

Merry Christmas

Novi News

THURSDAY December 25, 2008 Your hometown newspaper serving Novi and the Lakes area for 52 years 50 cents

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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.

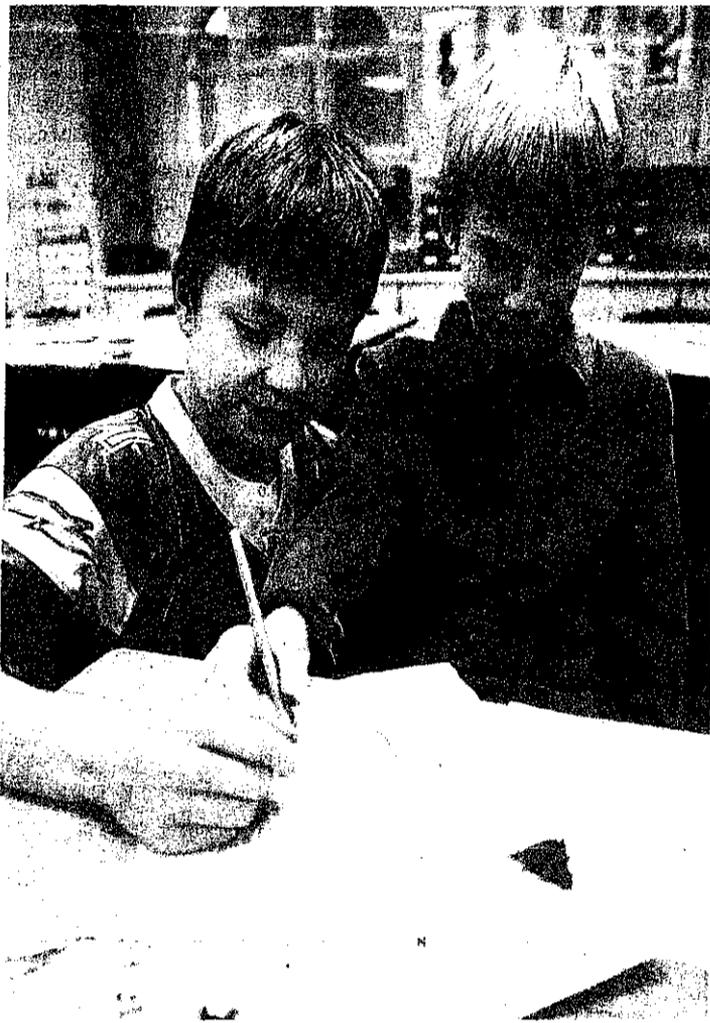
"Plus I miss talking to him in person, and

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.



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

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 & 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 & 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.

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

Local business offers fitness in a snap

Strictly Business, Page A13

Volume 53 Number 31

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HOSPITAL

FROM PAGE A1

fete, Sikatis 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 Omediano, Providence Park Hospital head of human resources for food services.

Omediano 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

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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 range-

THE NOVI NEWS

Published Each Thursday
By The Novi News
101 Lafayette
South Lyon, Michigan 48178
Periodical
At South Lyon, Michigan

Subscription Rates:
Inside Counties \$9 for 13 wks. home delivery. Outside Counties (in Michigan) are \$20 for 13 wks., prepaid. Out of state, \$25 for 13 wks.

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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's use 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's even created her own limited liability corporation, the Wylie Group LLC, and has a Web site for the product, 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 top of the 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 adventure 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 Wauchoester 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 the wall of a garage or storeroom 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."

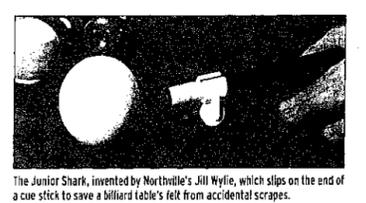
Dunham's asked for 1,200, and the Junior Shark retails for \$5.99. Also, billiards.com said it was one of the best new products of 2009. "That was

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.

"For 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!"

photos by JOHN HELORENORTHVILLE RECORD
jwylie@juniorshark.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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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 mores wearing down, as one might expect, bruxism can also cause tooth loss on the sides of teeth. This bruxism-related loss of tooth material at 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 734-453-9413. 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.

THE MOOSE GRILLE
Located Inside

MOOSE RIDGE GOLF COURSE

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!
Dinner! Live Band!
Dinner starting @ 5
Live Band starting @ 8
Cams for Dinner only and/or come for a full evening of entertainment. Call for more information

Friday Night - Fish Fry
(all you can eat)
11801 Doane Road
South Lyon
248.446.9030

HOWE

"BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE TOGETHER"

You Are Invited
to an informational reception
Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009 7pm - 9pm

Location:
**The Inn at St. John's
Golf & Conference Center**
44045 Five Mile Road • Plymouth, MI 48170

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Offer limited to existing MBT customers. Call or visit one of our branches for details.

NOVI BRIEFLY

City offices closed

City offices, including the senior center and library, will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Jan. 1, for the holiday.

