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Thursday, November 11, 2004

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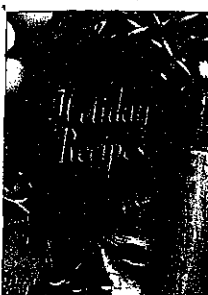
Novi, Michigan

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Look inside for your  
**GREEN SHEET**  
Classifieds

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SPECIAL SECTION



It's almost Christmastime! Holiday Recipes features recipes from our readers and employees for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and the rest of the holidays. From soup to dessert, it's all inside.

INSIDE

One decade in Novi

Nadwa Yono, owner of Novi's Salon Nadwa, is offering a special discount to celebrate her shop's 10 year anniversary.



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## Novi High makes grade

■ Michigan high school report cards released

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan high school report cards were released by the state last Thursday, and preliminary assessment indicates that unlike last year, Novi High has made Adequate Yearly Progress for the Class of 2005.

For the second straight year, Novi High School received a B for its composite grade. However, last year less than the required 95 percent of all Novi High students took the Michigan Education Assessment Program so the school did not earn a grade.

In order to correct that problem for the Class of 2005, the state wanted all schools in Michigan to make MEAP tests required. As a result, Novi's school board of education voted to make it mandatory for all students upon graduation to take MEAP during the state's required year. Students who might not have normally taken the test did, which allowed the school to make adequate yearly progress this year.

Nobody from within the school district would comment on the report card yet. The reports are embargoed for 30 days so appeals can have a chance to be made and responded to. The district also has a policy to inform its board of education and the community before anyone can comment to the press on the issue.

"As long as any of the reports are embargoed, we're going to honor that," said Jane Hesse, director of K-12 curriculum and assessment. "We're not going to say anything about our scores or any other district's scores during a time period of 30 days."

Hesse said that the embargo period is a state law that the district is honoring.

"There are some things on the state Web site that are public domain, but in terms of a particular district or a school, we're just going to wait on that," Hesse said.

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

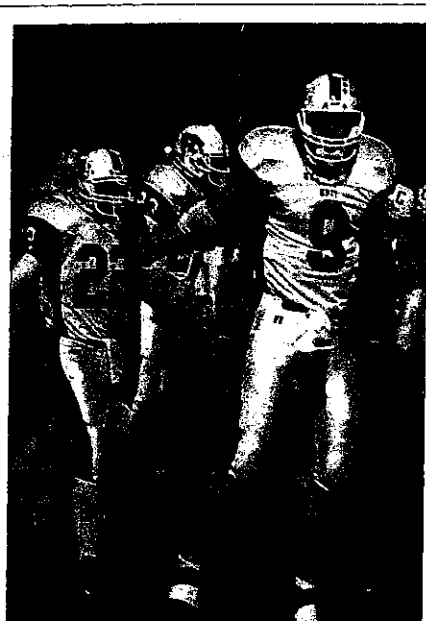


Photo by JOHN HEIDER

### Dome bound?

Novi's Kevin Cislo jumps in the air as he celebrates Novi's goal-line stop of Canton in the waning moments of the first half of last Friday's playoff game. For the full story on the Wildcats' 20-0 win, please see page 1B.

"It's really a sight to behold. One more lane here and we can land a 747."

Low Csordas  
City of Novi mayor

## INTERSECTION COMPLETED

■ Grand River Avenue, Novi Road opens

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

It's been a long time coming, but the Grand River Avenue and Novi Road intersection finally reopened with a bit of fanfare on Nov. 3.

The Road Commission for Oakland County marked the completion of this major intersection reconstruction project with a ribbon cutting ceremony with com-

mission and City of Novi officials.

It didn't take nearby motorists long to figure out the roadway was ready, with vehicles driving on the new pavement just minutes after police cars and barricades were removed.

The intersection improvement project involved reconstructing the intersection and widening lanes to current lane-width standards. No additional lanes were added. The project also widened Grand River Avenue west of the intersection to the CSX railroad bridge to five lanes.

The project was completed in

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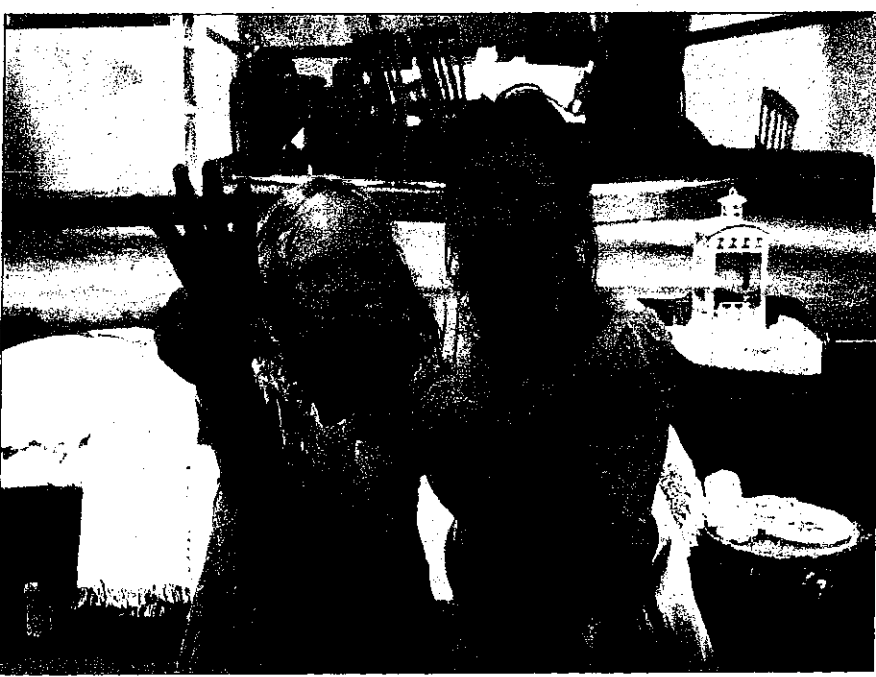


Photo by LINDA WICKERT

### Believe

Brianna Blossfeld of Novi, left, plays Helen Keller and Julie Landry of Novi, right, acts as teacher Annie Sullivan in a rehearsal for the Novi Theatres' production of "The Miracle Worker," which opens tomorrow. For the full story, please see page 8A.

## Veterans Day: Honoring those who served their country

■ Michigan Paralyzed Veterans host gala tonight in Detroit

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America will celebrate the accomplishments of Michigan's veterans and honor soldiers serving in Operation Enduring Freedom at its first Salute to Veterans fund-raising gala at 6 p.m. today.

The event will take place at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center.

"We hope that this event will be a fitting tribute to the veterans who have served or are serving our country," said Laura Richards of the MPVA. "We want to honor

all of those who have given their all for our country and let them know that they are appreciated."

Salute to Veterans will honor members of United States armed forces who have defended our country from World War II to the current action in the Middle East.

The event will feature a silent auction, reception and dinner. The Salvation Army Youth Band, with high school and college students from across Southeast Michigan, will perform a patriotic tribute. A memorial tribute will also honor the men and women who will not return — those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Peter C. Lemon, Michigan's only living Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War, will be the keynote speaker. Roger McCarville, an Army veteran from Ortonville and host of the television show "Disabilities Today" on PBS, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Salute to Veterans 2004 will be MPVA's major fund-raiser of the

year, raising money to provide programs and services to veterans with spinal cord injuries or diseases. Funds will benefit veterans here at home and those returning from current military service in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

In addition, a portion of this year's event proceeds will go to the Michigan Family Support Fund, which provides grants to families struggling financially while their loved ones are deployed.

Individual tickets are \$150. Community members unable to attend can support this event by purchasing tickets and donating them to veterans who cannot afford to attend.

The Salute to Veterans 2004 Honorary Committee has been working to make this event a success. The honorary committee is made up of dignitaries from across Michigan.

Michigan PVA state headquarters are located in Novi. Service officers are based out of the



Want to know the story of a true war hero? Please turn to page 16A.

McNamara Federal Building in Detroit, and serve the Veterans Administration Medical Centers and veterans' homes throughout the state.

To purchase tickets, contact the MPVA office by 2 p.m. today at (248) 476-9000 or visit www.michiganpva.org. Tickets will not be available at the door.

## Talks stall on legal services funding

■ Council must make decision by end of year

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER

City council failed to earmark funding for legal services through the end of the fiscal year when discussions broke down late Monday night.

Members considered a budget amendment to provide an additional \$162,500 for legal services for the balance of the fiscal year, which was \$25,000 below what

continued on page 5

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# Grand River at Novi Road has RE-OPENED!

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## Grand River Ave., Novi Road opens

continued from front page

cooperation with the City of Novi at a cost of approximately \$2 million, with 80 percent of the cost covered by federal funds. The remaining 20 percent was split evenly between the commission and the city.

"Widening the lanes to modern width standards ensures a safer intersection," said RCOOC Managing Director Brent Bair.

"It means there is less likelihood of either sideswipe accidents or cars crossing the center-line into oncoming traffic. At the Road Commission for Oakland County, safety is our number one priority, and this project is another example of how we're putting that philosophy into practice."

"This is a great day for the city of Novi. This has always been the most-traveled intersection in the city," said Csordas. "Thank you to everybody who's been involved in this project. It's really a sight to behold. One more lane here and we can land a 747," he joked.

Tom Blust, engineering director, RCOOC, said the project was a long-time coming.

"We first applied for federal funding on this project in 1988 and were given funds finally in 1992 to begin design work to give you an idea of how long it takes to get some of these things accomplished," said Blust.

"A special acknowledgment has to be said to the businesses who have suffered through these inconveniences," Blust added. "But I hope that you'll agree that in the future whenever we pass through this intersection we'll be always cognizant that great things happen through teamwork."

Richard Helwig, city manager, also praised the endeavor.

At the November 2004 election, the voters of Novi by a 60/40 margin approved the funding for several projects, including the \$200,000 for our share of this project. It will serve the community for decades to come," said Helwig.

## 12 Mile to be widened

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOOC) has awarded a contract to widen Twelve Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Middlebelt roads in Farmington Hills next year.

Congressman Joe Knollenberg secured a federal grant worth up to \$1.275 million for the project. This grant will cover 80 percent of the project cost. The remaining cost are being split evenly between RCOOC and the city. The total project cost is projected to be \$1.8 million, including design and right of way acquisition costs.

The project involves widening the road to five lanes throughout this segment by extending the center left-turn lane as well as resurfacing the entire road. Congressman Knollenberg actively began seeking special federal funds for the project after he was approached by both the road commission and students at Harrison High School which is located on this section of Twelve Mile.

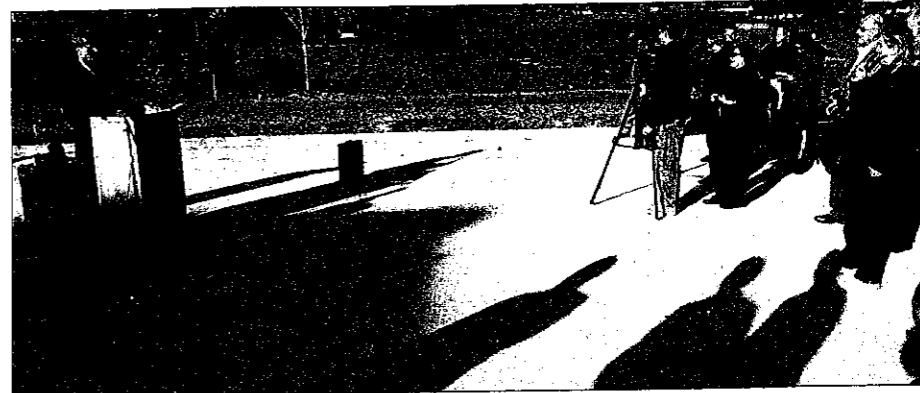
The students and RCOOC were concerned about the potentially dangerous situation resulting when numerous vehicles line up to make left turns into the high school on weekday mornings and afternoons. While the center left-turn lane was extended in front of the high school several years ago, cars coming into the school can still sometimes back up beyond the existing turn lane.

