion (31-7).

Individual regionals

The Shamrocks took nine wrestlers to the Woodhaven regional and will enter the state meet with seven of those.

Alec Mooradian claimed the lone title at 112 pounds. He won the final 13-3 against

Please see **WRESTLING, B3**Novi swimmers sixth at
KLAA Conference meet

STORY SUBMITTED

The Novi High School boys swim and dive team placed sixth in the KLAA Kensington Conference Championship Finals at Novi on Saturday.

The qualifying preliminaries were held at

South Lyon East High School on Feb. 26.

The 200 medley relay team of senior Alex Zabinski, sophomore Joon Chung, senior Tyler Vincent and sophomore Wes Smith swam to a third-place finish (1:41.53).

Please see **SWIMMING, B3**

Wildcat Joon Chung swims in the KLAA divisional meet.

PHOTO BY JOHN HEIDER/NOVI NEWS

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Shamrocks go ice cold in fourth

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

Catholic Central went in a shooting slump to start the fourth quarter, and Warren DeLaSalle took full advantage for a 51-44 win Sunday at Calihan Hall to claim the CHSL A-B Championship.

The Shamrocks entered the fourth quarter tied at 33, but the Pilots started with a 5-0 run.

Steve Harding hit a three to pull within 38-36, but CC came up empty on the next five possessions. The Pilots ripped off seven straight to pull ahead and put it away at the line. The Pilots' Alex Marcotullo hit six freebies in a row to end the game.

"We didn't make plays in the fourth quarter," CC head coach Bill Dyer said. "I really thought when it was tied at the end of the third and the game was a little bit slower, that it was kind of in our favor."

"We only had three points for a long time in the fourth quarter."

DeLaSalle started the game with a 5-0 run, only to be tied at 11 late in the quarter. An old-fashioned three-point play left the Pilots up 14-11 at the end of one.

The Shamrock defense took over in the second, and CC managed a 23-22 halftime lead.

The Pilots (14-5) went inside early to big 6-10 center Kevin McCarthy and started the second half with a 6-0 run.

But CC (14-5) would battle back to force a 33-all tie heading into the final quarter.

The Shamrocks connected on just one of their first nine shots, and the hole became too deep to dig out of.

Harding was the lone Shamrock to score consistently throughout the game. He racked up a game-high 17 points.



Submitted by Dennis Barnes

CC guard Chris Barnes flies through the lane during Sunday's CHSL A-B championship against DeLaSalle.

Tim Dezeliski was next with eight, but he was shut out in the second half.

But Dezeliski's workload consisted mostly of trying to keep the big Pilot center from having his way inside.

"Timmy has done an incredible job of defending the paint for us every Tuesday and Friday," Dyer said. "God love him. We're going to have to find somebody to replace him next year."

McCarthy and Marcotullo led the Pilots with 23 points each. Inside bruiser Ben Hayes finished with 11 points.

"Despite playing each other for the third time this year, Dyer was surprised by anything in the tight contest. "Nothing. They're just tough to play against," he said. "It was tough. That's the way both the games (previous) have been."

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The hockey hernia

GUEST COLUMN

In the past decade, many athletes have been unpleasantly introduced to a phenomenon known as the sports hernia. Among sports physicians it is known as "athletic pubalgia" whereas among athletes it is more frequently referred to as the "hockey hernia" due to its predilection for hockey players and, to a slightly lesser extent, soccer players. It is the reason the Red Wings have been without Tomas Holmstrom for parts of the last two seasons but it was the injury to Downon McComb which is responsible for this injury's notoriety.

Sports hernias are far different to the standard hernia with which most of us are loosely familiar. The standard hernia refers to a weakness or defect in the abdominal wall which can cause painful protrusion of abdominal contents and is usually repaired with a mesh patch. An athlete's hernia occurs when the abdominal muscle actually tears off its attachment to the front of the pelvis. While sports requiring sprinting, cutting and kicking can stress this area of the body, hockey takes it to an entirely different level due to the already high demand balancing on skates places on the athlete's core muscles.

In general, a hockey hernia is not painful with normal activities but can be quite painful with explosive movements involving the torso in certain sports. In today's era of emphasis on physical conditioning involving the "core," a sports hernia is to the core what a cardiac arrest is to the heart.

