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Novi FIRST Robotics will be holding an informational meeting from 7-9 p.m. July 18 in the East Meeting room at the Novi Public Library, 45255 W. 10 Mile Road. All Novi students entering grades K-12 this fall interested in joining a robotics team for the 2012 season and their parents are encouraged to attend.

FIRST is a worldwide program dedicated to inspiring young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills. FIRST teams for the 2012 season are forming now for all Novi Community Schools students entering grades K-12.

FIRST programs are Jr. FIRST LEGO League (grades K-3), FIRST LEGO League (grades 4-8), FIRST Tech Challenge (grades 7-8), and FIRST Robotics Competition (grades 9-12). Past Novi FIRST teams have competed for Michigan and World Championships at all levels.

Graduating seniors have been eligible for college scholarships offered through the \$15,000,000 FIRST Scholarship Program.

For more information contact Brian Smith at novirobotics.ftc@gmail.com.



# NOVI NEWS

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**Hot sun in the summer time**



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Northville High graduate Greg Putnam tends to the organic garden at Maybury Farm on July 5. Putnam and Northville High teacher Scott Szukaitis are both working on raising a variety of vegetables at the nearly-acre sized plot through the summer months. In Putnam's hands are a bunch of yellow cards coated with a sweet sticky substance that will be placed near these squash to attract — and get rid of — bugs. For more on the story, see page A3.

## McCotter resigns seat

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter has resigned.

The five-term Congressman from Livonia has ended his term six months early after what he called a "nightmarish month and a half" in apparent reference to his duplicated signatures on petitions turned into the Secretary of State that resulted in an investigation by state Attorney General Bill Schuette. The duplicate signatures were invalidated, so he fell short of the minimum signatures required to run.

On Thursday, *The Detroit News* reported that McCotter also wrote a TV pilot, described by *The News* as a "crude variety show," last

**MORE INSIDE**

Learn more about the Republican and Democrat candidates running for McCotter's former seat in the August primary, as well as this newspaper's endorsements, inside this edition.

year as it appeared his presidential campaign was failing. Late Friday afternoon, McCotter issued the following statement:

"Today I have resigned from the office of United States Representative for Michigan's 11th Congressional District. After nearly 26 years in elected office, this past nightmarish month and a half have, for the first time, severed the necessary harmony between the needs of my constituency and of my family. As this harmony is required to serve, its

Please see MCCOTTER, A8

## Governor calls for special election to fill vacancy

In accordance with state law and the U.S. Constitution, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley on Tuesday called a special election on Wednesday, Sept. 5 in the 11th Congressional District to fill the vacancy created by last week's sudden resignation of U.S. Rep. Thad McCotter.

State election officials estimate the cost of the special election to total \$650,000 for the impacted local and county

governments. The lieutenant governor's strong preference is to save local tax dollars and spare election officials a significant burden by conducting the special primary election in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Aug. 7 primary. However, the timing of McCotter's resignation makes that

Please see ELECTION, A8

## Seniors, be aware of Medicare phone scam

By Cal Stone  
Community Editor

When a caller asks for your bank routing number, that's a pretty good sign that something's up — but some folks, especially senior citizens, may not realize they're being scammed.

Anita Clozza, an 86-year-old Novi resident, knew better when she got a phone call indicating she was going to be sent a new Medicare card with a microchip in it. All she needed to do was give her bank account routing number.

"My mother panicked and

hung up," said her daughter, Barbara Williams. "A week later, she got another call. That time she just hung up." Williams said she thinks they call more than once to "break down your resistance" and she and her mom want to alert others.

"There are a lot of senior citizens in Novi and other little communities," Williams said. "My mom is 86 and still has reasoning powers, but how many seniors don't? She doesn't want any of her friends taken. Medicare never

Please see SCAM, A8

## Event highlights India's culture and heritage

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

The 27th annual Festival of Chariots parade will take place Saturday, July 21, and Novi Mayor Bob Gatt and other officials will attend to help celebrate the grand event showcasing India's spirituality and culture. Thousands of visitors are expected to join in the free celebration, open to the public.

"We had 5,000 last year, which was up almost 40 percent from the year prior," said Naimish Patel, 37, a co-chair for the festival committee.

Guests will enjoy entertainment, a free lunch, live dance and music, yoga, unique shopping, henna, Vedic culture and arts, and kids' activities. Guests will see colorful floats, traditional costumes, ancient Hindu rituals, unique music, and dramas focused on the culture of India.

The interactive three-mile parade begins at 11 a.m. July 21 from the Novi Civic Center with an opening ceremony. With replications of this festival all over the world, over one million people participate in this thousands year-old Indian celebration.

**BACKGROUND**

The Festival of Chariots was first performed outside of India on July 9, 1967, in San Francisco, under the supervision of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada is the Founder-Acarya of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. Today, the Festival of the Chariots is performed around the world, including down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along Pacific Coast Highway in Laguna Beach and through Trafalgar Square in London, England.

Detroit held its first Festival of Chariots in 1985 and has become one of the largest celebrations outside of India. For more information, visit: [www.thefestivalofchariots.com](http://www.thefestivalofchariots.com).

**'Great destination'**

"This is the fourth year it'll be held in Novi and the 27th year overall," said Patel. "Novi's a great destination for us." Its demographics are good, as are facilities and public official support.

Please see INDIA, A8

**Novi News online**

Have you checked out our website? It's chock full of local news from the Novi community and is updated often. There are several cool features at hometownlife.com that allow you browse through the latest news and features from your neighboring communities, too.

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# Mad Sumo

## Japanese eatery changes name, keeps proud traditions, menu

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

A new name may be just the ticket for success for a local Japanese restaurant in the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk.

Formerly known as Godaiko, The Mad Sumo restaurant is managed by Jayden Sotzen.

Godaiko had been in business over seven years, she said. The name was changed "to try and find a bigger clientele group to appeal to." Paul and Ying Tsai own the restaurant, said Sotzen, a Wixom resident.

"It's a Japanese style sushi steakhouse. We do the steak on the rocks," not done table-side with a Hibachi as some restaurants do. "They actually cook their own steak at the table."

"You pick a stone for cooking your food, and steaks/sushi are wheeled out. Guests can cut and sear their own food."

"You don't have to do it that way," said Sotzen, adding that the staff can do the work if you prefer. "Our sushi menu hasn't



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mario Cerda, a chef at Novi's Mad Sumo Japanese restaurant, whips up a River Dragon sushi roll on July 2. The River Dragon features crab, avocado and smoked river eel. Mad Sumo is located in Novi's Twelve Mile Crossing complex.

changed," she said. "Most of our guests come in just for the sushi."

"We have regular customers that come from Clarkston, Holly, Plym-



Mad Sumo's River Eel sushi roll.

outh." Even those from Kalamazoo arrive when in town.

"The people that knew Godaiko, we have very loyal customers," Sotzen said.

Staff's working on website improvements right now with the new name.

"We're in transition," she said of the website for Mad Sumo.

There is competition in their field. "So it's a little tough. We're soon to get the Internet site up."

"We do get some Japanese businessmen. Families are less common than the businessmen." The restaurant has a full bar.

"Our liquor is very well stocked," Sotzen said. They specialize in Japanese beer, but don't have 90 types of beer. Specialty drinks with sake in them are served.

Sotzen didn't think she'd work in a Japanese restaurant. She had a boyfriend in Belleville, and she lived in Waterford.

"I've been here almost four years now. I kind of fell into it." She liked what they saw walking around.

Novi's doing well commercially. "The Fountainwalk's busy area," she said.

"They were basic-



Novi's Mad Sumo located at the Twelve Mile Crossing complex.

ly just looking for a larger client to appeal to a target audience," she added. Novi draws people ages 21-35, and the restaurant has "wonderful, specialty martinis. Portion sizes are very large" for entrees.

"We are very plentiful." A tempura ice cream is the dessert specialty, made from vanilla ice cream wrapped in pound cake and put in a tempura batter. It's then deep fried and put over a bed of chocolate cookies with chocolate and honey sauce.

Hours are Monday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30-10 p.m.; Friday 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5:30-11 p.m.; Saturday noon to 11 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 9 p.m.

The restaurant can be reached at (248) 465-7777.

jbrown@hometownlife.com

# Green thumb

## Organic gardening appeals to Northville teen

By Julie Brown  
Staff Writer

Greg Putnam, 18, a recent Northville High School graduate, is putting his summer to good use.

Putnam, son of Mike and Sue of Northville Township, is working on an organic garden at Maybury Farm. He took over the job in February of this year, having started part time earlier as a volunteer under NHS teacher Scott Szukaitis' direction.

"He couldn't do the full-time gardening this year," said Putnam, who's headed to Michigan Technological University this fall to study environmental engineering.

His NHS class had volunteered on the organic garden, and Putnam's spending his summer cultivating, weeding and keeping away bugs without pesticides. A greenhouse measuring some 68 by 20 feet, a "hoophouse," got the plants going early



An organic squash plant growing at the garden at Maybury Farms.

this year. Lack of rain's been a challenge this summer, but Putnam hopes to sell produce at the Northville farmers market, sponsored by the Northville Chamber of Commerce, and at the farm welcome center.

When he starts college, Szukaitis and current NHS students will take over.

"It's definitely something I enjoy," Putnam said. "I really like to

know how the environment works."

He's done farm-type work in other settings, but organic gardening is new.

"We don't use any pesticides. It's all organic. It's definitely a different experience."

Putnam, also a paid camp counselor at Maybury Farm, has an older brother, Nick, 21, and a younger brother, Alex, 14.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Greg Putnam tends to the garden at Maybury Farms on July 5.

# Area pegged for radio antenna cluster

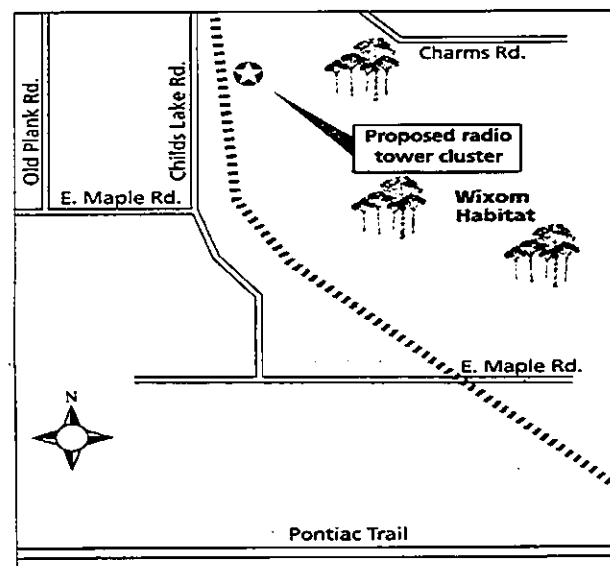
By Aileen Wingblad  
Staff Writer

Acres in the southeast corner of Milford Township has been pegged as a site for a cluster of radio towers for the Birch Broadcasting Corp.

The township planning commission is considering a proposal by owner Sima Birach, who wants to construct seven 199-foot antenna towers on vacant land just west of Charms Road and north of East Maple Road.

The tower cluster will service Fenton-based WCXI-AM (1160) and Walled Lake-based WPON-AM (1460). WPON has been broadcasting temporarily through WCXI since the towers that were servicing it shut down a couple of years ago.

In anticipation of the proposed project, Birach purchased 60 acres and



obtained an easement, environmental review, wetlands permit from the Department of Environmental Quality and permission to cross the railroad tracks that run

through the property. The site, which abuts the Wixom Wastewater Treatment Plant, is zoned industrial. It's surrounded by wetlands and other unbuildable property.

At last week's planning commission meeting, Birch Broadcasting's attorney Donald Sambhat said Birch searched for a substantial amount of time before finding a site appropriate for the project. The Milford property satisfies Federal Communications Commission criteria for the broadcasting signal level needed to transmit for both radio stations, he said.

The site has limited use, he noted, due to its topography, configuration, wetlands and railroad crossing.

Wayne Reese, president of the broadcasting consulting firm Munn-Reese, said it's "pretty much an ideal location" because of its size and the directional broadcast signal pattern it accommodates.

"There aren't a lot of big pieces zoned for radio towers to do this," he said. However, the planning

commission has voiced concern over the project's potential electrical interference and its visual impact.

"I can't see how this is in the best interest of the (Milford) community," said the Milford property planning commissioner Bill Mazzara said.

According to Milford planning consultant Nick Lomako, Wixom City Manager Mike Dornan agrees, and said the tower cluster will cause "site pollution" and negatively affect property values of homes in the area. Sambhat said these claims are unsubstantiated.

Scott Johnson of Great Lakes Tower and Antenna Co., which would construct the project if

approved — dismissed assertions that this type of antenna cluster creates an eyesore.

"These towers are hard to see," Johnson said. "I have them around my house — you really have to look for them. They blend into the horizon very well."

With commissioners agreeing the project demands more investigation before they vote on whether or not to recommend it to the township board for approval, Birach has been directed to return to the commissioners at their July meeting with additional information. If the plan is allowed to move forward, a public hearing will precede the township's ruling.

## NOVI NEWS

Published Thursday by the Hometown Weeklies  
866.887.2737 www.hometownlife.com  
Publication Number USPS 398920  
Periodical Postage Paid at Northville, MI 48167

### HOW TO REACH US

Subscription Rates:  
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## Novi's MME results in county's top five

The latest Michigan Merit Exam results show Novi's 11th grade students have once again performed at a high level. On all subject area tests — reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies — Novi students have demonstrated achievement at a level that is significantly higher than the state average and among the highest performers in Oakland County.

The Michigan Department of Education released results of the 2012 MME, the annual high school assessment for Michigan 11th graders.

In social studies, science, and mathematics this current group of 11th graders ranks second in the county, while in reading and

### BY THE NUMBERS

Novi	Statewide	Subject
63	29	Math
73	56	Reading
57	26	Science
65	41	Social Studies
72	49	Writing

writing ranks in the top five or better, in regards to the percentage of students who are proficient or advanced.

"Reading is the area in which we have the greatest percentage of students performing at the proficient and advanced levels," said Novi Community School District Superintendent Dr. Steve M. Matthews.

Examining a five-year trend, even with the new more rigorous state cut-scores applied, Novi High

School has shown improvement in all areas tested.

"This upward and stable trend from 2008-2012 should be a source of pride for our students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members," said Matthews. "In reflecting on the MME results, we are affirmed that our students are clearly on course for success, beyond high school, and are ready for college and ready to work."

### NOVI ON CAMPUS

**Virginia Tech**  
Novi's Derek M. Richard (junior majoring in computer science in the College of Engineering)

was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2012 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must attempt at least 12

credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

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## Visit to Japan proves it's people that matter most

By Steve Matthews  
Guest Columnist

Year two of my tenure in Novi started July 1.

At the time I was in Japan at the invitation of the Japanese Business Society of Detroit learning about the educational system in Japan. I visited several schools from Tokyo to Hiroshima and was able to think about and reflect on the value of education.

In Toyota City, I visited Hudan Junior High School. Assistant Principal Tadahito served as our guide. He was justifiably proud of the school he helped lead.

The school provided what most good schools do — focused instruction, opportunities for students, and a varied curriculum. The school was well organized and had clear instructional goals. But that is not what impressed me most about the school.

The most impressive part of Hudan Junior High School was the deep respect people had for one another. From the staff to students to parents to the community — this was a school that cared for one another.

I was in Japan to learn about their system of education. The goal was to give me perspective, lessons that might help me as I see to provide leadership here in Novi. One of the lessons that I learned is a lesson that I



Super Talk  
Steve Matthews

learned a long time ago. The most important part of education is people. It is important, and I would not argue, that quality schools have good facilities and resources for students. There is a basic infrastructure that is needed to meet the needs of our students, whether you live in Novi or Tokyo.

It is also important to have clear goals, to understand what schools are trying to do. The schools I visited had very clear expectations of their staff and students. They also had an understanding of what the responsibilities were for the students who attended their schools.

There are some significant differences between the educational system in Japan and Novi. The impact of these differences cannot and should not be minimized. Differences in technology, diversity, and funding impact the educational system.

But the enduring lesson that I will remember from my time in Japan is that people matter. As year two stretches out before me, I am focused on helping our district achieve its four goals. I am committed to ensuring that every stu-

dent in our district makes progress every year and that we continue to provide the quality educational experience that our students and families expect.

But after my visit to Japan, I have a renewed commitment to serve the people in our district. Students, parents, staff, and community members have to work together to create the system that will help prepare our students for the present and the future. The lesson that I re-learned is that people make the difference.

When we create an organization where people feel welcome, when we create an organization where people believe in and support one another, when we create an organization that cares deeply for each other, then we will have an organization that is able to prepare students to be successful.

The exciting part for me is that I know that we have people in our community that understand this important principle. What makes a great school system — whether it is in Japan or the Novi — is people.

Steve Matthews is the superintendent of the Novi Community Schools district. He can be reached at smatthews@novi.k12.mi.us; (248) 437-1234; www.twitter.com/docsmatthews; or www.novisuperintendent.blogspot.com.

## Taj gets local Democrats' nod; Roberts wants Obama impeached

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

The 11th Congressional District race for the Democratic Party nomination is between an Asian-born doctor and a longtime supporter of Lyndon LaRouche who wants to see President Barack Obama impeached.

Dr. Syed Taj, a Canton resident who recently retired as chief of medicine at Oakwood Hospital, has received support from the 11th Congressional Democrats and local Democratic clubs throughout the district.

Bill Roberts, 31, has worked for 11 years with Lyndon LaRouche on what Roberts said was restoring the "FDR legacy of policy making," but he also worked recently to impeach Obama. Several LaRouche supporters, including Roberts, stood outside local post offices in the area and on street corners holding up photos of Obama with a Hitler-style mustache, asking residents to sign petitions.

Taj, 65, a Canton trustee since 2008, has decided not to seek re-election to the Canton board, and now is campaigning to win a seat in U.S. Congress. Taj came to the United States in 1982 when he was 35 after practicing medicine in India and the United Kingdom. Taj is running because he believes the United States should provide quality health care for every individual.

Taj spoke with U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow about his support for a single billing system, instead of billing sever-

### Candidate Q&As, A6.

al insurance companies, when the health insurance issue was being discussed in Congress in 2009, but that amendment fell short of votes. "The single biller is a better system," Taj said.

### AHCA a 'good foundation'

"It is a good foundation," Taj said about the Affordable Health Care Act. "We have to do preventive care, with early diagnosis; it doesn't cost that much."

For example, prostate and colon cancers are treatable when caught early. Taj wants to keep Medicare and Social Security intact. "It is difficult for seniors to understand the Medicare system," Taj said. "Social Security is not a Ponzi scheme. It is something that really helped the people especially the senior population," Taj said. "Seniors are doing OK. They aren't rich, but they survive. Otherwise 50 percent of them would be living in poverty."

Education was important in each family, Taj said. "We have to improve our system and our schools," Taj said. Federal government loans are important for students to obtain low interest, along with grants to hire more teachers.

"You can't survive just by going to high school," Taj said. He wants vocational training for those who don't attend college so they can become more employable.

Roberts, who works as a full-time political organizer for

the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee, decided to run on a national slate for Congress. What prompted that is a number of Democrats didn't stand up to what Roberts called the wrong policies of Obama.

"Our motto has been principle over party," Roberts said. "This administration has continued the pro-dictatorship, Fascist policies of the Bush-Cheney administration and to even greater extremes," Roberts said. "The illegal wiretapping under the Patriot Act has been massively expanded. The National Defense Act is a complete suspension of due process. Any citizen can be picked up off the street and detained indefinitely by simply being labeled a terrorist and no court process has to occur."