Java and Jazz

Swing into the New Year with Biggie Coffee and the Tony Lannon Jazz Quartet from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dec. 31. The non-alcoholic, family-friendly event is \$10 in advance or \$15 on New Year's Eve and includes party favors and a non-alcoholic mimosa toast at midnight. There will be live jazz, games, cards, prize drawings and drink specials at the Biggie Coffee, located at Grand River Avenue and Novi Road.

Parks foundation survey

The Novi Parks Foundation is conducting a survey to determine residents' perceptions of the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. The survey will be posted at www.cityofnovi.org through Dec. 31. The survey results will be used to improve services, programs and facilities to encourage a healthy, active lifestyle, enhance economic development, increase creative opportunities and instill a sense of community. Randomly selected residents will receive surveys via mail and a report of the results will be available on the City Web site. For more information regarding the survey contact the parks department at (248) 347-0400.

Public input desired for potential Signature Park

The public is encouraged to attend the Novi Parks, Recreation & Forestry Commission meeting at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Novi Civic Center, to give input regarding the Signature Park project. The city is proposing a Signature Park to create an image of who the community is

and what it represents—a park for which the community is known. The park will offer a full complement of active and passive recreation opportunities, structured programs and self-directed activities, as well as festivals and events for all ages.

James Bond on demand

Before going to the theater to see "Quantum of Solace" this holiday season, Bright House customers have the opportunity to view the entire library of James Bond movies on demand. There are 24 James Bond movies available in High Definition for \$2.99 per title, and in Standard Definition for \$1.95 per title. Movies can be found on channel 123.

Give the gift of life

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive 1-7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at the City of Westland Community Center. Call (800) GIVE-LIFE or visit www.givelife.org to make an appointment to give blood. Those who donate between Dec. 21-Jan. 4 will receive an American Red Cross T-shirt and be entered to win a \$500 hotel voucher with round trip tickets for two to anywhere in the continental United States.

Parks offer free entry Friday

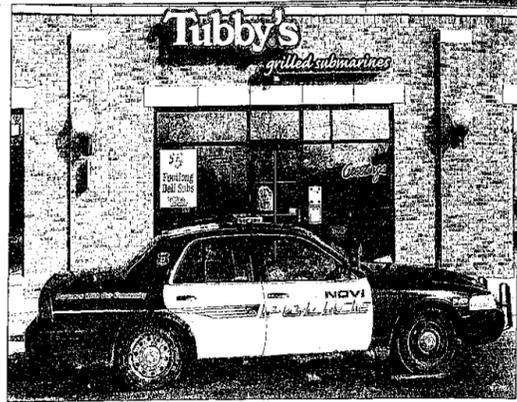
Oakland County Parks is celebrating guest appreciation by offering free entry at six locations on Friday. Participating locations include Addison Oaks in Lenox, Highland Oaks in Highland, Independence Oaks in Clarkston, Lynn Oaks in Wyand, Orion Oaks in Orion Township and Rose Oaks in Rose Township. For park maps and event listings, visit www.aacgov.com/parksec.

State of the City

The City of Novi, in partnership with the Novi Chamber of Commerce, will host the annual State of the City Address and Luncheon 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 22 at Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Avenue. Tickets are \$25 per person. Mayor David Landry will provide Novi citizens and business partners an opportunity to reflect on 2008 accomplishments and goals to strive toward in 2009. Landry will also give a State of the City Address in conjunction with the Novi Homeowner Association Leader's Breakfast, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Novi Civic Center. The event is free, but registration is required.

CERT meeting

There will be a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training session on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Age 60 years. Daughter of the late Dr. Walter D.S. and Celia Chmiel R.N. Jana was born November 19, 1948 in Saginaw, Michigan. She graduated from St. Andrew High School where upon graduation she followed in her mother's footsteps going to nursing school and was a wonderful nurse and caregiver. She was married to Louis C. Zimmerman on October 24, 1975. He predeceased her April 17, 1999. Jana was a member of the Catholic Faith. Surviving are three sons and their spouses, Todd and Karen Zimmerman, Saginaw, Joshua Zimmerman, Saginaw, Zachary and Jill Zimmerman, South Lyon; her grandson, Cameron Zimmerman, her brother, Kenneth and Margareta Chmiel, Bend, Oregon and their sons, Nikolas and Alexander; her dear friend, Ruth Ellen Slinger and her children, Jeff and Jennifer, whom were a constant presence in her life (Thank You, dear friends, Virgil and Doris Hatfield as well as many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. Our physical loss is surely Heaven's spiritual gain. She will be greatly missed. We Love You. Honoring Mrs. Zimmerman's wishes cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service took place Saturday, December 20, 2008 at The Show Funeral Home, 3775 N. Center Rd., Saginaw, Michigan. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Toys for Tots.



Novi Police were on the scene of an apparent armed robbery Monday morning at the Tubby's Sub Shop on Grand River Avenue in Novi. The shop was closed to business while law enforcement officers completed their investigation.