The contract was awarded Oct. 14 to Cadillac Asphalt of Hartston by RCOOC's Board of Road Commissioners. Work is expected to start after April 15 and last until August or September.

The contractor on the project was Six-S Inc. of Waterford Township. This section of Grand River Avenue carries about 21,000 vehicles per day, while Novi Road carries about 25,000 cars per day south of Grand River and about 45,000 cars per day north of Grand River.

Some minor clean-up, landscaping and traffic signal work will be completed in the spring.

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



Mayor Lou Csordas presides over the official re-opening of the intersection of Grand River and Novi Road last Wednesday afternoon.

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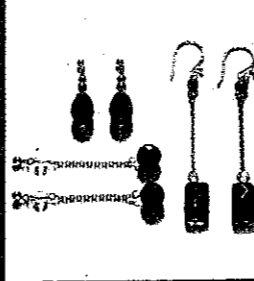
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# Miracles afoot at Novi Theatres

## Cast's spirit triumphs in 'The Miracle Worker'

By Kim Kovelle  
STAFF WRITER

A staged take of the tale of Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan, "The Miracle Worker" weaves a powerful plot about the test and triumph of spirit.

"The same could be said of the Novi Theatres cast that will bring the show to life tomorrow night. "It's a wonderful reaffirmation of the spirit within and what can be done," Director Linda Wickert said. "There won't be any dry eyes. The first time we performed it, the whole cast was crying."

Since August auditions, the cast has shown what they can do, from conquering challenging roles to losing a leading lady to cancer treatment. Spanning a few weeks, the three-act drama follows the work of an initially reluctant Sullivan, played by Julie

Landry, to break into the deaf and blind world of Keller, portrayed by 11-year-old Brianna Blosfeld.

"I had to listen to everybody but not look like I'm listening," Blosfeld said. "I practiced with Annie Sullivan. It got easier."

It was Donna Hansen who was initially cast as Sullivan — a role she longed to play since performing a different part in the play 20 years ago.

"Miracle Worker" was the very first play I was in," Hansen said. "My main inspiration would be my niece Kelsey. She can't walk or talk. It's a disease called RETT syndrome. I've often associated her with ... Helen. I resonate in Kelsey the same thing Annie must have seen in Helen — that yearning desire to communicate."

When Hansen was diagnosed with a fibroid tumor in her shoulder weeks into rehearsals, Wickert kept the role open with Landry as an understudy. But while recuperating from surgery, Hansen ultimately couldn't do the physically demanding role, which involves a 10-minute scene where Sullivan and Keller fight, slap, punch and kiss. "I feel no regret at all having done it for the short time I did,"

she said. "My miracle was meeting all of them and having this overwhelming support."

Landry quickly stepped up. "It's been fun but it's been a challenge coming in from behind," Landry said. "I'm still a little tied to my tape recorder. It's a powerful story."

Alex Baum, 17, plays James Keller and said the cast grew closer.

"Julie had a really good attitude, too. She wasn't coming in to try to replace anyone," Baum said. "It definitely brought the cast together — I think even the little kids."

A senior at Novi High, Baum said his experience is also being reflected in this year's production. "There was also set-juggling coming fresh off the recent close of 'The Emperor's New Clothes,' and plenty of efforts by the crew, from constructing a two-story house to assembling Civil War-era costumes. The attitude of all involved is perhaps reflected in the essence of Keller's story as Wickert tells it. "It touches the spirit in all of us when we say, 'I can't do this,' or 'I don't think I could ever do that,'" she said. "Anyone who watches this play will think in

## THE MIRACLE WORKER

**What:** A play telling the tale of the deaf and blind Helen Keller and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, who breaks Keller free from her silent world.  
**When:** Nov. 12-13 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 14 at 3 p.m.  
**Where:** Novi Theatres, located in the Novi Civic Center off Ten Mile Road, east of Taft Road.  
**Cost:** \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

Kim Kovelle is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 or via e-mail at [kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:kkovelle@ht.homecomm.net).

# Cancer survivor will be princess for a day

This Sunday will mark a chapter in 4-year-old Walled Lake resident Charlotte's life she will never forget. After all, it's not every day that a little girl gets to live her dream to be a princess for a day and have a royal ball thrown in her honor.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Michigan will have 400 of Charlotte's closest family members, friends and health care providers at a special royal ball from 2 - 6 p.m. Nov. 14 at St. John's Golf and Conference Center, 44045 Five Mile Rd., in Plymouth.

Celebrating 20 years of making magic, the foundation is a chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America, the largest wish-granting organization in the world. Since its inception in 1984, the Michigan chapter has granted wishes to more than 4,000 children and their families.

Charlotte will ride into her hall Sunday afternoon by horse and carriage, escorted by the Plymouth Township Police. Those in her pre-ball parade will begin lining up at the bus's parking lot off of Five Mile and Sheldon roads at about 12:15 p.m.

For more information, contact Jeannette Porter Tarcha (888) 857-9474, ext. 26.

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**PRESS ARGUS**

On Feb. 3, 2005, the Livingston County Daily Press & Argus will be launching a new special section entitled, "Oh Baby!" and your baby could be the main attraction.

This new section will feature photos of all babies born in 2004, along with editorial and advertising for new parents.

Each participant will receive a space similar to this:

Christina Louise Smith  
March 22, 2004  
Saint Joseph Mercy Livingston  
Mike and Mary Smith

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# BUSINESS

## Saloné Nadwa celebrates decade in Novi

### Owner working on her autobiography

By Pam Fleming  
STAFF WRITER



Nadwa Yono, owner of Saloné Nadwa in Novi Town Center, has overcome many obstacles in her life. Tentatively titled, "No, No, No," Yono said the goal of the book is to show people where there's a will, there's a way. "I grew up in a very strict family. I've always been told 'No, no, you can't do anything, we won't let you,' whether it be from my family or other people in my life. But, I always went ahead and did it, so now I know I can," Yono said.

The second youngest of nine children, Yono was born in Iraq and moved to Michigan in 1970 when she was 7 years old. She became a cosmetologist at age 18 and began honing her craft at top area Detroit salons.

"In our nationality, a girl is not supposed to go outside of the family and start her own business, work outside of their family business or even date, but I did," she said. "I used to have to sneak around to do everything — even to go to beauty school."

"When somebody says, 'No, you can't do that,' I always like to prove them wrong. That has inspired me to do the things I'm doing today."

She started with eight people and now employs 42 in her 6,400-square-foot facility on the south side of Novi Town Center. Her plans are to expand the business in the future at a new location within the shopping center.

"I'm waiting for Novi Town Center's plans," she said. "The business grossed more than \$1 million in annual sales in its first year, about \$2 million in its third year, and \$3.5 million in its fifth year."

Yono, married 15 years, used to be in business with her husband, who took care of the financial aspects of the salon. Since the divorce a year ago, she controls the business and has set an example for other entrepreneurs.

"I've had total strangers tell me that I'm their mentor, if people come from a very strict family, my book will help them. It's not just about my life. I want to show people that when they're told 'no,' they can turn that around," Yono said.

"I want to encourage and motivate people. My family threatened to kill me if I did this or that, but they didn't mean it. It was only a threat, and I knew

that," said Yono.

Her father, against her going into business for herself in the beginning, now totally supports her work.

She's learned in a decade that if you are in business with somebody to make sure you still know every aspect of the business and not trust others to handle financial matters.

"Be aware," she advises. For more information about Saloné Nadwa's services, call (248) 348-7316.

Pam Fleming is a staff writer for the Novi News. She can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 103, or by e-mail at [pfleming@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:pfleming@ht.homecomm.net).

### NOVEMBER DISCOUNTS

To celebrate the business' 10th anniversary in Novi Town Center, Nadwa Yono of Saloné Nadwa will offer a 10-percent discount on gift certificates and services throughout the month of November.

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If you have pet allergies, see your allergist and discuss possible immunotherapy or medications to keep your reactions under control. Additionally, vacuuming and cleaning regularly should help pet allergens in your home stay at a minimum. For more information on your allergy or asthma condition, contact the ALLERGY AND ASTHMA CENTER OF MICHIGAN at (248) 473-6468. Our office is conveniently located at 2410 Meadowbrook Road, STE 201, Novi. New patients are welcome.

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**CITY OF NOVI**

**NOTICE OF PROVISION OF THE SNOW EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 93, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, a snow emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever: (1) freezing rain, sleet or four (4) or more inches of snow has been forecast for the area by a newspaper circulated in the city, or by a radio or television station with a normal operating range covering the city; or (2) freezing rain or sleet has fallen or four (4) or more inches of snow has accumulated in the city.

Whenever any vehicle without an operator is found parked or left in violation of any provision of this division, the Director of the Department of Public Services, or his designee, or the Police Department may immediately remove the vehicle or cause the vehicle to be removed to a place of safekeeping at the expense of the registered owner of the vehicle.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 93, Article III, Division 5, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, may also result in the prosecution for same, and liability to the extent of the penalty therein provided.

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# FAITH

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

## CHURCH CALENDAR

■ **Crosspointe Meadows Church of Novi** presents an Alpha Course exploring the Christian faith on Sundays at 6 p.m. There are over 28,600 Alpha courses running all over the world. Check out the Alpha Course Web site at [www.alpha.com](http://www.alpha.com). Program includes workbook and light supper. There is no fee for this program.

■ **CMC offices** are located at 39830 Grand River Ave., Suite 101-C (west of Haggerty). Call (248) 427-2700; Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

■ **Faith Community Presbytery Church** invites you to worship at either the 9 or 10:30 a.m. services. Sunday School is offered at both services for children pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

■ **Faith Community Presbytery Church** houses the Novi Emergency Food Bank, which welcomes all canned goods and non-perishable items as donations. The food bank is available to all qualified persons in Novi, Walled Lake and Westland.

■ **The Men's Group** will be meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Novi Fire Department for a tour and meal.

■ **Communion** will be served at Sunday's service at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

■ **Faith Community Presbyterian Church** is located

at 44400 W. Ten Mile Rd. in Novi. Call (248) 349-2345.

■ **The Church of the Holy Family** offers a Spanish-speaking Mass once a month. Masses begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays, Nov. 27.

■ **Church of the Holy Cross** is located at 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., between Ten Mile and Grand River Ave. Call (248) 349-8847.

■ **Church of the Holy Cross** offers a worship service every Wednesday from 12:10 - 12:50 p.m. Come and share your lunch hour with God at a worship service that includes scripture and Holy Communion. The church invites you to worship Sundays at 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. Nursery care is available at 10 a.m. worship service. (The nursery is supervised by a registered pediatric nurse.)

■ **St. John Lutheran Church** will be holding its Fourth Annual Crafts, Collectibles, Cuisine Show on Saturday, Nov. 20 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. All crafts are made by members of St. John Lutheran Church and donated to benefit its building fund.

■ **St. John Lutheran Church** is located at 23225 Gill Rd. (west of Farmington Road between Freedom and Grand River Ave.).

■ **Finding the Light** The monthly bereavement support group meeting facilitated by Dr. Michael M. Meyer will be held Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Novi Civic Center from 7:30 - 9 p.m. Topic of discussion will be "Finding the Light." There will be a brief prayerful reflection during the meeting by a clergy from the area. As a service to the community, this alternate program is provided by O'Brien/Sullivan Funeral Home.

■ **Worship Service of Communion** is held at 8:30 p.m. (Rite 13 (ages 11-14) and 12A (ages 14 and up) groups meet at 5 p.m. for their program and dinner followed by 7 p.m. Youth Worship Service held the second and fourth Sunday of every month; all are welcome to

attend. Church of the Holy Cross is located at 46200 W. Ten Mile Rd. (between Bock and Taft roads), Novi. Call (248) 349-1175 or visit [www.churchofthe-holycross.com](http://www.churchofthe-holycross.com).