### Wall Street bailout 'almost treason'

Roberts also disagrees with the Wall Street bailout Obama continued, now to the tune of \$30 trillion. "It is a complete attack on the American population, to dump worthless obligations on the taxpayers to bail out Wall Street. It is almost treason in my mind," Roberts said. The president had another option in the Glass-Steagall Act, which is the full separation of commercial banking from private investment banking, Roberts said.

"That is the only way to initiate real economic recovery and to begin to start a process to get people back to work," Roberts said.

Roberts was asked about the appropriateness of comparing

Obama to Hitler and working to obtain signatures on petitions with a photo of Obama with a Hitler-like mustache. "Yes, I've done that," Roberts said about collecting the signatures.

"It's a very honest assessment of the president's personality," Roberts said of the photos of Obama with the Hitler mustache. "Fascism starts somewhere, in the commitment to saying that there are certain lives that are unworthy of life and that it's more important to have a policy of austerity and propping up the banking cartel."

"Clearly no one is setting up gas chambers, but it is the idea that in this period you have the president who has this policy of approving millions of cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, and at the same time putting in trillions of dollars to bail out financial institutions."

When elected, Obama said he would emulate FDR, Roberts said. "It was clear (Obama's presidency) would be modeled after fascism," Roberts said. "I don't pull my punches, I say what I think is true."

Glass-Steagall is supported by 70 Democrats in Congress, Roberts said, but opposed by Obama. Roberts was asked about Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who Roberts called "unacceptable." Romney "would not be able to stand up to another Democrat" if Obama were ousted from the presidency.

Opponent an 'imposter'  
Taj recently called Roberts an "imposter" running as a Democrat and told voters "not to be fooled by a fake

Democrat." Roberts responded: "The idea that you have to take a loyalty oath to a president no matter what happens and what heinous crimes he commits, it's cultish." "The idea that you have to be an Obama supporter to be a Democrat is ridiculous."

R. Karl Burnett, vice chair of the 11th District Democrats and president of the Livonia Democrat Club, called Taj a "remarkable, wonderful guy." "He's very approachable," Burnett said. "His desire to serve in Congress is deeply seated, and he has a strong desire to work for others."

Burnett said Taj has shown his knowledge of the health care issues in news articles and that his experience in India and England will assist him in improving health care in the United States.

Burnett said Taj has been active with the 11th District Democrats for years.

Burnett said the Obama characterization with a Hitler mustache was "an outrage" and that the supporters of LaRouche had extremist views.

"You don't have to be a member of a political party to file as a candidate for either party," Burnett said. "Dr. Taj is sincere, and he deserves support for being sincere and genuine in that endeavor."

The candidates highlight their platforms at their respective websites: Roberts's website is billrobertsforcongress.com; Taj's website is at tajforcongress.com.

kabramc@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

## Bentivolio, Cassis seek to win 11th District GOP race

By Ken Abramczyk  
Staff Writer

The race for the Republican candidates in the 11th Congressional District race isn't one that either candidate envisioned just two months ago.

Both Kerry Bentivolio of Milford and Nancy Cassis of Novi assumed Thaddeus McCotter would be campaigning to win a sixth term in U.S. Congress. Bentivolio filed to run as a candidate against McCotter, believing that he would be challenging the five-term incumbent.

Cassis had stepped out of the public eye after her term in the state Senate ended in 2010, until she learned of McCotter's signature issues and ultimate withdrawal from the race as a write-in candidate.

Today, Cassis is running as a write-in candidate against Bentivolio in the Republican primary, who will be listed as the lone Republican on the ballot. Drexel Morton of Canton recently filed as a write-in with the Secretary of State's office in the Republican race. (Morton will be profiled in another story in an upcoming edition.)

The candidates are looking forward to the election on Aug. 7. Bentivolio, 60, has resigned as a teacher in the Fowlerville school district to run for office.

### Bentivolio tired of overspending

Bentivolio ran against Mike Kowall for state Senate two years ago. Bentivolio, a veteran of the Vietnam and Iraq wars and a reindeer farmer in Milford, is running because he is tired of the "overspending, overborrowing and overregulating" of the

### Candidate Q&As, A7.

federal government, and will push for transparency and accountability. "I expect to put my votes online and my justification for voting the way I did," Bentivolio said.

Bentivolio is concerned about the debt increase. "We've already spent our grandchildren's tax money, \$15 trillion, which is unbelievable," Bentivolio said.

Bentivolio believes some expenditures are wasteful, such as studies of cats (small ones, not large ones, he says) in Africa and Congressional gold medals, the latter of which is something the Congressional members could pay for themselves at \$70 for each member.

"We also have an epidemic of suicides of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and an epidemic of homelessness among veterans," Bentivolio said. As of early June, approximately 900,000 applications for VA benefits remain unprocessed and are 300 days old, Bentivolio said.

"If you put your life on the line, we should do a little better for them," Bentivolio said.

Cassis, 68, served in the state House and state Senate for 14 years until she left the Senate in 2010. She met with several GOP officials who interviewed her and other prominent Republicans, then received their support to run as a write-in against Bentivolio. Cassis has received the endorsement of Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson and U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, while Bentivolio obtained the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, R-Grand Rapids, and State Rep. Dave Agema, Republican in the

Please see GOP, A9

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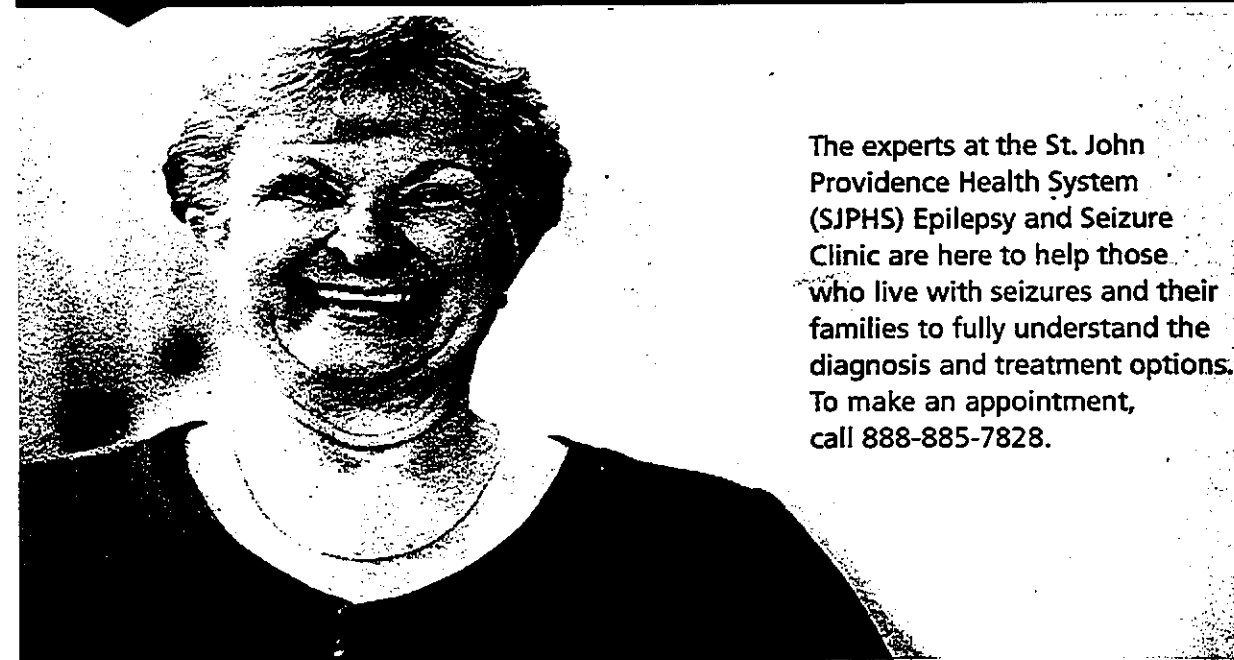


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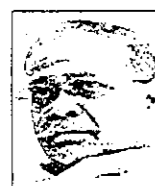
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# Meet the Congressional candidates

## SYED TAJ

**Age:** 65  
**Family info:** Wife Sofia and son Asad  
**City of residence:** Canton  
**Occupation:** Physician  
**Education:** Medical School, India; post-graduate work, Great Britain and the U.S.  
**Previous elected offices held:** Canton Township Trustee (2008-12)



**DREAM Act:** securing our borders and better funding our border agents, and preserving the family unit in the immigration process. Streamlining our immigration policies is both an economic and moral imperative and cutting the red tape at the level where the process begins.  
**What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?**  
As a physician with 40 years in the medical field, I am very passionate about health care reform. I support the individual mandate, treatment of pre-existing conditions, state exchanges and how it lowers overhead costs. The ACA is not without flaws, and in Congress I will advocate a patient-outcome model based on patient outcomes and quality care to improve the law.  
**Do you favor the bridge to Canada? If so, is there anything you would do to ensure its construction?**  
I support the construction of the New International Trade Crossing proposed by Gov. Snyder. Nearly 25 percent of all merchandise trade between the U.S. and Canada crosses the Ambassador Bridge, making it the busiest crossing by trade volume. I oppose private ownership and development of this project and applaud the Governor's partnership with Canada without costing taxpayers a dime.  
**Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?**  
While federal expenditures play an important role during recessions — keeping local teachers, firefighters and safety workers employed — we should be aiding the current recovery with an eye on our growing public deficit. Infrastructure projects, the Small Business Tax Credit Initiative, lowering college costs, incentives to hire new workers and tax reform will have important impacts on Michigan's economy and the nation.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
Congress' fundamental duty is compromise. Leadership is not about receiving credit for sponsoring legislation but bringing people together to move things forward. My objective is to engage in a healthy discussion of public policy and values, not persuade others to one viewpoint. This is the standard our constituents should hold us to and that both parties have neglected for years.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
Preserving our national security means protecting our interests at home and overseas without inflaming hatred toward America or the West. I highly support a comprehensive approach involving counterintelligence, international diplomacy, securing our borders and utilizing smart power. This means coordinating with regional sources in Yemen, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to thwart plots on our soil and against our allies.

**Community service:** Canton Community Foundation Board, Senior Alliance, APJA Advisory Board (Asian Pacific Islander Association)  
**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
Members of Congress are assigned committees according to their seniority and area of interest. As a physician with 40 years experience and coming from a Great Lake State, I believe I can be most effective on the Energy and Commerce or the Transportation Committee.  
**What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?**  
Knowledge of the issue, gathering information from my constituents and advice from my party leadership will all be taken into consideration before casting a vote.  
**The oath of office says you will defend and protect the U.S. Constitution. Do you consider the Constitution relevant today? Or is the Constitution an 18th century document that's no longer relevant in the 21st century?**  
Of course my duty as a member of Congress will be to uphold the Constitution, but I believe it is a living document. All laws should accurately reflect the society in which they serve.  
**What would you bring to U.S. Congress? In two years, what would you look at as success? What legislation would you like to introduce or what action would you like to take as a member of Congress?**  
As a physician, I understand how the financial and the medical sides of our health system work. My legislative priorities are aiding our economic recovery, supporting growing industries in Michigan, improving our health care system and the ACA, supporting our veterans, and reducing hyperpartisanship in Washington. These are my benchmarks for success as a representative from Michigan's 11th District.  
**What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?**  
We need a coherent federal immigration policy that ends disjointed state action on this issue. This includes retaining highly-skilled immigrants, creating a path to citizenship by passing the

**Age:** 31  
**Family info:** Single  
**City of residence:** Redford  
**Occupation:** Political Organizer  
**Education:** High School, one year of studies at Temple University, Philadelphia  
**Previous elected offices held:** None  
**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
Given my recent work organizing support for a plan known as the North American Water and Power Alliance, a continent-wide infrastructure project for water, food and power security, I would most likely seek an assignment to the House Committee on Natural Resources. That assignment would best enable me to work on bringing this shovel-ready, FDR-style economic recovery program into existence.  
**What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?**  
What is often missing in political decision-making is the measure of truthfulness discussed in Plato's Theatetus dialogue: the effect a decision will have on the future. Popular opinion or "consensus" is not a substitute for truth. It should be the role during recessions — keeping local teachers, firefighters and safety workers employed — we should be aiding the current recovery with an eye on our growing public deficit. Infrastructure projects, the Small Business Tax Credit Initiative, lowering college costs, incentives to hire new workers and tax reform will have important impacts on Michigan's economy and the nation.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
Congress' fundamental duty is compromise. Leadership is not about receiving credit for sponsoring legislation but bringing people together to move things forward. My objective is to engage in a healthy discussion of public policy and values, not persuade others to one viewpoint. This is the standard our constituents should hold us to and that both parties have neglected for years.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
Preserving our national security means protecting our interests at home and overseas without inflaming hatred toward America or the West. I highly support a comprehensive approach involving counterintelligence, international diplomacy, securing our borders and utilizing smart power. This means coordinating with regional sources in Yemen, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to thwart plots on our soil and against our allies.

## WILLIAM F. ROBERTS



**Age:** 31  
**Family info:** Single  
**City of residence:** Redford  
**Occupation:** Political Organizer  
**Education:** High School, one year of studies at Temple University, Philadelphia  
**Previous elected offices held:** None  
**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
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**What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?**  
Most of the public concern about immigration policy is about illegal immigration across the Mexico border. This has been largely caused by a collapse in Mexico's economy after the implementation of pro-globalization policies like NAFTA, especially a collapse in agricultural output. The implementation of a program called NAWAPA XXI, as detailed on my website, would address this problem.  
**What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?**  
The Act should be repealed. It explicitly calls for cutting the cost of medical care by denying services or penalizing over-utilization of certain services, and establishes an independent payment advisory board to do so, especially targeting the elderly and poor who are enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid.  
**Do you favor the bridge to Canada? If so, is there anything you would do to ensure its construction?**  
Better yet, the United States should cooperate with Russia to build a bridge across the Bering Strait to connect North America with Asia by rail, expanding cooperation with the rapidly developing nations of the Asia and the Pacific region. We need to move way beyond a localist idea of our economic self-interest and consider the potential, for example, of cooperation around Arctic development.  
**Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?**  
I support the creation of a Credit Fund, similar to Franklin Roosevelt's Reconstruction Finance Corporation, to finance very large-scale infrastructure projects, with credit backed by the sovereign powers of the federal government. The point is to increase productivity long-term, not just to create temporary "jobs" that later disappear.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
If Americans were presented real solutions to the collapse of the economy, which included the creation of millions of good paying jobs, and the end of bailouts for too-big-to-fail banks, most would unify around those proposals. The program for doing so has been presented on the policy page of my website.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
I agree with both Lyndon LaRouche and current Russian "anti-drug czar" Viktor Ivanov that wiping out the financing of the international drug trade would go a long way toward wiping out terrorism internationally and an international coalition to stop narcotics production and trafficking should be formed. Terrorism is generally financed by drug money.

**Age:** 65  
**Family info:** Wife Karen Bentivolio, daughter Kristen Lee, son Kevin Bentivolio, two grandchildren  
**City of residence:** Milford Township  
**Occupation:** Teacher  
**Education:** Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, Master of Education  
**Previous elected offices held:** None  
**Community service:** Veteran of two foreign wars - Vietnam and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Served on home front during Desert Storm. Twenty seven years of service in U.S. Army and Michigan Army National Guard  
**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
I want to serve on the Budget Committee to tackle our debt. Our children's futures are already spent. As a freshman Congressman with my military background, though, it is more likely that I can serve on Armed Services. On that committee, I would help build a more modern and efficient military. We can provide better defense at a lower cost.  
**What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?**  
I will vote to do what is right for the people. For each bill, I will ask: 1. Is the bill constitutional? 2. Can we afford it? and 3. Is it in the best interests of the people to pass the bill? If the answer to any of these questions is "No," then I will vote against the bill.  
**The oath of office says you will defend and protect the U.S. Constitution. Do you consider the Constitution relevant today? Or is the Constitution an 18th century document that's no longer relevant in the 21st century?**  
The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The Constitution provides for a system of split sovereignty where the federal government is permitted to regulate some areas of public life, the state governments regulate other areas, and many liberties that the people enjoy are free from regulation. Without the Constitution, your liberty would not be guaranteed.  
**What would you bring to U.S. Congress? In two years, what would you look at as success? What legislation would you like to introduce or what action would you like to take as a member of Congress?**  
Balance the budget, cut taxes, repeal "ObamaCare," promote appropriate care for veterans, and promote innovation by streamlining regulation. Realistically, though, I want to promote a culture of transparency and accountability. I will post each of my votes, post the reason for my

**vote,** and invite voters to learn about my office by working in it on a rotating basis.  
**What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?**  
We need to secure our borders now. I never want to keep Americans in who want to visit other countries, but we must keep track of foreigners who enter our country and regulate immigration. Once the borders are secure, then we can determine whether more or less legal guest workers are needed in our economy.  
**What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?**  
"ObamaCare" must be repealed now. It has caused and will cause health care costs to rise and services to decline. "ObamaCare" is a massive expansion of government control over our lives. Moreover, as the Supreme Court decided that the penalty provision is actually a "tax," this is one of the largest tax hikes in our history.  
**Do you favor the bridge to Canada? If so, is there anything you would do to ensure its construction?**  
This is primarily a state issue and it is best left to the people of the State of Michigan to decide. The voters will vote this fall to elect legislators who will be the primary decision makers or will otherwise voice their opinion at the ballot box.  
**Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?**  
I favor creating jobs with lower taxes and streamlined regulation. Every dollar spent to create a job is taken as a tax from someone else who would have created a job with it anyway; it is a mere transfer. The best way to create jobs is to foster innovation by cutting the red tape that discourages businesses from starting up or expanding.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
Career politicians from both parties are to blame for our economy and our debt crisis. I will work with anyone who is willing to roll up their sleeves to fix Washington. In particular, when it comes to my commitment to transparency and accountability, I will seek any allies who will change the way that Congress interacts with the public.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
Keeping Americans safe is paramount. We cannot forget, however, that our commitment to personal liberty is what makes our nation great. The terrorists point to our liberties like freedom of speech and religion, due process under the law, and equal rights for women as their reason for hating us. If we give up our liberties, then the terrorists win.

Four candidates are seeking their party's nomination for the 11th Congressional District in the Aug. 7 primary election.  
The 11th Congressional District includes Livonia, Northville and Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township, Canton Township, Novi, Highland, Milford, White Lake, South Lyon, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Troy.

Kerry Bentivolio and Nancy Cassis are seeking the Republican nomination, Cassis as a write-in; Bill Roberts and Syed Taj are seeking the Democratic nomination.  
Questionnaires were mailed to the four candidates who had filed with the state by July 3. The deadline for write-ins to file is July 27. Members of U.S. Congress earn an annual salary of \$174,000.