Tubby's robbed: Suspect on the loose

BY KELLY MURAD STAFF WRITER

Novi Police are searching for the suspect in the armed robbery of Tubby's Sub Shop on Grand River Avenue, just west of Meadowbrook Road. At about 10:20 a.m. Monday, the Novi Police Department received a 911 call from an employee of the sub shop, who said the store had just been robbed, reports said.

American male, between the ages of 25-30, entered the store and walked up to the sales counter, where he revealed a black semi-automatic handgun and climbed over the counter demanding money. The suspect then ordered two employees to the back of the shop where the money was kept.

The business had just opened and the employees were the only ones in the store at the time of the robbery, reports said. The suspect then fled the store through the front of the

business with an undetermined amount of cash. Although there is no vehicle description or direction of travel at this time, the suspect is said to be about 6 feet, 9 inches tall with a mustache and slightly unshaven face. He was wearing a black bomber-style jacket with a hood.

Anyone with information regarding the incident should contact Detective Kristie Greenwald at (248) 347-0548. kmgreen@gannett.com | (248) 349-4700 Ext. 263

City employees feel effects of decline in building activity

BY KELLY MURAD STAFF WRITER

As a result of the decline in building activity, the City of Novi is eliminating six positions in its Community Development Department, four of which were effective Dec. 1.

through attritions," said City Manager Gary Pearson. "While we budgeted for lower building permit activity and resulting revenue in fiscal year 2008-09, the drop has been steeper and faster than predicted."

According to city officials, first quarter permit revenue was less than half of what it was in the previous year's same period.

Community Relations Manager Sheryl Walsh. "We need to obviously look at being fiscally responsible and community development needed to reduce some of their overhead."

Walsh said it is too soon to predict if further staff reductions will need to be made, but formal discussions regarding the fiscal year 2009-10 budget will begin in January.

"With permit fees not coming in, revenue is down," said



Novi Mayor David Landry and Commissioner Hugh D. Crawford.

Honorable Mention

Last week, Oakland County Board Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr., (left) honored Board Vice Chairman and Oakland County Commissioner Hugh D. Crawford of Novi. Honored for his years of service, Crawford will leave the Board to serve in the Michigan State House of Representatives. Crawford received a service award and memento from the Oakland County Executive's Office.

Northville's Poole opening tavern in South Lyon

Lake Street Tavern to join downtown mix

BY NATHAN MUELLER STAFF WRITER

Downtown South Lyon has been overwhelmed with business closures this past year. Gone were three restaurants, a theater and a pharmacy. With the economic struggles facing the state and nation, the local future looked bleak. But in the past couple months,

the area has seen a resurgence of sorts. The theater recently reopened under different management, joining a new hair salon and gift shop downtown. On Dec. 15, another business owner announced she would be bringing Lake Street Tavern to town. The restaurant will be located in the building that recently housed Bistro 127, and could open as soon as March.

"When I walked inside and saw the atmosphere, with the brick walls and the old building, it had a wonderful energy that I loved," said owner Mary Poole. "I think it's going to be a community gathering place that is comfortable and welcoming, and I want people to feel like they are coming into my home."

Poole most recently owned Poole's Tavern in Northville for almost 20 years prior to selling it in 2006.

"It's going to be a community gathering place... I want people to feel like they are coming into my home."

POOLE, Lake Street Tavern owner

The restaurant is still in operation, and after two years of being out of the business, Poole had an itch to come back because she missed, "The energy of the business and the people."

Negotiations for the sale of the business have been going on for the past year, and Jeff Crawford, restaurant specialist with Griffin Properties, said he received two letters of intent for the business in the end before he and building owner Richard Rowe decided on Poole. "I think she is going to be a fabulous operator," Crawford said. "The

restaurant is still in operation, and after two years of being out of the business, Poole had an itch to come back because she missed, "The energy of the business and the people."

Negotiations for the sale of the business have been going on for the past year, and Jeff Crawford, restaurant specialist with Griffin Properties, said he received two letters of intent for the business in the end before he and building owner Richard Rowe decided on Poole. "I think she is going to be a fabulous operator," Crawford said. "The

city surely needs (the restaurant), and Mary brings a lot to the table."

Poole, a Northville resident, said she was sold on the small community atmosphere, and plans on being involved with the Chamber of Commerce and other community groups.

Changes will be made to the interior of the building, but not a complete remodeling, and Poole will be applying for a license to sell liquor through the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

nmueller@hometown.com | (248) 457-2224 Ext. 256

OBITUARIES

ALEC CHAKLOSH

Age 95, passed away December 18, 2008. He was born on September 2, 1913, in Berlin, Pa. to Mary and Anna (Chalky) Chalky. In September, Thelma his wife of 68 years preceded him in death. He retired from Chrysler Staffing Plant after 32 years of service and was a member of the U.A.W. He served with the Civilian Conservation Corps and actively participated in the V.F.W. Auxiliary Post #2299. He volunteered his services to his church and Colonial Acres. Alec is survived by his loving daughters Sandra (A) Olaszewski and Yolande Chalkosh; grandchildren Christine (Kenneth Kudek) Bourbonais, Michael (Bonnie) Olaszewski, Jennifer (Brian) Boyd, Thomas Salojnski, seven great-grandchildren, Curtis, Clinton, Joseph, Abbey, Peter, Gage, Lacey, and one great-great-granddaughter Holly. A Memorial Service was held Dec. 22, Monday at 11 a.m. at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, South Lyon. Memorial contributions may be made to Saint Joseph Mercy Hospice (space 907 Fowler St., Howell 48843). Arrangements entrusted to PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guest-book: www.phillipsfuneral.com

FLORA E. HART (NEE MORGAN)

Dec. 14, 2008. Services were held Dec. 19 at Our Lady of Victor Church, Northville. Donations: Community Living Center, or Our Lady of Victory Parish. Online condolences: www.obituariesofnovi.com

JANA SUE (CHMIEL) ZIMMERMAN L.P.N.