Onset of a sports hernia can occur suddenly but it can also happen with overuse with which a specific incident or injury cannot be identified. Athletes with this condition will feel abdominal or groin pain with sudden, explosive movements such as kicking, sprinting, skating or even sneezing. It is often misinterpreted as "just a strain" but nonetheless, the

initial treatment is similar to that of a strain so even when missed, a delay in the diagnosis typically does not mean any lost time. Rest, ice and core strengthening exercises are used in the early treatment of this problem. One of the prominent features of a sports hernia is its persistence and lack of response to prolonged rest. In fact, many athletes with a sports hernia will rest in the offseason and feel much better until they start back to vigorous play and then the symptoms often immediately return. This is typical of a sports hernia but atypical of a simple strain which responds well to a period of rest.

Elite athletes in the more demanding sports often fail to improve sufficiently without repair of the sports hernia. This involves surgical reattachment of the torn muscle back to the pelvic bone with strong stitches and occasionally an artificial mesh support. Fortunately the success of this operation is high but the length of recovery is variable and depends heavily on the severity of the tear. Unfortunately, many insurance carriers still consider the surgery to be experimental and recommend its use be limited to elite (according to their definition, professional) athletes whom they, ironically enough, do not cover. Until their position changes, the best treatment we "non-elite" athletes can get is prevention by maintaining strong core muscles and proper stretching before playing.

Dr. Sean Bak is a Novi resident and an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in shoulder reconstruction and sports medicine. Dr. Bak takes care of the athletes of several area universities and high schools. His practice, Porretta Center for Orthopedic Surgery, is located at the Novi Orthopaedic Center on the campus of Providence Park Hospital.



John Heider/Novi News

Wildcat Kelsey Masserant puts up a shot against Livonia Stevenson on Feb. 17.

Novi finishes regular season on high note

BY JEFF THEISEN
SPORTS WRITER

It took a little while for Novi to get its offense going Friday, but things worked out well for the Wildcats after the first quarter in a 4-3-36 win against Milford.

Things went a little easier for Novi earlier in the week with a 43-30 victory against Plymouth.

quarter, but it would be the only one they would win. The Wildcats cut the lead to 18-17 by halftime and went on to take a 28-24 lead into the third before coming away with the win.

Alysa Arniak led the Wildcats with 10 points. Caroline Johnson went 7-for-8 at the free-throw line to score nine points to go with three assists and three blocks.

Kelsey Masserant added seven points to the cause. Milford's Taylor Prokes led

Milford with 14 points. Novi 43, PLYMOUTH 30

The Wildcats turned a 9-8 lead after the first into a 24-15 lead by halftime and never looked back.

Johnson scored 10 points to lead the charge. Arniak was next with nine, followed by Jessica Cingel with seven. Stacy Klondowski led Plymouth with 12 points.

Check online at hometownlife.com March 5 to see how Novi fared in Wednesday's playoff game.

SPORTS SHORTS

AAU NOVI MOTION BASKETBALL TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the girls AAU Novi Motion basketball team are March 6 at St. James Church (46325 10 mile Road, Novi) and will cost \$20. Players need to arrive 20 minutes before the start of tryouts for registration.

GREEN AND WHITE GAME

The Novi Middle School "Green and White" Game is 7-9 p.m. March 27 at the Novi Ice Arena. There will be one practice from 7-8:30 p.m. March 25.

NOVI YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE

Signups have begun for the Novi Youth Baseball League for all kids ages 7-18. Leagues are as follows: Pinto (machine pitch) - born between May 1, 2000 and April 30, 2002.

2009 NOVI WILD SPRING TEAM TRYOUTS

The Novi Wild prep hockey team will be holding tryouts for the 2009 Novi Wild Spring team from 6-7:30 p.m. March 20 at Compuware Ice Arena and from 8-9:30 p.m. March 29 at the Novi Ice Arena.

Coit - May 1, 1992-April 30, 1994

LOCAL MEN LEAD CMU AT INLINE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Novi's Jason Yokubison and Kyle Mouch, along with Northville's Danny Bara lead Central Michigan University to a 7-5 victory over Grand Valley State in the final game of the Mid-West Collegiate Roller Hockey D-2 Championship.