## KERRY BENTIVOLIO

**Age:** 60  
**Family info:** Wife Karen Bentivolio, daughter Kristen Lee, son Kevin Bentivolio, two grandchildren  
**City of residence:** Milford Township  
**Occupation:** Teacher  
**Education:** Associate of Arts, Bachelor of Arts in Social Science, Master of Education  
**Previous elected offices held:** None  
**Community service:** Veteran of two foreign wars - Vietnam and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Served on home front during Desert Storm. Twenty seven years of service in U.S. Army and Michigan Army National Guard



**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
I want to serve on the Budget Committee to tackle our debt. Our children's futures are already spent. As a freshman Congressman with my military background, though, it is more likely that I can serve on Armed Services. On that committee, I would help build a more modern and efficient military. We can provide better defense at a lower cost.  
**What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?**  
I will vote to do what is right for the people. For each bill, I will ask: 1. Is the bill constitutional? 2. Can we afford it? and 3. Is it in the best interests of the people to pass the bill? If the answer to any of these questions is "No," then I will vote against the bill.  
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The Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The Constitution provides for a system of split sovereignty where the federal government is permitted to regulate some areas of public life, the state governments regulate other areas, and many liberties that the people enjoy are free from regulation. Without the Constitution, your liberty would not be guaranteed.  
**What would you bring to U.S. Congress? In two years, what would you look at as success? What legislation would you like to introduce or what action would you like to take as a member of Congress?**  
Balance the budget, cut taxes, repeal "ObamaCare," promote appropriate care for veterans, and promote innovation by streamlining regulation. Realistically, though, I want to promote a culture of transparency and accountability. I will post each of my votes, post the reason for my

**vote,** and invite voters to learn about my office by working in it on a rotating basis.  
**What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?**  
We need to secure our borders now. I never want to keep Americans in who want to visit other countries, but we must keep track of foreigners who enter our country and regulate immigration. Once the borders are secure, then we can determine whether more or less legal guest workers are needed in our economy.  
**What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?**  
"ObamaCare" must be repealed now. It has caused and will cause health care costs to rise and services to decline. "ObamaCare" is a massive expansion of government control over our lives. Moreover, as the Supreme Court decided that the penalty provision is actually a "tax," this is one of the largest tax hikes in our history.  
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**Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?**  
I favor creating jobs with lower taxes and streamlined regulation. Every dollar spent to create a job is taken as a tax from someone else who would have created a job with it anyway; it is a mere transfer. The best way to create jobs is to foster innovation by cutting the red tape that discourages businesses from starting up or expanding.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
Career politicians from both parties are to blame for our economy and our debt crisis. I will work with anyone who is willing to roll up their sleeves to fix Washington. In particular, when it comes to my commitment to transparency and accountability, I will seek any allies who will change the way that Congress interacts with the public.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
Keeping Americans safe is paramount. We cannot forget, however, that our commitment to personal liberty is what makes our nation great. The terrorists point to our liberties like freedom of speech and religion, due process under the law, and equal rights for women as their reason for hating us. If we give up our liberties, then the terrorists win.

**Age:** 68  
**Family info:** Husband Victor, seven children and 11 grandchildren  
**City of residence:** Novi  
**Occupation:** Retired from State Legislature  
**Education:** B.A. Ohio University, M.S. University of Michigan  
**Previous elected offices held:** Novi City Council, 1985-93, 1995-96; Michigan House of Representatives, 1996-2002; Michigan State Senate, 2003-10  
**Community service:** Novi Partners in Education, Republican Alliance to Identify Solutions in Education, Jewish Family Services Mentor Connection, MI State Coordinator National Republican Legislative Organization (NRL), Vice-Chair Federal Budget Committee, NRL; State Legislative Commerce Committee, NRL; National Rifle Association; Multi-Lakes Conservation Association; Member, Novi, Huron Valley, Lakes Area, South Lyon and West Bloomfield Chambers of Commerce; Member, St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church



**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
My focus right now is on speaking with voters from across the 11th Congressional District. I would serve with honor any committee I was assigned to. If I had to list one choice it would be for consideration to serve on the Ways and Means Committee given my extensive background in finance matters.  
**What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?**  
First and foremost, my vote would be determined by my representation of the constituents who elected me. I have, and will always, listen to opinions of the citizens I represent. My vote would also be based on my knowledge and research of every issue and would be in accordance with my core principles of fiscal responsibility and less government interference.  
**The oath of office says you will defend and protect the U.S. Constitution. Do you consider the Constitution relevant today? Or is the Constitution an 18th century document that's no longer relevant in the 21st century?**  
I absolutely consider the Constitution as relevant today as when it was written. It was signed by our Founding Fathers. The U.S. Constitution is a timeless document that should not be legislated by the courts. I have taken the oath to uphold the Constitution five times as a state legislator and have taken that oath very seriously every time.  
**What would you bring to U.S. Congress? In two years, what would you look at as success? What legislation would you like to**

## NANCY CASSIS

**introduce or what action would you like to take as a member of Congress?**  
I would bring to Congress my core conservative principles and a strong record of fiscal responsibility on budgetary and tax policy. My first action would be to repeal and replace "ObamaCare," next I would work on a balanced budget amendment to bring fiscal restraint back to the out-of-control spending of the federal government.  
**What are your thoughts on the recent immigration ruling made by the Supreme Court? How should immigration be addressed in the United States?**  
I support Arizona's attempts to do all that is in their power to halt the flood of people crossing the border illegally. America was built by legal immigrants. I will work to make sure that our system granting citizenship is simple, thorough and doesn't reward those who break our laws, but instead rewards those who seek to come here legally.  
**What are your thoughts on the Affordable Health Care Act?**  
It is an unacceptable law that should be repealed and replaced. It contains an enormous tax increase that will most directly hurt the middle class. Congress should replace this act with smaller pieces where there is common ground, such as pre-existing condition coverage, individual savings accounts and allowing the purchase of insurance across state lines are also priorities.  
**Do you favor the bridge to Canada? If so, is there anything you would do to ensure its construction?**  
I am a firm believer that the private sector can always do it better, cheaper and faster than government.  
**Do you favor greater federal expenditures to create jobs here and nationally?**  
No. The failure of the stimulus program should be a lesson that the government doesn't create jobs, the private sector does. Congress should foster a business climate that reduces burdensome restrictions, reduces government intrusion and lets the free market work. Government shouldn't create winners and losers. Removing obstacles to the private sector is the role of government in job creation.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
I will stand up for principled conservative positions and try to convince my colleagues of the merit of those core values.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
We must have strong border controls. We must also stand firmly with our allies who are engaged in stopping terrorism around the world. To that end I also support the Patriot Act that has kept us safe since 9/11, but would always be vigilant to ensure that the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights are upheld.

**Age:** 31  
**Family info:** Single  
**City of residence:** Redford  
**Occupation:** Political Organizer  
**Education:** High School, one year of studies at Temple University, Philadelphia  
**Previous elected offices held:** None  
**If elected, what committee assignment do you hope to get and how would that assignment benefit the 11th Congressional district?**  
Given my recent work organizing support for a plan known as the North American Water and Power Alliance, a continent-wide infrastructure project for water, food and power security, I would most likely seek an assignment to the House Committee on Natural Resources. That assignment would best enable me to work on bringing this shovel-ready, FDR-style economic recovery program into existence.  
**What will determine your vote on legislation? Your knowledge of the issue, the voters in your district or your party leader?**  
What is often missing in political decision-making is the measure of truthfulness discussed in Plato's Theatetus dialogue: the effect a decision will have on the future. Popular opinion or "consensus" is not a substitute for truth. It should be the role during recessions — keeping local teachers, firefighters and safety workers employed — we should be aiding the current recovery with an eye on our growing public deficit. Infrastructure projects, the Small Business Tax Credit Initiative, lowering college costs, incentives to hire new workers and tax reform will have important impacts on Michigan's economy and the nation.  
**Congress seems to be sharply divided between the two political parties. How do you propose to reach across the aisle to work together on issues benefiting all residents and businesses?**  
Congress' fundamental duty is compromise. Leadership is not about receiving credit for sponsoring legislation but bringing people together to move things forward. My objective is to engage in a healthy discussion of public policy and values, not persuade others to one viewpoint. This is the standard our constituents should hold us to and that both parties have neglected for years.  
**What are your thoughts on the war on terrorism?**  
Preserving our national security means protecting our interests at home and overseas without inflaming hatred toward America or the West. I highly support a comprehensive approach involving counterintelligence, international diplomacy, securing our borders and utilizing smart power. This means coordinating with regional sources in Yemen, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan to thwart plots on our soil and against our allies.

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MCCOTTER

Continued from page A1
absence requires I leave.
"The recent event's totality of calamities, indignities and deceits have weighed most heavily upon my family. Thus, acutely aware one cannot rebuild their hearts of home amongst the ruins of their U.S. House office. For the sake of my loved ones I must strike another match, go start anew"

by embracing the promotion back from public servant to sovereign citizen.
"I do not leave for an existing job and face diminishing prospects (and am both unwilling and ill-suited to lobby), my priorities are two-fold: find gainful employment to help provide for my family; and continue to assist, in any way they see fit, the Michigan Attorney General's earnest and thorough investigation, which I request,

ed, into the 2012 petition filing.
"While our family takes this step into the rest of our lives, we do so with the ultimate confidence in our country's future. True, as at other er times in the life of our nation, we live in an Age of Extremes that prizes intensity over sanity; rhetoric over reality; and destruction over creation. But this too shall pass, thanks to the infinite, inspired wisdom

of the sovereign people who, with God's continued blessings, will again affirm for the generations American Exceptionalism. Truly, it is a challenging and fortunate time to live in our blessed sanctuary of liberty.
"In closing, to the people of Michigan's 11th Congressional District, I can but say this: Thank you for the privilege of having worked for you."
In the statement, McCotter's press spokes-

person Randall Thompson indicated that the Washington, D.C., Milford and Livonia offices will continue to operate under the direction of the Clerks of the United States House of Representatives. "Staff will still be available to serve the needs of the citizens of the 11th Congressional District for any constituent needs," the statement reads.
McCotter also reaffirmed that he will not conduct any interviews until the findings of the Michigan Attorney General's investigation have been made public. "As a private citizen, Mr. McCotter will reserve comments until this time," the statement reads.
Contacted late Friday, Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey said he was shocked

GOP

Continued from page A5

74th District in western Michigan.
Patterson, who was on the interview committee, said last month that Bentivolio's views "were too extreme," citing examples that Bentivolio wants the U.S. out of Germany and South Korea.
Bentivolio believes the committee should have spoken with him. "They should have given me that courtesy," Bentivolio said. "I don't expect to get special treatment as a veteran, but if you fight for your country in two wars, they could have given me the courtesy of an interview."

Cassiss faces uphill battle
Despite winning the support and the nod from GOP leaders, Cassiss knows she has an uphill battle with the write-in campaign. "We knew we had an educational situation," Cas-

sis said.
"You have to find the Congressional part of the ballot, find the write-in area, fill in the circle and write in the name, it requires the effort."
Cassiss said she is running for families and future generations "for a more secure future."
Cassiss points her track record in the state House and Senate as a "principled Constitutional conservative," chairing tax policy in the House and Senate. She also worked for more transparency in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and in tax credits granted in the film industry. Cassiss said she created legislation to assist with the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the I-96 interchanges with Beck and Wixom roads in western Oakland County.
Higher taxes and more governmental spending hinder growth and add to what Cassiss called "this horrible deficit." Cassiss said "it keeps businesses and investors from getting

out there and trying to grow their businesses."
Cassiss said she differs from her opponent because she has a track record as a lawmaker and also has different opinions on national issues.
Bentivolio wants to repeal the Patriot's Act, a position Cassiss disagrees with. "It is incumbent on a Congressman to protect our freedoms," Cassiss said. "I don't believe repealing the Patriot's Act is safe."
"America has always been seen as a leader in freedom and with that, comes a responsibility," Cassiss said. She asked what message would be sent to friends and enemies if troops were withdrawn from Germany or South Korea.
Bentivolio said Germany provides medical support for troops in Afghanistan, but said the troops in Germany "keep the economies going in local towns."
"Let 50,000 troops against the Russian army, I think those soldiers are nothing more than a

speed bump, and I'd rather see those soldiers spend money in our towns, rather than in Germany," Bentivolio said.
Bentivolio also described the South Korean occupation as a "speed bump," as he quoted a general he said he has spoken with about the U.S. troop presence.
"Auto bailouts
When he was asked about his thoughts on the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies and the U.S. government's role in it, Bentivolio asked: "Why did the government get involved with the GM bankruptcy?" Bentivolio asked.
"They closed its Lorain Ohio plant, but it was the most efficient plant at GM. Why is that? Well they (workers) were not members of the UAW, according to the Wall Street Journal."
"And who owns Chrysler? Italy. The government has no business picking winners and losers."
"Whether or not the gov-

ernment should have gotten involved, they don't have a right to. Whether they should have or not is moot, because they don't have Congressional or Constitutional authority to do that."
Cassiss said the recession hit the auto companies "so very hard." "While in general I am not in favor of bailouts or special favored breaks and picking winners and losers, there is something to be said about coming from Michigan and your own homegrown industry."
"The problem was that off the top much of that benefit fed the unions, rather than taking care of the structural problems that the industry faced," Cassiss said. "But I have to say I am proud that GM is coming back, Ford has done so well and Chrysler is doing well."

Both candidates have websites spelling out their campaign platforms at www.bentivolioforcongress.com and www.nancyfociss.com.

Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances
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Deadline: Tuesday 9:45 a.m. for Thursday



CHARLICK, NORMAN D.

Age 83, passed away June 23, 2012, at MidMichigan Gladwin Pines Nursing Home. He was born on May 13, 1919, in West Highland, Michigan, a graduate of Milford High School. Norman was a veteran of the United States Army Air Force in World War II as an Air Force Mechanic in Italy. He was married to his wife, Beatrice, for 52 years. He is survived by his beloved wife, Beatrice, of 72 years; his sister, Mary Lou; his nephew, James; his nephews, Lloyd of Delta, Colorado, and Howard of Milford; and many nieces and nephews, as well as a very special friend, Jenny Bergman. In accordance with his wishes, cremation will take place and he will be interred at Oakland Hills Memorial Gardens in Novi. There will be no memorial service. Memorial may be made to MidMichigan Gladwin Pines.

CHUBA, HELEN
December 21, 1931 - June 29, 2012
Online condolences
obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

GARRETT, JEWEL "JUDY" M.
Age 91, passed away July 5, 2012. She was born on August 18, 1920, in Exodus, McCreary County, KY, to the late Isaac and Mollie (King) Richardson. In 1941, she moved to South Lyon with her husband Blackie, who was employed at Michigan Seamless Tube. She was a charter member of the First Baptist Church of South Lyon. Jewel is survived by her children: Virginia (Cottler) assisted with her children and all her grandchildren. She enjoyed being in her lives. Jewel is survived by her children: Virginia (Cottler) assisted with her children and all her grandchildren. She enjoyed being in her lives. Jewel is survived by her children: Virginia (Cottler) assisted with her children and all her grandchildren. She enjoyed being in her lives.

JOHNSON, Lucille A.
Age 89, died July 8, 2012. Visitation July 18, 4-9 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Memorial dinner July 19, 6pm at Upper Peninsula Club, 10770 Colburn, Whitmore Lake.

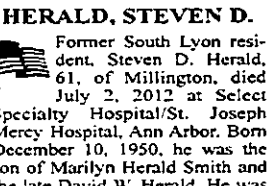
KRAFT, WALTER
March 9, 1925 - July 1, 2012
Online condolences
obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

KRONK, IRENE
December 8, 1915 - July 1, 2012
Online condolences
obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

LEFLER, ROBERT "BOBBY", II
Age 37, of Westland, died suddenly on 6/20/12. Arrangements were held by Catherine Funeral Home, 59255 10 Mile Rd., South Lyon.

McLEOD, LOTTE
July 7, 2012 age 82. Beloved wife of Bruce for 55 years. Loving mother of Peter. Dear grandmother of Brandon. Sister of Uchli. Services were held on Tuesday, July 10 from O'Brien Sullivan Funeral Home in Novi. (248) 348-1800

GILDERS, BEATRICE JOAN
Age 80, passed away July 5, 2012. She was born July 21, 1931, in Detroit, to the late Robert and Beatrice (Oldford) Servens. She was formerly of Northville, prior to moving to South Lyon in 1988. Joan enjoyed gardening and was a member of the Sunshine Girls. She was a Real Estate agent for many years with Century 21 and was proud to be a member of the Million Dollar Sales Club. She also worked for Ruby Office Supply formerly located in Brighton and Northville. Jean is survived by her children: David Gilders, Cynthia Damon, and Timothy Gilders; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, her brother Jack Servens, sisters Barbara Servens and Mary Hogwood. She was preceded in death by her husband Elmer, sons Gary and Craig, grandson Gary and brother Harold Servens. Visitation will be held July 9, Monday, from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 West Lake Street, South Lyon. A funeral service will be held July 10, Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. with final visitation at 9:15 a.m. at Brighton Church of the Nazarene, 7679 Brighton Rd., Brighton. Memorial contributions may be made to Forgotten Men Ministries Livingstone County, 3940 Fruit Ridge Ave. NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544



HERALD, STEVEN D.

Former South Lyon resident, Steven D. Herald, 61, of Millington, died July 2, 2012 at Select Specialty Hospital/St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. Born December 10, 1950, he was the son of Marilyn Herald Smith and the late David W. Herald. He was a 1969 graduate of South Lyon High School and later earned an Associate Degree from Schoolcraft College, Livonia. Mr. Herald was a field engineer at the General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford, retiring in 2009 after 34 years. He was a member of the United States Army Reserves during the 1970's. He and Nancy Ann Patterson were married in May, 1972. She survives, as do two sons, David P. Herald of Onitsville, and Patrick S. Herald (Jeanette) of Lexington, Kentucky. Other survivors include his mother and stepfather, Marilyn and Warren Smith of Moran, Michigan and St. Cloud, Florida; one sister, Andrea Zientek (Wayne) of Las Vegas, Nevada; one brother, Scott Herald (Judy) of Gregory, Michigan; one stepbrother Ronald Smith (Marie) of Norfolk, Virginia; two stepisters, Kelly Duling of Findlay, Ohio and Heidi of Heintz of Whitore Lake, Michigan; one aunt, Barbara Heichel of Waterford, Michigan; one uncle, Roy Herald of Charlevoix, Michigan; and several nephews, nieces and cousins. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service celebrating Mr. Herald's life will be held on July 29 at his home, Martin Funeral Home in Onitsville, assisted with the family with arrangements.

McNEELY, JACK
(Edward J. McNeely)
Age 89, of Northville, passed away on June 30, 2012. Loving husband of 60 years to Marie (O'Connor). Devoted father of Kathleen (Robert Gold) McNeely, Dennis (partner Sandra Koemis) McNeely, Sharon McNeely, Maureen (Robert) Turner, Edward J. McNeely III, Bridg McNeely, Kevin McNeely and Colleen Porter. Foster parent to Kevin Michael and Mary Catherine. Proud grandfather of 20 and great-grandfather of 10. Dear brother-in-law of Mary McNeely Taylor and Shirley McNeely. Many loving cousins, nieces and nephews also survive. Preceded in death by his siblings or their spouses: Pat McNeely, Mary Helen McNeely, Rine, Jim (Maryalene) McNeely, Eileen (Ed) King, and Bill McNeely. Jack grew up in Detroit and proudly served our country in the United States Navy during World War II. He was a Professional Engineer, received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Detroit. In 1961, he joined McNeely & Lincoln Associates, serving as City Engineer for both the City of Garden City and the City of Northville, in addition to other clientele, until his retirement in 1989. Jack loved people, considering everyone a family friend. He was active in promoting literacy, and loved kids, travel, camping, swimming, nature, history, trivia, and tinkering on projects. His wit and sense of humor were second to none. Funeral service Friday, July 13, 2012 from the Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd., South Lyon. Jack will lie in state beginning at 10:30am until time of mass at 11:00am. Friends may visit the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, 280 South Main St., Plymouth, on Thursday, July 12, 2012 from 2-4 and 6-8pm. Interment Hill Cemetery in Northville.