South Lyon, Michigan, formerly of Saginaw, Michigan. Beloved mother, grandmother and sister passed away Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Age 60 years. Daughter of the late Dr. Walter D.S. and Celia Chmiel R.N. Jana was born November 19, 1948 in Saginaw, Michigan. She graduated from St. Andrew High School where upon graduation she followed in her mother's footsteps going to nursing school and was a wonderful nurse and caregiver. She was married to Louis C. Zimmerman on October 24, 1975. He predeceased her April 17, 1999. Jana was a member of the Catholic Faith. Surviving are three sons and their spouses, Todd and Karen Zimmerman, Saginaw, Joshua Zimmerman, Saginaw, Zachary and Jill Zimmerman, South Lyon; her grandson, Cameron Zimmerman, her brother, Kenneth and Margareta Chmiel, Bend, Oregon and their sons, Nikolas and Alexander; her dear friend, Ruth Ellen Slinger and her children, Jeff and Jennifer, whom were a constant presence in her life (Thank You, dear friends, Virgil and Doris Hatfield as well as many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. Our physical loss is surely Heaven's spiritual gain. She will be greatly missed. We Love You. Honoring Mrs. Zimmerman's wishes cremation has taken place. A Memorial Service took place Saturday, December 20, 2008 at The Show Funeral Home, 3775 N. Center Rd., Saginaw, Michigan. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Toys for Tots.

RANDY R. GODWIN

Age 55 of Milford, December 19, 2008. He is survived by his loving parents, Robert and Ann Godwin; siblings, Cheryl (Larry Bond) Godwin, Robert, Rick (Rachel), Lora (Bill) Holcomb, Pamela (Frank) Fisher. Also leaves many loving nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear friends. Funeral was from Milford United Methodist Church, Milford, December 22, 12 pm. Rev. Greg Mayberry officiated. For further information contact Lynch & Sons Funeral Directors at 248-684-6845 or visit www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com

OBITUARY POLICY

e-mail your obit to: HLTW@hilton.com or fax to: Attn: Obit edit Jennifer Musztek 566-826-7218 For more information call: Jennifer Musztek 566-826-7115 The first seven "bullet" lines of an obituary are published at no cost. All additional lines will be charged at \$2 per line. You may place a photo of your loved one for an additional \$20. Selected photos may be included at no cost. Example: American Flags, religious symbols, etc. Deadline: Tuesday at 12 a.m. (Thursdays observed) unless otherwise specified. All obituaries are subject to space availability.

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

Advertisement for Advanced Vein Therapies. Features a photo of Dr. Jeffrey H. Miller, M.D. and text describing the clinic's services for varicose veins, including advanced techniques and insurance coverage. Contact information: 46825 W. 12 Mile Rd., Suite 325, Novi, MI 48240. Phone: 248-344-9110.

Advertisement for Crystal Creek Assisted Living. Describes a home-like setting for active, alert, memory-impaired, frail, and recovering Alzheimer's residents. Lists services such as 24-hour professional staffing, private/semi-private/barrier-free rooms, home-cooked meals, and on-call nurse practitioner. Contact: (734) 453-3203, 8121 Lilley, Located between Joy & Warren Roads.

Your Invitation to Worship

A large directory of church listings across various locations including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Farmington Hills, Highland, New Hudson, Northville, Livonia, and South Lyon. Each listing includes the church name, address, phone number, and worship service times.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WOODVILLE
 LOCATION: 200 E. Main St.
 CONTACT: (248) 349-0911 or visit firstpsv.org
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9:30, 11 a.m.
Walking in the Park
 LOCATION: Meets at the Pavilion at Center of Heritage Park (Hammington Road between 10 and 11 Mile Roads)
 DETAILS: Group meets for lunch afterwards
 CONTACT: Sue (734) 459-0016
Single Place Ministries
 LOCATION: 4671 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
Worship Services
 TIME: 8:15 p.m. Saturday, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday
Renew Life Ministries
 TIME/DATE: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday
 DETAILS: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning and change from a Christian perspective
 CONTACT: For more information or to register call (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
Charmed Influence
 TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
 DETAILS: Studying the book "Surviving a Spiritual Match in Marriage"
 CONTACT: Joy Ruby at joy_ruby@oakpointe.org or call the church