■ **Novi United Methodist Church** is located at 41761 W. Ten Mile Rd. Call (248) 349-2652.

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## Building Blocks of Champions

### Commerce Lutheran church hosting three speakers this Saturday

By Ramez Khuri

STAFF WRITER

The Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Commerce Township will be hosting the second installment of its distinguished speaker series this Saturday from 10 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

This time around the church will welcome athletic trainer Kirk Vickers, United States Hockey Team player Lisa Brown Miller and exercise specialist Kris Beyer.

The name of the event is "Building Blocks of Champions," and the theme is body, mind and spirit.

All three speakers will be presenting for approximately a half hour each starting at 10 a.m. After that there will be an open forum in the church's new 6,800-foot addition. Attendees will be able to enjoy refreshments, including fruit, yogurt, protein drinks and carbohydrate bars.

"We do the Distinguished Speaker Series twice a year," said Vicki Williston, a church evangelism committee member. "Our first one was on April 24, and we had (former WDIV Channel 4 Anchor) Mort Krim."

Vickers lives near the Commerce area. He has his own gym and is a specialist in training, working with many athletes.

Beyer did have her own gym previously, but she now specializes as a personal trainer and is an exercise specialist. She has quite a few clientele and is from the Irish Hills area. Between the years of 1993 - 1996, she placed first in the national women's body building contest.

Miller was a member of the church at one time, and her parents still belong. She now lives on the west side of the state. She plays for the U.S. Hockey Team, which won the 1998 gold medal at the Nagano Winter Olympic Games. She is the smallest woman on the team and the only one married. She has been playing since she was 3 years old and has been on the cover of a Wheaties box. Miller will be talking about her road to gold and how she was able to make that journey.

"Lisa will cover the segment of spirit," Williston said. "Kris will be dealing somewhat with the

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

# SENIORS

Kim Kovelie, staff writer (248) 349-1700, ext. 107 [kkovelie@ht.homecomm.net](mailto:kkovelie@ht.homecomm.net)

## B-I-N-G-O for president

### Seniors enjoy placing chips on Election Day

By Kim Kovelie

STAFF WRITER

With experienced wrist flicks, the group of 17 senior citizens marked the proper boxes this past Election Day.

In fact, some even checked off the same square a half dozen times as a man at the front of the room called out, "The first number is N-39. N — three — nine."

"Although many did cast ballots that day, these seniors were spending their afternoon playing 15 rounds of bingo at the City of Novi Senior Center.

Dolores Nawrocki had 16 cards arranged in rows of three. Her sharp blue eyes quickly scanned up and down the columns as letters and numbers were called.

Grabbing colored magnetic chips from a clear plastic container with her left hand, she plucked them down with her right. In between games, she cleared her green boards with a

pink magnetic wand. She won the first two games.

"I tried it out and I liked it, and I got hooked on it," said Nawrocki, who's played for about 20 years. "When I first started I probably had about 12 (cards), and then I gradually graduated higher. I used to live on the East Side. I used to go all over."

She once played up to 36 cards at a once in churches and halls. Now without a car, Nawrocki sticks to the center, which hosts games on Tuesdays and Fridays.

"As a rule, I win sometimes but not all the time. You meet people (and) you keep going," Nawrocki said.

A friend sitting nearby, Evelyn Harb, had nine 50-cent cards and purple chips she keeps in a sour cream container. She's been playing for 30 years.

"I go twice a week," Harb said. "I like it because the people are nice. I like them and they like me. That's why I go — to meet the people."

In a bingo tradition, she keeps an small array of trinkets by her boards. There's a tiny doll in a pink dress with a pink feathered hat and a green stone.

"She bought it for me, my

daughter Hilda," Harb said of the doll. "I take many things. I like that. I put them in front of me. I feel they would give me luck."

Though the group was a bit smaller than usual that day, Senior Services Manager Rachel Zagoroff said the seniors are dedicated.

"It's a very loyal group," Zagoroff said. "Some of them come for lunch and they won't leave until bingo. They stake out their spots."

As Brandee Cereska cranked the gold mesh basket of balls and called out letters and numbers, he couldn't resist a little Election Day fun:

"Everybody vote for Bush today!" A few loud voices responded no. Playing along, Cereska said, "If I want to keep my job, I've gotta vote for Kerry."

"I try to lighten it up," said Cereska, who also DJs and works at the Manor at Novi.

"That is like Tuesday, Tuesday is their day to go play bingo."



Dolores Nawrocki plunks down her chips on 16 bingo boards at the Novi Senior Center on Election Day.

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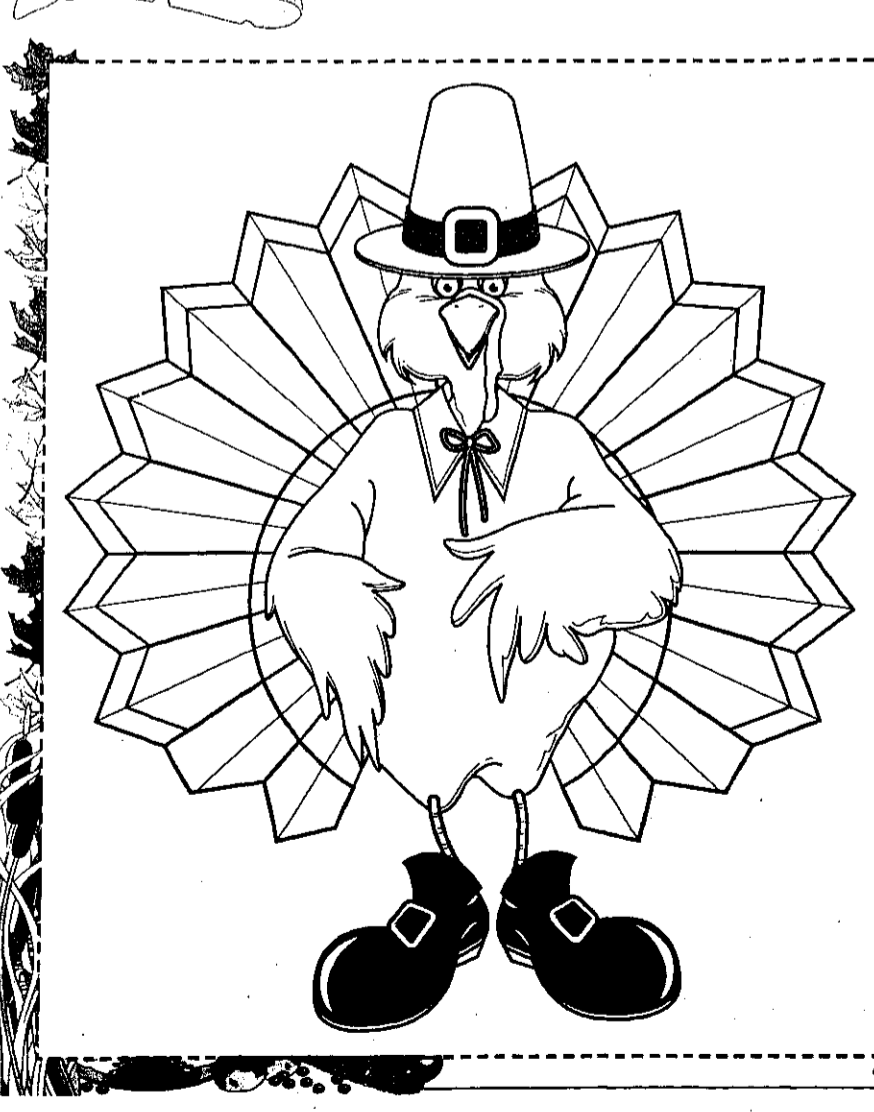
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## Thanksgiving Coloring Contest



### Novi News Coloring Contest

- Open to all readers up to age 10
- Family members of HomeTown employees not eligible
- All entries must be received by Saturday November 20th
- All entries must be completed by entrant
- Judging will be broken down into age groups: 3-6 & 7-10
- Winners in each category will receive a pizza & ribs combo courtesy of Pizza Marvelous & have their drawing printed in the November 24th edition of the Novi News

Coloring Contest - Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please send or bring entry blank and colored picture to:

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Guest Speaker, Beth Spencer, MA, MSW  
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6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Seminar  
8:00 pm to 8:30 pm Book Signing and Tours

Moving a Relative with Memory Loss: A Family Caregiver's Guide

Are you struggling with making the decision to move your loved one with memory loss?  
How will you talk to your loved one about the move?  
Would you like to make this moving transition as smooth as possible?

Moving a loved one to a residential care community can be one of the most difficult, emotional decisions that family members will ever have to make. However, there are many things that family caregivers can do to ease this transition. Beth Spencer is a member of the Alzheimer's Association Speakers Bureau and has worked with older adults and their families for 30 years. She is co-author of *Understanding Difficult Behaviors and Moving a Relative with Memory Loss: A Family Caregiver's Guide*. During this seminar, Beth Spencer will help families understand some of the issues involved in the moving process and offer practical ideas for making the move as easy as possible.

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Join us for this special seminar. Seating is limited, so make your reservation early. Adult day care will be provided by qualified staff. Please ask about this service when making your reservation. Light refreshments will be served.

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# FOREVER SERVING

George Koskimaki has spent his life in service of his country as soldier, teacher and author

By Sam Eggleston  
STAFF WRITER

Northville resident George Koskimaki didn't sign up with the U.S. Army to become a World War II hero. He signed up because a group of pretty girls graded him into it.

"I was going to Northern Michigan University at the time," said Koskimaki, a native of U. Arise, where he went to high school in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. "It was after football season, and we were down at the local establishment, and we were a little bit stoked."

### Through the darkness

Koskimaki, a corporal at the time, traveled through fields with two officers in complete darkness. A gruff voice stopped them in their tracks. The voice was German.

Koskimaki's jump master replied in French, hoping to hide the group's American identity. He was visiting a cousin and apologized for being late.

"About that time we hit the ground," Koskimaki said. "At the same time they opened up with their burp guns."

### Continuing service

Koskimaki began a teaching career at Roseville High School in 1948 where he was also the track coach before moving on to coaching basketball and the football for the football team. He retired after 30 years at the school.

Teaching was just a part of what he had come to know. He was serving his country by educating children.

### Dec. 29, 1944: German bombers

dropped some heavy stuff as well as butterfly anti-personnel bombs last night. The Germans came off very well tonight.

### Out of the frying pan

It was the longest 45 seconds of his life. It was June 6, 1944. D-Day. "It's less than a minute from the plane to the ground," said Koskimaki, who was Division Cnd. Gen. Maxwell Taylor's radio operator in the Signal Company division. "Even though I was in the air for 45 seconds it seemed like an eternity."

### The diary of Koskimaki

with his WWII photo behind it, shows his entry for June 6, 1944: D-day - Invasion of France began for us at 01:26 a.m. today southwest of Nieledeville. We had to dodge enemy fire all the way down.

### Nov. 23, 1944 (Thanksgiving Day): What a way to spend Thanksgiving!

(The Germans) blew up our CP (command post) with heavy artillery. One explosion blew both Haves out the side of a barn. Hurt his foot a bit. We moved to a new CP that wasn't zoned in.

### Nov. 24, 1944: The artillery barrage

must have been an inside job with civilian observers....

### Oct. 21, 1944: While coming back from taking showers

in Nijmegen, an 80mm shell landed fifty feet in front of our truck. It hit the mud at an intersection and knocked the legs out from under an English MP who was directing traffic. A piece of shrapnel cut Art's right arm. He was standing next to me as we stood looking forward over the cab of the truck.

### Forever Communicating

Koskimaki's words will be available to his family through the 101st Airborne Association where they helped boost membership from 1,675 veterans to over 4,000 during a two-year stint.

### Even today, Koskimaki keeps

serving. He speaks before groups about the war and his inquiries. He holds lectures at the Finnish Center for veterans on the third Wednesday of every month. He's active, though he doesn't know for how much longer.