2009 NOVI WILD SPRING TEAM TRYOUTS

The Novi Wild prep hockey team will be holding tryouts for the 2009 Novi Wild Spring team from 6-7:30 p.m. March 20 at Compuware Ice Arena and from 8-9:30 p.m. March 29 at the Novi Ice Arena.

This win gives CMU an automatic five bid to play in the National Collegiate Championships to be held in Philadelphia in early April. Danny Bara scored two goals and three assists in the semifinal win and Jason Yokubison scored four goals and one assist in the final championship game.



Photo submitted

Champs

The Michigan High School Junior Varsity Hockey League playoffs were held this past weekend at Orchard Lake. Catholic Central won the championship game Saturday night with a 4-2 win against a tough Orchard Lake St. Mary's team. Solid goaltending by Alex Nori and goals by Dan Vigi, Ian Jacobs, Anthony Ross and Ryan Keller powered Catholic Central to the victory.

SWIMMING

FROM PAGE B1

qualifying for the Division 1 MHSAA State Meet. This also broke the previous Novi High School record set in 2001.

Additional state qualifiers included Chung, placing first in the 100 breaststroke (59.84) and finishing third in the 200 individual medley (2:01.17) and Tyler Vincent earning eighth in the 100 fly (56.29).

Other top-eight finishers were Wes Smith placing fourth in the 50 freestyle (22.83); Travis Vincent taking eighth in the 500 freestyle (5:03.79); Alex Zabiniski earning seventh in the 100 backstroke (58.14); 200 freestyle relay team (Smith, Evan Cusick, David Groecheil and John Lu) placing seventh; and the 400 freestyle relay team (Zabiniski, Lu, Vincent and Chung) swam to a sixth-place finish.



John Heider/Novi News

Novi's Alec Collins swims at last week's KLAAs divisional championships at South Lyon East.

Additional top-16 swimmers consisted of Groecheil (200 freestyle), Travis Vincent (200 freestyle), V Jagannath (200 individual medley) and 100 backstroke), Jimgmin Kim (200 individual medley

and 100 breaststroke), Tyler Vincent (50 freestyle) and Tiger Bourque (diving). The Division 1 MHSAA State Meet will be held at Eastern Michigan University on March 13 and 14.

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WRESTLING

FROM PAGE B1

Canton's Waleed Faraj. Mooradian entered the state meet undefeated at 43-0.

Three other Shamrocks made the finals. Justin Melick (32-7) ripped through the first two rounds at 119 but lost a close, 6-4 decision to Leon Shannon from Wyandotte-Roosevelt in the finals.

Trevor O'Connor (37-8) won by fall and came out on the good side of a 3-1 decision to reach the finals at 152 pounds.

Tyler Romijn of Temperance Bedford ended the run with a 2-0 victory in the finals.

Mike Kinville (33-10) also reached the finals at 189 pounds with a 5-0 decision and a pin. He lost 12-5 to Nick Whitburn of Temperance Bedford in the finals.

Three others advanced with third-place finishes: Todd Melick (34-3) at 103, Charlie Joseph (33-12) at 125 and Doug Eldridge (35-8) at 130.

The individual finals are two weekends away, March 12-14 at the Palace of Auburn Hills.



CC's Charlie Joseph has his arm raised in victory at 125 pounds at Saturday's regional tournament. He finished third and moves onto the state meet.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

Strictly Business

BUSINESS MILESTONES

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

SPECIAL HAPPENINGS

LOFT
LOFT, a division of Ann Taylor Stores Corporation, and Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit are giving customers a chance to clean out their closets to make room for new spring styles with the "Out with the Old, Save on the New" event. Customers who donate their gently-worn pants at any LOFT store will receive \$15 off each full-price pant purchased now through Sunday, March 8. All locally collected pants from the partnership will be donated to clients of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit who are enrolled in training and career placement services. LOFT is located in Twelve Oaks Mall, 27234 Novi Road.