ONE PINE CHURCH
 LOCATION: 50033 N. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
Worship Services
 TIME: 8:15 p.m. Saturday, 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday
Renew Life Ministries
 TIME/DATE: 7:15-9 p.m. every Monday
 DETAILS: Ongoing Life Groups that support and facilitate personal growth, healing, learning and change from a Christian perspective
 CONTACT: For more information or to register call (248) 912-0043 or visit oakpointe.org
Charmed Influence
 TIME/DATE: 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday
 DETAILS: Studying the book "Surviving a Spiritual Match in Marriage"
 CONTACT: Joy Ruby at joy_ruby@oakpointe.org or call the church

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WOODVILLE
 A Stephen Ministry church
 LOCATION: 777 N. Eight Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-1044 or funorthville.org
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 8:15 and 11 a.m.
Coffee hour at 11 a.m.
Healing Service
 TIME/DATE: 4 p.m. 1st Monday of every month
Radiant Joy
 TIME/DATE: 6-8 p.m. 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month

NOVI UNITED METHODIST
 LOCATION: 4671 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2652 or visit umcnovi.com
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 9:45 a.m.
Healing Service and Holy Communion
 TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. 1st Sunday of every month
Peace Vigil
 TIME/DATE: 8 p.m. 1st Sunday of every month
 LOCATION: In front of the church
DETAILS: Members of the congregation and the community will stand united in prayer for peace.
Advent Service
 TIME/DATE: 9:45 a.m. Sunday
WARD MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 LOCATION: 40060 Six Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 374-7000 or (248) 374-5978
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional, 9:30 a.m. Contemporary, Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.
Service Broadcast
 DETAILS: 11 a.m. every Sunday on WRDF-TV 560, The WMJZ Word Station
Single Point Ministries
 DETAILS: For single adults 35 years and older. Active ministry offering various Bible study classes, volleyball, bicycling group, tennis group, support groups, support group for widowed over age 50, fellowship, friendships and more. Contact the number below for more information
 CONTACT: (248) 374-5920

WARD MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 LOCATION: 40060 Six Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 374-7000 or (248) 374-5978
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Traditional, 9:30 a.m. Contemporary, Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.
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 DETAILS: 11 a.m. every Sunday on WRDF-TV 560, The WMJZ Word Station
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 DETAILS: For single adults 35 years and older. Active ministry offering various Bible study classes, volleyball, bicycling group, tennis group, support groups, support group for widowed over age 50, fellowship, friendships and more. Contact the number below for more information
 CONTACT: (248) 374-5920

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
 LOCATION: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-8847 or visit holyfamily.org

NOVI
 All women seeking to strengthen their faith and connect with other women are invited to attend, irrespective of church affiliation. Cost is \$25 per four week session. Sign up for the entire year for only \$60. Dinner is served and child care is available on request.
Logos Youth Club
 TIME/DATE: 5:15-8:15 p.m. every Wednesday through May
DETAILS: For children in grades 4-12. Every week, this fun program includes Bible study, dinner, choir/choir and activities.
Adoptive Parent Networking Meeting
 TIME/DATE: 10-11 a.m. last Wednesday of each month
DETAILS: Free, informational meeting open to all adoptive families in Oakland County. Child care is available. Registration is required.
DETROIT FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
 LOCATION: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of Eight Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 348-7600 or visit d1cnazarene.org
Sunday Schedule 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Frase Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship, 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship, 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service
Tuesday Schedule 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study
Wednesday Schedule 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, 5:45 p.m. Contemporary, Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services
Thursday Schedule 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group, 7 p.m. Tae Kwon Do

ST. JAMES CATHOLIC
 LOCATION: 46325 10 Mile Road, Novi
 CONTACT: (248) 347-7778
Mass Schedule
 TIME/DATE: 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. Monday-Tuesday, 7 p.m. Wednesday, 5 p.m. Saturday
Mothers Group
 TIME/DATE: 9:30-11 a.m. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays every month, through May 29
DETAILS: Providing fellowship, support and opportunities to grow faith. Clickcare available. Suggested donation \$20. Don't have to be a parishioner to join
 CONTACT: Becky at (248) 305-5924 or Jeanne at (248) 380-6361

OUR SHEPHERD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 LOCATION: 217 N. Wing
 CONTACT: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study 9 a.m. 1st Saturday of every month
Faith Community Presbyterian
 LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
LOGOS
 TIME/DATE: 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: For children in kindergarten to 6th grade. Enjoy recreation, Bible study, music and dinner.
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 319-3140
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
Contemporary 11:30 a.m. Traditional
Wednesday Schedule 6:45 p.m. Ladies Evening Bible Study, 7 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study
Wednesday Schedule 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, 5:45 p.m. Contemporary, Nursery and Sunday School during the 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services
Thursday Schedule 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group, 7 p.m. Tae Kwon Do

MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL
 LOCATION: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between Eight and Nine Mile roads
 CONTACT: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit mbccc.org or e-mail to office@mbccc.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Adult Christian Education Classes
 TIME/DATE: 7 p.m. every Tuesday
YogaFit Classes
 TIME/DATE: 7:30 p.m. every Monday
DETAILS: Eight weeks, \$58 contribution
Merry Widows Luncheon
 TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Spiritual Journey's
 TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. every Sunday

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
 LOCATION: 710 Taylor, Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2621 or ohvorthville.org
Saturday Worship
 TIME: 5 p.m.