### "I visit her every day," said

remember why certain things were done or why this parachute was orange and this one wasn't during supply drops.

### St. Koskimaki began

contacting members of the 101st with questions. When they responded, the men would begin telling their stories as well.

### "Then I knew the book shouldn't

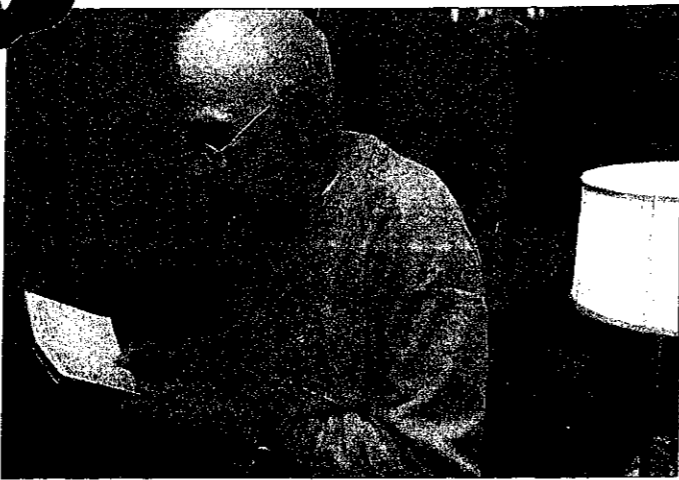
be about me," he said. "I knew the book should be about the other men and what they experienced."

### He contacted thousands of

veterans and wrote of their experiences. Today he is considered one of the leading historians of the 101st Airborne Division. He has been

### "I give half of what I make

of the books to the 101st Association." "I've never had a problem with the 101st Association. They've been very helpful. I've never had a problem with the 101st Association. They've been very helpful."



George Koskimaki reads from his WWII diary at his home in Northville. Photo by JOHN HEIDER.

Koskimaki of his wife's gravestone. "I tell her it shouldn't be much longer before I join her."

At age 82, Koskimaki said that if he lived a successful life, it was because of his wife.

"If I was successful during my time on earth, I owe it to her. She was always wise in her counseling and made sure I didn't falter when the conditions were not to our liking," he said.

Eva wrote a poem in her Bible. The verse is one Koskimaki put on her dual headstone and one he lives by. He read aloud, trying: "It's not what we gain, but what we give (that) measures the worth of the life we live."

Oct. 21, 1944: While coming back from taking showers in Nijmegen, an 80mm shell landed fifty feet in front of our truck. It hit the mud at an intersection and knocked the legs out from under an English MP who was directing traffic. A piece of shrapnel cut Art's right arm. He was standing next to me as we stood looking forward over the cab of the truck.

"I had no idea I would write about the war when I entered service," said Koskimaki. "At first, when I decided to write a book I was going to write it about my experiences as the general's radio man. But I couldn't

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# Veteran's Day

Take a moment to honor all the brave men and women who dutifully served and those who continue to serve our country.

<p><b>James E. Buster Jr.</b> Who served 1967-1979 U.S. Marine We are so proud of you. Love, Cindy &amp; the kids</p>	<p><b>Spec. Gregory Jolliff</b> 2002-present. Served in Iraq U.S. Army We are all so proud of you. Love from your whole family</p>	<p><b>Corporal Marcus Schulmeister</b> Currently serving July 2001- U.S. Marines Is in Iraq for the 2nd time. We are so proud of you.</p>	<p><b>Adam Hastings</b> Currently serving U.S. Air Force Thank you for serving &amp; protecting our country. We love you. Mom, Dad, Sarah, Megan, George and the rest of the crew</p>	<p><b>Clemence J. Sperkoski</b> Who served Jan. 1943 - Feb. 1946 World War II U.S. Army Thank you for dedicating your life to your family and country. Love, your family.</p>
<p><b>Wendell H. Brewbaker</b> Who served 1940-1946 U.S. Army 32 No. Division We are all very proud of you, thank you so much.</p>	<p><b>Zygmunt Brzycki</b> U.S. Marines We are all so proud of you. Thank you so much.</p>	<p><b>(Bob) Charles Kinney</b> Who served April 1941 - Aug. 1945 U.S. Army 32nd Red Arrow Div. Thanks for serving our country. Wife Ruth, sons Ron, Robb &amp; Randy</p>	<p><b>Corporal Granville 'Whitey' Helmick</b> Who served 1948-1951 U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division - R.R. 6, Korea Dad was wounded in Korea, returned home to Michigan, in May 1951 was awarded the Purple Heart, married mom, Kathleen Gustich. We love you Dad.</p>	<p><b>Captain Thomas L. Patterson</b> Who served in Vietnam War from June 1967 - May 18, 1971 U.S. Navy We are all proud of you. You will always be my hero. Your Family</p>
<p><b>M.G. Sergeant Robert J. Pflugh</b> Who served 1979-2002 U.S. Marines Robert, we are so very proud of all your hard work and dedication. Thank you for your service to our country. Love, Mom and Dad</p>	<p><b>Jason Meyer</b> Who served Oct. 2001-April 2003 (war in Iraq) U.S. Army In loving memory and much missed.</p>	<p><b>Frank E. Lambert</b> Who served August '51 - July '53 U.S. Army Medical 8th Army - 3 Div. We are so proud of your service in Korea.</p>	<p><b>William L. Tait</b> Who served 1969-1971 U.S. Army - Vietnam We love you Daddy</p>	<p><b>Robert G. Gruse</b> July 1953 - July 1955 Who served in Korean War U.S. Army We're proud of you - Your family.</p>
<p><b>Howard Lavern Meredith</b> Who served Army Security - Korean War Thank you for serving and protecting our country and for the dedication to your family during a difficult time. Love, the Merediths</p>	<p><b>James Wittstock</b> Who served 1948-1950 Reg. Army Sgt. Office of Chief of Staff, The Pentagon Freedom is not free. Thank a Vet or Serviceperson</p>	<p><b>Spec. David E. Horning</b> Serving January 2001 - January 2005 U.S. Army Special Operation Operation Enduring Freedom Operation Iraqi Freedom JRTC Guantanamo Bay You are a hero. Thank you.</p>	<p>Salutes all the Brave Men and Women From Our Communities Who Have Served, and Those Who Continue to Serve our Country</p>	

## CALENDAR

continued from page 15

**DETAILS:** Group is a non-profit, non-denominational group that brings adoptive families together. Twice-a-month meetings provide families with the opportunity to share play and conversation.

**CONTACT:** Michelle Pergeau (248) 887-4955 or Sandra Noonan (248) 960-3257

### Novi Toastmasters

**DATE:** First and third Tuesdays of the month.  
**LOCATION:** Novi Civic Center Activities Room.  
**TIME:** 7 - 8:45 p.m.  
**DETAILS:** Toastmasters will help you improve your communication skills, voice your opinion, polish your presentations and practice leadership.

**CONTACT:** Colleen at (248) 685-9226

### New Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) chapter

**DATES:** Wednesday mornings  
**LOCATION:** Meadowbrook Commons Activities Room, 25075 Meadowbrook Rd., Novi.  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. weigh-in; 11:30 a.m. meeting  
**DETAILS:** \$20 per annual membership includes handbook, \$1 per meeting. New members welcome.

## ONGOING

### All Things Tea Display

**DATE:** thru Dec. 31  
**TIME:** 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Providence

Center for the Healing Arts - Nancy A. Fox Art Gallery, Assarian Cancer Center, 47601 Grand River Ave., Novi

**DETAILS:** "Third Annual Mad Hatter Tea Party," a show of original artwork by patients, families and associates, as well as juried pieces by Novi High School students will be in the gallery until December 31.

**CONTACT:** (248) 465-5455

## HEALTH

### Oakland County Health Division flu shots

**DATE:** On-going until supplies are depleted.  
**LOCATION:** Pontiac Office, 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. (north of Elizabeth Lake Rd.) in the Oakland County complex, building 36E.  
**HOURS:** Monday, noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**DETAILS:** Flu shots are available only to high-risk priority groups. Cost is \$7.00. Medicare and Medicaid insurance can be billed to cover the cost. Bring photo identification, proof of Oakland residency is required.

**CONTACT:** Flu vaccine hotline, 1-800-434-3358

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

# Horse Spectacular set for this weekend

Area horse lovers, take note. The North American Horse Spectacular will take place this weekend at the Novi Expo Center, on the west side of Novi Road, south of I-96.

**HOURS:** 1 - 9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday.

One of the local horse owners who's a regular at each year at the event is Nancy Harm of Northville. "They expanded the hours this year to include a full eight hours on Friday," Harm said. "There will also be different horse breeds and clinicians coming this year."

Harm will offer five one-hour presentations on such topics as "De-spooking or Making a Safer Horse" and "Training the Trick Horse."

Harm established Harmony Acres in 1981 with her husband, George, as a family Arabian breeding farm. In the early days, foals were shown on the AHAM Class A Circuit.

Her mount, Harmony Tarifa, now 17 years old, won his Futurity Class as a yearling stallion. Later, he won Native Costume and Western Pleasure classes. Harm and Tarifa also enjoy trail riding and have been trained in search and rescue.

Tarifa has been a mount for high school and college equestrian team members and with his brothers and sisters and is used in therapeutic riding competition.

As Equine Chairperson for the Michigan Parade, Harm can be found at area horse expos and other events recruiting different breeds of horses and equine activities for participation in the Michigan Parade. More than 200 equine entries have been seen in this parade on the Saturday after Mother's Day each May in Lansing.

In 1993, Harmony Acres horses rode in their first parade. Ten years later, they have participated in nearly 300 of the Midwest's largest



Courtesy photo

**Nancy Harm and her horse Tarifa will appear at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 19 in Northville's Christmas Parade.**

Harm is a professor of psychology at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. She helped develop the

Equine Arts and Science Certificate Program at the college and was the first Equine Advisory Board Chairperson.

She teaches classes on "How Horses Learn," "Training the Parade Horse" and "Costumes for Parades and Other Events."

Her horses have been trained for parades using learning theories of classical conditioning, operant conditioning, habituation and counter conditioning.

Harm's programs demonstrate her methods and training techniques used in conditioning her horses for parades and generally "de-spooking" them for any type of activity. Understanding how horses learn greatly aids in teaching them anything, whether it be a parade, show or just backyard enjoyment and safety.

Harm's latest effort has been to teach Tarifa new tricks. Both will perform these over the weekend. Watch for program times for Harm and Tarifa in the Round Pen at the North American Horse Spectacular. "Tarifa has learned 25 new tricks since last year," Harm said. "He can rope a plastic calf, paint, ring bells and is perfecting soccer now."

For more information, visit [www.northamericahorsespectacular.com](http://www.northamericahorsespectacular.com) and [www.harmonyacresparadehorses.com](http://www.harmonyacresparadehorses.com).

## The Smart Chicks Are One Year Old!

And we're celebrating our first birthday with 8 straight days of savings!

<b>Sat. 11/13</b> Bring in 2 cans of food for charity today & you'll get <b>25% Off</b> one item! **	<b>Sun. 11/14</b> Pop a balloon for a 5% to 25% discount on one item! Special 11-Day Hours: Open 12-4	<b>Mon. 11/15</b> Receive a Free pair of holiday earrings with your purchase of \$25 or more!	<b>Tues. 11/16</b> Today's shoppers will be entered to win a \$25 Smart Chicks gift certificate!
<b>Wed. 11/17</b> Senior Discount Day: Seniors 60 and over save 20% on their entire purchase every Wednesday!	<b>Thurs. 11/18</b> Free copy of "A Guide to Buying Smart and Looking Great" with your purchase of \$25 or more!	<b>Fri. 11/19</b> Every Friday earn double comeback bucks!	<b>Sat. 11/20</b> Surprise "Blowout Sale!"

