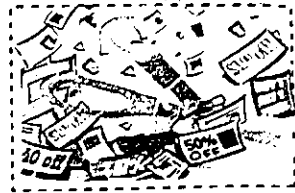




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NOVI NEWS

A GANNETT COMPANY

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Vote Tuesday!

Here's what Novi voters will see on the ballot in the Tuesday, Aug. 7 primary election.

Congressional: United States Senator and Representative in Congress 11th District

Legislative: Representative in State Legislature 38th District

Oakland County: Executive, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Water Resources Commissioner and County Commissioner

Judicial: Judge of Circuit Court - 6th Circuit - Non-Incumbent Position

Delegates: To the county conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties

Oakland County Art Institute Authority

Millage: The Oakland County Art Institute Authority established pursuant to Public Act 296 of 2010 to allow for continuing support of art institute services for the students, residents and visitors of Oakland County. The law allows the Authority to seek authorization from the electors to levy a tax of not more than 0.2 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 of taxable value) on real and personal property to provide revenue to an art institute services provider for this purpose. Accordingly, to continue providing art institute services to benefit the residents of Oakland County, shall a 0.2 mill on all of the taxable property located within the County be imposed for a period of ten (10) years, being years 2012 through 2021? It is estimated that if approved and levied, this new millage would generate approximately \$9,847,191 in 2012.

Charter Amendment Proposal 1: Shall the Novi City Charter, Section 9.1(b), be amended to increase the millage amount for specific street and highway improvement purposes from a maximum of 1.0 mills (which has been reduced by the Headlee Amendment to .7719 mills) to a maximum of 1.5 mills beginning in 2013 tax year, resulting in the authorization to collect an estimated additional \$2,172,006 dollars in the first year.

Down on the farm



Green Science Adventure Camper Will Sjogren, right, takes a look at some interesting fungus patterns on a tree's trunk with his magnifying lens during the July 25 session.

Kids get dirty, have fun, learn a lot at MSU Tollgate Farm

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Haisley Turnquist, 9, was among some 40 enthusiasts last week at the 4-H Green Science Adventure Camp at MSU Tollgate Farm in Novi.

"I think it's really fun," said Haisley, a fifth-grader at Hickory Woods Elementary. "You get to experience a lot with the animals and nature."

My favorite thing would have to be fishing."

The program's offered through Michigan State University's Extension, which includes as its youth development program 4-H. That's often associated with agriculture, said Alan Jaros, outdoor education coordinator for the facility.

Please see FARM, A14

Three Novi teens admit to truck fire

Novi police will petition for charges

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

Novi police have identified three juvenile suspects in the truck fire that happened July 8 at a Chase Farms neighborhood home.

According to David Molloy, Novi's director of public safety/chief of police, the suspects are all under 16 years old and attend Novi Middle School.

Molloy said the department had stepped up its presence in the neighborhood after the incident. This helped produce some leads, which led to one perpetrator being identified and later to all three admitting to causing the fire by throwing fireworks into the bed of the truck. They also admitted to some other malicious destruction of property incidents, such as egging houses and planting a smoke bomb inside a home's storm door.

The teens told police there was no intent to destroy anything, but to just pull some pranks. They told police they went back to the truck and attempted to put out the fire after leaving the scene and seeing it ablaze.

The Ford F-150 truck belonged to the Yan-

"An apology would be great ... if anything."

BRIDGETTE YANKEE
vandalism victim

kee family. It was fully destroyed, but it has been covered by insurance. However, the Yankees have had to put out money for deductible payments, not only for the truck, but for a damaged loaner car and their home.

Bridgette Yankee said police had informed them of the positive developments. However, they still haven't recovered from the incident that woke them from their sleep.

"An apology would be great ... if anything," Yankee said.

Molloy said the next step will have the department presenting the case to the Probate Court and petitioning for criminal charges.

The hope is that this is the end to the vandalism/MDOP incidents in the Chase Farms neighborhood. Molloy said officers are confident these individuals were responsible for a vast majority of complaints in this particular area.

"The message here is parents need to know where their kids are and what they are doing," Molloy said. "The damage that has been done is disappointing, but we're pleased to move this toward a positive conclusion."

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Candidates don't like special election costs

Scheduling election is the law, they say

By Ken Abramczyk
Observer Staff Writer

Most of the five Republican candidates are angry about the cost of the special election to fill Thaddeus McCotter's vacated seat, but they are

also adamant that the old 11th Congressional District deserves representation over the last few weeks of the year.

Five Republicans and one Democrat have filed to run in the special election Sept. 5.

McCotter resigned July 6, ending his term six months early after what he called a "nightmarish month and a half" in apparent reference to his duplicated signatures on

PRIMARY INFORMATION

Be sure to see the Opinion page inside for our endorsements in the Aug. 7 primary and voting poll locations.

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 July 13, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley, acting in Gov. Rick Snyder's absence, called for a special election in the 11th District to fill the vacancy created by McCotter's resignation.

Former state Sen. Nancy Cassis, former Livonia school board mem-

ber Steve King, Carolyn Kavanagh of Livonia and Kenneth Crider of Livonia filed last week to run on the Republican ballot in the 11th Congressional District. David Curson of Belleville filed as a Democrat.

The candidates had until 4 p.m. July 23 to withdraw, but none of them did.

Residents in the cur-

Please see ELECTION, A13

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LA Fitness closing leaves members looking for new home

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

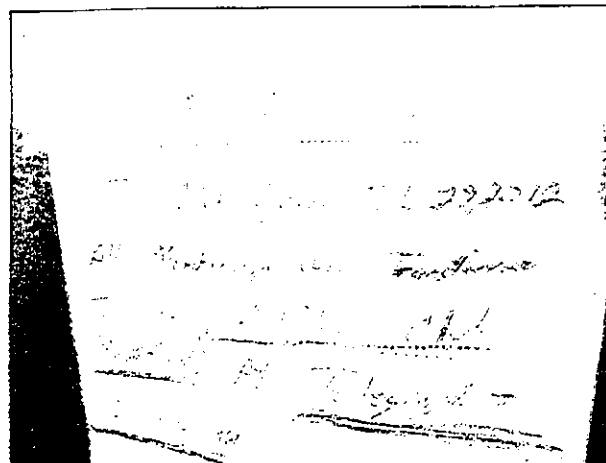
Novi resident Art Vuolo said he was one of the last members out of the now-closed LA Fitness location on Crescent Boulevard, in the old Bally's Total Fitness location in Novi Town Center.

For Vuolo and other members, the closing came as an unpleasant surprise.

"I feel a bit betrayed by it," Vuolo said of the closing. "It was fixed up not too long ago and was a really friendly place to exercise, so it was surprising."

It closed near the end of June. Vuolo said members were told through a posted sign that they could go to nearby LA Fitness locations, which are on Telegraph Road in Southfield and Bloomfield Hills as well as one in Troy.

LA Fitness did not return several telephone calls and messages left at its corporate office, so no

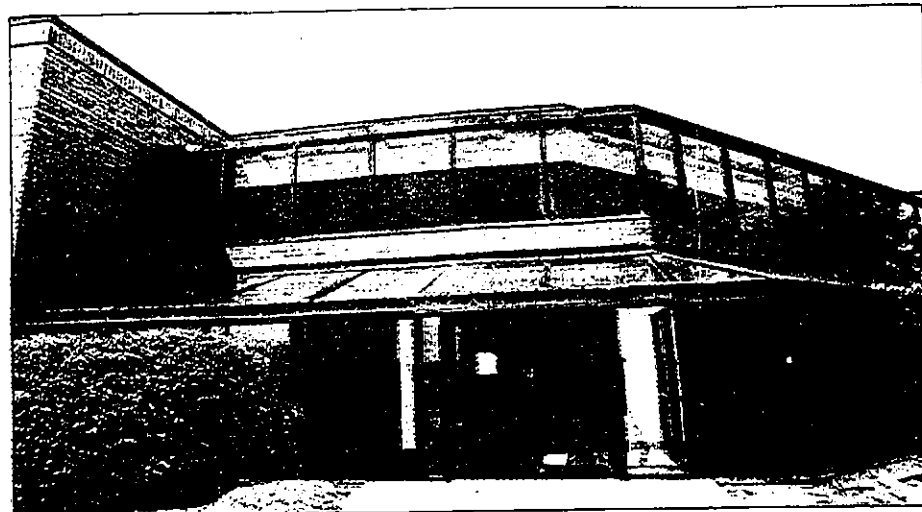


Visitors to Novi's LA Fitness center at Novi Town Center were greeted with this sign stating that the club had closed and that memberships were being honored elsewhere.

official information was given as to why it was closed.