GRACEPOINT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 497-3178 or gracepoint@mac.com, and gracepointpeca.org
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 10 a.m.
 LOCATION: The Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers
DETAILS: Nursery staffed by Manny Poppin

GRACEPOINT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 CONTACT: Rev. Brian C. Sleeth, Pastor (248) 497-3178 or gracepoint@mac.com, and gracepointpeca.org
Sunday Worship
 TIME: 10 a.m.
 LOCATION: The Novi Civic Center, Council Chambers
DETAILS: Nursery staffed by Manny Poppin

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARTSVILLE
 LOCATION: 217 N. Wing
 CONTACT: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study 9 a.m. 1st Saturday of every month
Faith Community Presbyterian
 LOCATION: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road
 CONTACT: (248) 349-2345 or visit faithcommunity-novi.org
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
LOGOS
 TIME/DATE: 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday
DETAILS: For children in kindergarten to 6th grade. Enjoy recreation, Bible study, music and dinner.
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 LOCATION: 201 Elm St., Northville
 CONTACT: (248) 319-3140
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.
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 TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month
Spiritual Journey's
 TIME/DATE: 11:30 a.m. every Sunday

"Looking for that special place to call home? Look no further!"

Community Home Finder

800.579.7355 oeads@hometownlife.com

For Even More Listings See Our Classified Section In Today's Paper

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

WAYNE

Mid Town Square Apartments
 Holiday Special

Let Us Buy Your Christmas Gifts!
\$250 Gift Card To Westland Mall

1, 2 & 3 bedrooms.
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A penny earned, is a penny saved.

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WAREHOUSE HELP WANTED
 No experience necessary, all shifts available.
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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

WAYNE

Mid Town Square Apartments
 Holiday Special

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1, 2 & 3 bedrooms.
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APARTMENTS AVAILABLE

Your Weekly Guide to Apartment Living

WAYNE

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What a great place to find your next...or maybe your first apartment!

Pick your community and give them a call to take advantage of some really great values.

TO PLACE YOUR AD: 1-800-579-7355

Strictly Business

Novi

BUSINESS MILESTONES

Play It Again Sports
 Play It Again Sports of Novi announces it is teaming up with Nike Bauer to offer "The Practice of a Lifetime" sweepstakes featuring a grand prize, one-hour hockey practice, led by NHL pro Phil Kessel of the Boston Bruins. The promotion is being held through Dec. 31 and the store is located at 24281 Novi Road. Visit www.nikebauer.com/practice for further details.

Hooters
 Novi Hooters announces the beginning of Operation Calendar Day, and encourages local residents to stop by and support the troops. Novi residents can stop into the local Hooters restaurant, purchase a 2009 Hooters calendar and attach a personal note of appreciation to the troops. Hooters will take care of the postage and the calendars overseas. Call (248) 455-9464.

Play It Again Sports
 The 10 Play It Again Sports locations of Metro Detroit have declared Tuesdays "Play It Again Tuesdays." During the month of December, all 10 locally owned and operated metro Detroit Play It Again Sports locations, including Novi, will donate 10 percent of their store's profits to various Southeast Michigan nonprofit organizations.

The retailer has also teamed up with Jimmy's Kids to help provide toys to more than 30,000 Metro Detroit kids in need this holiday season. Anyone who brings in a toy or coat to any of the 10 Play It Again Sports for donation to Jimmy's Kids, will get an additional 10 percent off any regularly priced item.

SALES

Kohl's
 Kohl's is in Novi, and throughout the state, is offering a daily deal now through Christmas. In addition to the daily deal, the store is offering deep discounts on a wide variety of products. The Novi Kohl's is located in West Oaks on 12 Mile Road. For more information, visit www.kohls.com.

Toys 'R Us
 Every day through Christmas Toys 'R Us, located in West Oaks, is offering daily sales and specials for holiday shoppers. The promotion, titled, Countdown to Christmas Deals of the Day, highlights specific toys for children of all ages. Coupons are also available online by visiting www.toysrus.com.

OPENINGS

Rejo Mexican Bistro
 44375 12 Mile Road
 Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk
 (248) 348-2600

Dale and Thomas Popcorn
 Twelve Oaks Mall
 Located on the upper level near Lord & Taylor

Everything Alpaca
 (to be announced)
 Twelve Oaks Mall
 Located on the upper level of Center Court

Birmingham Jewelry
 Twelve Oaks Mall
 Located on the upper level of Center Court

REOPENING

McDonald's
 42665 12 Mile Road
 Outside of Twelve Oaks Mall
 (248) 348-0255

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A

Fitness in a snap

Q. Who is behind Snap Fitness?
 A. Carol and Keith Roehen, owners

Q. Your hometown?
 A. South Lyon

Q. When did this location open?
 A. August, 2008

Q. How many employees do you have?
 A. 4

Q. Your business specialty?
 A. Fast, convenient, affordable 24-hour fitness center

Q. Tell us about your business, including the types of services and/or products you feature.
 A. Snap Fitness is like having a private gym in your backyard because we are just minutes from your home or work. We have a safe, clean, comfortable facility packed with state-of-the-art exercise equipment that you might not expect from a club size. With a full-line of cardio and strength training equipment, you get to enjoy the same workout experience of the big-box health clubs, but without the crowded parking lots, long lines and higher fees. Every member receives a fitness assessment with one of our certified fitness professionals, as well as an equipment orientation, to ensure everyone knows how to use the machines safely and properly. Many of our members work out with our personal trainers, as well as participate in some of our exercise classes.