43039 Grand River (1 Block East of Novi Road)  
 (248) 347-1600 • [www.smartchicks.net](http://www.smartchicks.net)  
 Hours: Monday - Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5  
 Special Hours: 12-4 Sunday, November 14th!

Limit one discount per person, please. All food collected will be donated to It's On The Way, a Dearborn Heights assistance center for families in need.

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**Amanda Geiger never saw the drunk driver.**

**Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.**

Photo by Michael Mazuro

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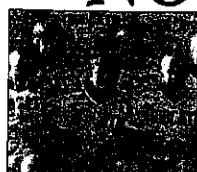
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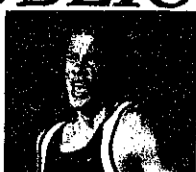
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**Quick Hits**



**Super Bowl Champs!**  
The Novi Bobcats freshmen team earned the top spot in their league with a play-off victory in the Super Bowl. It is the first year the Bobcats have played.  
— Page 2B



**Fourth in the state**  
The Novi Wildcats cross country team finished fourth in the state last Saturday. Mark Moore had the top finish of any 'Cat in the highly-competitive meet.  
— Page 3B



**Regional Marketplace**  
Isaiah and Kristina Ayers and Kevin May are ready to help customers find items they are looking for in Our Blessings' 8,000-square-foot showroom.  
— Page 8B

**All-Area selection**

Two calls so far have been received by the sports department with folks wondering just when we were going to get around to putting out the All-Area selections for the different sports.  
The answer is Thanksgiving. No, really, it is. Check out the edition during Thanksgiving week to see just who were the top players in the area between the schools of Northville, Novi, Milford, South Lyon and Lakeland.

**Hockey already?**

What ever happened to taking a deep breath between sports seasons? Hockey is eager to get on the ice, perhaps even to show the NHL players that money isn't everything when there's a game on the line.  
The first contest of the year — which was a scrimmage — was yesterday, but don't worry because there are plenty more where that came from.  
Check out next week's edition to find out all about the team, their goals and the schedule of games yet to be played.



**A little peeved**

And who says the big papers are always right? Plenty of Novi fans were growling about the touting of Canton last week prior to the Wildcats win over the Chiefs.

So many papers and camera crews were there that it looked like the Detroit Lions had come to town. Maybe the tune will change next week, considering Novi is coming out as the powerhouse in the playoffs so far.

Wildcat senior Josh Woods noted that only the Novi News had faith in the program and their ability to win. Three seasons ago it was supposed to be a blowout too, but Canton only won 9-7. This year Novi wasn't about to go home with a loss to them again.

And, yes, the News is confident the Wildcats can win again. It's not going to be as lop-sided as last time, but if Novi doesn't let their egos inflate they should win.

For all those fans wondering, sports writer Sam Eggleston has full intentions of wearing sandles to the game too. He's a superstitious fellow — which is why he won't shave until the season is over and will wear the sandles until then as well.

**A letter from Curt Ellis**

The Novi Wildcats won their third consecutive MHSAA District Title last Friday night with a well-earned 20-0 victory over previously unbeaten Canton. Novi will host Kensington Valley Conference rival South Lyon in the MHSAA Regional Final tomorrow night at 7 p.m. right here in Novi!

Tickets for all persons age five years and over are \$5 (no passes will be accepted). Pre-sale tickets will be sold Tuesday - Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Athletic Office, (please stop by the main office during school hours and obtain a visitors badge).  
I realize it is somewhat of a tradition for people to "claim" their seats with blankets, seat cushions, etc. prior to the games. The stadium will be open until 4 p.m. on Friday for those who wish to continue this tradition. However, we will secure the stadium from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. for final game preparations. Gates will be open to the public at 5:30 p.m.

Parking may become an issue as I anticipate a capacity crowd, (over 4,500 attended the Novi vs. South Lyon game in South Lyon this year) so please car-pool if possible. You may also park in the Community Sports Park parking lot and walk over to the stadium through the practice fields.  
I hope to see everyone at the game Friday night — GO WILDCATS!

Curt Ellis, CAA  
Novi Athletics Director

**B<sup>1</sup>**  
**SPORTS & EDUCATION**

NOVI NEWS

hometownlife.com

Thursday, November 11, 2004

**BRING ON SOUTH LYON**

**Wildcats don't flinch as they topple top-rated Canton**



Photo by JOHN HEIDER

Wildcat defensive back Kevin Cislo stops a Canton ballcarrier from the endzone by dragging him down to the ground in a dramatic last-second stand in Friday's game. The Wildcat stop left Canton without any points in the first half.

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

Newspaper reporters and television stations lined the field last Friday to watch Canton continue its roll to the state finals. Unfortunately for the Chiefs and those who came to watch them win, no one told Novi they were supposed to lose.  
The Novi Wildcats football team didn't care about Canton's record or their defensive prowess as they punched out a 20-0 victory over the formerly undefeated Chiefs.

"Canton is a great football program," Novi coach Tab Kellepourey said. "Any time you can play well against a team like Canton is a good night."

The victory gave Novi a district title, marking the team's

third straight. It seems to be becoming a tradition for the green-and-white.

"Novi has built a program," said senior center Ryan Pritchard. "This is a tradition now. It's my third district and it feels great."

Novi didn't go away from the game that has taken them so far this year. They ran between the tackles, popping outside off fakes and misdirection. Jarrell Woods and Robbie Carter combined 26 carries for 140 yards.

But it was Kevin Cislo, a senior quarterback and defensive back, leading the way. He hauled the ball 21 times for 94 yards, threw for 50 and pulled down an interception. He threw for a touchdown and ran for two. In fact, the senior captain also had some impressive tackles as well. He recorded three official stops,

including one on a Canton fourth-and-goal from the 2-yard line where he pulled down the top Chief, Julian Smith, on a sweep.

"I just grabbed on and didn't let go," a smiling Cislo said. "He's a talented player. I'm just happy we were able to slow them down."

Novi (9-2) will now play host to the South Lyon Lions next Friday at 7 p.m.

"We're looking forward to it," said assistant coach Jeff Burnside. "They are one of the best defensive teams in the league. It should be a great game between two great KVC teams."

Kellepourey agreed. "They are possibly the best defensive team in the KVC," Kellepourey echoed. But, are they the best? "Probably." South Lyon may be the best

defensive team in the conference, but the Wildcats have plenty of potency themselves. Novi held Canton (10-1) to just 235 yards of total offense while netting nearly 300 of their own. The 'Cats scored on a 50-yard pass to Chris Dalton from Cislo in the first quarter and on runs of 13 yards and one yard by Cislo in the second and third quarters, respectively. Pat Sijan hit his first two extra points, but put the third wide.

"I'm very happy with how the offense played," said Pritchard. "We seem to play at a higher level in the playoffs. We just have to finish it this year."

Novi will play in their third regional title in as many years. They fell to Catholic Central two years ago, but were regional champions last season.

Novi hopes to take their second straight regional crown, but the South Lyon Lions may have something to say about it.

"It should be a good game," said Cislo before being asked if he had any predictions. "Hopefully, it will be just like last time."

Novi won their first match-up with the Lions, 20-0, Oct. 1. The Lions had collected a mere 18 yards of total offense.

"We can't expect it to be like that again," said Burnside. "We've got to play better than we played tonight if we want to win. South Lyon is talented. They're well coached. They want to get us back."

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggleston@ht.hometownlife.com.

**Wildcats victory was poetry in motion**

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Novi 'Cats last week.

The experts said they'd lose their game and some even called them meek. And then when Canton called the coin and earned the opening kick,

The Chiefs fans did wonder which route to the goal their team would pick. Some Wildcat fans shifted, they murmured about.

Was Canton as tough as the newspaper writers recently did tout? They wondered and they talked, what would Novi do?

Could they stop the mighty Chiefs with their defensive crew?

Other fans, they whispered and some even roared.

It wasn't the ability to stop Canton, rather their ability to score.

Novi had to bring their best and find a way to the 'zone.

If they wanted smiles on their face when it was time to go home.

So the reporters gathered, the fans they sat.

Wondering if Novi could do this or do that.

But the defense halted Canton on their first drive and then,

The 'Cats recovered the ball on a punt for first and ten.

Then the crowd was silent as Kevin Cislo snapped the ball.

He faked the ball left then right and



Sam Eggleston

then revealed the call.

Cislo backed into the pocket and threw the ball real deep.

And Chris Dalton showed his prowess as the coverage he did beat.

Before the fans could even cheer or the Chiefs could make a hit,

Novi found themselves the lead, a whopping seven to zip.

From three thousand fans came the sound of a growing awe.

For the mighty Chiefs fell behind for the first time through the fall.

The cheers from the home stands turned into a din.

Because they knew the unbeaten Chiefs would get the ball again.

"Surely we will score this time," some fans they did yell.

But Novi proved their worth again and surely time would tell.

Could the Wildcats do it? Could they really win?

It seemed they could and would indeed for Novi scored again.

Then halftime came and halftime went and Canton was behind.

The fans just shrugged and smiled for touchdowns they would find.

Novi didn't respond at all, but kept their mouths shut tight.

They knew they'd have to play their game if they wanted to win that night.

With two touchdowns to overcome the mighty Chiefs just grinned.

No one had beat them and no one would. They would be victors yet again.

So Canton stopped the Wildcats in the first series of the half.

They were sure and they were confident in the ability of their staff.

Who were these Wildcats anyway, to think that they could win.

When Canton was the mighty Chiefs and never would give in?

But Novi wasn't startled and Novi wasn't scared.

In fact they marched again that night and showed how well they fared.

The Wildcats put up fight and had a trick up their sleeve.

With the score now sitting at 20-zero

the Canton fans turned to leave.

"But perhaps the Chiefs can come back?" asked someone in the crowd.

To which the 'Cats defense responded by shutting Canton down.

Novi's defense grit its teeth when the pass began to fly.

When suddenly from the stands the fans began to cry:

"Canton is over rated!" shouted 'Cat fans through the night.

And suddenly it became real clear that the chant was very right.

When all was done and all was said the game came to a close.

The air was crisp and the air was cold as it nipped at every nose.

Somewhere deep in Plymouth there are people smiling wide.

Children laugh and children stream as they play on swings and slide.

Somewhere there are football fans who are full of cheer and glee.

Because their beloved team will play in post-season game number three.

Those Novi fans will continue to shout and they will continue to shout.

But there is no joy in Canton for the mighty Chiefs have bowed out.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or by e-mail at seggleston@ht.hometownlife.com.

# Swimmers take fifth at competitive KVC meet

The Novi swimming and diving team took fifth place in the always-tough Kensington Valley Conference championships.

The end result found the Wildcats taking fifth at the meet and tied for fourth overall with Pimkeky in the KVC. Novi had 269 points while Brighton won with 622.50, South Lyon was second with 326.50 and Howell was third with 299.50.

The top finisher of the day was Laura Lynch, who took second in the grueling 500 free in 5:31.46. Dana Hapanowicz wasn't too shabby either, finishing third in the 50 freestyle in just 26.75 seconds.

Also taking a third for the Novi Wildcats was the always consistent Amy Glubzinski, who took third in diving with 298.05 points. Also taking third was Mary Rudzinski in 1:06.75 in the 100 butterfly event.

In the "B" races, the Wildcats fared well. Emily Erickson took first in the 100 backstroke in a time of 1:09.21, while the 400 free

relay team of Erickson, Whitney Jabori, Megan BuWalda and Yalda Dastimachi took second in 3:59.27. Nothing a third was the 200 free relay team of BuWalda, Courtney Raskowiak, Dastimachi and Lauren Paquette in a time of 1:50.42, while the team of Rachel Moblo, Nicole Patton, Erickson and Emily Stark took third in the 200 medley relay in 2:05.3.

Taking second in the 500 free was Paquette, who swam the race in 5:49.96.



### Wildcats bow to Eagles

To say it was an unexpected loss for the Novi Wildcats basketball team is an understatement.