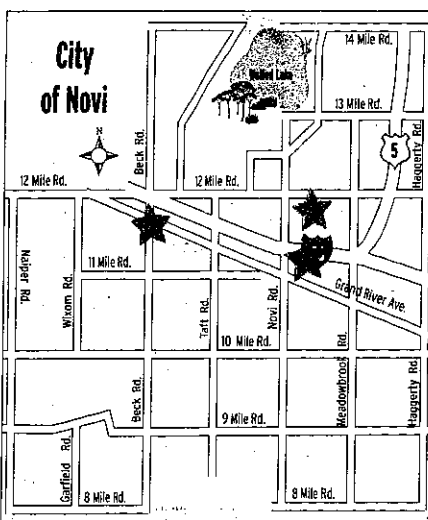
Community Financial
Children are invited to attend special story time hours, sponsored by Community Financial, at the Novi library during "March is Reading Month." Natalie McLaughlin, Community Financial's senior education partnership coordinator, is spearheading the effort for local public officials, including school superintendents, police officers and firefighters to read from selected books during special story time hours. The story time will take place 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 17 at the Novi Public Library on 45245 W. 10 Mile Road.

Art Van Furniture
Art Van Furniture is celebrating 50 years of serving Michigan communities with monthly initiatives. In March, the company will donate mattresses to local shelters. On Sunday, March 22, guests purchasing a mattress set from Art Van, including the Novi Town Center location, will be supporting a local shelter. Art Van will donate a mattress to a local shelter for each mattress purchased that day.

Novi Bowl
Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit announces its Bowling for Jobs program through the month of March. The event will not only raise money for Goodwill to help put people to work, but it's also a great value for families looking for something to do together. The cost to bowl for jobs is \$10 and bowlers will receive five games of bowling at Novi Bowl. Bowlers must call ahead to confirm open-bowling times, and shoe rental is not included. Novi Bowl may be reached at (248) 348-9120. Interested bowlers may also visit www.bowlingforjobs.org for more information.

RELOCATION

Running Fit
The Running Fit store in Novi has once again relocated its position within the confines of the Novi Town Center. Long-time customers often reminisce



about the store's previous sites, this being its fourth move in 20 years. The new home for Running Fit's Novi location is situated on 11 Mile Road, the "Grand River side" of the Town Center. In a larger, more noticeable space, the company added triathlon gear to its exceptional stock of running and walking shoes, apparel and equipment. The new store will also house an Endless Pool. The Endless Pool allows the multi-sport gang to demo wetsuits and analyze their stroke in the mirror on the pool bottom. For more information on Running Fit, visit www.runningfit.net.

Comerica Bank
Comerica Bank relocated its 10 Mile and Beck roads banking center to 47440 Grand River Ave. at Beck Road in Novi. Comerica's new location has additional self-serve safe deposit boxes available to customers. Lobby hours at Comerica's Grand River Avenue and Beck Road office are Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drive-through service is available during lobby hours and is also available until 6 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

Novi Internal Medicine and Pediatrics
Northern Equities Group, recently announced a long-term lease of 5,400 square feet in the Lewis Medical Office Centre (LMOC) to Novi Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, P.L.L.C. A specialist of preventative medicine and health care services for all ages, Novi Internal Medicine and Pediatrics offers X-ray services, bone density testing,

EKG, school/sports physicals, well child care, immunizations, in-house laboratory, and other diagnostic testing for the entire family. The practice will move its offices to the LMOC, located at 39475 Lewis Drive, near the 12 Mile and Haggerty roads intersection in June. Novi Internal Medicine and Pediatrics is currently located at 42450 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite 105 in Novi.

TOP HONORS

ITC
At a time when critical infrastructure security is a national priority, ITC Holdings Corp. in Novi was recognized for its efforts to safeguard the reliability of the high voltage electric system in Michigan. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), an international regulatory authority for the reliability of the bulk power system in North America, cited ITC's system security operations as an Example of Excellence as part of its Reliability Readiness Evaluation and Improvement Program. ITC Holdings Corp. (NYSE: ITC) invests in the electricity transmission grid to improve electric reliability, improve access to markets and lower the overall cost of delivered energy.

CLASSES

ABC Warehouse
ABC Warehouse is offering free cooking classes and tastings at its Novi location in West Oaks Mall. Tonight Francine Pamela Salvatore presents Spanish Cuisine, featuring recipes from tapas to Paella. On March 12, Mary Spencer presents Hearty Irish Fare, featuring meat, potatoes and more signature Irish dishes. All classes begin at 6:30 p.m.