Vuolo said he has heard many rumors as to where some new locations might be set up, including spots at Northwestern Highway and Orchard Lake Road, in Plymouth, or possibly along I-96 near

Wixom and Milford. Powerhouse Gym in Novi welcomed many members who felt the other LA Fitness locations are just too far of a drive. Powerhouse supervisor John Anthony said a "good amount" of former LA Fitness members as well as some staff have come over to the 24-hour gym in the Twelve



Visitors to Novi's LA Fitness center at Novi Town Center found the club closed in late June.

Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk complex.

"We've received a lot of positive feedback from those that came over here and we're pleased," said Mike Dabish, Powerhouse manager. "We believe we have a perfect location for the Novi community, where they can call home."

Powerhouse is an attractive alternative, not only with its hours, but also with amenities like a lap pool, basketball court and cutting edge equipment.

Vuolo said for years he had been regularly exercising at the Novi LA Fitness location, starting with Bally's Vic Tanny.

He likes that his membership can be used at any location around the state and country, but mostly he liked seeing his friends each time went to break a sweat.

"We're all kind of bummed out," he said.

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Haggerty road work to begin Aug. 13

By Ken Abramczyk
Staff Writer

Motorists already maneuvering orange barrels on Plymouth and Newburgh roads will have Haggerty Road added to the list.

Beginning Aug. 13, Haggerty Road from Six Mile to Seven Mile will be resurfaced in a \$1.2 million project. Wayne County and city officials will conduct a meeting to discuss that project with business owners and residents at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8 at the Vista Tech building at Schoolcraft College.

Cadillac Asphalt, the lead contractor, will be placing changeable message boards about one week prior to construction to warn motorists of the impending construction, said Todd Zilincik, Livonia city engineer.

"The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of October," Zilincik said.

The contractor will be working on the outside lanes to begin the project, consisting of concrete preparation and repairs, and resurfacing. Schoolcraft College will be adding a right turn lane and

coordinating that activity with Wayne County, Zilincik said.

In addition, the southwest corner of Haggerty and Seven Mile is anticipated to be cleared of trees and a portion of the hill removed and an entrance added off Haggerty Road for development purposes.

Schoolcraft College has requested that work be suspended on Aug. 29 and Aug. 30 for the start of the school year at the college. Work is expected to be suspended after 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, through Labor Day weekend until

Sept. 4. Northville Township Public Services Director Tom Casari said this is a partial road closure project and residents can expect to see two-way traffic maintained on Haggerty throughout the scheduled work, which will occur Monday through Saturdays from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. He added the intersection of Six and Seven Mile roads will have traffic occasionally being directed by flag and detours.

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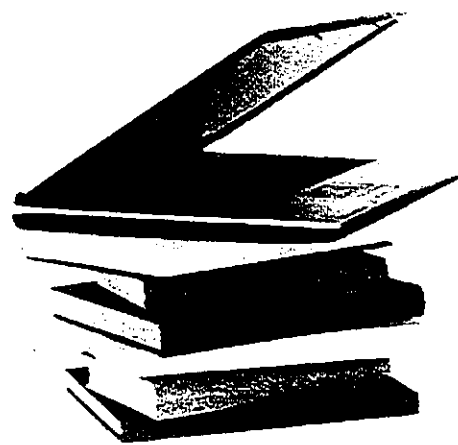
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Stylists to offer tiptop looks on Friday

Kristen Melzak knows girls and young women want to look their best. Melzak is front desk manager of Elle Studio in the City Center Plaza, on the southwest corner of Grand River Avenue and Novi Road in Novi.

The salon is offering back to school makeovers aimed at high school girls, college women and those beginning careers. Makeovers are currently set for Friday, Aug. 3.

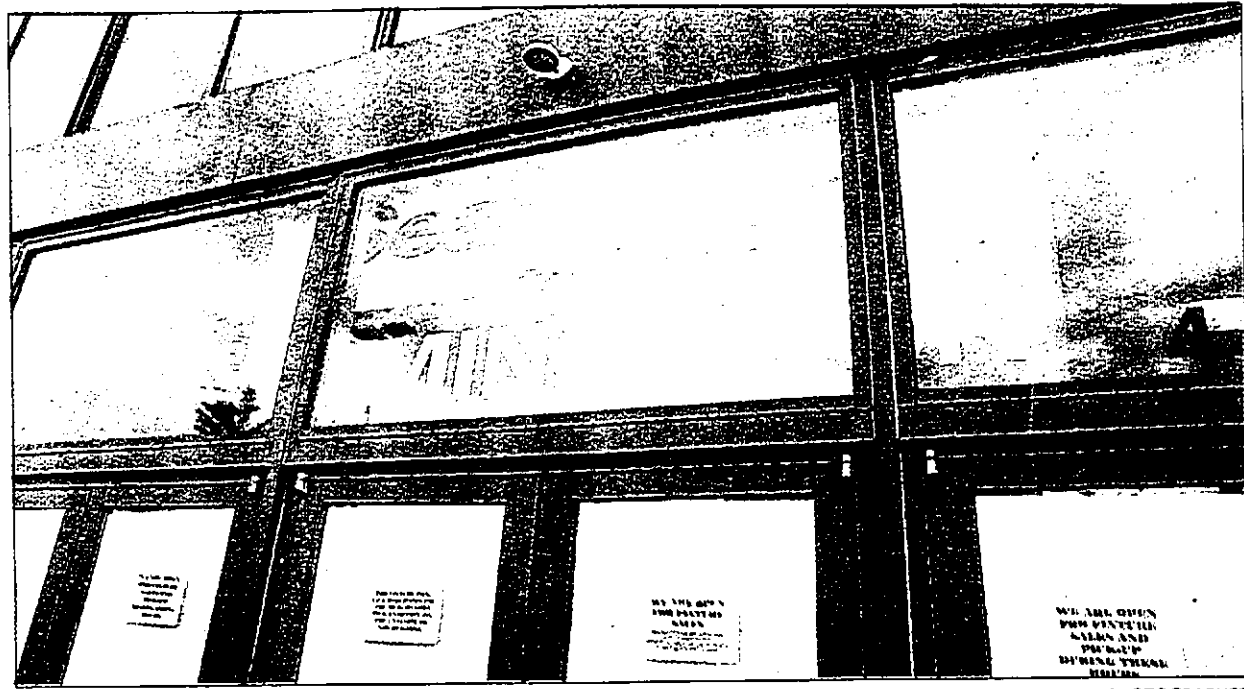
"They're really excited about it," Melzak said. The customers learn what a good haircut can do in terms of styles for different days "and not just be stuck with one style."

Elle Studio's website is www.ellestudionovi.com, the phone number (248) 380-3113.

Haircuts take into account face shape, Melzak said. The haircut is usually the most expensive element. "Obviously they don't have a lot of time in school to do their hair. They don't have a lot of disposable income," said Melzak, who's been on the job since Elle Studio opened 10 months ago.

The styles are easy to maintain, she said, and don't require many products for maintenance.

By Julie Brown



A sign on the doors of the former Great Indoors at Novi's Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk on July 26 indicates that a Sears Outlet center will be its next tenant. The shopping complex is east of Novi Road and north of I-96.

Sears Outlet coming to Fountain Walk

Store moving into former Great Indoors locale

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

A Sears Outlet store is scheduled to open in the next two months at the former home of Great Indoors in the Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountainwalk complex.

Sears spokesperson Kim Freely said they hope to open the store in mid-September with a grand opening. Freely

said the location is great and should give area customers an ideal shopping opportunity.

"We like the area, and the location is great," Freely said. "This outlet should resonate well with our customers."

Freely said the outlet store, which is currently undergoing renovation, will not use the entire location, leaving part of it vacant. Over 20 employees are expected to be hired.

The development is being well-received by many, including Novi Economic Development Director Ara Topouzian.

"This is a huge spot with two floors, so it's good news to see another business going in there."

ARA TOPOUZIAN
Novi's Economic Development director

"This is a huge spot with two floors, so it's good news to see another business going in there," Topouzian said.

Great Indoors recently closed its doors, making it the last store in the nationwide chain to go out of business.

Novi Sears will be stepping in to sell products that include overstocked and custom-made return items.