The 'Cats, led by coach Bill Kelp, expected to find them-

elves finishing out their season strong. Instead, they dropped the first of their final two games 54-44. The loss came against Hartland.

Leading the way for Novi was junior Rachele Folino, who poured in 15 points in the losing effort.

Novi will be back in action Monday when they open up the post-season with a district tournament game against Northville. Earlier this year, Novi beat the Mustangs by one point on a free throw by senior guard Jessica Haggerty.

The game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Canton High School Monday. All district tournament games will be held at Canton, which is located between Beck and Sheldon Roads on Joy Road.

parents are the cooks, but this time the cheerleaders offered to do their part to ensure a Wildcat victory.

"This is a team dinner that we sponsor before every game for the varsity players," Sprys said. "The coaches came down and gave the kids a pep-talk and the players got their stickers for their helmets as well."

Players receive stickers to place on their helmets for different achievements during games.

Forget all the hard practices, all the film watching and all the statistic studying. The reason Novi High School defeated Northville in the first playoff game last Friday is because of the meal the players ate before game time.

The dinner, which consisted of lasagna, salad, fruit and too many desserts to count, was prepared by non other than the Novi High School Varsity Cheerleading squad.

According to Carol Sprys, secretary to Novi Athletic Director Curt Ellis, generally,



Submitted Photo

### Well done

Fourteen Novi Middle School eighth grade lacrosse players competed in the Michigan Lacrosse Foundation 7 on 7 Tournament in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The team made it all the way to the semi-final game. The team included Matt Mandeville, Kyle Tecklenburg, Nathan Haynes, Paul Favorite, Shane McCusker, Barrett Schwarzlose, Spencer Rice, Frankie Popp, John Dwyer, Justin Hoomaian, Sean Murphy, Tom Machisak, Jack Petroskey and Josh Piche. The team played five games total. Cranbrook tied Novi 4-4; Novi beat Sorrows 9-2; Novi won over Ann Arbor 4-2 and Novi lost to Grosse Point 5-1 and then lost to the Michigan Warriors 4-1.

# From cheerleaders to team-dinner gourmets

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

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



Submitted Photo

The Bobcat freshmen pose for a photo earlier this year.

# Bobcats win Super Bowl

The Novi Freshman Bobcats defeated the tough Livonia Blue Jays 6-0, in a hard fought contest, to take the Super Bowl crown in their first season in the league.

The Bobcats were hungry and ready to pounce from the opening kick. Michael Metz, Josh Schiesler and Lucas Buck rambled down the field nearly fifty yards before Blake Boron pitched the ball to Grant Wheeler who broke free behind a key block by Zachary Johnson and scored the games only touch down on a 29-yard run. Novi's quick strike left the Blue Jays reeling. Later in the quarter, Preston Dooley connected with Jason Carless on a 15-yard pass play. The defense gave Livonia no

room to move in the first quarter that included a hard tackle by Nick Morgan that caused a fumble and was recovered by Connor Sherman. The first quarter ended with Novi on top 6-0.

The second quarter featured strong special teams play. Once again, Kevin Wenner's punting kept Livonia's back to the wall. The special teams covered every kick-off and punt the entire season on swift tackles by Ben Landry, Dylan Klocke, Richard Browning, Daniel Vera-Burgos, Connor Daly, Kyle Haunstein and Marco Ligotti.

The second half was dominated by the proud Bobcat defense. The rest of the league remarked how difficult it was to score on Novi.

As soon as a Blue Jay touched the ball a Bobcat dropped them. Kyle Matel (12), Collin Pew (10), Grant Wheeler (7), Scott Schramm (5), Colter Huacuja (5), Alex Kinnaman (4), Preston Dooley (4), Adam Haynes (4), Brad Miller (2), Mario Ferrini (2), Brad Kozinski (2) and Matthew Mizerowski (2) absolutely smothered Livonia with quick, hard tackles.

In the final quarter, the Blue Jays came to life and marched down to the Bobcat 18-yard line. On a key fourth down, the Bobcat defense stopped Livonia. The ball was turned over to Novi, time expired, and they were Champions.

helmet as well."

Players receive stickers to place on their helmets for different achievements during games.

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



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# Fourth place in the state!

## Wildcat boys have strong run in Division I finale

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

It was a race Novi coach Bob Smith sure wouldn't mind running again — but the other teams in the state finals may not agree.

Novi took fourth in the Division I state finals behind the likes of Milford in first and Pinckney in second.

"We beat Milford two out of the last three times," said Smith. "The boys are taking consolation in the fact that they know they can beat them. I can pretty much guarantee Milford and Pinckney would say 'No thank you' if offered a rematch. That race could be run several different times and have several different champions."

But, the Wildcats aren't disappointed with how they fared. Smith admits his squad was eyeing the top spot when they arrived at the finals, but knew it would be a dogfight.

"There were five teams there that have beaten each other up all season long," Smith said. "I would have been disappointed if we weren't in the top five. All the teams there performed as expected."

The leading Kensington Valley Conference individual may not have had the opportunity to hoist the team trophy, but he still wore green and white.

Senior Mark Moore finished as the top conference runner, coming in fourth in the finals.

"I looked at Mark and told him this was his opportunity to exact some revenge," said Smith. "Some of the other runners may have beaten him this year but his training was focused on the finals. I looked at him and said 'Mark, you'll beat them today.' And he did. Moore ran a

**"I can pretty much guarantee Milford and Pinckney would say 'No thank you' if offered a rematch. That race could be run several different times and have several different champions."**

**Bob Smith**  
Novi Cross Country Coach

finals time of 15:38.5. Moore set his season personal record, but wasn't able to reach his career mark thanks to some unfavorable conditions.

"After two days of rain the infield (at Michigan International Speedway) was soaked," Smith said. "Race tracks are designed to keep the water off of them by flowing to the infield. That just happens to be where we were running."

The boys fared well though. Finishing eighth in the state was Anol Huprikar, who is also a senior.

"Last year people talked about how we had a superstar because Mark finished in the top 10," Smith said. "We don't have just one superstar though. We have two."

Huprikar ran a 15:48 for his position in the finals.

Not far behind was senior Justin Namm, who ran a 16:38. He finished 55th overall in the race.

"Justin really kicked in up a notch," said Smith. "For much of the year he was considering himself the fourth or fifth guy on the team. He definitely deserved being our three man."

Spencer Ornes, who is also a senior, finished just seven seconds behind Namm, but was 75th overall.

"There were runners coming in about three or four ever second," Smith said. "It was pretty amazing."

Kip Miller ran a 16:52 and Mike Wheat came in not too far behind him in 17:39. Wheat's performance was one of the more inspiring on the day.

"Mike ran an exceptional race, especially considering he had just been diagnosed with chicken pox," said Smith. "He had the beginnings of it but I thought it was just nerves because he had already had the pox. It wasn't."

Rounding out the Wildcats was Bobby Watts with a 17:46. Novi will be in good shape come next season despite losing their top four runners to graduation.

"I did the math," said Smith. "If I took out all of our seniors' times and let everyone else in the regional keep their seniors from this year, we still would have qualified for the state finals."

Which definitely bodes well for the future of Novi cross country — even without staples like Moore and Huprikar to keep things interesting.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggjeston@ht.homecomm.net.

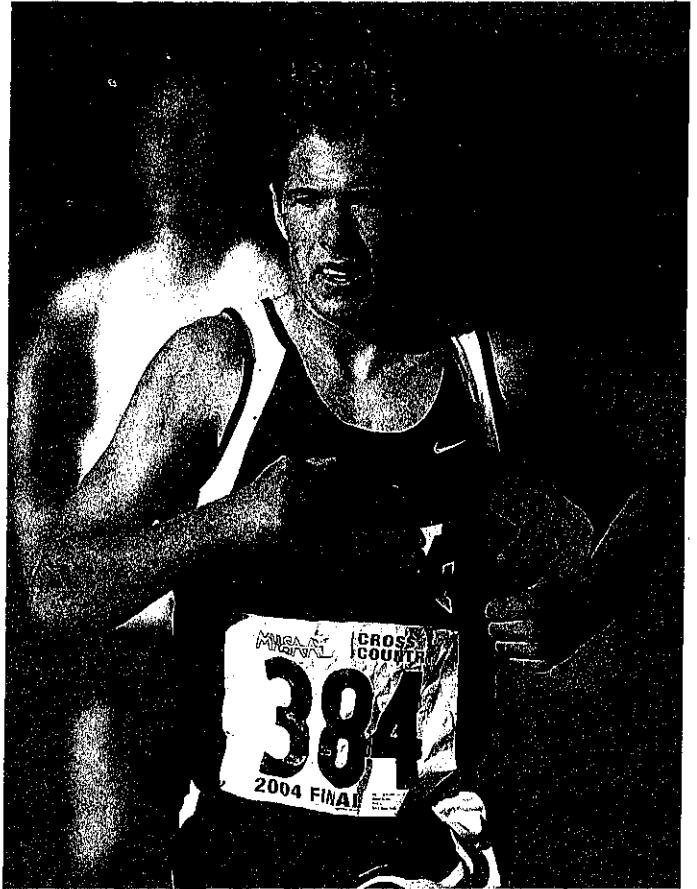


Photo by HAL GOULD

Novi's Bobby Watts keeps up with the pack at the state finals in Brooklyn, Mich. last week. Novi took fourth as a team.

# Novi girls take 15th in state finals

By Sam Eggleston  
SPORTS WRITER

It could be the first in a long line of state finals appearances.

The Novi Wildcats girls cross country team, led by coach Norm Norgren, made a trip to the state finals last Saturday.

The event was held at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn. There, Novi took 15th as a team in Division I competition.

There were 28 teams competing.

"Overall it was a great day for the Novi girls, who do not have great speed but run together as a team," said Norgren.

Novi found senior Patti Ramos wrapping up her career with an inspired performance. The harrier cruised to a finish in 19:39 to lead her Wildcats.

Not far behind her was Meghan Bannatz, who ran a 20:00, while Katie Shannon finished in 20:10. Lainey Sekulowki ran a 20:28 in the finals race while Erica Howard recorded a 20:50 and Andrea Kramer ran a 21:00. Rounding out the runs was Laura Brunner with a 21:02.

Even in their final race of the year, Novi kept pace with their

goal of strong pack times. From start to finish it was just 1:23 apart.

"The pack of 1:21 was not what it had been at the regional a week earlier, but Patti Ramos had a great race and extended that pack," said Norgren.

Times for all the runners were down thanks to course conditions. Rain for two days left the track soft and wet and it was much warmer than usual.