Q. What makes your business unique?
 A. We all know how important it is to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, including the necessity to exercise on a regular basis, but we also have many excuses not to. At Snap Fitness, we strive to eliminate the excuses. Our members tell us there are several reasons they love coming to our club to work out. Because we are so close to their home or work, as well as being open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, we make it convenient to work out around their schedule. They also have access to about 1,000 Snap Fitness locations around the country, including about 50 in Michigan, so they can work out wherever they go. We do not have lines waiting to use the

Carol Roehen, owner of Novi's Snap Fitness, demonstrates how with a card, Snap members can open its door at any time of the day.

SNAP FITNESS
 Business address: 41774 10 Mile Road, Novi
 Hours of operation: 24 hours/7 days a week
 Business phone and Web site: (248) 347-1788, www.snapfitness.com/novi

was pleasantly surprised when, after joining Snap Fitness, we spent time with her to make sure that she felt comfortable. We took the time to ensure that she knew how to use the equipment properly, took note of her fitness goals and set her up with a fitness routine. After meeting other members at Snap, she discovered her experience was not an isolated incident and that we make sure every member has a positive experience here while they are achieving their goals.

Q. How did you first decide to open the business?
 A. We were looking for a new fitness club to join, but couldn't find any that fit our needs. During our search, we came across Snap Fitness, which sounded perfect for us but at that time, there was not

CHAMBER CHAT

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce office will be closed Dec. 25-Jan. 4.

■ The Novi Chamber of Commerce would like to thank Mezza Mediterranean Grille for hosting the After 5 Networking event last week. The chamber saw its largest crowd to date at an After 5 event.

■ The Economic Forecast Luncheon will take place 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 8 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 27355 Cabaret Dr. The event is sponsored by Lotus Bank and Yarmack & Co. Certified Public Accountants. Register online at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743. The cost is \$20 pre-registration or \$30 at the door.

■ The Business to Business Breakfast and New Member Reception will take place 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14 at the Novi Public Library, 45245 W. 10 Mile Road. Networking and refreshments will be offered. Register online at www.novichamber.com or call (248) 349-3743. No fee.

■ Committees and Round Tables:
 • Sales Leads Group 1-8:30 a.m. Jan. 8 at Waltonwoods of Novi
 • Arts Round Table - 8:30 p.m. Jan. 6 at Flemings Livonia
 • Women's Round Table - 5 p.m. Jan. 8
 • The Race in Amazing Novi - a new opportunity to help Rotary of Novi put on a fun community event and raise money for some good causes. Contact gsbotta@finlan.com.

■ 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.

Stephen Koons
 Software technology firm, Trubiquity named Stephen Koons, a senior vice president, as its new president and CEO. Koons replaces Nino DiCosimo. He previously was vice president of sales at BRT Inc., a software developer and systems integrator based in Novi.

Dr. Justin Geller
 Before opening JMG Dentistry in Novi, Dr. Justin Geller volunteered in the Dominican Republic for two weeks, performing dental services for children and orphans in poverty-stricken areas. He believes in individualized care for all of his patients, and he understands that each patient's needs are unique. By keeping his patients informed and always treating them with kindness and respect, Dr. Geller provides his patients with a comfortable dental experience and excellent results.

ADVERTISING THAT MEANS BUSINESS!

Here's your chance to showcase your business on a page geared to business in your community. By advertising alongside features geared toward local business, you can reach your target audience faster.

If it's important to you, it's important to us.

For advertising information, please call:
 Oakland County: 248-901-2500
 Wayne County: 734-582-8363
 West Oakland County: 248-437-2011

OPINION

Page 14 (NN)
Thursday, December 25, 2008 Community Weeklies

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.
 - 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 venitchej@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 (988) 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
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N Lafayette Street, South Lyon, MI 48178.
Fax: (248) 437-3385.
E-mail: venitchej@gannett.com
Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.

Novi News

GANNETT

Published each Thursday

Victoria Mitchell
Community Editor
Susan Reick
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.



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 losses necklaces to visitors of this month's Ringing in the Holidays night parade.



Novi dance students entertain during the celebration.



The Redford Utricycle 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 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.

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 too.

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 their 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



PHOTOS BY JOHN FERRARI/PHOTOFILE RECORD

Senior party

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

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.

- 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; antilock brakes that prevent the wheels from locking during emergency braking; and dynamic stability control which helps prevent loss of control in a turn.