MOWAT, FRANCES J.
Age 87, passed away July 3, 2012. She was born on June 6, 1925, in Bay City, to the late William and Louise (Knapp) Allen. She was employed at Chrysler as a baseball. Frances loved Bingo and being with her friends. She had a great sense of humor and loved to make people laugh. Frances is survived by her son Robert Mowat; daughter Sharon Mowat; five granddaughters: Frances Tallent, Valerie Banks, Tina Rooker, Donna Slyfield, Matthew Banks, eight great-grandchildren: John Banks, Kevin Mosley, Josh Banks, Tyler Eggs, Brandon Eggs, Natasha Tallent, Nathan Tallent, and Jack Banks. She was preceded in death by her husband Harold Mowat in 1990 and by four brothers and one sister. Visitation was held on Monday, July 9, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., followed by a funeral service at 12:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

POWELL, CLIFFORD WAYNE
Age 86 of Las Vegas, Nevada, formerly of Brighton, died April 25. He leaves his wife Janice of 61 years. Son Scott (Janice) Powell, Grandchildren Christopher Powell, Jeanette (Christy) Schmeling; great-granddaughter, Marisa, all of Las Vegas; a son, Roger Clay Powell deceased. He leaves three brothers, Dallas (Rove) Gerald and Richard (Connie) Powell. Three sisters, Barbara Wardlow, Connie (Bill) Jeannette and Shirley. He is survived by his wife Janice, daughter Faught, all of Michigan. Brothers Herbert and Carroll Powell and sister, Minerva Wyckoff deceased. He attended The Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer in Las Vegas. He was retired from G.M. Proving Grounds, Milford. Born to Clifford E. and Myrtle M. Rummel Powell in Linden, Michigan August 17, 1925. He was a Navy veteran of WWII, serving in the South Pacific, Internment later in Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City, Nevada.

QUINN, ALMA M.
Age 98, passed away July 2, 2012. She was born on December 13, 1913, in Ontario, to the late Joseph and Minnie (Fallu) Fortin. Alma was a very active and spirited lady. She could often be found square dancing, sewing or donating her time at church. She was very proud to be able to live on her own until her children: Donald (Katherine) Quinn, Pamela (Arthur) Schwartz; four grandchildren: Michael, Brian, Andrew, Laura; five great-grandchildren: Katelyn, Isabella, Allyson, Jack, Michael; brothers: Errol Fortin and Norman Fortin. She was preceded in death by her husband David in 2007 and her daughter Diane in 1940. Visitation was held on July 5, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral mass was celebrated on July 6 at 11:00 a.m. live on her own until her children: Donald (Katherine) Quinn, Pamela (Arthur) Schwartz; four grandchildren: Michael, Brian, Andrew, Laura; five great-grandchildren: Katelyn, Isabella, Allyson, Jack, Michael; brothers: Errol Fortin and Norman Fortin. She was preceded in death by her husband David in 2007 and her daughter Diane in 1940. Visitation was held on July 5, from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. Online guestbook: www.phillipsfuneral.com

ROGERS, BRYAN
Age 72, of Las Vegas, formally of Sterling Hts, died June 25, 2012. A memorial mass will be held at 10am on July 25th at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 38900 Dodge Park Rd, Sterling Hts.

SILLS, THOMAS M.
Age 71, of Las Vegas, formally of Sterling Hts, died June 25, 2012. A memorial mass will be held at 10am on July 25th at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 38900 Dodge Park Rd, Sterling Hts.

VILLEROT, RICHARD M.
Age 37, of Adrian passed away unexpectedly on July 6, 2012. He was born on August 4, 1974 in Ypsilanti to Richard K. and Sandra (nee Noble) Villerot. Rick graduated from South Lyon High School in 1992, then started a career in law enforcement. For the past 14 years he was a Conservation Officer with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Law Enforcement. Richard married the love of his life Michelle Balke on May 17, 1996; he was a loving and devoted husband. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed camping and hunting. Through his love of outdoors and camping he became a member of the Saak Trail Long Rifle Club. He was a great storyteller; always had a story for everything. Rick loved music and had a very eclectic taste. He was an amazing and loving father who divided his attention equally between his son and daughter; he could be seen wrestling with Logan or dancing with Kregan. Rick is survived by his wife Michelle; his children, Logan and Kregan; his parents, Richard and Sandy; his brother Brad (Crystal); his grandparents, Gordon and Anna Mae Noble and Delora Balke; his brother-in-laws, Chad (Laura) Balke and Jay (Jess Gallop) Balke; his niece Bailey; and his nephews, Andre David, Kyle, and Fred. He was also loved by many friends and family. He was preceded in death by the First Baptist Church of South Lyon Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the family of Richard M. Villerot, c/o Catherine Funeral Home, 59255 10 Mile Road, South Lyon, MI 48178.

WALSH, JEROME
March 18, 1933 - June 23, 2012
Online condolences
obrienwilliamsfuneralhome.com

ELECTION

Continued from page A1

impossible. Primary ballots already were printed and absentee ballots were mailed when McCotter made his announcement. In addition, ballots must be sent to Michigan voters who are overseas or serving in the military at least 45 days before an election, which means the special primary election must be held on a different date than Aug. 7.

"It is extremely disappointing that the district is forced to have a special election that is neither cost-effective nor efficient," Calley said. "Taxpayers deserve better. But the requirement for the government to call a special election in this situation is clear and we must do so in a way that establishes fair, realistic deadlines for candidates and election officials. We will move forward so that district residents have full representation in Congress for the remainder of the term. I have every confidence that the outstanding election officials throughout the district will get the job done in spite of this challenging timeline."
The special primary date still allows for the special general election to fill two vacancies that begins in January 2013.

INDIA

Continued from page A1

"Novi's a central suburb. It's a great place," he said.
"We hope that they'll walk away with an opportunity to participate in a cultural festival, seeing a 40-foot chart, hearing music, and just experience a new culture."
Attendees will try different foods free of charge and "basical-ly" experience something new and different on a Saturday afternoon.
The parade will culminate at Fuert Park, 10 Mile and Taft roads, with the daylong festival wrapping up around 6 p.m. "Come rain or shine, we've had some amazing festivals in the rain," he said. "We have lots of tents set up in case it is raining." Turnout has been good even in rain.
"We're offering something that's unique and different," Patel said, adding the free lunch draws people. "It's open to all ages, all dem-

graphics. We have tons of children's activities. It's just a pretty diverse festival."
The festival has been on Belle Isle in Detroit, "which is a beautiful location but a little harder for folks to get to." Novi has plenty of parking, he said, which helps attendees.
Patel is in the financial investing business and a former Novi resident. "I miss it," he said, noting his job required the move.
More than welcome
He and other organizers hope for a great turnout July 21.
"We'd love to host them." A guest services team will be on hand to help attendees. "We put in a lot of time and effort. We look forward to having so many people out there as possible."
There will be a full-color, 70-page souvenir book given free to each family attending. Donors make putting the festival on possible.

seniors of this and other scams," Molloy said.
Detective Sgt. Matt Conquest reiterated that the elderly are targets and "lucky enough, we have not had any incidents specifically in regards to the Medicare."
Conquest said he would have his investigators reach out to senior community, perhaps via fliers, to make them aware so that "nobody is going to be the victim of a crime."

SCAM

Continued from page A1

asks for your information unless you call them."
David Molloy, Novi's director of public safety/chief of police, said his department has heard of the scam.
"Although I don't believe we have any specific reports of this one in particular, we are constantly warning the

Your Invitation to Worship

Grid of church listings including Brighton, Milford, Novi, Highland, Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, New Hudson, and Walled Lake. Each listing includes church name, address, phone, and service times.

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

## OUR VIEWS

### 11th Congressional District Cassis, Taj best choices for primary election

Voters in the 11th Congressional District will nominate a Republican and a Democrat in the Aug. 7 primary election.

After careful consideration and interviews with all of the candidates, we recommend Nancy Cassis as the Republican nominee and Syed Taj as the Democratic nominee.

Cassis has a proven track record as a state senator, state representative and Novi City Council member. During her 12 years in state government, she helped to bring transparency and accountability to the Michigan Economic Growth Authority and the film credits program, among other accomplishments.

Taj, a medical doctor and a member of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, is a good listener who would be able to compromise and work across the aisle. He is well-versed on health care and would work to improve the Affordable Care Act. He believes education will help the United States compete globally. Taj supports increased border patrols to stop illegal immigration, but wants to improve the immigration process so that foreigners who want to work professionally in this country can get here, just like he did.

Cassis' name won't be on the ballot. Voters will have to write her name in and fill in the circle next to it. She came out of retirement to become a write-in candidate after long-time Republican Congressman Thaddeus McCotter failed to turn in enough valid signatures by the deadline to get his name on the ballot and then decided against running as a write-in himself.

Cassis' opponent, Kerry Bentivolio, is the only name that will appear under the Republican Party Section of the ballot for the 11th Congressional District.

Party leaders interviewed Cassis and other potential write-ins, but not Bentivolio. They consider him to be an extremist based on his web site. We believe Bentivolio deserved an interview from party leaders.

However, going forward, it's now up to voters to decide whom they think will best represent them in Congress. It's likely other write-in candidates will emerge before the July 27 deadline to declare a write-in candidacy.

But Cassis is a committed candidate running a serious campaign, saying she wants to help ensure a more secure future for the next generations.

Besides her extensive experience and reputation as a hard worker, Cassis is knowledgeable about the issues and holds the same conservative values as most mainstream Republicans in the district. She would work to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act and bring fiscal restraint back to the federal government. She has experience serving on tax committees in the state House and Senate so she knows Michigan's tax structure and what she believes needs to be fixed.

We think she would best represent Republicans in the 11th District, which comprises her hometown of Novi, and communities of her former district of Highland, Milford, White Lake, South Lyon and others, and extends eastward to Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Troy, and south into the city of Farmington and the western Wayne County communities of Canton Township, Livonia, Northville and Northland Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township.

Taj is the lone Democrat on the Canton board. His ability to work well with his Republican colleagues has earned him their respect. His priorities would be aiding the economic recovery, supporting growing industries in Michigan, improving the health care system and the ACA, supporting veterans and reducing hyperpartisanship in Washington.

His opponent, Bill Roberts, is a political organizer who supports Lyndon LaRouche and advocates the impeachment of President Barack Obama.

We think Taj's moderate views would best represent the Democrats in the 11th Congressional District. Democrats and Republicans in the 11th District have a clear choice in their respective primary on Aug. 7. We recommend Taj and Cassis. They will provide voters with a spirited debate leading up to the November general election.

## NOVI NEWS

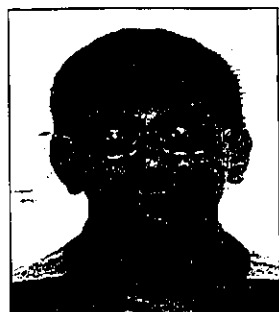
Cal Stone, Community Editor  
Susan Rosiek, Executive Editor  
Grace Perry, Director of Advertising

## COMMUNITY VOICE

### What is your ideal summer day?



"Wake up, go workout at Lifetime, hang with friends and play Xbox for three hours and just have a non-educational day."  
Larry Rubel  
Novi



"Play outside with friends, eat a bunch of food and relax."  
Nithin Adapa



"Sleeping in, watching TV, going on Facebook and being with friends."  
Palvi Bhardwaj  
Novi



"Waking up late, watching cartoons and hanging out with friends outside."  
Neena Bazaz  
Novi

## LETTERS

### Don't call it the 4th of July

Every year I am disheartened to see the anniversary of our country's birth relegated to just another day of the month by so many people who call it the "4th of July" instead of "Independence Day." I see it on adverts and in the local papers.

No one calls Christmas "December 25th" because those who celebrate it as a religious holiday know that the cause for celebration is in the name. No one calls Thanksgiving "Third Thursday in November" or "November (whatever the date is)" because it makes no sense and doesn't describe the occasion.

By calling it Independence Day, we can reinforce to each other and to our children that it's not just a day to have barbecue, see a parade and watch fireworks. It becomes a day to remember where we came from and what our forefathers did for us. It gives us incentive to talk to our kids about what those fireworks represent and how we are a part of the process.

Independence Day is about America and should be treated better.

Aaron Klenke  
Novi

### Build the bridge

Great news for Michigan with Gov. Snyder going around the state Legislature and signing a deal to finally build a new bridge between Detroit and Windsor.

With almost all affected parties in favor of this bridge deal and the much-needed economic expansion it will bring, one has to wonder why this has taken so long.

It should be obvious to anyone watching that of those elected and sent to Lansing it has only been the Republican legislators who have objected to a new bridge. It should also be obvious what is important to them is not Michigan and its citizens, but a billionaire bridge owner in Detroit. So I hope they are happy that they were able to buy this billionaire a few more years of his monopoly in Detroit at the expense of Michigan workers.

The new bridge could be close to completion, if not already finished, had it not been for these obstructionists. Thousands could have been working, building and preparing to run the bridge, with thousands more working on surrounding projects sure to spawn from this huge investment.

Perhaps Ambassador Bridge owner Manuel Moroum should have been buying land downriver instead of buying Republican legislators. Canada will not let him build a second bridge to downtown Windsor. If he had, he might have stood a better chance to keep his monopoly going. But a public bridge will be better for our state and its citizens. Also, our state would be better off without legislative pawns.

Carleen M. Tindall  
Novi

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters should be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats:

Web: www.hometownlife.com  
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178  
Fax: (248) 437-3386  
E-mail: cstone@hometownlife.com

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com.  
Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Online: Due to space limitations, not all letters submitted can be published in our print edition. However, all letters will be published online each week at www.hometownlife.com.

Elections: We will not publish any political letters that raise new issues in the last edition before the election.

### Our magical Legislature in Lansing

Colin, Mich., has distinction of being called the "Magic Capital of the World." It earned this title because it attracts magicians from around the globe to its facilities where the tools of their trade are fashioned. However, after recently learning that our GOP legislators in Lansing claim Michigan is wallowing in a budget surplus, I say the title should be transferred from Colon to the capital.

Harry Houdini or David Copperfield at their best would be hard-pressed to equal the impossible illusion our Lansing representatives in Republic are pretending to pull off when they say Michigan suddenly has a budget surplus. Even more astoundingly, Speaker Prestidigitator Jase Bolger claims that since the Legislature can find no new ways to spend this "surplus," it will be returned as a whopping tax refund of about \$15.86 for the average worker.

However, like any audience member at a magic show, I ask, "How can they do this?" After all, Michigan cities are falling into insolvency like pins in a bowling alley. Schools from kindergarten to college are gasping for life, closing or imposing additional taxes on students and parents in the form of rising tuition. Crime is skyrocketing; property burns to the ground regularly; and people are left to die because municipalities are forced to lay off policemen, firemen and EMS staff since the state is not paying the money it owes these entities. Roads, bridges, infrastructures are falling to pieces because the state can't afford their upkeep. Prisons are closing, pension systems are collapsing, teachers are sent packing, children are going hungry; social services for the

needed are reduced; unemployment benefits are drastically cut; yet our GOP legislators attempt to claim, with straight faces, "We have a budget surplus."

Oh, heavens yes, if these Republican legislators can pull off this budget scam, they truly are top-notch magicians for they will once again have distracted their voting audience with illusory actions.

Walter Sobczak  
Novi

### Does Catholic Church support Obamacare?

In her byline story "Catholic leaders react to Supreme Court ruling," Aileen Wingblad quoted the Rev. Ron Anderson of St. Mary Our Lady of the Snow Roman Catholic Church as being pleased with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the federal Affordable Care Act's (Obamacare) individual mandate as constitutional. This gave the impression that the Catholic Church leaders were indeed happy to see the ruling. Nothing could be further from the truth. All one has to do is go to [www.aod.org/our-archdiocese/newsroom/statements/2012/june/fortnight-for-freedom-homily](http://www.aod.org/our-archdiocese/newsroom/statements/2012/june/fortnight-for-freedom-homily) and witness Archbishop Allen Vigneron's homily to see and hear why the Catholic Church in the U.S. is opposed to the health care bill. The recently concluded Fortnight for Religious Freedom was a two-week period of prayer, fasting and witness which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requested to protest the law's threat to religious liberty. Furthermore, while the HHS mandate to provide insurance that includes contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs is the most talked about, USCCB is concerned about other aspects of the law that require Catholic social service agencies in some states to withdraw from adoption or counseling services over same-sex issues and proposals that would make it illegal for church agencies to provide assistance.

Moreover, on June 21, the Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, issued a letter "Free Exercise of Religion: Putting Beliefs into Practice" ([www.lcms.org/president](http://www.lcms.org/president)) that was co-signed by Catholic leaders, Orthodox Church, Evangelical Lutheran Synod, National Association of Evangelicals, Hispanic Evangelical Association, Presbyterian Church in America, General Council of the Assemblies of God and Islamic Society of the Washington area in opposition to the bill. None of these events that demonstrated opposition and displeasure with the law have really been prominently and widely covered by the mainstream media.

Ray Ferrer  
Northville Township

By Diane Gale Andreassi  
Staff Writer

Heartfelt letters of thanks from U.S. soldiers who receive the fleece blankets Sandi Knight makes is what pushes her forward to do more.

The goal of Sewing Angels, a group that meets in Brighton, is that each American soldier at the U.S. Medical Transient Detachment in Landstuhl, Germany, receives a blanket whether they're injured on the battlefield or being treated for any other medical issue.

Knight, a South Lyon resident, is one of about 20 active members of the volunteer, nonprofit group of women who began sewing for soldiers in August 2007 with 11 members.

"We are so thankful for all the brave heroes who sacrifice so much to keep America free," Knight said. "Sewing and sending our blankets is a way for us to show our support and gratitude to these courageous men and women."

In the last five years, 2,825 blankets have been sent. Of that, 713 were made in 2011 and 511 were sent so far in 2012. The largest blanket is



Sandi Knight, a member of Sewing Angels, shows off some of the blankets made for U.S. military personnel who are sent to a German hospital.

60 inches by 80 inches and the smaller size is 54 by 70 inches. Postage for 2011 was \$1,005 and that cost is expected to be much higher this year, because fleece

recently donated from a Massachusetts company is heavier than the usual material the group buys. Postage, fabric and thread are covered by volunteers with the

"We are so thankful for all the brave heroes who sacrifice so much to keep America free. Sewing and sending our blankets is a way for us to show our support and gratitude to these courageous men and women."

SANDI KNIGHT  
South Lyon resident

help of private donations and fundraisers. A tag is attached to each fleece that says, "Made with love and hope for your recovery."

Knight said it's a "real tear-jerking experience to get" letters of thanks, like the two below, from soldiers who found comfort in a blanket:

"Ma'am, I am a soldier that was deployed to Iraq," one letter said. "I just arrived at Landstuhl Medical Regional Hospital, Germany, for recovery of injuries sustained in Iraq. I was issued a very comfortable quilt and noticed the card attached. I just wanted to thank you for the time and effort you put into making this very fine quilt. I really do appreciate your contribution, your thoughts and your prayers."

"Sandi — thanks so much for the blanket. I was sent to Germany for

"It's a group of women who get together monthly and sew and most of us sew in our homes between monthly meetings," Knight said.

The art of sewing was nurtured in her as a young girl, but as she got older other commitments pulled her away from the hobby. Now, she keeps getting drawn back to her machine with the hope of helping someone she has never met before in a hospital far away.

"I started going to the meetings once a month and then I got so involved with the cause," she said. "The more I read and the more letters of thanks I get, the more I'm pushed to do."