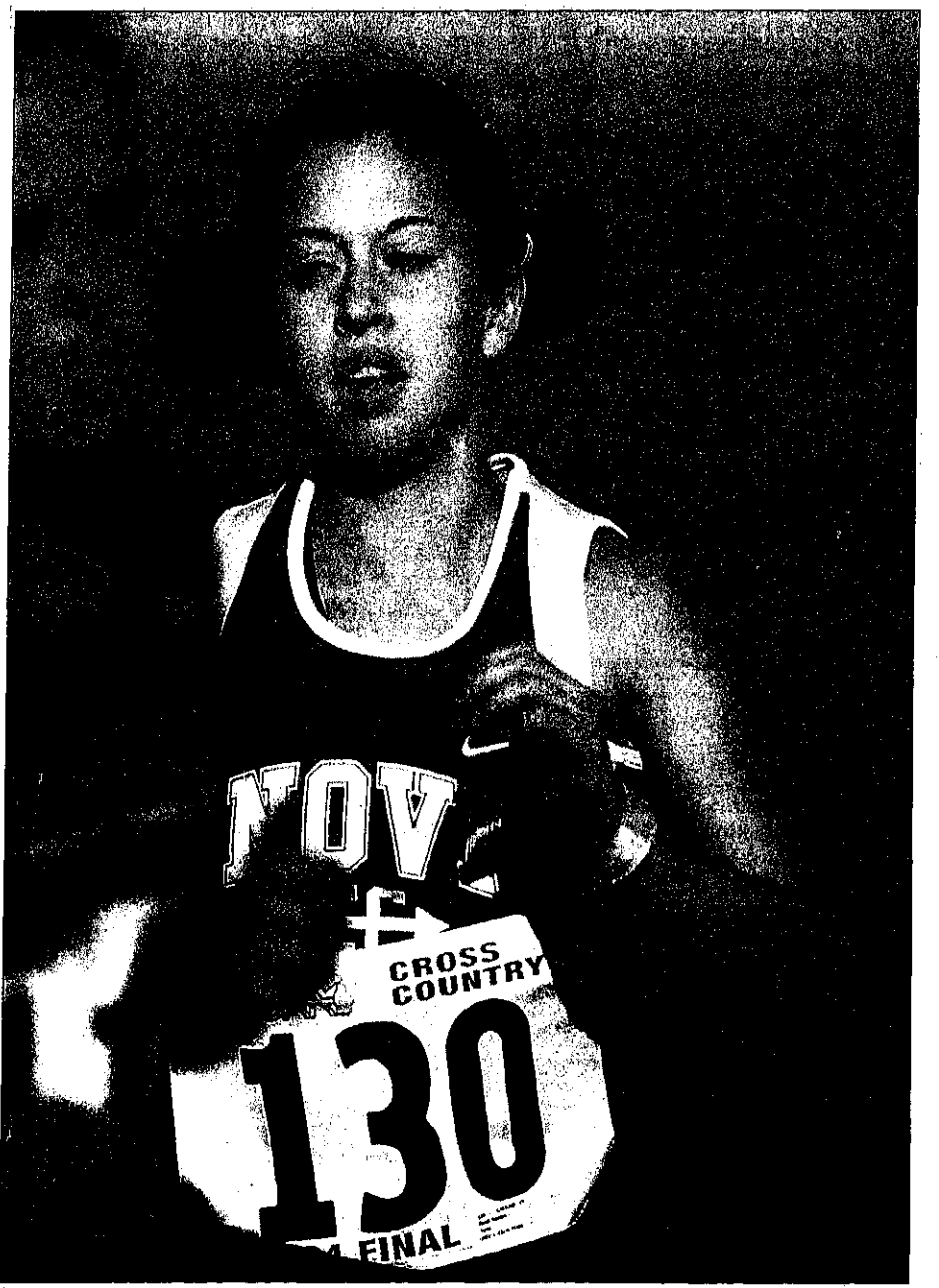
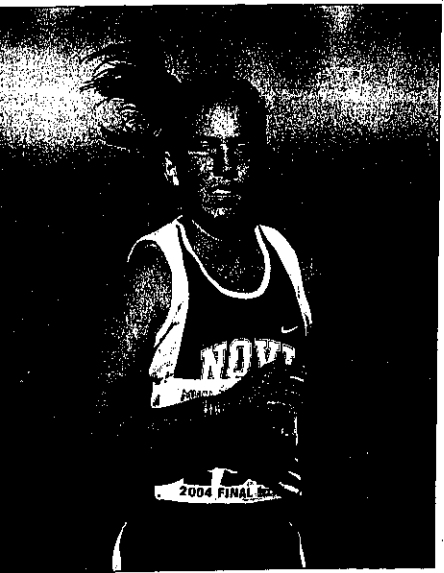
"Warm temperatures and direct sun did bother some of the girls who had been used to two weeks of cooler weather," Norgren noted.

The Wildcats were proud of their appearance and as a team set an example for many squads to follow in the coming years.

"The girls were very excited about their appearance at the finals and hope to make the trip an annual event in the future," Norgren said.

If the way this year's squad ran was any indication of the grit and determination of Novi girls cross country runners, then future trips are inevitable.

Sam Eggleston can be reached at (248) 349-1700, ext. 104 or at seggjeston@ht.homecomm.net.

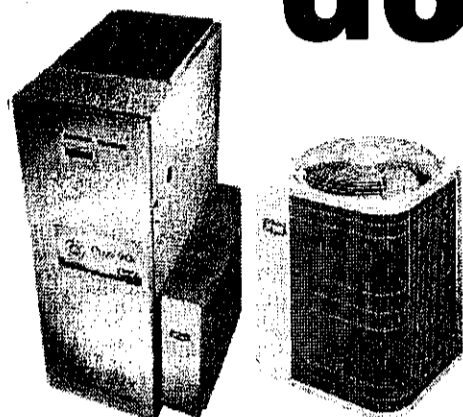


Photos by HAL GOULD

LEFT: Meghan Bannatz paces herself at the state finals, where she ran a 20:00. RIGHT: Novi's Patti Ramos takes a quick glance over her shoulder to see how far behind her opponents are in the state finals recently. Ramos fared well, taking 57th overall as her team ran to a 15th-place finish.

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# EDUCATION

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

## Twenty-four years and still going

■ Village Oaks' Tammy Smith is really a kid at heart

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

Tammy Smith loves to be around children each and every day. Good thing, too, because she probably wouldn't like her job very much if she didn't.

Smith is a kindergarten teacher at Village Oaks Elementary School, and after 24 years on the job, she loves it more now than ever. She knew she wanted to be a teacher since she was 12 years old, and that dream never died.

At age 12, Smith was very involved in her church youth group. As president, she started having teenagers assist in Sunday School classes with the younger children.

"Heading that up was satisfying, but actually going in and being a teacher myself was so great," she said. "I always wanted to be around kids because I'm truly a kid at heart."

The thing that Smith loves the most about her job is being able to care for children and interact with them daily. She loves the innocence that surrounds her and receives so many warm regards from the children that she couldn't ever get anywhere else.

"Being a kindergarten teacher is truly an ego trip," Smith said. "The kids think that I'm the greatest, but I'm really not. It's very satisfying personally to me because they genuinely care and are so innocent and trusting, which gives me such a sense of warmth. They're great for my self-esteem."

There are so many great moments that Smith has experienced in all her years teaching, but she believes that the next one will come tomorrow, and then the

### TAMMY SMITH

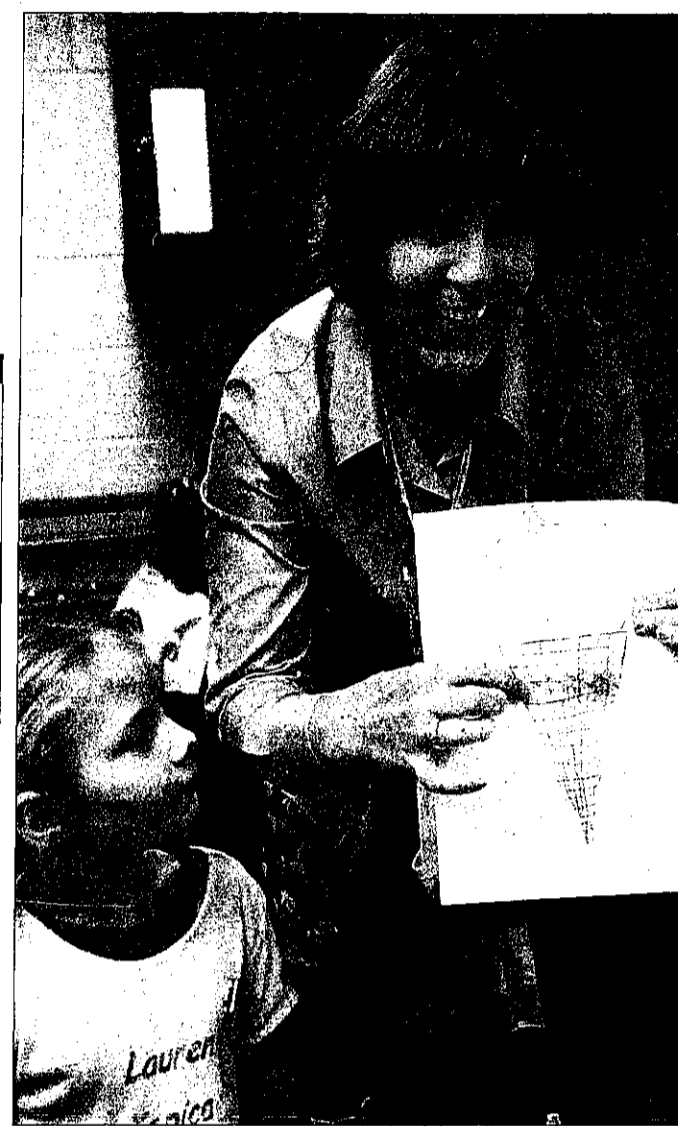
- **School:** Village Oaks Elementary School
- **Grade:** Kindergarten
- **Years teaching:** 24
- **Years in Novi Community School District:** 24
- **College:** Earned her bachelor's degree from Alma University and her master's from Eastern Michigan University.
- **Spouse:** Bob
- **Children:** One daughter named Samantha
- **Interests:** Her idea of fun is spending time with her husband and daughter. She described it by saying, "There's no more rewarding, relaxing and peaceful time than being with them in our home." She also likes to read, go jet skiing, travel, dance, and spending time with kids.

next day, and then the day after that.

"I can't count all of the wonderful moments I've had teaching," she said. "I love to make the most of every moment with the children."

Growing up, Smith's sixth grade teacher, Miss Wilson, was the first to really push her to go beyond and to do her best. She taught Smith to forge ahead and to not hold herself back. It was another teacher, however, who influenced in quite an odd way the way Smith teaches today.

"My kindergarten teacher was n't what I believe a kindergarten teacher should be," Smith said. "That made me determined to be what I felt was a good kindergarten teacher. She wasn't kind and gentle and caring and nurturing. She was just the opposite, so I was determined to do with the children in the classroom.



Village Oaks' kindergarten teacher Tammy Smith shows her appreciation for a student's artwork on a recent Wednesday morning.

going to be like that. It sounds negative, but it turned out to be a positive.

Being a teacher in today's world does have many positive aspects, but it also has a few negative ones as well, such as not having enough time, in Smith's eyes, to accomplish everything that she wants to do with the children in the classroom.

"Sometimes I think about having a sleepover or a campout with the kids over the weekend to cover everything," she said.

Another thing Smith would change about teaching, if she could, would be how big class sizes are. She would limit them so that teachers could have more one-on-one time with the children, which would provide for

more individualized attention. When her students move on to the first grade, she would like them to remember her as somebody who really cares about them.

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

### SCHOOL BRIEFS

#### Growing to Greatness

The Novi Community School District is inviting the community to join the 2004-05 Long Range Planning Committee to develop the next strategic plan for the district. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 9, from 6-9 p.m. It will be held in the Instructional Technology Center Forum, located at 25345 Tall Road, directly across from the Educational Services Building.

For more information, contact Co-Chairperson Nancy Davis at (248) 449-1202, Co-Chairperson Doreen Haggerty at (248) 444-6541 or Novi Community School District Superintendent Ernest Lippe at (248) 449-1200.

#### Bullying and your child: What's a parent to do?

This workshop will share information that defines the nature of bullying, describes the differences between bullying and normal conflict and offers you tools to support a child target, empower a child bystander and assist a child demonstrating bullying tendencies.

The instructor, Lori Parrish, is a school violence coordinator with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

The class (#4207.150) meets 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 16 on the sixth grade side in Novi Meadows. Class fee is \$5.

### COMMUNITY ED.

#### Spanish Language

DATE: Nov. 11-13  
TIME: 6:30 - 8 p.m. beginner; 8 - 9:30 p.m. intermediate  
LOCATION: Novi Middle School Room 506

DETAILS: This class is for those who wish to learn the Spanish language or wish to increase their Spanish vocabulary. FEE: \$79 for each  
PHONE: (248) 449-1206

### ON CAMPUS

Sara Blumer, of Novi, a Michigan State University doctoral student studying plant pathology, was recently awarded the American Phytopathological Society (APS) Foundation's Student Travel Award.