Freely said what makes the outlet so appealing for many people is the variety — everything from appliances to apparel — and prices. She said the in-store items will all be at least 20-60 percent off the regular retail pricing.

Other Sears Outlet locations in the area include Livonia, Bloomfield and Taylor.

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Bringing back Beatles

Toppermost will be performing at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10 at Fuester Park (southeast corner of Taft and 10 Mile). The Toppermost Beatles tribute has been entertaining fans across the region for five years, performing a family-friendly, interactive and exciting show that appeals to all ages. This is a special year because it is the 50th anniversary of the Beatles.

The members of the Toppermost Beatles tribute are co-founder Tom Diab as Paul McCartney (Dexter); Ron Lockhart as George (co-founder, Farmington); Ray Steinberg as Ringo (Farmington Hills); and Tony Ladipalo as John (Livonia).

Buy Michigan: Fest puts focus on our state's products

By Julie Brown
Staff Writer

The Buy Michigan Now Festival returns for its fourth consecutive year Aug. 3-5. Hosted by Buy Michigan Now and downtown Northville, the festival showcases Michigan entertainers, businesses, products, and educational opportunities with the goal of revitalizing the local economy. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Lisa Diggs of Livonia founded Buy Michigan Now in 2007 to promote Michigan-based products and services.

"It's also the fourth year of Buy Michigan Week," she said of the event proclaimed by Gov. Rick Snyder and Jennifer Granholm. "The festival is a celebration of that." It introduces Michigan products and services to people.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lisa Diggs takes a look at some Michigan-produced art at Northville's "State of Mind" gallery on July 26. Diggs is in charge of the upcoming Buy Michigan Now Festival that will be held on Aug. 3-5 in downtown Northville. The event will feature about 100 merchants on the street and all of downtown's regulars with lots of specials and made-in-Michigan goods.

Northville has been welcoming to organizers, Diggs said.

"It's a great community. The people are lovely. There's a great emphasis on art. The vast majority of businesses are locally owned which is what we're all about."

Vendors bring in products ranging from Michigan-made cabinetry, sal-sas, jewelry and mittens, "a pretty wide variety," for the event, she said.

The free weekend celebration focuses attention

on Michigan-based businesses and locally produced merchandise to help stimulate the economy. Main and Center streets in central Northville will be closed for pedestrian traffic.

Many consumers are trying to be a part of revitalizing the economy, she said. If every Michigan household shifted \$10 a week of its spending to Michigan products and services, that would put about \$38 million into our economy.

Bargains found

Local Northville merchants will host a sidewalk sale, while Michigan vendors set up shop under tents in the streets for the festival. In addition to teaming up with downtown Northville, other major sponsors are: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Hiller's Markets, Tom Holzer Ford, OKE Financial and Internet Automotive. New this year will be The Toast to Michigan Tent, on the library lawn on Wing, just south of Main Street, fea-

ture Michigan beers and wines. The tent will be open 5:30-10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 3-4.

Also new this year is the Video Gaming Unit, located on West Center Street, presented by Internet Automotive. Fans of Xbox 360 games will have free indoor and outdoor access to the unit, to challenge each other to a variety of games for all ages.

The main stage, Town Square/Main Street, will offer music from local

artists throughout the weekend, including Friday Night Concert Series headliners, The Shawn Riley Band, and Saturday headliners, Mainstreet Soul. There will be a Kids' Zone at Church Square/Center Street including art demonstrations from the Detroit Institute of Arts artist program, along with entertainment.

The third annual "We're Cookin' in Michigan" recipe contest



A ceramic plate at Northville's "State of Mind" gallery with a good message.

HOURS

The Buy Michigan Now Festival is scheduled to run from noon to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 5.

Finalists will present their recipes and dishes to culinary experts to compete for a \$250 Hiller's card and chance to have their product sold at Hiller's to benefit charity.

"I love it. It's exciting. It's always exciting to see new products every year," organizer Diggs said. "It's a fun, family event and manages to help us revitalize our economy."

For more information visit www.BuyMichiganNowFest.com.

The third annual "We're Cookin' in Michigan" recipe contest

finals will be presented by Hiller's Markets and held at Epiphany Kitchens on Center Street. It focuses on cooking with Michigan ingredients. Finalists will present their recipes and dishes to culinary experts to compete for a \$250 Hiller's card and chance to have their product sold at Hiller's to benefit charity.

"I love it. It's exciting. It's always exciting to see new products every year," organizer Diggs said. "It's a fun, family event and manages to help us revitalize our economy."

For more information visit www.BuyMichiganNowFest.com.

The third annual "We're Cookin' in Michigan" recipe contest

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Dr. Amy Greenman Head (back), Dr. James Moss (left) & Dr. Timothy Kirk (right)

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BUSINESS

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Community Development introduces online construction inspection scheduling tool

Beginning Monday, Aug. 6, Novi will become one of the first communities in Michigan to provide online inspection scheduling tool. Contractors and homeowners in Novi will schedule construction inspections using the new Online Inspection Portal, an easy-to-use tool, which can be found at cityofnovi.org. The portal allows

users to request all types of inspections, such as building, electrical, plumbing, and heating. Prior to using the Online Inspection Portal, users must have their assigned permit number. Contractors with multiple projects will be able to create an account for easy access to all of their projects. The Online Inspec-

tion Portal replaces the 24-hour phone hotline. "The new portal takes advantage of technologies that are rapidly becoming accessible for everyone," said Andy Gerecke, Novi building official. "With the majority of people having access to the internet via computer, smartphone or tablet, it's a natural fit for

Novi to provide a service that is easy-to-use, convenient, and adds more functionality. Contractors and Homeowners will be able to monitor their project inspections, add corresponding documents and photos, and receive an email when their inspection is complete." With 97 commercial permits and 171

new housing permits issued, totaling \$58 million in valuation, 2012 is proving to be a busy year for development in Novi. Construction in Novi has been steadily increasing and providing quality customer service remains a top priority for the City of Novi. In addition to the new Online Inspection Portal, the Community

Development and Treasury Departments have extended hours until 6:30 pm on Tuesday evenings through Labor Day to receive and issue permits, process payments and provide consultations. Consultation appointments should be made in advance by contacting the Community Development Department at (248) 347-0415.



Novi's ABWA installs new officers

The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) recently installed officers for the upcoming year. Marcia Green will serve a second term as president, Holly Hengstebeck has been elected vice president, Margaret Lalitala will serve as secretary and Sheri Mayer joins the board as treasurer. "We thank the outgoing board for their service to the organization, and we look forward to continuing the amazing strides made over the past year," noted Mayer. The mission of the American Business Women's Association is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. The Novi Oaks Charter Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the DoubleTree Hotel in Novi. Networking begins at 6:15 p.m., and dinner starts at 6:45 with the program beginning shortly after. New members and guests are welcome — contact publicity@abwa-novi.org for more information or visit www.abwa-novi.org.

Mortgage refinancing getting easier

By Paul Housley
Guest Columnist

As a Certified Financial Planner professional, I am always focusing my clients on what they can control. For example, the amount of your income that you save is within your control while the rate of return you earn on the investments is largely outside of your control.



Paul E. Housley

Also within the control of many homeowners is the opportunity to lower your mortgage interest rate. My firm does not offer mortgages but we work with experts who do because mortgage refinancing rules and rates continue to change creating opportunities for homeowners who think they are stuck with their current rate. While the government continues to make lending rules more lenient and interest rates are near historical lows, educate yourself on what mort-

gage options are available to you. First, estimate the loan-to-value (LTV) of your current mortgage. If you are one of the lucky ones who owes less than 80 percent of the appraised value of your home, you can likely refinance without the help of the special government programs (discussed below). If your LTV is under 80 percent, contact your current lender and at least one competitor now and once/year to determine if you can improve your rate. I have many clients in the past year who have refinanced for 30 years at rates under 4 percent and some as low as 3 percent on certain types of loans.

Opportunities for those with high Loan-to-Value (LTV) are over 80 percent, ask a mortgage professional if your loan is owned or guaranteed by FHA, Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae.

• The cost for refinancing certain FHA loans decreased in June 2012 creating new opportunities for some FHA borrowers.

• Most conventional loans are owned by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae even though you never see their name on your statement or write a check to them. The bank or institution that initiated and/or services your loan is really the end investor. If you have a loan owned or guaranteed by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae, you may be eligible to take advantage of Home Affordable Refinance

Program (HARP). Home Affordable Refinance Program HARP was originally enacted in early 2009 and expanded in late 2011. Some applicants unable to benefit under Phase 1 may now be eligible under Phase 2 because the new rules are more relaxed and some homeowners have experienced LTV changes over the last three years. In general, borrowers must meet the following criteria to qualify under HARP:

• The mortgage must have been sold to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac on or before May 31, 2009.