CHAMBER CHAT

Join members of the Men's Round Table in a suite 7:30 p.m. March 9 as the Detroit Pistons take on the Orlando Magic. The cost is \$85 per person and includes refreshments, but not dinner. Contact J.R. Atiyeh for tickets and car pooling information, (248) 380-6669.
The Business to Business Breakfast and New Member Reception is 8-9 a.m. March 11 hosted by Network Source One, 39625 Lewis Dr., Suite 900 in Novi. Join us for networking and refreshments. The \$5 event fee is payable at the door.
Committees and Round

The Business to Business Breakfast and New Member Bonus Reception is 8-9 a.m. March 17 hosted by Modern Floors, 1145 N. Pontiac Trail in Walled Lake. Join us for networking and refreshments. The \$5 event fee is payable at the door.
An After Five Networking event is 5-7 p.m. Thursday, March 26 at Urgent Care of Novi, 44000 12 Mile Road, Suite 101. Join us for networking and refreshments. Advance registration is \$15; \$25 after Tuesday, March 24.

Tables:
• March 5 - Woman's Round Table 5 p.m. Modern Floors
• March 9 - Men's Round Table, Pistons game
• March 10 - Sales Leads Group 8:30 Woodland Glen Apartments in Northville
The Novi Chamber of Commerce is an active, progressive chamber offering a variety of events, educational programs, an enhanced Web site, and involvement with local charities. For membership information, visit our Web site at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743.

BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



Jonathan Brateman
Jonathan Brateman, president of Jonathan Brateman Properties, Inc., a Novi based commercial real estate brokerage company, recently celebrated a professional milestone with the company's recent 20th Anniversary.

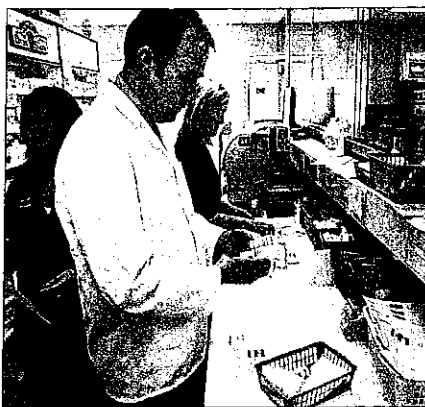
Anthony Sikora
Fanning Howey, Architects' Engineers announces associate Anthony Sikora has obtained Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification. LEED Professional Accreditation distinguishes building professionals with the knowledge and skills to successfully steward the LEED certification process. LEED Accredited Professionals demonstrate a thorough understanding of green building practices and principles and the LEED Rating System. Sikora, an intern architect at Fanning Howey, joined the firm in 2007. He obtained a Bachelor of



Science in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University and a Masters of Architecture from Lawrence Technological University. Sikora resides in Novi.

Drugstore offers personalized service right to your door

Q. Who is behind Sav-On Novi Drugs?
A. Andrew Mac, vice president of pharmacy operations.
Q. When was the business opened?
A. November 2000.
Q. How many locations do you have?
A. 21 stores in Michigan.
Q. Number of employees?
A. 14 employees at the Novi location.
Q. What is your business specialty?
A. Retail pharmacy.
Q. Tell us about your business, including the types of services and products you feature.
A. Personalized pharmacy care, drive up window, free Rx delivery, and guaranteed lowest prescription prices. We will special order hard to find products for our customers.
Q. What makes your business unique?
A. We offer free Rx delivery, senior discounts and specialized packaging for senior homes and special needs facilities.
Q. How did you first decide to open your own business?
A. We are part of a neighborhood chain that is similar to Busch's. Our Sav-On Drugs headquarters are located in Southfield.
Q. How did you decide to locate in the Novi community?
A. We purchased an already



Andrew Mac, vice president of pharmacy operations at Sav-On Novi Drugs on Meadowbrook Road, closely studies a recent prescription.

existing store.
Q. Do you have a funny tidbit or story to share with our readers about your experience so far as a small business owner?
A. Some of our long-time customers bring their dogs into the store while out for a walk and the dogs love the candy section and can always pick out our new candy items by smell.

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