Blumer, along with 17 other student members of the society, was selected for the \$400 award when she submitted an essay proposing a topic for plant symposia to be presented in August at the annual APS meeting in Anaheim, Calif. The money awarded helped pay for conference fees and travel costs.

Blumer, a 1996 graduate of Novi High School, received her bachelor's degree in wood science and a master's degree in forest science from Michigan Technological University.

#### Outstanding Novi teachers wanted

The Novi News will recognize a local teacher each month for his or her excellence in the classroom.

Nominations can come from students, teachers, parents, administrators or community residents who have contact or knowledge of a teacher's classroom activities.

Nominations can be mailed to: Novi News, Cal Stone, 104 W. Main, Northville, MI 48167; faxed to (248) 349-9832; or sent by e-mail to: csone@ht.homecomm.net.

The deadline for nominations is the last day of the month. The Novi News staff will select the winner and a feature story and photograph will appear in the Novi News on the second Thursday of the following month. Those not selected for Outstanding Teacher of the Month will be considered for subsequent months.

To nominate a teacher, please send the teacher's name, school address and the school's telephone number along with a letterhead of no more than 200 words stating why you believe the teacher to be the best.

## Walk To School Day a success at Village Oaks

■ Over 120 kids and 45 adults participated in event

By Ramez Khuri  
STAFF WRITER

School buses headed to Village Oaks Elementary School were unusually light on the morning of Oct. 6, as many students decided not to use them. In fact, about one quarter of the school's children who normally either ride the buses or get dropped off at the school by their parents didn't do either that morning.

Did they all call in sick? No. Did they all just decide to go on strike? That's also a no, but for some who happened to look out

their house windows while they were eating their Cheerios, it might have looked that way.

Instead of getting to school the traditional way, students and parents alike took to their subdivision streets and walked to school. They held up signs that read "Slow children walking to Village Oaks Elementary School" and some even held up American flags as they marched through their neighborhood.

Shirley Wicker, who has a student attending Village Oaks, organized the walk after hearing about it on Good Morning America last spring. She learned that for the program to work, parents had to volunteer to get kids to school by walking with them instead of driving them.

Wicker explained that kids usually walk for two reasons. Sometimes parents aren't able to

drive them and sometimes they just don't have bus service.

"We all need more exercise," Wicker said. "This gets parents and kids exercising more."

Wicker said that the program is an international and national event that Michigan's own Governor Jennifer Granholm's supports. Oct. 6 just happened to be the kick-off day, and after the group arrived to school, Principal Mary Goedert presented a certificate from Granholm for their accomplishment.

"The hope is that parents will say it wasn't bad walking to our school with our kids," Wicker said. "It's only a mile or less than a mile, and we could accomplish a number of things like community interaction. It also reduces traffic at the school, which is a big plus."

The Kids Walk to School program was designed to get commu-

nities to work together to get children to school actively and safely. Children who participated in the program walked to school in groups led by adult volunteers.

Parent volunteers were stationed at various corners along the route so children who arrive early were checked in.

Wicker's hope is that parents will decide they want to do this and that they will put together a program of their own.

"It has to be parent-generated," Wicker said. "Today is the only school-sponsored event to get parents interested and then they have to take over after that. We'll send a note around to parents for them to let us know if they want to continue it."

When the walk was finished, Wicker estimated that over 120 children participated and over 45 adults volunteered. She even

thought that the group picked up along the way some extra students who decided at the last minute to join up.

Marshall and Joshua Solomon, a father-and-son team, took part in the morning. "I had fun walking," Joshua said, who is a first grader at Village Oaks. "I got enough exercise."

Marshall was a little unclear of the purpose of the event at first, but understood afterward and was happy he participated. "I think that the turnout of people who walked through the subdivision is better than any in Novi," he said. "It's a wonderful community and it was a very nice event."

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



Photo by JOHN HEIDER  
**Gimme five**  
Judy and George Vetro (a Village Oaks' third grader) share a "low five" greeting during a VIP luncheon at the Novi school Oct. 27. Kids invited their parents, siblings, grandparents and friends to have a meal with them in the school's cafeteria.



# REGIONAL MARKETPLACE

Page 8B

Novi News

Thursday, November 11, 2004

## Clipping America's biz wings

Entrepreneurs are a special breed of people. They see things that others can't and are known to be dogged in the pursuit of an idea once they've created it in their minds. From such visionaries have emerged many of today's greatest inventions and most successful business ventures.

Take, for example, a couple of brothers who started a little print shop. Like many small-business owners, they constantly tinkered with the enterprise, offering different products and publications. Then one day, their imaginations were captivated by a new technological fad in which they saw a profitable business, so they sold their print shop and launched a new small business.

Historians believe that Wilbur and Orville Wright's decision to open a bicycle rental and repair shop was a crucial step in their inventive process. Their hands-on work with the two-wheeled fad empowered them with insights into balance, propulsion, wind resistance and the construction of lightweight materials, all key points that helped them perfect the world's first powered flying machine.

Were the Wrights alive today, they would no doubt be proud of their creation of one of the greatest inventions known to man. But they would also be dismayed, possibly horrified, to discover the huge bureaucratic and regulatory structure that yokes aviation.

Likewise, they would gasp at the requirements that governments at all levels have demanded of bicycle manufacturers and print shops and be baffled at additional layers of regulation and red tape erected around all businesses.

Imagine Wilbur and Orville striking out on their adventure today. They would never get off the ground — having to comply with everything from environmental-impact regulations to occupational and safety rules, not to mention government testing laboratories and noise-abatement policies. That may seem like an exaggeration, but it is no stretch of the imagination to realize that today the spirits of inventors and entrepreneurs all over America are stifled by excessive regulation.

One bright spot on the horizon is an effort undertaken by the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, whose specific role is to reduce this burden. The office, working with federal agencies implementing the Regulatory Flexibility Act, helped U.S. small firms in 2003 save more than \$6 billion that would have gone to meeting various bureaucracies' checklists. Now, Advocacy is turning its attention to the states by offering legislation that mirrors the federal flexibility measure.

Many states have some form of regulatory-flexibility laws, but they lack five crucial components necessary to help small firms: a true small-business definition, requirements that state agencies perform economic-impact analysis before regulating and consider less-burdensome alternatives that meet their regulatory goals, effective judicial review, and a provision that forces state governments to periodically review all regulations.

Not only will states' passage of such measures boost the creation and productivity of small firms, but it could give wing to the imaginations of tomorrow's entrepreneurs and inventors who may just be tinkering with a great idea that will uplift mankind.

Jack Faris is president of the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's largest small-business advocacy group. More information is available on-line at [www.NFIB.com](http://www.NFIB.com).

### Story idea?

Our readers have great ideas and we want to hear them. Send us your ideas.

Send it to:  
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Advertorial



Photos by HAL GOULD

Kevin and Marcy May stand in front of their Our Blessings Consignment shop in Millford Village. The shop offers a wide variety of consignment items from clothing, to furniture to china all under one roof.

## Shop shares Our Blessings

By Annette Jaworski  
 SPECIAL WRITER

It all began 13 years ago with the hope of making a passion into a profession. Marcy May, the originator of Our Blessings Consignment Inc., loved shopping at thrift stores and garage sales from her junior high days, but found it cumbersome to sift through the plethora of junk to be found.

Her vision of what a consignment store should be, along with the help of her husband and co-owner, Kevin May, have turned this dream into a reality. Together their commitment to provide customers with quality and gently used merchandise at a fraction of the retail price has proved to be a success story and one of Millford's favorite destinations.

The village establishment has been a success from the start and has continued to bloom into one of Michigan's favorite consignment emporiums, receiving over 500 new items daily. With a business that's more than quadrupled in 13 years, Kevin and Marcy May's business instincts were proved correct. In fact, a recent addition makes a total of 8,000 square feet of floor space. The store is impressive not only because of its size, but because of its great selection, atmosphere and quality merchandise.

"The biggest compliment we get are from customers who tell us that Our Blessings is their favorite store, period, not just their favorite consignment store," said owner Kevin May.

In their racks, you'll find high-end clothing for women, men and children as well as quality furniture and home décor items. They feature a wide selection of crystal, silver, china and other fine collectibles. Typical of the clothing merchandise you might find are name brands such as St. John's Knit, Escada, Bebe, Ann Taylor, Dolce and Cabana, Baby Lulu and Oilly. They take the same approach with furniture, featuring pieces from Thomasville, Stickley, Ethan Allen, Bernhardt, Pottery Barn and Harden, to name a few.

"We're one of the few, if not the only, consignment shop that

offers everything. Some do furniture or clothing. We do it all. I know that's one of the qualities that sets us apart from the rest," said Kevin May.

The shop's popularity plays a key role in their success, allowing them to continuously offer new and exciting merchandise, typically at a third of the retail price for clothing and half the original purchase price for furniture and home décor accessories. Style, quality and condition of merchandise all affect the desirability and pricing. Featuring the best selection of merchandise is something they strive for.

"We have a reputation for being picky. We have to be," said Kevin May. "We have always wanted to be a store that sets a very high standard for customers and they appreciate that they don't have to sift through endless racks of merchandise to find the quality and styles they are looking for."

Because of the tremendous inventory, many regulars make a point to visit regularly to see the like new selections changing daily.

Marcy May acknowledges, "Some shop here for the unique experience of finding one of a kind items, or some come for the thrill of the bargain hunt. With the constant flow of new merchandise pouring in daily, they feel as though they are walking into a new store with each and every shopping trip."

Not only is their wide variety of quality merchandise, the store ambience makes it a pleasure to visit. Customers note the hardwood floors and chandeliers in

the furniture area and check-board tile floor. Racks are clean, clearly marked and well organized by sizes, style and type of item, so merchandise is easy to find. Although the store is spacious, creative displays make it feel warm and cozy atmosphere, but not cluttered.

"Our reputation is everything," said Marcy May. "We have over 9,000 consignors and many more shoppers who have been faithfully with us from the beginning. We consider them friends as well as partners in this venture and attribute much of our success to them."

Consignors love the fact that Our Blessings Consignment makes life easier for them. They offer quick and convenient pick up and deliveries for furniture items and an 8,000-square-foot showroom to tastefully display merchandise. They save consignors wasted time and all the hassles associated with garage and do-it-yourself sales, the expense of listing items in the classifieds,

irritating no shows and the awkward situation of having strangers in their home, eliminating a safety issue.

The Mays credit Marcy's father, Harry Birch, for his tremendous effort on all of the expansions, and consider him an invaluable asset in making the store what it is today.

"He's been with us on every renovation," said Kevin May. "We would not have accomplished nearly as much without him." He also notes the contributions of all the current employees, some of who began shopping at Our Blessings with their mother's years ago.

Our Blessings accepts consignments six days a week and also offers the convenience of pickup and delivery service for furniture consignments. They offer quick consignor payments, disbursing payments after only two days of sale, versus monthly payments.

Business hours are Monday and Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Special hours on Sunday apply through the holidays, please call (248) 684-1594 for more information.

Our Blessings is located at 340 West Summit Street just North of downtown Millford.

### SAYING THANKS

A word of thanks and gratitude from owners Kevin and Marcy May. We, at Our Blessings, would like to thank Millford and surrounding areas for your support through the years and for allowing us to serve you and the community. As the holidays approach, we at Our Blessings Consignment wish you and your families all God's Blessings for a safe and joyous holiday season.



Isalah and Kristina Ayers and Kevin May are ready to help customers find items they are looking for in Our Blessings' 8,000-square-foot showroom.

### CONSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

- Heavy Winter Oct. 1 - Dec. 31
- Holiday Décor/Clothing Sept. 1 - November 30
- Spring Resort Wear Feb. 1-April 30
- Fall Décor Halloween Costumes Aug. 1 - Oct. 15
- Summer May 1-June 30
- Back to School begins July 1

Come see why we're Michigan's #1 consignment store!

**10% off**  
 ANY FURNITURE PURCHASE