"The only requirement to be a member of Sewing Angels is a need to know how to operate your sewing machine and how to hem."

"Members can do as much or as little as fits their desire," Knight said. "There's all kinds of ways of volunteering. The individual results are all the same."

"Anyone who would like to volunteer or donate money should call Knight at (248) 437-5907.

dandreassi@hometownlife.com  
(248) 437-2011, ext. 262

## NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Novi events

#### BLOOD DRIVES

Time/Date: 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 22

Location: Holy Family Church

Time/Date: 1-6:45 p.m. Monday, July 23

Location: Northville Township Fire Department

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 24

Location: Busch's Market

Time/Date: 1-6:45 p.m. Thursday, July 26

Location: VFW Post 4012 Northville

Contact: To make an appointment, donors can go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter the zip code.

#### DEMOCRATS MEETING

Time/Date: 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 17

Location: Comfort Suites Inn (southwest corner of Wixom Road and I-96 in Wixom)

Details: Meeting to discuss the ballot and candidates for the primary election August 7; free and open to the public. Snacks provided; pizza may be purchased.

Contact: [www.mydems.info](http://www.mydems.info)

#### GREAT LAKES STATE FAIR

Dates: Aug. 31-Sept. 3

Location: Suburban Collection Showplace, Grand River Avenue (between Taft and Beck roads), Novi

Details: Michigan Pavilion featuring Michigan made, grown or produced

### GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [cstone@gannett.com](mailto:cstone@gannett.com); by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at [www.hometownlife.com](http://www.hometownlife.com).

products; livestock and agriculture areas with large indoor arena; local Americana/country live music entertainment; beer garden featuring Michigan Breweries; large midway with tons of games and rides; local and national merchandise and concessions vendors; and Shriners small scale circus and circus attractions. Tickets available in advance at [www.GreatLakesStateFair.org](http://www.GreatLakesStateFair.org).

Contact: (248) 477-6100 to register.

#### 17TH ANNUAL NORTHVILLE-NOVI HOME TOUR

Time/Date: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29

Details: "Three Centuries of Homes" — Hosted by the American Association of Contact: Karen Zyczynski, (248) 349-6342; [www.aasuniv.org](http://www.aasuniv.org)

#### MICHIGAN MADE ARTS CRAFTS JEWELRY SHOW

Time/Date: noon-8 p.m. first Fridays through December

Location: Atrium Of Novi, 43155 Main Street

Details: Featuring many handmade items from people with disabilities.

Anyone in Michigan that makes handcrafted items can get a space for \$20. Therapy Choir Michigan will perform at 6:15 June 1. Face painting by Community Choices of Westland.

Contact: MichiganArts-CraftsShow@gmail.com; visit <http://www.MichiganArtsCraftsShow.com>; or call (248) 396-0396

#### BEREAVEMENT MEET

Time/Date: 7:30-9 p.m. third Tuesdays

Location: Novi Civic Center (10 Mile between Taft and Novi roads)

Details: Led by Michael M. Meyer, D. Minn., goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story. Handouts describing the phases of grief are available.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER  
Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road

Contact: (248) 347-0414; [theglin@cityofnovi.org](mailto:theglin@cityofnovi.org)

#### Business

#### NORTHVILLE-NOVI BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Time/Date: 7:30-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays (except Nov. and Dec., which are just the first Tuesday)

Location: Kerby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road

Details: Business networking focused on building relationships. The Sunrise Networking Group, LLC ([www.sunrisenetworkinggroup.com](http://www.sunrisenetworkinggroup.com)), or SNWG for short, is a group of about 250 business leaders who help each other to build more business by referring people to each other. Cost of breakfast is \$10.

Contact: Fonda Milana 586-232-3009 or [fmilana@sunrisefinancialgroupinc.com](mailto:fmilana@sunrisefinancialgroupinc.com)

#### NOVI ROTARY CLUB

Time/Date: Noon every Thursday

Location: Novi Methodist Church 41671 W. 10 Mile Road

Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check website for speaker information: [novirotary.org](http://novirotary.org).

#### NOVI TOASTMASTERS

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m., every first and third Tuesday

Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi

Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome — and bring a friend. Visit [www.novi.toastmasters.org](http://www.novi.toastmasters.org)

Contact: Linda Kreuter at [PR@novi.toastmasters.org](mailto:PR@novi.toastmasters.org)

NOVI LIONS CLUB  
Time/Date: 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting starts;

Please see CALENDAR, A15

**CITY OF NOVI  
NOTICE OF PROVISIONS OF THE  
NOXIOUS WEED ORDINANCE**

TO: All owners, occupants or possessors of subdivided lands or lots:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Chapter 21, Article II, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Novi, Michigan, all noxious weeds, or other weeds, grass, brush, or deleterious, unhealthy growths exceeding a height of eight (8) inches, growing, standing or lying upon any property in the City of Novi, shall be cut down, destroyed or removed as the case may be, at least twice in each year, once during the last half of the month of May and again during the last half of July of each year and more often as may be necessary.

If the owner or occupant, or any person or persons, agent, firm, or corporation having control or management of any subdivided land upon which any building or buildings have been erected shall fail, refuse, or neglect to comply with the above mentioned Code provisions, the city shall cause the weeds, grass, brush, deleterious, unhealthy growths, rubbish, to be cut down, destroyed or removed. Provided, further, that any lands which are situated within the floodplains or any natural streams or watercourses, or any area between the lower or upper banks of such streams or watercourses shall be exempted from the provisions of such Code provisions. The expense incurred by the City in the cutting, destruction or removal of same together with a fifteen (15) percent administrative charge will be levied and collected against such property in the manner provided by law.

Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Chapter 21, Article II, 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.

Charles Boulard, Building Official  
City of Novi

0607042 344 5  
Publish: July 12, 2012

**ATTENTION:**  
Important Information for  
GM & Ford Pension Owners

Did you recently receive a letter about your GM or Ford pension buyout offer?

Do you know there are *other* options? There are products that offer:

- Inflation protection
- Control & access to your money
- Guaranteed income for life\*
- The ability to preserve your legacy

Uncertain about what lies ahead?  
What questions should you be asking?  
Who can you talk to and get answers?

A licensed independent insurance professional has the experience to help. The deadline is quickly approaching.

**(877) 251-2669**  
[www.knowyourpensions.com](http://www.knowyourpensions.com)

\*Guaranteed lifetime income available through annuitization of the buyout offer. An annual premium is charged. 0914 11 17 2012

NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

**Oakland County budget meeting July 18**

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners announced a special evening meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 18 in the Commissioners' Auditorium, located at 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac.

Oakland County residents will have the opportunity to hear the 2013/2015 Oakland County Budget Recommendations from Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson at this formal meeting.

The meeting will be webcasted and recorded by Trenton-based company SoundQue. The public will be able to view the "live" webcast at [www.oakgov/boc](http://www.oakgov/boc) and will also be able to view future webcasts of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' committees and board meetings.

**Skate Bus**

The Skate Bus, a new program presented in partnership with the PLUS Skate Shop in Farmington, will take local skateboarders, ages 6 years and up, to premier skate parks throughout Michigan and Ohio. The bus will travel three Saturdays this summer, with pick-up and drop-off at the Novi Civic Center at 10 a.m. and Riley Skate Park in Farmington Hills at 10:15 a.m. Each Saturday will include two different skate parks. The three trips include:

- July 28 - Lansing/Mason
  - Aug. 25 - Sylvania/Toledo, Ohio
- All skaters under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a parent. Participants should be a lunch. The deadlines to register are June 15 for week one, July 13 for week two, and Aug. 10 for week three. The cost is \$29 per trip and includes a Skate Bus T-shirt. Registration is going on now at the City of Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department located inside the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West 10 Mile Road or the PLUS Skate Shop in Farmington. For more information, contact Greg Morris, recreation supervisor, at (248) 735-5646 or [gmorris@cityofnovi.org](mailto:gmorris@cityofnovi.org).

**Local artists featured at BBAC**

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center is preparing for new exhibits this summer. Starting July 20 through Aug. 24, visitors can experience fiber and faces in four new shows. The opening reception, which is free and open to the public, is 6-8 p.m. Friday, July 20.

"The exhibit, 'Voices, a Fiber Invitational' in the Kantgias/DeSalle Gallery demonstrates the unique way that the visual artist uses line, color, shape, texture, value and sometimes words to convey mood, emotion and meaning," said Annie VanGelder, President & CEO of the BBAC. "The 'Voices' exhibit represents the talent of nine Michigan fiber artists."

'Voices' presents nine artists, including Northville's Joan Potter Thomas. The exhibit website is <http://www.NewVoicesInFiberArt.com>.

The BBAC will also present the ink stamping portrait work of Northville's Jeff Cancellosi in the Robinson Gallery and colored pencil portrait artist Dean Rogers of Novi in the DeForrest/Watson Ramp Gallery.

**Civilian pistol safety class offered by Novi Police Department**

The Novi Police Department will be offering a Civilian Pistol Safety Class from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 21 at the Novi Police Department Training Center (45125 W. 10 Mile Road). After lunch, participants will move to the Novi Firearms Training Center to complete the course.

The course fulfills both the classroom and shooting requirements to obtain a Michigan Concealed Pistol License (CPL). Participants must be 21 years old and do not have to be a Novi resident to attend.

Registration forms are available at the Novi Police Department, or online at [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org). The \$200 course fee may be paid by cash or money order. Class size is limited, and all participants are subject to a criminal background check.

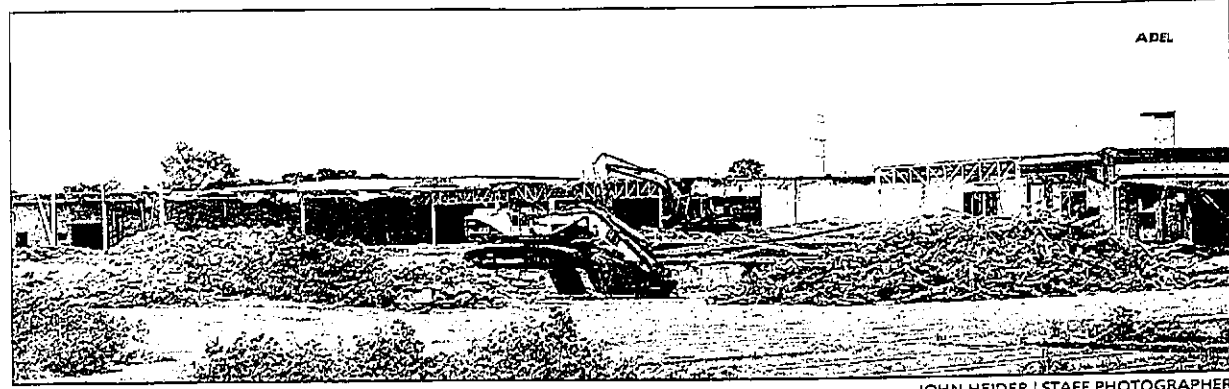
Students must bring their own equipment, including a personal handgun, 100 rounds of ammunition, safety glasses, and shooter's earmuffs or ear plugs to participate in the course.

For more information, visit [cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org) or contact Sergeant Michael Warren at [mwarren@cityofnovi.org](mailto:mwarren@cityofnovi.org) or (248) 347-0572.

**Cherished memories**

Hundreds of students are graduating and our photographers will be there to capture all the big moments. Graduation photos will appear in the Novi News and online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com). And ordering a keepsake photo or page reprint couldn't be easier. To order a photo, go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and look for the photo galleries midway down our home page. If you see a photo you'd like to purchase, just click on the gold 'buy photo' icon above the image and you will be taken directly to our photo store. Once there, you can order everything from framed photos to T-shirts to coffee mugs. If you want an entire page reprinted or made into any of the more than a dozen products available, contact Web Editor Larry Ruchlen at [lrruchlen@hometownlife.com](mailto:lrruchlen@hometownlife.com) or (313) 222-8730 and he'll be happy to help.

Going, going ...



More and more of the Novi Expo Center is torn down each day as this photo from June 27 can attest.

NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**  
 Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road  
 Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit [holysfamilynovi.org](http://holysfamilynovi.org)  
**Mass Schedule**  
 Time/Day: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. Monday-Friday; 7 p.m. Monday-Wednesday; 4:30 p.m. Saturday  
**Holy Days:** 9 a.m., 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
**Reconciliation:** beginning 9 a.m. Saturdays or by appointment  
**Priests:** Father Bob LaCroix, pastor and Father Michael Zuelch, associate pastor

**CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH**  
 Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit [www.crosspointemeadows.org](http://www.crosspointemeadows.org)  
**Sunday Worship:** 11:15 a.m.  
**Bible study classes:** 10 a.m. for all ages

**Details:** Nursery and older children programs available. Worship blends traditional and contemporary elements resulting in a multi-sensory worship experience.

**Destiny Worship Center**  
 Location: Ridge Wood Elementary School, 49775 6 Mile Road, Northville  
 Contact: DestinyW3C@gmail.com or visit [www.DW3C.org](http://www.DW3C.org)

**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Location: 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia  
 Contact: (248) 442-8822

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 Location: 44400 W. 10 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 349-2345 or visit [www.faithcommunity-novi.org](http://www.faithcommunity-novi.org)

**Sunday Worship:** 10 a.m.  
**Book of Revelation Study**  
 Location/Time: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays

**Details:** Come and learn what John is writing about, what the symbolism means, and how this book still speaks to us today.

**Faith Journeys**  
 Date: Third Sundays  
**Details:** Following worship and fellowship, someone will share how they have experienced God in their life and the difference that has made.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
 Location: 217 N. Wing  
 Contact: (248) 348-1020  
**Sunday Worship:** 10:45

GET LISTED!

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to [stone@gannett.com](mailto:stone@gannett.com); by fax to (248) 685-2892; or by mail to Church Events/Novi, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

a.m. and 5:45 p.m.  
**Sunday School:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Ladies Bible Study:** 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays  
**Men's Bible Study:** 9 a.m. first Saturday of every month

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NOVI-FAMILY INTEGRATED CHURCH**  
 Location: 45301 W. 11 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 349-3647 or [firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org](http://firstbaptistchurchofnovi.org)

**CROSSPOINTE MEADOWS CHURCH**  
 Location: 29000 Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 669-9400, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday or visit [www.crosspointemeadows.org](http://www.crosspointemeadows.org)

**Sunday Worship:** 11:15 a.m.  
**Bible Study:** 6 p.m.  
**Family Movie Night:** 5:30 p.m.; fourth Sunday of every month

**FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
 Location: 21260 Haggerty Road, north of 8 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 348-7600 or visit [dfcnazarene.org](http://dfcnazarene.org)

**Sunday Schedule:** 9:15 a.m. Worship service with Praise Band, children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 10:15 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments; 11 a.m. Traditional worship service, Children's Church, Youth Sunday School and Adult Bible Fellowship; 6 p.m. Evening Service, Children's program, Youth Worship Service

**Wednesday Schedule:** 5:30 p.m. Family Meal, \$5 per person, \$15 per family; 7 p.m. Children's Caravan, Club 56, Bible Study, Quilting, Adult Classes, Youth Blast

**Thursday Schedule:** 6 a.m. Men of Purpose Prayer Group  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
 Location: 200 E. Main Street  
 Contact: (248) 349-0911 or visit [www.fpcnorthville.org](http://www.fpcnorthville.org)

**Sunday Worship**  
 Time: 10 a.m.  
 Date: July 12  
**Date:** Cards & Games Night. This is a great way to meet new people or just see old friends again. Snacks are provided & ice cream is always served later. Bring a friend; \$5 donation.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon  
 Contact: (248) 437-2875

**FIRST UNITED**  
 Location: 41355 6 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 348-9030  
**Sundays 9-10 a.m.:** Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children  
**9 a.m.:** Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

**METHODIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE**  
 Location: 777 West 8 Mile Road, Northville  
 Contact: (248) 349-1144 or visit [www.fumcnorthville.org](http://www.fumcnorthville.org)

**Sunday Worship:** Meditative - Held in the Chapel - 8 a.m.  
 Contemporary - Held in the Sanctuary - 9:15 a.m.  
 Traditional - Held in the Sanctuary - 11 a.m.

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Location: 41415 9 Mile Road, corner of Meadowbrook Road, Novi  
 Contact: (248) 349-0565

**Sundays**  
 Time: 8:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Study; 10 a.m. Worship

**HOLY CROSS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 Location: 40700 W. 10 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 427-1175 or [holycrossnovi@gmail.com](mailto:holycrossnovi@gmail.com); visit [holycrossnovi.org](http://holycrossnovi.org)

**Sunday Worship:** 7:45 and 10 a.m.  
**Sunday School and Nursery Care:** 10 a.m. Worship Service

**Alzheimer's Support Group**  
 Time/Date: 10 a.m. second Saturday of month

**LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Location: 309 Decker Road, Walled Lake  
 Contact: 734-427-8743 or visit [www.livoniachurch.net](http://www.livoniachurch.net)

**Sunday Worship:** 11 a.m.  
**Bible School:** Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.

**MEADOWBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
 Location: 21355 Meadowbrook Road, between 8 and 9 Mile roads  
 Contact: Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Senior Minister (248) 348-7757, visit [mbccc.org](http://mbccc.org) or e-mail to [office@mbccc.org](mailto:office@mbccc.org)

**Sunday Worship:** 10 a.m.  
**Church School:** 10-11 a.m.  
**Fellowship Hour:** 11 a.m.  
**Merry Widows Luncheon**  
 Time/Date: 11:30 a.m. fourth Thursday of each month Pilgrim Fellowship

**Time/Date:** 6 p.m. Sundays  
**NORTHVILLE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY**  
 Location: 41355 6 Mile Road  
 Contact: (248) 348-9030  
**Sundays 9-10 a.m.:** Sunday School for Adults / Youth / Children  
**9 a.m.:** Contemporary service in multi-purpose gymnasium

**Women's Life Groups Ministries**  
 Time/Date: 7 p.m. every Tuesday 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday

**Ed Draugelis finds his background in law and police work has served him well as a novelist.**

He writes what he knows best

Author has legal expertise, local ties



By Julie Brown  
 Staff Writer

Ed Draugelis finds his background in law and police work has served him well as a novelist. The Dearborn resident published "The God Symposium" in 2005, a story of a Dominican nun leaving her order. She has controversial views about Jesus, and is making a statement at a symposium sponsored by an oilman. "As a consequence, there are people who are after people

in the symposium." It's a murder mystery published by Hot House Press in 2005. "Of Bread and Angels" will come out in 2013, published probably by Oak Tree Press in Illinois. He published his current novel, "Cold Water," also a mystery thriller. It tells of a man investigating his daughter's death. "It's also a story of corruption in a small town in Indiana," Draugelis said. He often visited Anderson, Ind., for his legal work, so drew on his own experience

in researching and writing the novel. "I was really talking about the small towns in Indiana," he said. The name of the city of Muncie is based on an Indian name. Draugelis retired from his legal career two years ago, and is a graduate of the Detroit College of Law, now affiliated with Michigan State University. He's a Dearborn resident and was a police officer there for six

years, two of those while serving in Germany in the military. "Those were the late '50s," he recalled.

He'd represented the Plymouth, and municipal judge there for two years. "Schoolcraft College was one of my clients, and Northville Downs I still do legal work for."

He'd represented the Plymouth school district as well. His writing began, not counting legal briefs, in the early 1980s.

"I started off with that musical play in 1982. That went in the Marquis Theater in Northville. I'm embarrassed by it now." It was called "Monteary."