- Limited 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.

heavier doors that are harder to open.

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.

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.

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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. 16.

SEND YOUR SENIOR QUESTIONS TO: SAVVY SENIOR, P.O. BOX 2443, NORMAN, OK 73070, OR VISIT WWW.SAVVYSENIOR.ORG.

Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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.

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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.

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, 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): 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.cancer.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): 866-467-7205. Provides counseling and referrals to local resources, helps address financial and insurance concerns and more.

- National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (www.canceradvocacy.org): Offers 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): Click on "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 depts.net.nih.gov/nci.

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

- Association of Cancer Online Resources (www.acor.org): <http://www.acor.org> - Provides information and support through their Internet mailing lists and cancer-related Web-based resources.

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Oakland Community College

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- **CONVENIENCE?** With campuses in Auburn Hills, Farmington Hills, Royal Oak, Southfield, and Waterford, there's an OCC site near where you work or live.

Enroll NOW for WINTER Classes

Touch* Tone & Web Registration: NOW through January 9

Final Registration: January 7, 8, and 9

Classes begin: Monday, January 12

Register for classes online: www.oaklandcc.edu

For information call: 248.341.2350
Visit our website: www.oaklandcc.edu

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

LOCAL EVENTS

Presidential Election Fund-raiser
TIME: Regular business hours
LOCATION: Buck Financial Center, 1400 Grand River Ave.
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NOVI BULLETIN BOARD

Business
Novi Rotary Club
TIME: Noon every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Methodist Church, 4167 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information. novirotary.org

Novi Chamber of Commerce
TIME: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Thursday
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile Road
DETAILS: Coffee and conversation. Improve your English speaking skills by speaking with people from other countries trying to improve their English. No tests, instructor help free. CONTACT: Karin at the Information Desk. novichamber.com

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Novi Public Library
LOCATION: 45245 W. 10 Mile Road
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday
CONTACT: (248) 449-0220 or novilibrary.org
Unless noted below, all programs take place at the library.
Maximum Adventure Pass
DETAILS: Card holders can check out free passes, for two to four people. In many area museums, cultural centers and historical sites. See detroitadventurepass.org for more information.
Senior Book Discussion
TIME: Noon to 1:30 p.m. second Thursday of each month
DETAILS: Book discussion group for older adults facilitated by librarian. please call to join.
Library Board Meeting
TIME: 7 p.m. third Wednesday of each month
LOCATION: Novi Civic Center, City Council Chambers
DETAILS: General meeting of the entire library board. Broadcast live on cable channel 12.
Novi Writers' Group
TIME: 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Dec. 27
DETAILS: Provides an inspirational environment for writers to collaborate, critique and create with other writers. The group is facilitated by local author Kelly Winters. Writers of all genres are encouraged to participate. For 18 years and older. Please register online or call the library.
Legs Club
TIME: 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 29
DETAILS: Meet in groups K-4 please join us for legs show and fall and winter registration.
Kaffee Kats City Library
LOCATION: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
HOURS: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday; closed Friday.
CONTACT: (248) 624-3772 or e-mail to admin@walledlakelibrary.org
Classical Music Series
TIME: 2 p.m. first Tuesday of each month
Friends of the Library Meeting
TIME: 1 p.m. second Tuesday of each month
Library Board of Trustees Meeting
TIME: 1 p.m. second Friday of every month
Adult Book Discussion Group
TIME: 12:30 p.m. third Tuesday of each month
DETAILS: Drop in for informal discussion. Bring a bag lunch, check library for current book selection. Nov. 18 - Holiday Luncheon
Seasonal Evening Story Hour
TIME: 7:45 p.m. every Thursday
DETAILS: Children, ages 2-5 are invited to hear stories, crafts, games, puppets, treats and music are included.
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SPORTS

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 Mahadatan 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 Wastelowski and No. 2 Melvin Joseph.

Wastelowski was 21-9 at No. 1. He was a KLA and regional 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 Stetson said. "He will be returning next year as one of the top players in the state."

Joseph brought home a KLA 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 Paroog and Anney Sotuni combined to go 26-5. They captured a KLA 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 21-5 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 gelled from the start," Stetson said.

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 gelled from the start," Stetson said.



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 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 Clarkston Invite, losing 3-1 Saturday.

The 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).

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 Walled 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 Walled Lake Northern's Amanda Schwandt.

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"We Meet by Accident"

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 Shanrocks 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 152 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 Shanrocks 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

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WEEK #17 GAMES

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Miami at New York Jets
Dallas at Philadelphia
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 Katwet, 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
Dan 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 Jaye, Mike Bucrek, Andrew Ginnard, Matt Satterfield;
South Lyon: Alex Whybra and Kyle Sitar
Lakeland: Alex Garrigo and Joshua Malusky
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 Jaye, Mike Bucrek, Andrew Ginnard, Matt Satterfield; South Lyon's Alex Whybra and Kyle Sitar; Lakeland's Alex Garrigo and Joshua Malusky; 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 Dezeliski 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.

Dezeliski 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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