• The mortgage cannot have been refinanced under HARP previously unless it is a Fannie Mae loan that was refinanced under HARP from March-May, 2009.

• The current (LTV) ratio must be greater than 80 percent.

• The borrower must be current on the mortgage at the time of the refinance, with no late payment in the past six months and no more than one late payment in the past 12 months.

For all the rules, visit <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/programs/lower-rates/Pages/harp.aspx>.

only write loans when the LTV is less than 150 percent while others require a certain credit score. The good news for those who may have been turned down is that you might get a different answer from a different lender on a different day. Shop around! If you need a good mortgage lender, I will be happy to put you in touch with one.

Also, second mortgages can often be ignored when calculating LTV. So if your first mortgage puts you in range for a HARP refinance but you are afraid that your second mortgage makes your LTV too high, you should still contact a mortgage lender to see if you qualify. You may be pleasantly surprised.

HARP Phase 2 has allowed for more appraisal waivers. If you have been reluctant to start the refinance process because you don't want to pay for the appraisal only to find out that you don't qualify, ask your lender if you qualify for an appraisal waiver.

Finally, if you are not able to refinance this summer, try again in six or 12 months when the rules from the government or local lenders may have changed again and your LTV may have improved.

Paul E. Housley, MBA, CPA, CFP, teaches financial planning at Walsh College and is president of the Financial Planning Group of Snook Housley Advisors, Inc. in Troy and. Contact him at (248) 458-1100 or phousey@snookhouse.com.

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Saturday, August 11th @ 11:00 am

Dr. Sladic's protocols are based on the ground breaking work of Dr. Datis Kharrazian, author of the book "Why do I still Have Thyroid Symptoms when my lab tests are normal?" Seminar attendees will be eligible to receive a copy of this book.

Topics to be discussed:

- Why you still feel horrible even though you're on Thyroid medication.
- 6 patterns of Thyroid problems and only one requires medication.
- Find out why your lab tests may not be normal.
- Why Hashimotos is not a problem with your Thyroid.
- Natural solutions for Thyroid problems.
- New advancements in managing Thyroid conditions.

When it comes to Thyroid disease 5/6 people will not get better on medication alone. There is a lot that can be done naturally to help. It's a sad fact that most women live their lives for others and continue to suffer. Read the testimonials below....I'm sure some were just like you at one time. I hope to see you at the seminar.

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- Ellen S., Lake Orion

"My life was in turmoil before I met you. I was extremely depressed, gaining weight, no energy I felt horrible. My grandmother heard about the seminar and I went. The rest is history. I was amazed at how good I felt for the first time in years. Thank-you for taking the time to discover my problem. I am forever changed."
- Lindsey H., Northville

"I could no longer do the many activities I once enjoyed. I knew something was wrong. People told me that this happens as you age and it's normal. So I tried to pretend everything was ok. My husband and I attended your seminar and I felt hopeful. The improvement I experienced was dramatic in just a few weeks. All of the symptoms I've struggled with began to fade away. I am back on my feet again."
- Sane F., Novi

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UPDATES FROM YOUR CITY

Novi maintains AA+ bond rating

The City of Novi received positive financial news for residents and business members in conjunction with refunding bonds to save on debt service payments. Standard & Poor's Rating Service confirmed the City of Novi's high quality credit rating of AA+ with a stable outlook.

May 2012, the unemployment rate declined further to 5.4 percent, again below both state and national averages. The confirmation goes on to state that "Novi has maintained a strong financial position; reserves have been well above the City's formal policy of maintaining between 18 percent of 22 percent of expenditures. Overall, management's intent is to stay within the reserve range indicated in the fund balance policy and, as such appropriate excess funds accordingly."

Novi receives international special achievement in GIS award

The City of Novi was honored among 140 distinguished communities and organizations using innovative location based technologies at the 2012 Esri International User Conference. Novi was recognized for promoting public access to interactive, content-rich online maps and integrating location based technology throughout the city's business applications. Most recently, Novi deployed a Cityworks asset management system leveraging both

cloud hosted and internally managed systems to reduce costs, increase accountability, and generate performance metrics for City employees throughout all field service areas. The project was selected after an extensive five-year evaluation of the best asset management practices adopted by communities across the nation. "Our new asset management system will accurately represent the cost of providing the services our community members expect, and will help us extend the life of Novi's roads, water and sanitary system infrastructure by continually tracking expenditures while applying preventative maintenance practices," stated Rob Hayes, city engineer and director of Public Services.

Chief Information Officer Rob Petty noted: "The value of leveraging location-based, asset management technology across multiple service areas to efficiently capture, respond, and satisfy calls for over 110 types of citizen requests and work orders advances City Council's goals of improving citizen service delivery while maintaining fiscal responsibility."

The Bright Lights of Broadway are coming to Novi

More than 50 older adults have been rehearsing for weeks to present The Bright Lights of Broadway, the 2012 Senior Variety Series are available now at cityof-novi.org, by calling (248) 347-0400, or at the Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department, 45175 West Ten Mile Road, for performance Sept. 6-16.

Japanese Movie Night on Aug. 11

The City of Novi, in cooperation with Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, will present a free screening of Disney's UP at Fuester Park (southeast corner of Ten Mile and Taft roads) at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11. Refreshments will be provided and the movie, shown in Japanese, will begin at dusk. Families are asked to bring blankets or lawn chairs. In the case of inclement weather, the movie will be shown indoors at the Novi Civic Center (45175 West Ten Mile Rd.). Please call the weather hotline for details at (248) 347-0473. Parking is available in the Novi High School lot on Taft Road.

Park It! coming to Novi's Sizzling Summer Art Series

Park It!, an organization that partners with parks and recreation departments across Southeast Michigan, has selected Novi as one of the 30 cities it will be visiting this summer. Park It!, will add to the Sizzling Summer Art Series by bringing their large outdoor LED movie screen to Fuester Park.

Novi United Methodist Church

Novi United Methodist Church, 4171 W. Ten Mile Rd., Novi, MI 48275. Sunday Worship 9:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Pastor: Anne M. Smith, Pastor. Fr. Rob LaCruix, Pastor. Parish Office: 347-7778.

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NOVI NEWS BRIEFS

"Twinkle Toes" DVD launch party at Twelve Oaks Saturday

Families are invited to the free "Twinkle Toes: The Movie" launch party in Center Court at Twelve Oaks, the only Michigan mall hosting the DVD release event, from noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 4. Free activities include coloring with glitter crayons, temporary tattoos, and side-splitting comedy.

New wheeled recycling carts to be delivered to Wixom residents

Residents of Wixom will be getting new wheeled recycling carts starting the first week of August. Carts will be delivered by Waste Management at no cost to the residents. Recycling pick-up will start with the new carts as of Aug. 8. Once the new carts are delivered, Waste Management will no longer service the older style recycling bins.

Novi residents to be involved in new waste collection

If residents decide they need a smaller (35-gallon) or larger (66-gallon) cart after they have used the standard 64-gallon cart, they may call the DPW at (248) 624-0141 to request an alternate size at no cost until Oct. 1. The original cart must be placed in a clearly visible location near the garage. Within one week, Waste Management will then exchange it with the new alternate size cart as requested.

Skate Bus, a new program presented in partnership with the PLUS Skate Shop in Farmington

Local skateboarders, ages 6 and up, to premier skate parks throughout Michigan and Ohio. The bus pick-up and drop-off is at the Novi Civic Center at 10 a.m. and Riley Skate Park in Farmington Hills at 10:15 a.m. for the Aug. 25 trip to Sylvan/Toledo, Ohio. All skaters under age 9 must be accompanied by a parent. Participants should be a lunch. The deadline to register is Aug. 10. The cost is \$29 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 gmmorris@cityofnovi.org.

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. So, bookmark www.hometownlife.com to be sure you're always in-the-know in your hometown. You can also find us on Facebook by searching "Hometownlife."