The composer's music was first-rate, he said. "The author was a rank amateur." He later wrote at least a dozen children's plays. "They

were part of games and toys, basically, that were sold. I'd get letters from Canada mostly. They were very popular there."

"I've been writing for a long time, including briefs. I really write a lot now as a retired attorney. In fact, you just pulled me away from my computer," Draugelis said.

"Inshallah" is what he's working on now, a story of the Arab-American experience in Dearborn.

The book will include what happened to Arab-Americans locally after 9/11. His work as a police officer contributed to his research for the book under way, another fiction title.

"It has to be fiction or they'll string me up by my thumbs."

[jbrown@hometownlife.com](mailto:jbrown@hometownlife.com)

MDOPs

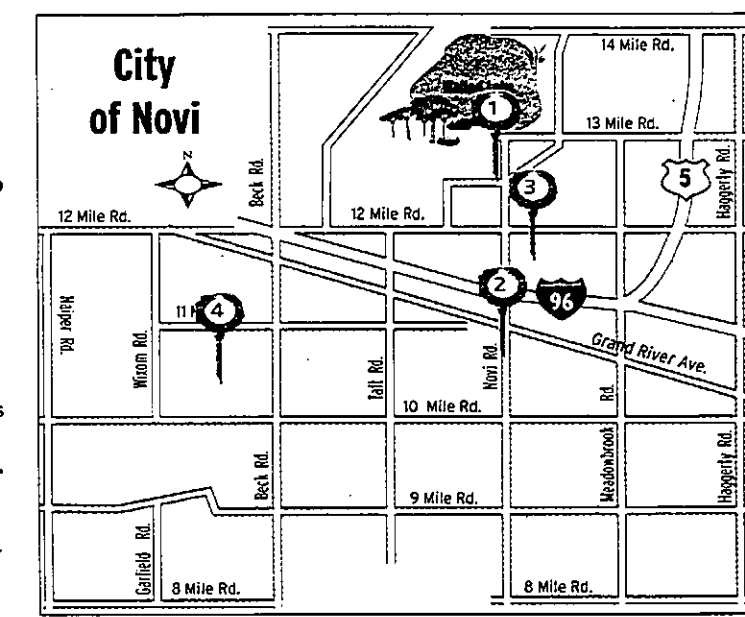
1 The Novi community saw a string of malicious destruction of property incidents to start the month of July.

One incident was discovered on July 2 in the 3000 block of Novi Road at a city water pump station and had similar graffiti that was found at a vacant home on 13 Mile Road on June 27. The suspects used black spray paint to spell out random letters and symbols including upside down crosses.

Another incident of graffiti was found on a restroom at Lake Shore Park on July 3. This was similar again in that spray paint was used to "tag" the building with the words "GOLF WANG" as well as random letters and symbols. At this scene police did find a spray can with smudged finger prints on it.

Burglary-Asian Mart

2 The Basic Asiac Mart was discovered to have been broken into and robbed after a passing bicyclist saw that the front door had been smashed and near the door was a cash



On July 2, Novi police responded to the scene at 25750 Novi Road and found the front glass door had been smashed and near the door was a cash

register. The report stated the register had coins in it, but no cash except for a \$50 bill placed underneath a note that stated that drawer had \$450 on

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

attempt to pay and were later stopped by Loss Prevention.

Larceny from vehicle

4 Ten dollars, a portable single tape deck CD player and about 20 beers were stolen from a Novi homeowner on July 9.

The homeowner, who lives on Amherst Drive, told police that when he was preparing to go to work that morning he found his American flag with a metal pole stuck in his front yard and then found his parked, unlocked vehicle had been rummaged through with the CD player stolen as well as the cash.

As he drove to work he observed an empty case of beer in his neighbor's yard and drove back home to find the beer in his fridge was missing. It was then he noticed the garage door opener on his visor had been tampered with and had been used to enter his garage to get to the flag and beer.

— Compiled by correspondent Lonnie Hulman

Coming This Fall

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## Make the most of your Social Security benefits

By Paul E. Housey  
Guest Columnist



Takin' Care of Business  
Paul E. Housey

While politicians debate over the future of Social Security, many workers rely on this benefit as a significant portion of their retirement income. For more than 10 years, the Social Security Administration (SSA) mailed statements each year to all workers summarizing their earnings history and projected benefits. While a select few groups of workers still receive their notices, the SSA has transitioned this information from paper form to Internet based for the majority of Americans.

Accessing this information annually is important for two reasons. First, workers should verify the accuracy of the earnings history. With more than 100 million workers, mistakes do get made. Make sure your record is accurate. Secondly, proper retirement planning requires an accurate projection of your benefit amount.

As you get closer to your retirement age, you should also familiarize yourself completely with the pros and cons of taking the benefit as early as age 62 or as late as age 70. Taking benefits early is the popular choice but not always the best choice. Some examples of people who may want to wait beyond age 62 to begin their benefits include those who:

- are still working,
- have other retirement assets such as an IRA, Roth or 401(k),
- are married with a significant difference in

lifetime earnings between spouses, or

- are married with a significant age difference between spouses

The SSA website is [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). This site is packed with great information but don't expect everything to be easy to find. A great benefit of this site is the ability to create your own account and access your personal information, but again, expect some delays during this process.

Whether Social Security is your only source of retirement income or you have a million dollar portfolio, proper planning can greatly increase the value of your Social Security benefits.

### Beyond the basics

- The portion of your benefits subject to Federal income tax is 0, 50 or 85 percent, depending on your overall income. Proper planning may allow you to keep this percentage as low as possible. Some items that you may have control over, such as IRA distributions and capital gains, can force more of your Social Security benefit to be taxable. We have worked with high net worth clients to build creative distribution strategies that have resulted in annual savings of more than \$5,000/year.
- Each worker has a Full Retirement Age (FRA)

between 65 and 67 based on their year of birth. If you are working between age 62 and your FRA, you may not be allowed to receive and keep your Social Security benefits, depending on your overall earned income.

- For married couples, each spouse is entitled to receive the benefit they earned on their own or one-half of their spouses benefit, whichever is greater. Most advanced strategies exist such as the husband claiming his benefit and the wife claiming the spousal benefit until the wife turns 70 when she gives up the spousal benefit at starts her own.
- At the death of the first spouse, the surviving spouse continues the larger of the two payments and gives up the smaller check. Knowing this information, some couples choose for the older spouse to wait until age 70 to collect the benefit because the higher amount from waiting will be the amount the surviving spouse receives for his/her entire life.
- Don't just sit back and wait for your Social Security checks to start coming in the mail. Careful planning is required to make the most of every dollar you have earned.

Paul E. Housey, MBA, CPA, CFP, is president of the Financial Planning Group of Snook Housey Advisors, Inc. in Troy and teaches financial planning at Walsh College. Contact him at (248) 458-1100 or [pshousey@snookhousey.com](mailto:pshousey@snookhousey.com) or visit [www.snookhousey.com](http://www.snookhousey.com) for articles, calculators and more information to help you with your financial planning.

## Just about ready



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Novi Walmart at Novi Town Center, nearing completion in this July 3 photo, is slated to officially open Aug. 15. The Bentonville, Ark.-based employer will hire about 300 associates for the Novi location.

## NOVI BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Positive Creative Infusion Consulting launches new website

Novi-based Positive Creative Infusion Consulting, LLC has launched a new website to highlight its service offerings: [www.positivecreativeinfusion.com](http://www.positivecreativeinfusion.com).

The firm offers the following services to its clients: marketing and sales strategies, multicultural marketing and sales strategies, marketing and sales training and coaching, creative concepts brainstorming sessions, as well as personal branding for individuals.

"I absolutely love helping others succeed. It is truly what keeps me awake at night," said the principal and founder, Rachelle Smith. "As a proud Novi resident and member of the Greater Farmington Chamber, I am thrilled to help businesses, non-profits and individuals become more successful. That is what helps our community grow."

### Providence Hospitals selected for national effort to increase breastfeeding

Providence Park Hospital, Providence Hospital, and St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital have been selected to participate in Best Fed Beginnings, a first-of-its-kind national effort to significantly improve breastfeeding rates in states where rates are currently the lowest. In Michigan, breastfeeding initiation rates are at 69 percent and continuation rates are at 45 percent.

Though not named in the effort, St. John River District will fully participate in this project, and St. John Hospital is already a leader in breastfeeding medicine and works under a \$1.3 Million Kellogg grant to improve breastfeeding rates.

Participation in the Best Fed Beginnings includes implementing a proven model for maternity services that bet-

ter supports a new mother's choice to breastfeed. The National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) is leading the effort through a cooperative funding agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and will be working closely with Baby-Friendly USA, Inc.

"We are delighted to have been chosen to participate in this important effort and to have the opportunity to improve our maternity services to better support breastfeeding," said Gayle Novack, administrator of the grant for St. John Providence Health System.

Nationwide, 87 other hospitals are participating in this initiative and were selected from 235 applicants. The groups will work together in a 22-month learning collaborative, using proven quality improvement methods to transform their maternity care services in pursuit of "Baby-Friendly" designation. This designation verifies that a hospital has comprehensively implemented the American Academy of Pediatrics-endorsed Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, as established in the WHO/UNICEF Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. Breastfeeding rates are higher and disparities in these rates are virtually eliminated in hospitals that achieve this status.

**Free seminar on pension buyouts**

Rick Bloom of Bloom Asset Management in Farmington Hills and the Observer & Eccles Newspaper are co-sponsoring a free educational seminar on the lump-sum buyouts offered to salaried retirees of General Motors and Ford Motor Co. at 9 a.m. Thursday, July 12, in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. For more information or to register, call (248) 932-5300 or e-mail [seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com](mailto:seminars@bloomassetmanagement.com). A continental breakfast will be served. Participants must pre-register.

## OAKLAND COUNTY BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Business owners and entrepreneurs who need assistance are invited to attend seminars in Farmington Hills offered by the Oakland County Business Center. Business Basics workshops are now offered in the evenings on alternating months.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Road, west of Telegraph, Waterford. For pre-registration and location specifics, visit online at [oakgov.com/peds/calendar](http://oakgov.com/peds/calendar), or call (248) 858-0783.

### 5 Keys to Fiscal Fitness

Fiscal management tools for the non-financial manager. This workshop provides the business owner an in-depth look at the essentials of using financial information to make effective decisions about improving their business performance. Topics include Ways to improve your company's cash flow, How to use the balance sheet and income statements to diagnose business problems and opportunities, how break even analysis helps you make better pricing and business decisions and How to insure you have enough working capital to support growth.

Wednesday, July 18, 8 a.m.-noon. The fee is \$25 per person.

### Legal & Financial Basics for Small Business

Legal & Financial Basics provides new and existing Michigan entrepreneurs an understanding of the "key" legal and financial considerations when starting and operating a business in Michigan. The program addresses "how to" select the best legal entity for your business, "how to" protect your business interests when dealing with customers, suppliers or independent contractors and important information and guidelines for establishing short and long term succession plans for your business. Presented by Witzke Berry & Carter PLLC Tuesday, July 31, 9 a.m.-noon. This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required.

### Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan

This is a workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success. Workshop participants will learn what elements are commonly found in effective plans and work on developing each of these for their own business. Assistance in the process as well as information on resources is provided.

Thursday, July 19, 9 a.m.-noon. Fee: \$40 per person. No refunds.

### Fundamentals of Marketing Your Business

Marketing is essential to business success. All products/services must be sold to well-targeted audiences with a wide-ranging marketing mix. Our counselors guide you through successful techniques and marketing principles that help you promote your products and services to the most promising customers - your target audience. Presented by Oakland County and The Michigan Small Business & Technology Development Center (MI-SBTC). Aug. 1, 6-9 p.m.; \$40

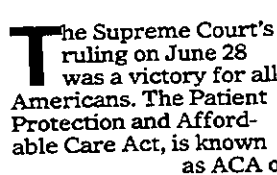
### Business Research: Feasibility to Expansion

Thinking of starting a business and want to research your business idea? Are you a business owner who wants to benchmark your profit margin and other measures against similar size businesses? Do you want to identify market trends and opportunities to grow your sales? Are you looking for new customers or to diversify your market base? Business Research shows you ways to find your ideal customers, your competitors, perform competitive analysis and more. Presented by Oakland County Market Research and an Oakland County Public Library business reference librarian.

This workshop is free, but pre-registration is required. Aug. 2, 6-9 p.m.

# See past the smokescreen thrown up by 'Obamacare' opponents

By Delphine Palkowski  
Guest Column



Delphine Palkowski

The Supreme Court's ruling on June 28 was a victory for all Americans. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, is known as ACA or "Obamacare."

The term Obamacare was coined to defeat it, just as calling Hillarycare defeated the health care reform bill under President Clinton. There are more than 50 million Americans without any health insurance and another 25 million are under-insured. The ACA will improve the health and economy of the entire country.

**Economics**

Remember, by law, the government must project revenues and costs up to 10 years. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates the health law will bring in more than \$437.8 billion by 2019. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates additional revenues to be \$225 billion between now and 2019.

The insurance companies are now required to spend 80 cents out of every premium dollar they take in on actual reimbursement for your health care - not on profit or "administrative costs" (some companies have been taking over a 31 percent cut). Medicare's total percentage of their budget for administrative costs is 2 percent.

Starting in 2013, Medicare payroll taxes will increase 0.9 percentage points for people with incomes over \$200,000 (\$250,000 for couples filing jointly). Also, those that do not have a plan until age 26.

## CALENDAR

Continued from page A11  
second and fourth Wednesdays

**Location:** Leo's Sports Bar & Grill Restaurant, lower level, 40380 Grand River, west of Hagedorn. Visitors are welcome, dinner is from the menu. Details: Novi Lions is part of Lions International, the largest service organization in the world. Our purpose is to serve the blind and the community. Principal activities are fundraising for Leader Dogs, Penrickton Center for Blind Children and other blind charities along with fundraisers for high school

scholarships. Serving locally, in Michigan and worldwide as there is the need.

**Contact:** Lion President Ron Martin, (248) 473-1156 or Lion Secretary Ed Kramer, (248) 348-2747

## Reunions

**NOVI HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 AND 1978**

**Date:** Aug. 11  
**Location:** The Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi  
**Details:** combined class reunion  
**Contact:** Please refer to [www.NoviHighReunion.com](http://www.NoviHighReunion.com) for more information.

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on investment income. The 10 year revenue is projected at \$210.2 billion.

**Small businesses**

Some 132,000 small businesses in Michigan alone are eligible for temporary tax credits, worth up to 35 percent of an employer's contribution to help provide insurance to workers.

**Women**

The law guarantees women direct access to OB/GYN providers without referrals, and it ends discriminatory practices of charging women higher premiums. Some wom-

en were charged up to 150 percent more than men of the same age and health.

It also gives women access to birth control without co-pays by Aug. 1, 2012.

**Seniors**

God willing, most of us will become seniors. Since 2010, the ACA has helped 3.6 million on Medicare to save \$2.1 billion on their drug costs, or an average of \$604 per person. In 2011, more than 32 million received at least one new free preventive care benefit. Under the new law, seniors do not have to pay

for mammograms, diabetes or cancer screenings. In 2012 Medicare beneficiaries in the Part D prescription drug program who fall into the "donut hole" will automatically receive a discount on prescription drugs.

Commentator Rush Limbaugh prevaricates when he calls ACA "the largest tax increase in the history of the world." It's simply not true. The annual cost, \$600 saved by a family on contraceptives alone, will equal the purchase of five weeks of groceries for a family of four, nine tanks of gas in a minivan, or one semester of college textbooks.

ACA has proved itself in the Supreme Court. Now, it will prove itself to Americans with more robust health while assisting middle class and those with lower income a boost in their economic health. Thank you, Supreme Court - justice is alive.

**Delphine Palkowski** of South Lyon is a volunteer with AARP, serving as a Michigan legislative advocate. She is also heavily involved with the Michigan Alliance to Strengthen Social Security and Medicare and the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice.



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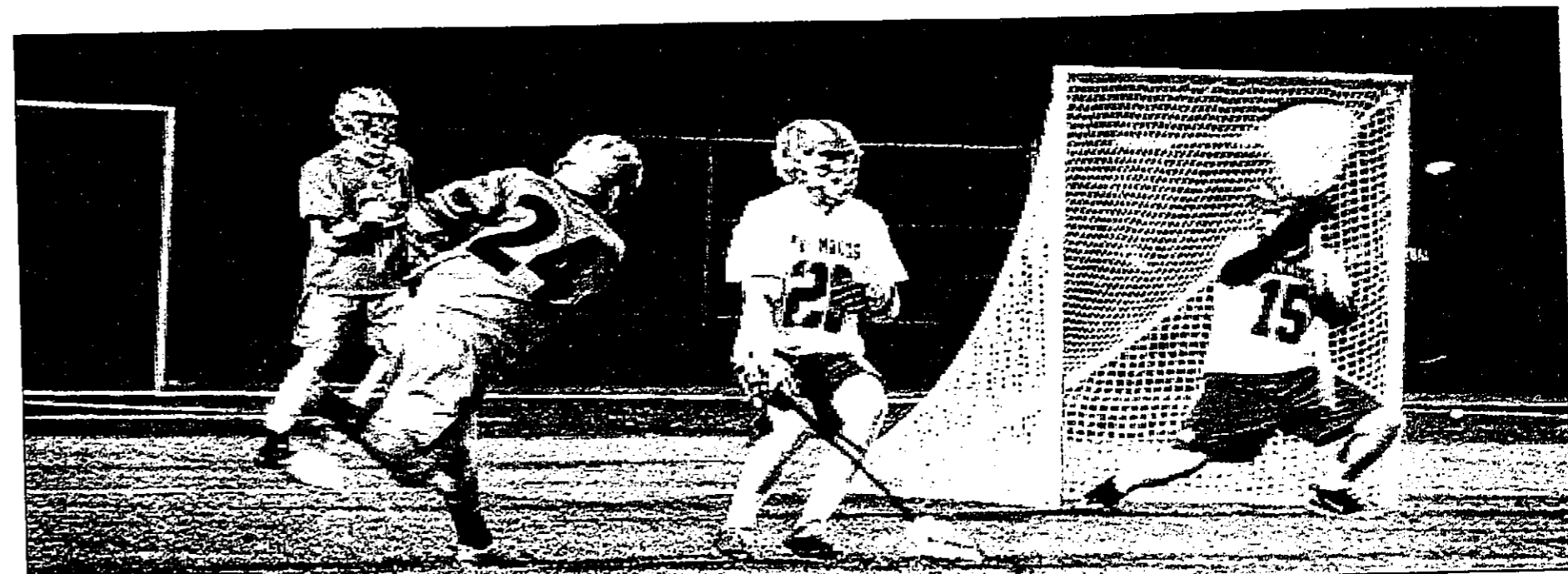
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Northville's Jakob Kippola fires a shot during a game against Catholic Central.

**Northville's Kippola earns top honors**

All-Area squad chock full of state's best lacrosse players

By Sam Eggleston  
 Correspondent

Picking an All-Area team in out of our coverage schools is a lot like throwing rocks at the side of a barn — you're not likely ever going to miss.  
 In this area, we're packed full of amazing lacrosse talent. That's showcased by the fact that 94-percent of the players who made First Team were also All-State honorees on the first, second, third or honorable mention list. Just under half of our second team, an impressive 46-percent, was also All-State.  
 The cream of that outstanding crop is none other than Northville's Jakob Kippola.