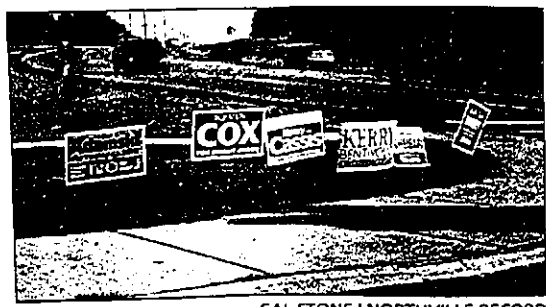
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Make a good garage sale GREAT ONLINE MAPPING - CALL 1-800-579-7355. National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Kaley Ann Bowles, of Novi, has accepted membership in the NSCS, a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and the nation's only interdisciplinary honor organization for first- and second-year college students.

Pick Jason Pernick for Oakland Circuit Court Judge. Over 26 Years Protecting Our Families and Protecting Our Community. Most Experienced Prosecutor, Parent, Police Officer, Public Citizen. Most Trusted Attorney - 22 years. More jury trials in the last 5 years than all other candidates combined.

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OUR VIEWS



Politicians try to sway voters with yard signs like these on the east side of Haggerty just south of Eight Mile Road.

Participate Take time to vote in Tuesday's primary election

Next Tuesday is primary election day in Michigan.

That's the day registered voters will go to the polls to decide the makeup of political races at the national, state, county and local levels for the November general election. They'll decide the fate of a number of county and local tax requests and narrow the field of candidates in non-partisan judicial races.

A lot of decisions will be made. Unfortunately, very few people will take the time to get involved in them. Those who won't vote are content to sit on the sidelines and let someone else make the decisions for them. They have a myriad of reasons why they can't - or won't - participate in the electoral process. They all ring hollow when you look at the availability of absentee ballot and polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day, not to mention the sacrifices that have been made to protect our right to vote.

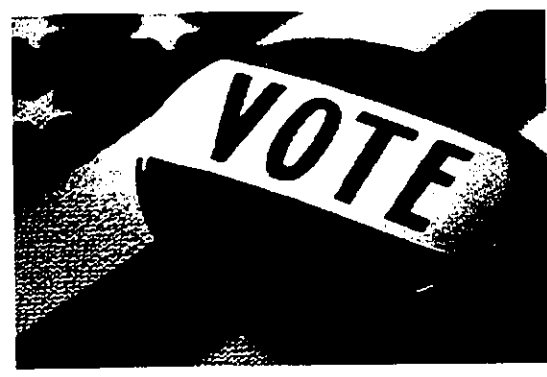
Even claiming to not know the candidates or the issues is flawed argument. Information can be found from a variety of sources in print and on the web. Most candidates have websites, they mail out informational pieces and even go door to door to engage potential constituents.

The League of Women Voters has its vote411.org website that lets people read and compare responses side-by-side on relevant issues of candidates for the U.S. Senate, their U.S. Congressional district, and their State Representative district and even create a personalized sample ballot for the Aug. 7th Primary election.

Staff members of the *Novi News* have spent the better part of the last two months interviewing candidates, looking at the ballot proposals and publishing stories about them. We have interviewed the candidates and covered them at public forums. We expressed our opinion on who we think deserves to advance to the general election and what proposals deserve a yes vote. We've organized all that information in community specific election guides available on our website www.hometownlife.com.

Many decisions will be made on Aug. 7. They should be made by all of us, not just a few. That's why we urge residents who are registered to vote to take the time to participate in the primary election. Our country is founded on the ideal of a government of the people, for the people and by the people. Let this election day reflect a commitment to that ideal by all of us.

Get out and vote, it's the right thing to do.



Novi NEWS

Cal Stone,
Community Editor
Susan Rosiek,
Executive Editor

Grace Perry,
Director of
Advertising

Vote YES — Support DIA and Novi road millages

Novi residents have the opportunity to increase funding for local road maintenance and improvements by voting yes on Aug. 7 to increase the current road millage of .7719 mills to 1.5. This, combined with funding from other sources, would give the city more than \$5 million annually to be used exclusively for maintaining roads, pathways and sidewalks.

To determine how much this will cost the individual homeowner, multiply your home's taxable value (which is half the market value) by .0007281. The owner of a home worth \$150,000 would pay \$54.60 annually. If approved, taxpayers would see this on next summer's tax bill, and road improvements would also begin then.

However, the road millage increase will not cause your Novi taxes to go up because the city recently lowered the overall tax rate and less was

needed for debt service.

Roads in Novi will continue to deteriorate without these additional funds. We recommend Novi residents says yes on the proposed road millage increase in the Aug. 7 election.

DIA tax benefits taxpayers and region

The Detroit Institute of Arts is one of the top six comprehensive fine arts museums in the United States and attracts visitors and potential future residents from around the world.

Residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties will vote Aug. 7 on a proposed property tax of 0.2 mills for 10 years to help fund the DIA.

The proposal would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home about \$15 annually over the next decade.

Without the tax, the DIA may be forced to close select-

ed galleries on weekdays, and eliminate school tours and community outreach programs. The DIA receives no state, county or city funding. It has been relying on the private sector to make up the shortfall in its \$25 million operating budget, something it can't do long term.

Residents in the counties that approve the tax would receive free general admission to the museum. Admission is \$24 for two adults and two children so the tax would be a savings for families that visit the DIA just once a year.

Voters in at least two of the three counties must approve the ballot proposal or the DIA will have to start severely cutting programs and services.

The benefits to taxpayers and the metropolitan area far outweigh the cost — Vote yes on the DIA ballot proposal Aug. 7.

MORE LETTERS

Continued from page A10

You believe that Mr. Bentivolio is not enough of a career politician to represent the 11th Congressional District. Ms. Cassis has been a career politician and her endorsements are from other career politicians. So a vote for Ms. Cassis then is a vote to have career politicians continue to run our government.

It is because of your yellow-journalism-type mailers, which your well-financed committee continues to send, that I have decided to work to ensure that Mr. Bentivolio wins the 38th Precinct on Aug. 7. I hope all other Republicans who are tired of letting career politicians try to tell us how to live, what to believe and how to vote do the same.

Ron Berglund
38th precinct delegate, Canton

Support the DIA millage

On Aug. 7, the voters of Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties will vote on a millage that would fund a portion of operations at the DIA for 10 years. During that 10-year period, the DIA will encourage its private donors to direct gifts to the DIA endowment to a point where income from the endowment can replace the millage when it automatically expires.

If the millage fails, there is a high likelihood that the DIA will have to sharply curtail its operations, drastically limit hours and exhibits and lose key personnel who are critical to the institution's future. Eating into the endow-

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• Frank Mrozcka Garden City
• John Perugia South Lyon
• Ronald Johnson Milford
• Tommy Cisney Livonia
• Karen Garby Northville
• Judy McGill Plymouth
• Janne Potter Redford
• Stephanie Lusia Royal Oak
• Louie Kwok Novi
• William Stadler Westland

ment on an emergency basis, as some have suggested, would only briefly delay the day of reckoning and would actually assure the DIA's complete demise. We think this would be a terrible thing for our community. It would be grist for the mill of those who see only the negatives in our region and who ignore all the signs of progress.

Taxes are a real concern to people at this time, but we believe that the DIA millage is something different and unique. First, the millage will pass or fail based on a direct vote of the people to be taxed. Next, the proceeds will go straight from the taxpayers to the applicable County Arts Commission and then directly to the DIA.

Each county will audit all transfers and expenditures of these millage proceeds. No tax monies will be put into the hands of any other government entity. The DIA has an exemplary record of sound fiscal management. The renovation and reinstallation were funded from private sources, requiring no assumption of debt, and the DIA in 2009 cut its operating budget to the bone by about 25%.

Finally, while the 0.2 mills would cost homeowners about \$15 per year on average (based on a \$150,000 home), it includes what is basic-

ly a rebate mechanism. Residents of any county that passes the millage will gain free admission to the DIA, a value that exceeds the average annual millage cost for a family.

The Detroit Institute of Arts merits some public support at this difficult time. We urge people to vote YES for the Arts Commission Aug. 7 in support of our DIA.

Mary Ann and Robert H. Gorlin
Northville

Cassis the clear choice for U.S. Congress

Nancy Cassis is the proven, principled conservative running in Michigan's 11th Congressional District. She is a tireless advocate for taxpayers, small business and families. Ms. Cassis has a solid, proven track record of public service. She will represent us well. I ask that you please support her by putting Nancy Cassis on your ballot as a write-in during the Aug. 7 Republican primary election.

Nancy was recently was term limited from the state Senate in Lansing after a long and successful career as an exemplary senator for her Oakland County district. But when Thad McCotter was disquali-

fied from the election due to petition signature problems, Ms. Cassis felt it was her civic duty to step up and represent her constituents during this most sensitive time in our country's history.