"He was one of our most improved players this season and one of the best young men that I have coached," said Northville coach Greg Durham. "He scored the biggest goal probably in our team's history, beating Catholic Central in overtime in the regional semifinals."  
 Kippola's impressive season — which included 85 goals and 28 assists — landed him the only All-American honors in our area this year. He was also a unanimous All-State First-Team selection and co-captain of the team for Northville. Kippola will play at Grand Valley State University next year.

**ALL-AREA BOYS LACROSSE**

- PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
 Jakob Kippola, Northville  
**FIRST TEAM**  
 Danny Meyers, CC  
 Nick Melucci, Northville  
 Kent Burnett, Novi  
 Pat McKay, South Lyon  
 Nick Gingell, CC  
 Adam Haynes, Novi  
 Alex Hudgens, South Lyon  
 Connor Smith, Northville  
 Jordan Yono, CC  
 Travis Sparding, Novi  
 Nathan DiRado, South Lyon  
 Max Williams, Northville  
 Joe Kim, Northville  
 Teddy Jones, Huron Valley  
 Spencer Hilden, South Lyon  
 Tommy McMasters, Novi  
**SECOND TEAM**  
 Eric West, South Lyon  
 Alec Gilhooly, CC
- HONORABLE MENTION**  
 Huron Valley: Tyler Messier, Doyle Williams, Tyler Shubitowski, Nate Gilletly, Bobby Osborne, Trevor Tierney; South Lyon: Connor Weidman, Corey Haas, Trevor Hilden, Grant Widger, Blake Robertson, Alex Mayhew, Raymond Tague; Novi: Chris Herzog; Northville: John Cooke, Marshall Williams, Garret Glowacki, Jake Fuller, Tyler Gozdar; CC: Sean Birney, Mike Mullen

Please see LACROSSE, B4



Novi's varsity, junior varsity and senior groups all won their respective Mid-American Pompon competitions in Grand Rapids.

**Wildcat pompons sweep Mid-American high kick championships**

By Chris Jackett  
 Correspondent

Novi's pompon squad has had a lot of success in recent years and that success continued last month as the varsity, junior varsity and senior groups all won their respective Mid-American Pompon competitions in Grand Rapids.  
 The Wildcat girls took to the mats June 21-24 at Davenport University, where all three teams built on past success. The varsity squad won their fifth high-kick title, the seniors won their second title and the JV girls won their 10th high-kick title.  
 The varsity squad's title was their second in the past three years, won from a camp of more than 270 girls

from 17 teams from across the state. Captained by Delaney Uille and Kaitley Oppat, the grand champion squad consists of Gillian Auttersson, Mackenzie Betts, Yianna Bordeaux, Bailey Borycki, Amy Cao, Madison Cojei, Lauren Dipaola, Kelly Dubay, Olivia Ghannam, Marisa Giampa, Lexie Giragosian, Bailee Kiel, Angela Lazzara, Jessica Leone, Amy Liang, Morgan Shepherd, Drew Thomason, Emma Weil and Renee Weil. Erin Bartos and Elyse Bartos coach the team.  
 Varsity team members had the chance to try out for the Mid-American Pompon All-Star Team, which performs at national and international events each year. Eleven Novi girls

Please see POMPONS, B4

**Zuk caps tremendous senior season**

By Jeff Theisen  
 Sports Writer

It was quite easy to find Lakeland distance runner Garret Zuk all year. He would be the one in front, churning out wins and making difficult long-distance events look easy.  
 Zuk would wish other racers luck as runner-up finisher Even Chiplock (Saginaw Heritage) said the Lakeland senior did to his amazement at the State Finals. Zuk would also be the first to congratulate others as they finished. He is a true ambassador of the sport — probably the biggest endorsement possible.  
 The obvious highlight for Zuk was the State Title in the 3,200. He ran a season best 9:00.9 to win regionals. He was also part of the All-State 3,200 relay team which placed third. Zuk also was the county champ in the 1,600.  
 "It's tough to come up with something more insightful than what has already been said or written about Garret," said coach David Browne. "He is the team leader in every aspect of the word. His work ethic is beyond contagious. Guys on the team now work hard because they saw Garret do it and what it did for him."  
 "He demonstrated the type of sportsmanship that every coach would dream of from their kids, and that has left a mark on our team too. Garret has also started a tradition of



Lakeland's Garret Zuk leads the 3,200 at the Division 1 State Finals. Zuk is the 2012 All-Area Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Please see TRACK, B5

### Strong run continues



The Novi Parks & Recreation Wildcats soccer team finished in first place in the 2012 Spring Division 1 VSSS Girls U10 league with an undefeated season at 7-0-1. The Wildcats had the league's top defense allowing an average of only slightly over one goal per game. Besides having the toughest defense in the league, the Wildcats offense was relentless and explosive, averaging more than four goals per game. The Spring Wildcats picked up right where they had left off in Fall 2011 when they had a perfect season winning all eight games and allowing only a single goal over the entire season in Division 3. Several of the current Wildcats have been together now for five Park & Rec seasons over which time they have always finished first and have had three perfect seasons. In two seasons, the Wildcat defense was so stifling that they surrendered only a single goal for the entire season. Over these five seasons the Wildcats have outscored their opponents 187-24, averaging more than 4.5 goals per game while holding their opponents to 0.5 goal per game. The current members of the Wildcats are Rebekah Anger, Alyssa Gauthier, Elaina Hauncher, Ime Inyang, Rachel Jennings, Shannon Jennings, Lauren Mezigian, Ritika Setti, Mehreen Singh, Maggie Mae Thompson and Emily Tonnos. The Wildcats are coached by Kevin Jennings.

### Northville U16s stand tall



The 2nd Annual Mustang Wood Bat Invitational was held this past weekend at both Northville HS and Hillsdale fields. Six teams participated in the tournament which started Friday and culminated with an all Northville Championship game. The U15 Northville Broncos, coached by Mark Zaleski, beat the Dexter Titans 5-4 in their semifinal game to move on, while the U16 Northville Broncos, coached by Ken Cheslik, beat the Lincoln Park Rails 2-0 in a 9-inning pitching duel with Northville's own Nolan Waldeck pitching a complete game for the shutout victory. The U16s won the Championship Game 8-3 over the U15s. Congratulations to both teams for making it to the final game and for the great camaraderie witnessed throughout the weekend.



Former Northville soccer players reunite on the field for the alumni game. Back Row in White: Todd Stohl (former goalie coach), Amy Goede-Albert ('91), Michelle McQuaid-Heldke ('91), Lorianne Blair-Hearn ('00), Whitney Guenther-Jankowski ('04), Jeanette Doelmetsch ('09), Lauren Lokey ('10), Ali Hawkford ('11), Mallory Weber ('12), Deedee Borawski ('12), James Hannah (current freshmen coach). Middle Row: Steve Besk (former goalie coach), Eric Brucker (current varsity coach), Ashley Maclean-Mardossian ('91), Lindsey Blair ('06/current JV coach), Sarah Aquinto ('08), Liz Watza ('07), Sarah Stern ('08), Jessica Lyon ('11), Andrea Stark ('11), Kaitlyn Girbach ('11), Claire McHugh ('12), Pam Yezback-Brucker ('90). Front Row: Jacob Reith

## Northville soccer alumni earn money for St. Jude's

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

There were 23 former Northville girls soccer players on the field at the high school last week, and they were playing like there was a championship title on the line.

Of course, what else would you expect from Northville Mustangs? The game brought back players to the pitch that dated from graduating classes ranging from 1990 until 2012. Donations were received from alumni as far back as the 1984 state championship team.

"It was a great time for a great cause," said current girls' head coach Eric Brucker, who helped organize the event. "We were able to get new alumni together to kick the ball around and have some fun with no injuries. The efforts of my wife, Pam Yezback-Brucker, and Robert Lyon to solicit generous donations from local businesses help to make the raffle a big success."

The game, which was split into three periods due to high heat, found Ali Hawkford (2011) firing home a goal for the white team off a cross from Lauren Lokey (2010) for a 1-0 lead. The white team added another score in the same period off the foot of Mallory Weber (2012) with Lokey earning the assist.

The maroon team got on the board before the end of the first period when former standout Lindsey Blair (2008) fired a long shot over the

stretched hand of the white team's goalie to cut into the lead, 2-1. The second period found the maroon team energized and ready to play as Kaitlyn Girbach (2011) tied the game off a deflection, 2-2, with Sarah Stern (2008) earning the assist on the goal.

Ashley Maclean-Mardossian (1991) gave the maroon team their first lead of the game on an unassisted goal just a few minutes later to give her squad a 3-2 advantage heading into the final period of play. Stern put the Maroon squad up for good, earning the only goal of the period, as she took a pass from Maclean-Mardossian and found the back of the net to make it a 4-2 final.

The women's alumni game was held not only for fun, but for the benefit of the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The game brought in \$1,160 for the cause and donated on behalf of Jacob Reith. Reith was diagnosed with a brain tumor in April 2007 at the age of six, which led to emergency surgery. Pathology later revealed that the tumor, a pineoblastoma, was malignant and further treatment would be necessary in order for Reith to survive. Research and consultation led his family to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., which specializes in the research and treatment of children with catastrophic illness and has an entire team devoted to children with

brain tumors. In May 2007, Reith began treatment at St. Jude, undergoing six weeks of radiation treatment followed by three rounds of high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue, spaced apart at one month intervals. During treatment, Reith and his mother lived in housing provided by St. Jude, attended school with St. Jude teachers and was followed by a host of specialists all with the single goal of providing the best treatment for Reith and his fellow patients. Reith returned home in November 2007. He returns to St. Jude for bi-annual evaluations and, some five years later, is a cancer-free fifth-grade student at Northville's Thornton Creek Elementary.

Thanks to Albie Ghazal, Kim Yaggi, Alexis Mencotti, and Rachel Yaggi for giving up their time to help run the event," said Brucker, who noted businesses that provided items for the raffle included Dancing Eye Gallery, Rusty Bucket, Sizzling Sticks, Stamp Peddler, Gennitti's, Spillane & Reynolds, Orthodontics, Town & Country Bikes, Planet Fitness, Bricks, Northville Swim Club, Baby Baby, Stitching Post, Custard Time, Pizza Cutter, Great Harvest, Top Cat Sports Apparel, D&D Cycles, Rebecca's Restaurant, Pooles Tavern, Mary Kay by Krista Yezback, Bella Expressions and Kroger (food donation for concessions and water for the players).

# SLU's Glenn scores top honor

By Jeff Theisen  
Sports writer

South Lyon United girls lacrosse had another successful season, winning the Kensington Conference title and finishing runner-up in the KLAAs title game.

Attacker Alyssa Glenn was a huge reason for the success with 73 goals and 21 assists to lead the offense. The junior also filled the stat sheet in several other ways, picking up 45 ground balls, winning 54 draw controls, causing 18 turnovers and snagging three interceptions.

"Alyssa has a great stick skills and does a great job leading the offense," said coach Deanna Radcliffe. "She is constantly working on her shot and it really paid off for her this season."

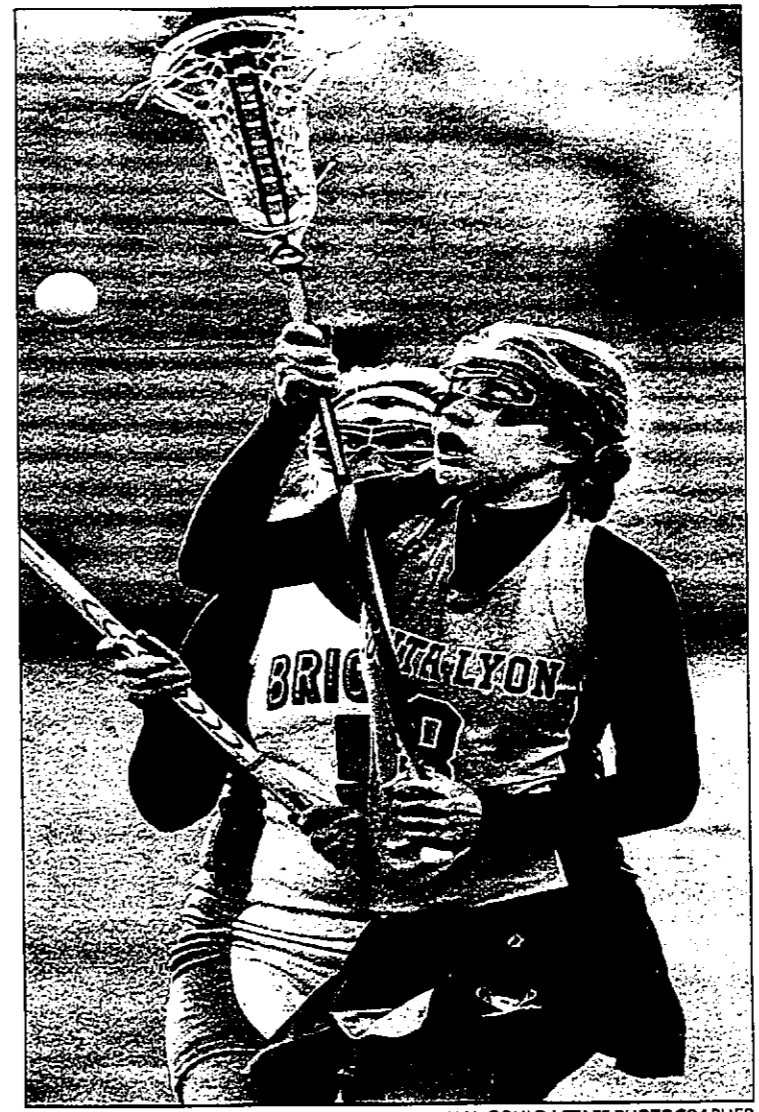
**FIRST TEAM**  
Caitlin Wojichowski, Huron Valley  
Wojo, as he is known, played all over the field for Huron Valley. The three-sport athlete will continue her career in the sport at the next level at Grand Valley State. She tallied 42 goals with 16 assists for 58 points. Wojo also scooped up 92 ground balls, had 10 blocks, 10 interceptions and 31 caused turnovers.

"Wojo is the voice of the team. Yet her actions speak more than her words," said coach Tara Johnson. "She is the glue that really holds the team together, both defensively and offensively."

The Lakeland senior was the only defenseman selected the All-State First Team for Division 1. She also earned Academic All-State and KLAAs First Team All-League.

Nichole Laflamme, Huron Valley  
The Lakeland senior set all sorts of new records for the school and state, both single year and career as an attacker.

Laflamme tallied seven goals in a game five times and finished the year with state records of 93 goals and 107 total points. Her 191 career goals



South Lyon's Alyssa Glenn fights for the ball against Brighton. Glenn is the 2012 All-Area Girls Lacrosse Player of the Year.

are also a record as are the 215 points.

"Laflamme is a gifted athlete complete with speed, hard shots and a competitive drive to constantly find the back of the net with her shots," said Johnson. "She sets high goals and then sets out to pass them leading the

team to many victories against strong opponents."

She earned Division 1 Second Team honors and KLAAs First Team All-Conference and will continue her career at Adrian. Maddy Rosochacki, South Lyon  
The junior attacker tallied 90

### GIRLS LACROSSE ALL-AREA

#### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Alyssa Glenn, South Lyon  
**FIRST TEAM**  
Caitlin Wojichowski, Huron Valley  
Nichole Laflamme, Huron Valley  
Maddy Rosochacki, South Lyon  
Carrie Stevens, South Lyon  
Gretchen Gorman, South Lyon  
Emily Wenson, South Lyon  
Megan Paul, Novi  
Kali Maisano, Northville  
Charlotte Peterson, Northville

#### HONORABLE MENTION

Novis: Lindsey Kulle (sr)  
South Lyon: Mia Fragale (sr), Melanie Fredericks (sr), Megan Viecelli (sr), Morgan Radners (jr)  
Northville: Erica MacDonald (jr)

points with 68 goals to provide a solid 1-2 punch up front with Glenn. She also accounted for 49 ground balls, 11 draw controls, nine caused turnovers and three interceptions. Rosochacki earned All-KLAAs honors and All-State Honorable Mention.

"Maddy's enthusiasm and constant high level of intensity during both practices and games helped her to reach the levels that she did this year," said Radcliffe.

Carrie Stevens, South Lyon  
The junior defender was key to the defense for South Lyon. She snagged 65 ground balls, caused 32 turnovers, had 47 draw controls and three interceptions. She also pitched in 16 points on offense.

Stevens earned All-KLAAs honors and All-State Honorable Mention.

"Carrie is always a leader on defense and takes a lot of pride in her defense," said Radcliffe. "She has great field awareness. She is very aggressive and it helps her to be successful all over the field."

### Gretchen Gorman, South Lyon

The midfielder and captain earned All-KLAAs honors with 17 goals and four assists, 52 ground balls, 23 draw controls and 14 caused turnovers.

"Gretchen's biggest asset is her speed and hustle on the field," said Radcliffe. "Her speed helps her to get by defenders, clear the ball out, get to ground balls, get draw controls, etc."

Emily Wenson, South Lyon  
The senior defender was another reason South Lyon won the KLAAs Conference title and finished runner-up in the KLAAs finals. She earned All-KLAAs honors.

Megan Paul, Novi  
The sophomore attacker led an extremely young team with 29 goals.

"For being a new team and not knowing much of the game at all, (she) really picked up the pace and played very well throughout our season scoring 29 goals," said coach Caitlin Warda. "I know it doesn't seem like a lot, but for a first-year program she was the highest scorer on our team and helped out tremendously in our wins."

Kali Maisano, Northville  
The junior goalie stopped an amazing 58 percent of the shots she faced (291 saves, 204 goals) for the Mustangs.

"If Kali didn't win games for us with phenomenal goaltending she put us in a position to win every single game," said coach Stacey Tardich. "Her 58 percent save average is incredible in the sport of lacrosse."

Charlotte Peterson, Northville  
The senior center-midfielder led the Mustangs in goals with 52 and was voted team MVP.

"Charlotte put her team before individual stats this year and still led our team in goals," said Tardich. "She made her team better for years to come by her discipline and play."

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LACROSSE

Continued from page B1

FIRST TEAM ATTACK Danny Meyers Senior Catholic Central Meyers was a key member of the Detroit Catholic Central Shamrocks squad this year...

Northville A First-Team All-State selection and team co-captain. Melucci was a strong player in every contest he played in for the Mustangs...

South Lyon Unified "He can dodge, feed and finish with both hands," said coach Jeremy Napier. "He is going to have a monster senior year..."

MIDFIELD Nick Gingell Senior Catholic Central Top-notch midfielders are a big part of a winning effort for any squad...

POMPON

Continued from page B1

made the team, including Betts, Ghanam, Giampa, Leone, Liang, Oppat, Shepherd, Thomasson, Uile, Emma Weil and Renee Weil.

as he collected 33 goals and 14 assists this while snagging 12 ground balls and forcing 27 turnovers. He earned All-State Third-Team honors for his play this year.

South Lyon Unified Hudgens earned honorable mention honors this year during All-State selection and it was easy to see why. With 31 goals, 16 assists, 61 ground balls and 30 caused turnovers...

Connor Smith Northville Smith is one of those players that you just love to have on the field. Not only does he play midfield well, he's also an All-State First-Team selection as a face-off specialist...

DEFENSE Jordan Yono Senior Catholic Central What can be said about Yono that he hasn't showcased with his play? As a defender he's the best on the All-Area team...

Travis Sparling Sophomore Novi A Second-Team All-State selection, Sparling was the kind of player this year that you knew could stick with anybody and keep them from being an effective offensive producer in any game...

South Lyon Unified DiRado made a lot of noise this year, picking up 60 ground balls, causing a whopping 63 turnovers and earning just 12 penalties despite being one of the most physical players in the area.

"He has mastered cradling and can scoop and escape better than most long poles," said Napier. "He plays good on-ball defense and great off-ball defense. He knows the slides and times well and creates turnover. He's a fierce checker who doesn't over commit and waits for his attacker to make a mistake rather than take himself out of position."

DiRado also earned Defensive MVP honors from his team this year. Max Williams Senior Northville Northville's top defensemen earned himself honorable mention All-State honors this year. The reason? Well, he continued to get better and better and was key in the Mustangs' best season on record.

GOALIES Joe Kim Senior Northville Northville wouldn't have been able to make their run into the playoffs this year if it hadn't been for the outstanding play of Kim, who earned All-State honorable mention this season.

DEFENSE Jordan Yono Senior Catholic Central What can be said about Yono that he hasn't showcased with his play? As a defender he's the best on the All-Area team and one of the best in Michigan. He was a selection for First Team All-State in 2012.

Travis Sparling Sophomore Novi A Second-Team All-State selection, Sparling was the kind of player this year that you knew could stick with anybody and keep them from being an effective offensive producer in any game. He snagged 34 ground balls this season and forced 21 turnovers.

South Lyon Unified Any coach would love to have a player like Hilden on their team. He's versatile, collecting nine goals, 11 assists, snagging 92 ground balls and 10 forced turnovers this year and he's one of the top special teams players in the area. This year he won 175 of 240 face-offs and spent time on both offense and defense for the South Lyon United squad.

game," said Napier. "He's the real deal. This season, nobody ever got the best of Spencer." Hilden earned All-State Second-Team honors this season as a face-off specialist.

Tommy McMasters Freshman Novi An impressive player as a freshman, McMasters will no doubt be key in all of Novi's plans for the next three seasons. He snagged 50 ground balls this year, caused 31 turnovers and was the team's leading long stickman this year. He played in all of Novi's contests and scored a goal and had an assist while earning All-State Second-Team honors in his first season.

DEFENSE Gerald Perreault Senior Catholic Central Perreault is a strong player on the field more than any other player on the Mustangs' roster. He was a key element in the strong defensive performance Northville showcased in the second-half of the season. What is most incredible about Keech's performance in 2012 was that it was the first year he had ever picked up a lacrosse stick.

DEFENSE Steve Jarzynski Junior Catholic Central Jarzynski was a big-time player this year on a team full of outstanding lacrosse talent. He had a strong presence on the defensive side of the ball and was key in Catholic Central's successes. Expect to see a larger role from this All-State honorable mention player next season.

GOALIE Mitch Adams Junior Novi Expect to see a lot from Adams next year when he returns as Novi's defensive wall in between the posts. The junior went 14-4 this year in goal, allowing 114 goals but making 212 saves against some of the state's top talent.

SPECIAL TEAMS Mike Brzezinski Senior Catholic Central A season-ending shoulder injury cut Brzezinski's season short just prior to playoffs, but he still held his own this season with 70-percent of his face-off ending in his favor. Garrett MacDonald Senior South Lyon Unified It's hard to believe that a player who was on the field for most of the season can only earn one penalty all year long — but MacDonald did.

South Lyon Unified Tsiariol earned himself the midfielder of the year award on South Lyon's squad this year, quite the statement considering the talent the KLAAs had in 2012. He earned 17 goals, 21 assists, 23 ground balls and caused 28 turnovers as a utility player who wasn't afraid to do anything the team needed.

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Chris Jaccetti is a freelance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

TRACK

Continued from page B1

the upperclassmen helping to develop our younger guys. That's something that didn't exist before. Our guys look out for each other and that is in no small part thanks to Garrett.

Zuk will continue running at Michigan State University. FIRST TEAM Brandon Wallace, Milford In any other season, a two-time State Title holder would be a shoe-in for the Athlete of the Year - but it just goes to show the incredible depth and talent from the area.

The Maverick senior ran the 800 and was also part of the winning 4x800 relay team as Milford scored the most points ever at the State Finals to finish fourth. It bears noting that he only ran the open 800 meters three times prior to his State Championship run, said coach Brian Salyers. "He has achieved so much, it is often tough to remember he is only a sophomore."

Shawn Welch, Milford The senior distance runner capped off his final season with a first-place finish as part of the 4x800 and a sixth-place finish in the 1,600 at the Division 1 State Finals. Ausum also ran a leg on the 4x400 team at state.

Ausum will be running at Hillsdale next year. Kyle Monagle, Milford The junior helped the 4x800 team win a State Title. He was the lead-off runner on our State Championship 3,200 relay, our State Record 3,200 meter Relay at Nationals. "Brandon represents what all coaches desire in terms of integrity, work ethic and competitiveness. He knows only one way to do things — the right way. He is an exemplary student-athlete that succeeded in three sports and serves as an ambassador of Milford High School."

Wallace will also run at Michigan State next year. Brian Kettle, Milford The Milford sophomore finished an incredible year that started with a runner-up finish at the cross country finals with a State Title in the 1,600 meters. His winning time of 4:16.5 at regionals was a new school sophomore record. He also qualified for state in the 3,200 meters. "Brian matured into an elite distance runner this season," said Salyers. "His competitiveness and willingness to do the necessary to succeed make him tough to beat. Brian worked well with his teammates in training and in races to help us maximize our true potential. He has achieved so much, it is often tough to remember he is only a sophomore."

ALL-AREA BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR GARRET ZUK, LAKELAND FIRST TEAM Brandon Wallace, Milford Brian Kettle, Milford Shawn Welch, Milford Paul Ausum, Milford Kyle Monagle, Milford Cody Snavely, Milford Scott Neff, Lakeland Craig Dudley, Lakeland James Probstfield, Lakeland Brandon Love, Northville Trevor VanAsselt, South Lyon

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Grayson Thomas, Lakeland Dan Sims, Northville Collin Berenguer, Novi Ali Taha, Novi Quinn Schelske, South Lyon East Kyle Schopa, South Lyon HONORABLE MENTION Milford: Dominic Haddad (sr), Jon Schwartz (jr), Hunter Moore (jr) Lakeland: Blake McCormas, Dalton Christie, Austin Yoemans, Eric Assid Northville: Jason Ferrante (fr) South Lyon: Anton Skupin (fr), Spencer Ruggiero (jr), Nick Dyer (sr), Joel Shekell (sr), Mike Brodowicz (sr), Andrew Thomas (so), Bryce VanAsselt (fr), Scot White (sr), PJ Hanner (so), Mark Kurzeja (sr)

bestowed upon him. He is a great student-athlete and first-class gentleman." Cody Snavely, Milford The senior distance runner came out strong all year, but a virus cut into his abilities late in the season. He was a state qualifier in the 3,200 with a 9:27 at regionals. "Throughout the season Cody was called upon to deliver in the 3,200 relay, 1,600 and 3,200 distances," said Salyers. "Unfortunately a virus negatively impacted his racing down the stretch. Cody is a warrior who gives his team all that he has each and every time he toes the line. We will look forward to him making his mark next year as a senior."

Scott Neff, Lakeland The senior finished off his high school career with an All-State run for third place with the 4x800 team. He also qualified for state in the 800.

While he worked hard to improve his 800 time to get himself into the state meet in an open event, he is also capable of breaking 4:30 in the mile," said coach David Browne. "As an anchor on our 4x400 team I would put him up against anyone in the state in a tight race. He just hates to lose." Craig Dudley, Lakeland The senior ran on the

is an inspiration for all of the members of his team, however, it's paper or runner," said coach Scott Smith.

SECOND TEAM Kyle Coggins, Milford The senior discus thrower launched the discus 161.4 this year to rank second all-time at Milford. He qualified for the State Finals on his last throw at regionals and placed 12th. Grayson Thomas, Lakeland The junior distance runner qualified for the State Finals in the 3,200. Dan Sims, Northville The sophomore qualified for the State Finals in both the 1,600 meters and the 3,200. He ran a season-best 4:23.2 in the 1,600 and 9:38.9 in the 3,200.

Collin Berenguer, Novi The Wildcat sophomore cleared 11-10 to win the regional title and advance to states. He earned All-Conference and All-Region honors. Ali Taha, Novi The sophomore qualified for the State Finals by winning the regional with a leap of 21-4 in the long jump. He led the Wildcats in points scored as both a long jumper and sprinter. Quinn Schelske, South Lyon East The Cougar sophomore placed second at the KLAAs Conference meet and just missed qualifying for state with a third-place finish at regionals in the 300 hurdles.

Kyle Schopa, South Lyon The sprinter set a new sophomore record for the Lions with a finish of 22.5 in the 200 meters. The time also tied the school's all-time record and earned him a spot in the State Finals.

Editor's Note: Catholic Central did not return requests for the All-Area Team. jtheisen@gannett.com (248) 437-2011, ext. 228

Northville's Stadnik takes silver medal

Thirteen roller skaters from the Riverside Arena in Livonia took top placements at the Great Lakes Regional Roller Skating Championships in Romeoville, Ill., qualifying them to compete at the upcoming National Roller Skating Championships in Lincoln, Neb. At right, Northville residents Andrew Esser and Valentyna Stadnik are both going on to the National Skating Championships at the end of this month. Placing first in their categories were Livonia residents Pirro Marko and Ryan Heersink in figures, and Heersink with partner Sofia Cueva in team dance. Silver medalists were Stadnik of Northville in figures and the Riverside RAS Cals Junior Precision Team. Members of the Riverside RAS Cals Precision Team are Chloe LaMay of Plymouth, Hanna Denes of Garden City, Esser and Stadnik of Northville, Amanda Smyser of Westland and Jade Ross, Heersink, Stephanie Cueva, and Sofia Cueva, all from Livonia. Receiving the bronze medal were Marko and Emma Chappell, also of Livonia. Also qualifying to compete at the National Championships are Ian Heersink and Jillian Heersink in figures and loops, Ian Heersink with partner Amanda Smyser in team dance and Sofia Cueva in figures and solo dance.



SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they ever no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits. Attorneys J.B. Bleske and Jennifer Alfonsi have 42 years combined experience representing only Social Security disability clients. And they personally meet with all clients and appear personally at all court hearings. Many large firms assign inexperienced attorneys to your case. And some of these firms are located thousands of miles away and only fly the attorney in the day of the court hearing. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi have vast experience before local Michigan judges. subject and has been interviewed on various television programs. Both attorney Bleske and Alfonsi have also been interviewed on radio programs and have given speeches to many groups. Attorneys Bleske and Alfonsi offer free phone or office consultation. If you represent you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits. Bleske and Alfonsi represent clients from all over the state of Michigan. Their Livonia office is on Six Mile Road just west of I-275. Their Novi office is located on Haggerty Road just north of 12 Mile Road. Call them at 1-800-331-2520 for a free consultation if you have been denied, or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits. www.ssd4fighter.com

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B7

## Southfield woman with MS stays in her home thanks to kind volunteers

Ron Jedwab, president of Lincoln Construction, and longstanding member of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, recently led a group of over a dozen tradespeople who donated their time, expertise, labor and materials to help a Southfield woman live barrier-free in her home.

Jackie Weiss, a mother of four, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis several years ago. By last year, the disease had progressed to the point that she was confined to a wheelchair. This made normal daily living activities more difficult. She could no longer cook in her kitchen, as the counters were too high. Both of her bathrooms became hard to navigate.

Like many families in Southeastern Michigan, the Weiss family was hard hit by the depressed economy and could not afford to pay for home renovations to make the home barrier-free. The family is grateful for help from Project Build!, a partnership between the BIA and Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit.



The Weiss family of Southfield is grateful for the modifications to their home, making it usable by Jackie Weiss, who has multiple sclerosis.

Jedwab, a Project Build! Steering Committee member, volunteered to serve as general contractor for the renovation and went on to plan and complete the work, that would have cost \$20,000, with almost entirely donated labor and materials. After several weeks of extensive work, Weiss

said Jedwab, "Coordinating this extensive project to help a lovely woman to live fully in her home was one of the greatest experiences in my professional career. It was a great opportunity to give back and help others."

On June 27, there was a reveal for the home renovation. The mission of Project Build! is to provide home repairs for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals and families to allow them

to live in safe, functional and barrier-free homes. At this time, Project Build! services are available only to clients of Jewish Family Service. <http://www.jfsdetroit.org/volunteers/project-build>

## Heed fair housing laws

By Robert Meisner  
Guest Columnist

Q: What common fair housing problems arise from community restrictions or rules?  
A: In general, community restrictions or rules trigger fair housing problems in one of two ways, either the rules are enforced unfairly or the rules themselves are unfair. For example, a condominium association's rules that prohibit smoking in common areas, such as hallways, parking lots and outside spaces, but that unreasonably target children or limit their behavior in common areas could lead to a complaint of discrimination based on familial status. Of course, rules that have no reasonable relationship to the operation of the condominium would similarly be suspect. The Federal Housing Act bans discrimination in housing because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability. Check with your attorney regarding the nature and extent of your rules.



Robert Meisner

The second relates to the fairness of the rules. For example, communities have legitimate reasons to govern resident behavior in common areas, such as hallways, parking lots and outside spaces, but rules that unreasonably target children or limit their behavior in common areas could lead to a complaint of discrimination based on familial status. Of course, rules that have no reasonable relationship to the operation of the condominium would similarly be suspect. The Federal Housing Act bans discrimination in housing because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status or disability. Check with your attorney regarding the nature and extent of your rules.

Q: We live in a planned unit development and the zoning restrictions do not prohibit running a day care business in their home. However, a restrictive covenant in our declaration does. Do we have an out to allow us to run the home?

A: Probably not. Based upon a recent decision where an appellate court indicated that the PUD ordinance had no effect on the association's authority to enforce its private restrictive covenants. The court reasoned that the creation of a Planned Unit Development is a legislative act and PUD provision or zoning ordinances. However, the restrictive covenants and zoning ordinances, including PUD ordinances, are tools to use to restrict the use of property. It clarified that a restrictive covenant is an agreement between a grantor, such as the association and a grantee such as the members in which the grantee agrees to refrain from using his property in a particular manner. In fact, the court was saying that the restrictive covenant existed independent of the PUD ordinance that established the community and could be enforced by the association pursuant to the terms of the Declaration.

Robert M. Meisner is a lawyer and author of Condominium Operation: Getting Started & Staying on the Right Track, second edition, available for \$9.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. He also wrote Condo Living: A Survival Guide to Buying, Owning and Selling a Condominium, available for \$24.95 plus \$1 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit [meisnerlaw.com](http://meisnerlaw.com).

This column should not be construed as legal advice.

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## Crossword Puzzle

### Sweet Gnaw Things

ACROSS  
1 Linguistic  
4 Silenced a squawk  
9 Fuel source  
13 "Urland" lenor  
18 Heady  
19 Savanna sight  
20 Lhaaa...  
21 Aibus apparatus  
22 Rodent's mate  
23 Monkeys ture?  
24 Lost in thought  
25 Brimming  
27 Join up  
29 Take into account  
31 Hook's mate  
32... reaction  
34 Diva  
35 Fenselle  
36 Moon crawler  
37 Relative of -ator  
39 Rodent cheese-cake?  
41 Like some cellars  
45 Laundry problem  
47 Frigga's fellow  
48 Young boxers  
49 Reishied a roast

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7 Temptation  
8 Eat...  
9 Living room  
10 Antipollution grip  
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14 Grampa  
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**GARAGE SALES**  
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**WESTLAND**  
HUGE TEXT SALE

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**Miscellaneous For Sale**

**WESTLAND**  
GARGALE SALE

**WESTLAND**  
HUGE TEXT SALE

**PLYMOUTH**  
40300 Schoolcraft Rd.

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# What makes you different from the other job seekers?

Anthony Balderrama, CareerBuilder.com writer

You're special. Your mom and dad told you. Your Little League coach told you. You tell yourself in the mirror every morning. Anyone who encounters you must recognize what a unique snowflake you are, right? Maybe, but not necessarily. If you're looking for a job, don't assume the hiring manager is going to look at your cover letter and think, "This job candidate is The One." That could happen, but you should do all you can to make that realization occur.

In the interest of spreading the word about your unparalleled qualifications and stunning personality, we've compiled some questions you should ask yourself at each stage of the job-hunting process. Some of these questions can apply to each stage.

**Q. What about your education sets me apart?**  
A. Although degrees are more common than they once were, not each one is created equal. Most programs have enough freedom built in to them to allow students to customize their courses. The combination of your major and minor or your courses can give you a background that no one else has.

**Q. Do I care about all of this?**  
A. This résumé is about you, so you probably have more interest in it than the average employer, but if you're bored, even if you will be, too. If your attempt to show how unique you are results in a dense list of your jobs and



skills that make the page look like one huge block of text, you're probably not focusing enough. Keep details short, informative and, above all else, relevant. Your paper route in junior high doesn't matter if you're 25 and have a college degree. Your GPA, awards and recognition are good examples of items that do set you apart by themselves, but they are additional assets that can differentiate you from the next résumé in the stack. When writing your cover letter

**Q. What's implied on the résumé but not explicitly stated?**  
A. Have someone else read your résumé and explain your strong points to you. If you don't hear something you were expecting, figure out why. You might think your extensive work history painted a clear picture for readers, but it might not. The cover letter is your chance to connect the dots and (eloquently) tell the hiring manager, "Hey, look what I have to offer!"

**Q. Would I hire me?**  
A. An interview is basically an extended, interactive form of this question. If you get an interview the employer thinks you fit the job requirements, but whether or not you're the perfect candidate is still in question. In addition to elaborating on your skills, only one thing can make or break you at this point: your personality. Your personality is unique to you, so don't be scared to let it show. As with the cover letter, don't be so casual that you come off as unprofessional, but now is the time to show your sense of humor and your interpersonal communication skills. Fading into the background will only help you be forgotten.

**Q. Why do I want to work here?**  
A. Interviewers often ask this question of candidates, and candidates have learned to come armed with a response. But do you know why you want to work there or do you just know what you want them to think? Everyone wants to be hired so they can get a paycheck, add another line to their résumé and move up the chain. Do you want to transition into a new industry? Do you think you can bring a fresh perspective to the company (without sounding arrogant)? Does the position sound like the one you've been preparing for and you have the experience to show for it? You need to know the answer and believe it before you walk into the interview.

of the industry, have a contact at the company or possess strong communication skills, don't be afraid to let it shine through. When interviewing

**Q. What is the one thing I want the hiring manager to know about?**  
A. Hiring managers don't know you, so they're probably asking you the same questions they asked other candidates. If you want to prove that you're a three-dimensional person who exists beyond undergrad business courses, have an actual dialogue. A hiring manager doesn't need you to echo everything he or she already read about you. The time you helped your group tackle a problem during a brainstorming session? The interesting marketing book you just read that has given you some new ideas? Let these facts out if they're relevant to the conversation.

**Q. Why do I want to work here?**  
A. Interviewers often ask this question of candidates, and candidates have learned to come armed with a response. But do you know why you want to work there or do you just know what you want them to think? Everyone wants to be hired so they can get a paycheck, add another line to their résumé and move up the chain. Do you want to transition into a new industry? Do you think you can bring a fresh perspective to the company (without sounding arrogant)? Does the position sound like the one you've been preparing for and you have the experience to show for it? You need to know the answer and believe it before you walk into the interview.

Anthony Balderrama is a writer and blogger for CareerBuilder.com. He researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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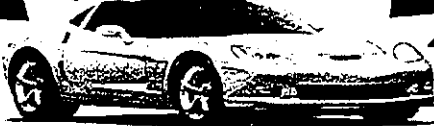
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