Ms. Cassis is an experienced educator, who worked as a school psychologist for the Novi Community Schools from 1980-96. She also taught in Cleveland for the Ohio Public Schools from 1966-68. She helped create thousands of new jobs by sponsoring language in legislation resulting in two new hospitals being built in the growing communities of Novi (Providence Park Hospital) and West Bloomfield (Henry Ford Hospital).

Ms. Cassis and her husband, Victor, have seven children and 11 grandchildren. They are members of St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Livonia. She has lived in Livonia and Novi.

For these reasons, I'm voting for write-in candidate Nancy Cassis in her quest to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Michigan's 11th District in western Wayne and Oakland counties. I hope you will support her as well.

Willy Mena
Novi

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Breaking and Entering

A breaking and entering occurred at a Novi business with the unknown suspect(s) leaving behind some damage to the property.

It is unknown how the building on Nine Mile Road was broken into, but the owner found a door slightly ajar after arriving at the scene on July 26. There were no signs of forced entry. It was reported that the last employee to leave the building had indicated the location was secure.

The damage done inside included the discharging of several fire extinguishers and several shattered fluorescent light bulbs.

Larceny

A Northville man recently had his wallet stolen while inside a locker at Lifetime Fitness at 4000 High Pointe Boulevard.

On July 26, the 21-year-old man told Novi Police that he stored his black Armani Exchange wallet, which had \$320 inside, in a locker. He said he locked it, but added that one he used had a broken hinge that may have caused it not to lock properly. The security camera footage was too far away for police to glean anything from it.

Marijuana Possession

A 22-year-old female driver was cited for marijuana possession after Novi Police stop her for speed-

ing. On July 30, the police spotted the woman going 53 mph in a 40 mph speed zone, so she was stopped on Novi Road near Paul Bunyan Drive. Police reported smelling marijuana upon making contact with the driver.

She told police her friend that was in the car earlier may have had marijuana. Police said they had a K9 unit to check her car and that was when she said it was in her purse, along with a marijuana grinder, police said.

She was arrested for the drug, which later tested positive, police said.

Malicious Destruction of Property

Novi Police responded to a possible breaking and entering at Eberspacher after an employee found an exterior glass door shattered.

On July 30, police were dispatched to the location on Gen Mar. It appeared the door, although shattered, was still intact and no one entered the location. The last employees to leave the location were on July 26 and they are in the process of relocating the business from Wixom.

The business makes and stocks automotive exhaust systems, so it's speculated the suspect(s) may have tried to gain entry to steal catalytic converters.

Compiled by staff writer Lonnie Huhman

Let the SALE BEGIN!
Now is the time to clean out those closets, basements and garages and turn those items into cash! Place your ad in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies to reach thousands of bargain hunters and receive some FREE items too!
Clip & Save Coupons!
\$2.00 OFF the purchase of any LARGE COMBO at our Concession Stand
\$3.00 OFF ANY 8 SQUARE PIZZA
OUR GARAGE SALE KIT Includes:
• Signs • Price Stickers
• Inventory Sheets
• 2 pages of great advice for a successful garage sale
• 1 pass for 2 to Emagine Theatres
• Free 4 Square Buddy's Pizza
• Buddy's Food Discount Card
• Ad placed on hometownlife.com with "Map It" capabilities
Place your ad online at hometownlife.com & receive 2 PASSES for 2 to Emagine Theatre & Buddy's Pizza!
hometownlife.com
OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
1-800-578-7355

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 to move on to the general election in November for the position's full term. A special election will be held Sept. 5 to fill the remainder of the term of Thad McCotter, who stepped down July 6.

We recommend Nancy Cassis, of Novi, as the Republican nominee. Her name won't be on the ballot -- voters will have to write her name in and fill in the circle next to it. Opponent Kerry Bentivolio is the only name that will appear under the Republican Party Section of the ballot for the 11th Congressional District.

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 cred-



Cassis



Taj

its program, among other accomplishments.

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 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.

Syed Taj gets our nod as the Democratic nominee. A medical doctor and a member of the Canton Township Board of Trustees, Taj 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.

Taj is the lone Democrat on the Canton board. His ability to work well with his Republican colleagues has earned him their respect. Democrats and Republicans in the 11th District (Novi, Highland, Milford, White Lake, South Lyon, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Troy, Farmington, Canton Township, Livonia, Northville and Northville Township, Plymouth and Plymouth Township) have a clear choice in their respective primary on Aug. 7. We recommend Cassis and Taj to provide voters with a spirited debate leading up to the November general election.

LETTERS

'The great divider'

The "great uniter" of 2008 continues to solidify his position as the "greatest divider" in the history of the country by reviving something he created in 2007. He's encouraging blacks to join the racially tinged "African Americans for Obama" to help get out the vote by making calls and going door to door in neighborhoods. Members are also encouraged to become "congregation captains" responsible for pressuring pastors to support Obama from the pulpit... so much for separation of church and state. The next thing you know, he's probably going to bypass Congress to grant amnesty to some illegals, make recess appointments when Congress is in session or unilaterally trash the Welfare Reform Act. Oops, already been there, done that.

Jack Belisle
South Lyon

Cassis supports tough laws on illegal immigration
Nancy Cassis supports Arizona's and Gov. Jan Brewer's attempts to halt the flood of people crossing the border illegally. I don't know about you, but I agree with Nancy Cassis. I think Americans deserve better security against illegal people crossing our borders. What we need are fences, more trained border patrol agents and

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: estone@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.

a more secure border. Nancy Cassis is the proven, principled conservative running in Michigan's 11th Congressional District. She is a tireless advocate for taxpayers, small business and families. Please don't forget to

write in Nancy Cassis on your Aug. 7 Republican primary ballot. Ms. Cassis has a solid, proven track record of public service.

It sounds like Ms Cassis is looking out for you — and me.

For these reasons, I'm voting for write-in candidate Nancy Cassis in her quest to become a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, serving Michigan's 11th District in western Wayne and Oakland counties. I hope you support her, too. She will represent us well.

Dave Staudt
Novi

Cassis just another career politician

Dear Cassis for Congress Committee: I am using this Letters to the Editor forum as I cannot find who you are; I only can find what you keep sending to my mail box. What you send is what I and other Republicans who believe in the principals of our party disdain. You seem to be bent of bashing the only legitimate Republican candidate for Congress for the 11th District.

Your candidate, whom I believe is a lovely person, did not go through the district process to get to be a candidate of the district, but instead has a well-financed committee whose members I cannot locate.

Please see MORE LETTERS, A11

Novi events

KNEE SURGERY SEMINAR

Time/Date: 7 p.m. Aug. 9
Location: Courtyard by Marriott Novi, 42700 11 Mile Road in Novi
Details: McLaren Macomb hospital is hosting a free seminar for people considering knee resurfacing or hip replacement surgery.
Contact: To register, please call toll-free (877) 627-6248. To learn more MAKOplasty robotic assisted surgery, visit www.mclaren.org/mako.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAM) METRO CHAPTER MEETING

Time/Date: 7-9 p.m. Aug. 14
Location: Providence Hospital Heart Institute, located at 47601 Grand River in Novi
Details: The meetings are free and anyone is welcome to attend. Family support group meetings are typically held the second Tuesday and Thursday of every month.
Contact: (248) 348-7197

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 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.
Contact: Kristina Jones; (248) 348-5600

PREVENTION PROJECT

Time/Dates: 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays to Aug. 6
Location: Botsford Diabetes and Nutrition Service, 39830 Grand River Ave., Novi
Details: A five-week, action-packed class. Register dietitians at Botsford Diabetes and Nutrition Services in Novi will help you change your lifestyle

NOVI COMMUNITY CALENDAR

by making the most out of your food choices, exercising and staying active, discovering your healthy lifestyle barriers, and having weekly goals and weight-ins. Space limited to 25; cost \$50.
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 Zyczyński, (248) 349-6342; www.aawwn.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 www.MichiganArtsCraftsShow.com; or call (248) 396-0396

BEREAVEMENT MEETINGS

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. Min., goal is to give each participant an opportunity to share their story. Handouts describing the phases of grief and the tasks of grief are available.

NOVI SENIOR CENTER

Location: 25075 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 347-0414; theglin@cityofnovi.org

Business

NORTHVILLE-NOVI BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Time/Dates: 7:30-9 a.m. first and third Tuesdays (except Nov. and Dec., which are just the first Tuesdays)
Location: Kerby's Coney Island, 21200 Haggerty Road
Details: Business networking focused on building relationships. The Sunrise Net-

working Group, LLC (www.sunrisenet.com), or SNG 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@sunrisefinancialgroup.com

METRO NOVI BNI

Time/Date: 7-8 a.m. every Wednesday
Location: On the Border Restaurant, 21091 Haggerty Road (north of Eight Mile), Novi
Details: BNI is a structured networking environment for professionals. The Metro Novi BNI team members are committed to providing bona fide referrals to each other. Members learn how to create and refine an "elevator speech," develop a broad network of business professionals in the community and receive training/education on networking more efficiently. Guests are invited to attend free of charge. Continental breakfast provided.

NOVI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Contact: www.novi-chamber.com or call (248) 349-3743
NOVI ROTARY CLUB
Location: Novi Methodist Church 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check website for speaker information; novirotary.org.

NOVI TOASTMASTERS CLUB

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.

NOVI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Location: 45255 W. 10 Mile Road
Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10-5 Friday-Saturday; closed Sundays (Memorial Day-Labor Day)
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group.

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Hours: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 10-5 Friday-Saturday; closed Sundays (Memorial Day-Labor Day)
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NORTHVILLE / NOVI CHURCH CALENDAR

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Location: 24505 Meadowbrook Road
Contact: (248) 349-8847 or visit hollyfamilynovi.org

NOVI LIONS CLUB

Time/Date: 6 p.m. social; 6:30 p.m. meeting starts; second and fourth Wednesdays
Location: Leo's Sports Bar & Grill Restaurant, lower level, 40380 Grand River, west of Haggerty. Visitors are welcome, dinner is from the menu. Details: 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

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.
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.

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

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY

Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772

Hub Counseling

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.
Book Discussion Group
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group.

LIBRARY LINES

WALLED LAKE LIBRARY
Location: 1499 East West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Contact: (248) 624-3772

Hub Counseling

Time/Date: 5-8 p.m. first Mondays
Details: HUD-certified counselors are available to assist homeowners at risk of foreclosure. Learn how to work with your lender to avoid foreclosure. There is no charge for this service. Please call if you wish to attend. One-on-one sessions will be scheduled.
Book Discussion Group
Time/Date: 6:30 p.m. first Thursdays
Details: Please drop in or call the library if you are interested in joining this recently-formed group.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NORTHVILLE

Location: 217 N. Wing
Contact: (248) 348-1020
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study: 9 a.m. 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
Family Bible Hour: 9:45 a.m.
Family Worship: 11 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 dncnazarene.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, Quilt, 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
Sunday Worship
Time: 10 a.m.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Location: 205 East Lake Street (corner of Wells and 10 Mile Road), South Lyon
Contact: (248) 437-2875

ELECTION

Continued from page A1

rent 11th District will be voting in a special election Wednesday, Sept. 5, and again Nov. 6 to fill the unexpired term. All of Livonia is included in both the former 11th District and the redistricted 11th District.

'Thad ought to pay'

Robert Dindoff, campaign manager for Kerry Bentivolio, said Thaddeus McCotter is to blame for the \$650,000 estimated cost of the special election to local communities. Livonia's cost is estimated at \$50,000.

Cost a 'travesty'

Nancy Cassis, former state senator from Novi, said the cost of the special election was a travesty. She said she "sincerely regrets the cost and confusion" created by the special election.

King said he was contacted by some Republicans, whom he didn't identify, who wanted him to withdraw his candidacy.

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and win the general election in the new 11th District, it will help Bentivolio better represent the district, Dindoff said.

"He will get a couple of months seniority, which will help him get better committees," Dindoff said.

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"It's what democracy is all about."

"Law of the land" The U.S. Constitution also requires the representation, Crider said. "It's the law. It's the law of the land."

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selecting the Republican candidates. "If they didn't like the process, the governor, state Senate and state House, where there is a Republican majority, could have changed it," King said. "They could have changed the process."

King said Bentivolio and Cassis had already filed, so for King to withdraw at that point would not make sense for King since the election would already be scheduled.

'Republican lock'

King said he was running as a Republican because the district is a Republican district. King believes that a Democrat will not win the district, calling it a "Republican lock."

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with city or state elections to cut the costs to the district.

Since McCotter's resignation, the special election "is now a mess." "It is confusing," King said. "I've had to educate every voter, and that's why it took so long to get signatures."

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tinguished by the date (Sept. 5 election) and by its length, as there will only be the congressional candidates listed. The primary ballot for the Aug. 7 primary election is a longer ballot with more candidates listed. That ballot will be turned in first.

"Thank heaven (the special election ballot) isn't a longer list of candidates and questions," Marecki said. "That would be a nightmare."

'Republican lock'

King said he was running as a Republican because the district is a Republican district. King believes that a Democrat will not win the district, calling it a "Republican lock."

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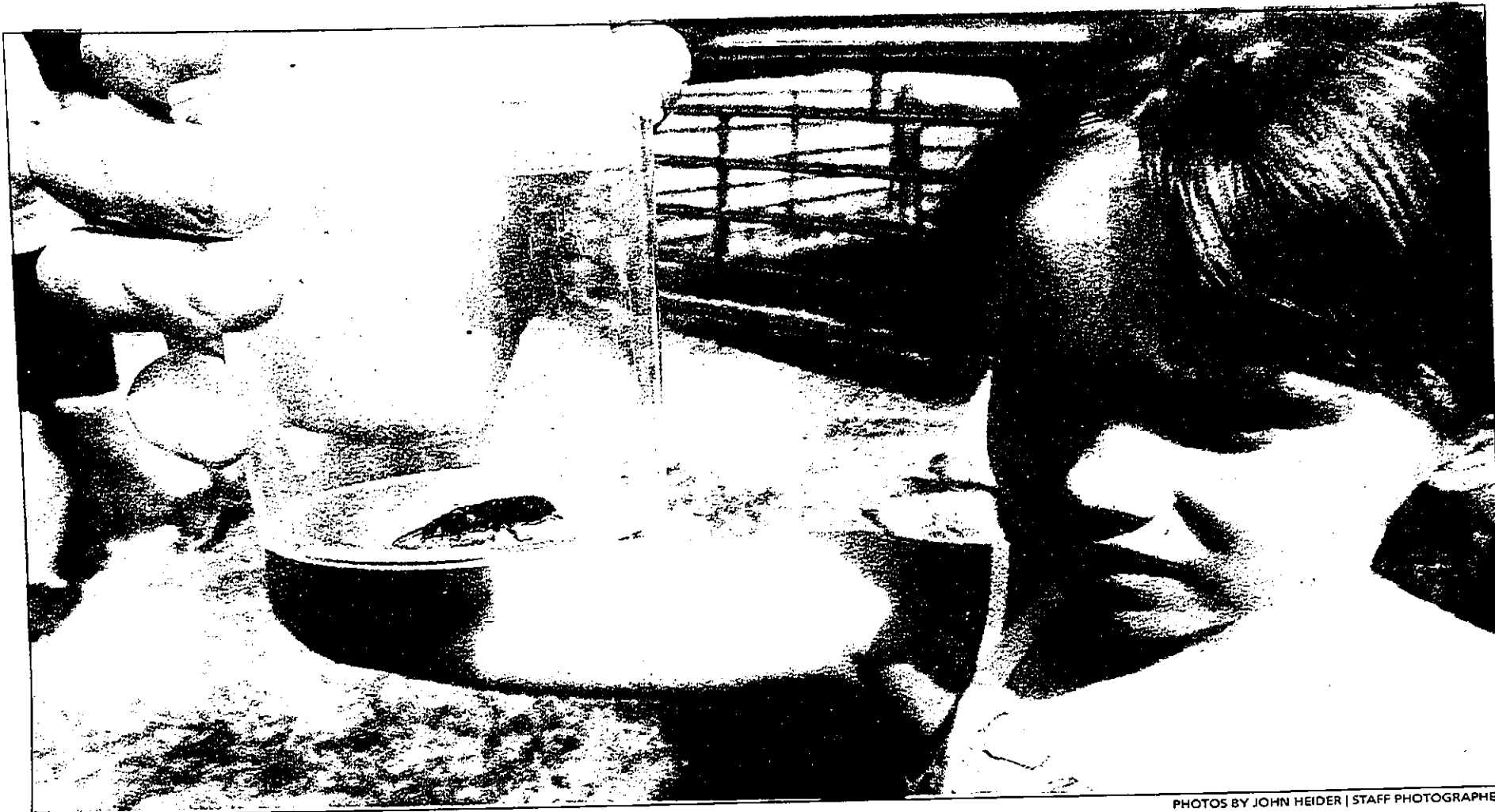
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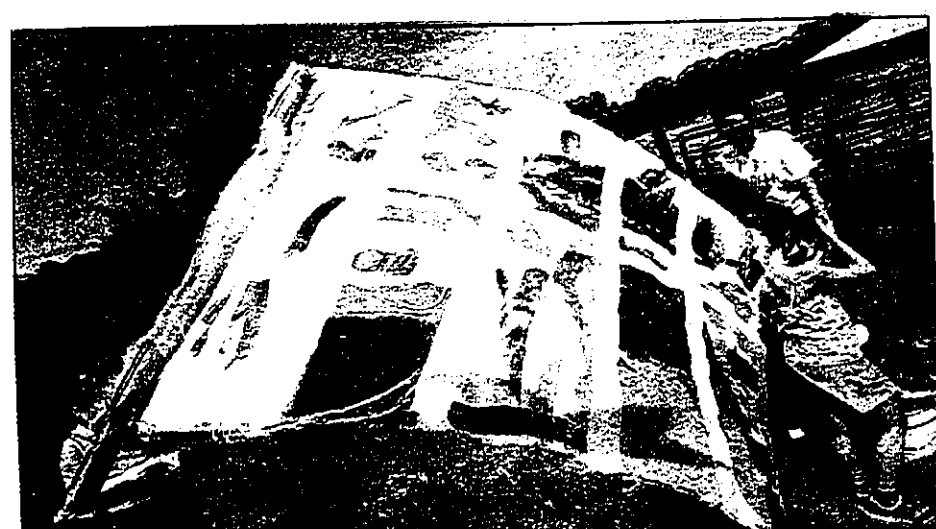
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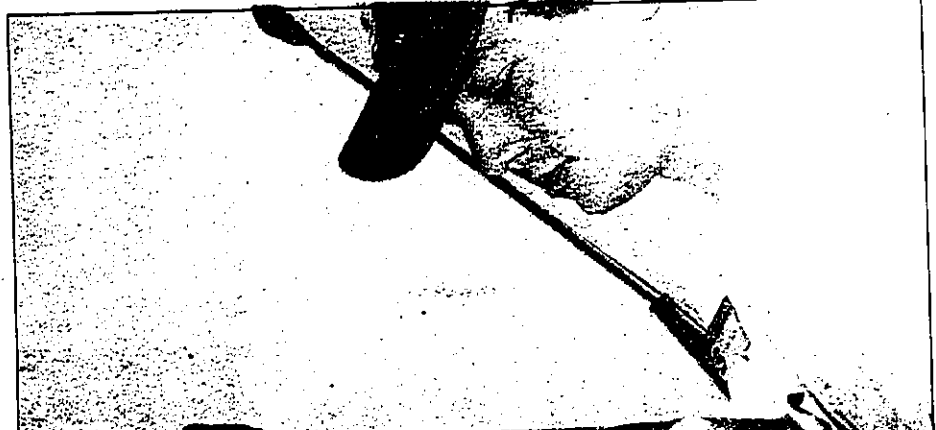


PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jana Kolecki, 6, takes a look at a beetle that she and other Green Science Adventure Campers found in the wood of Novi's Tollgate Farm on July 25.



Campers, divided up into groups during the Green Science Adventure Camp, made their own colorful flags to designate their particular tribe with scenes of forests, fish and farm animals.



4-H Green Science Adventure Camp counselor Alan Jaros holds open the mouth of two-month old calf "Clifford" to show campers how cows have teeth only on their lower jaw — during the July 25 session. The weeklong camp, which has sessions through the summer at Novi's Tollgate Farm — introduces kids to farm life with its animals, vegetable plantings, forest ecology and water habitat. Campers also got to enjoy food treats from the farm, harvesting fruits and vegetables that they snacked on.

FARM

Continued from page A1

The Green Science Adventure Camp draws some 40-plus kids ages 5-10 each week for four weeks. Kids come from Novi, Northville, Plymouth, Walled Lake and surrounding areas.

Keeping busy

Their days are occupied 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday with a variety of activities, Jaros said. Kids take forest hikes, and also cook in the garden kitchen, preparing snacks with produce they've grown. Chive butter's a recent example.

"The mission of 4-H is 'to learn by doing,' incorporating the research-based curriculum. Kids benefit from exposure to the outdoors, Jaros said, which enhances classroom learning.

"Science isn't something you read out of a book, it's real-life," he said. Youngsters also learn about food sources, and that food doesn't just arrive at the grocery store. Eating for good health is also emphasized. "They experience it, they ask for it," he said of children asking for fresh produce.

"You learn the best through experience. The best teacher is experience," he said. When kids at camp study insects, invertebrates and the farm animals, that's certainly the case. Jaros has a degree from MSU in training and development, and works at the summer camp with a staff of six certified teachers.

Makes learning fun
"They don't realize they're learning," he said of the children at camp.



Counselor Alex Chockley, left, leads a group including Payton Farrar, 9, on a discovery hike through Tollgate's woods.



Camper Payton Farrar, 9, mashes strawberries for a farm-fresh treat she and others would enjoy that day. The campers made their own bread and smeared it with strawberries and "sun butter," a peanut butter-like creation made with sunflower seeds and olive oil.

Jaros is grateful that MSU Tollgate Farm is

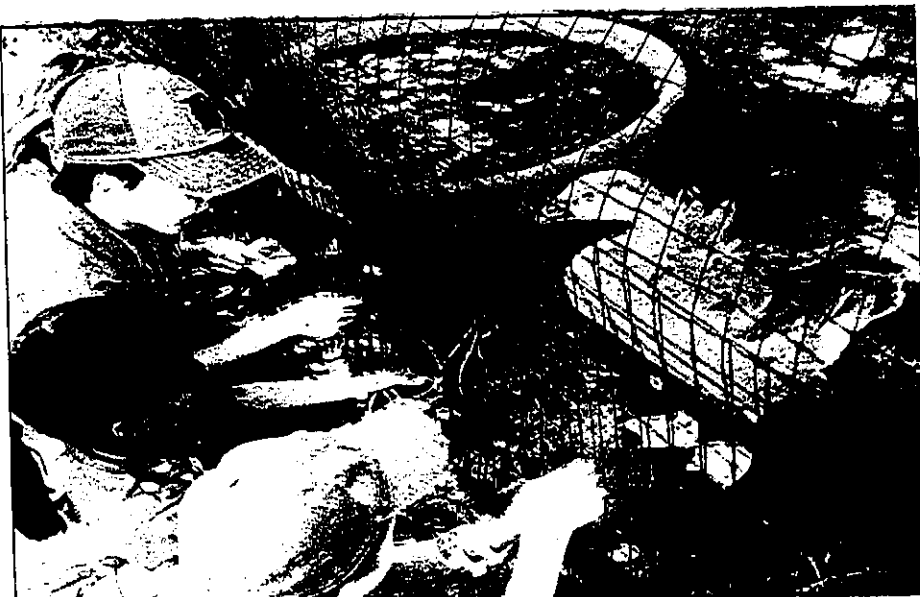
on Meadowbrook Road in Novi, noting few such facilities exist in Oakland County.

Things are winding down now for summer, but Tollgate will be busy come fall with extensive programs for school groups. For more, visit www.experiencetollgate.com online.

"It's a ton of fun," Jaros said of the summer camp. "They go home dirty and the parents say 'thank you.'"

The summer staff has fun with the kids, said Jaros, who's also grateful for high school volunteers and senior volunteers from Fox Run. "I love having them," he said of the volunteers.

jbrown@hometownlife.com



Some of the campers take a look at a goose during the July 25 session.

These photos and others in photo galleries at hometownlife.com are available for purchase, contact Web Editor Larry Ruehlen at lruhlen@hometownlife.com for more information.



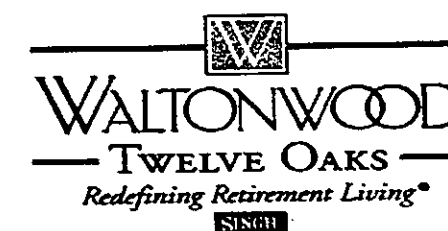
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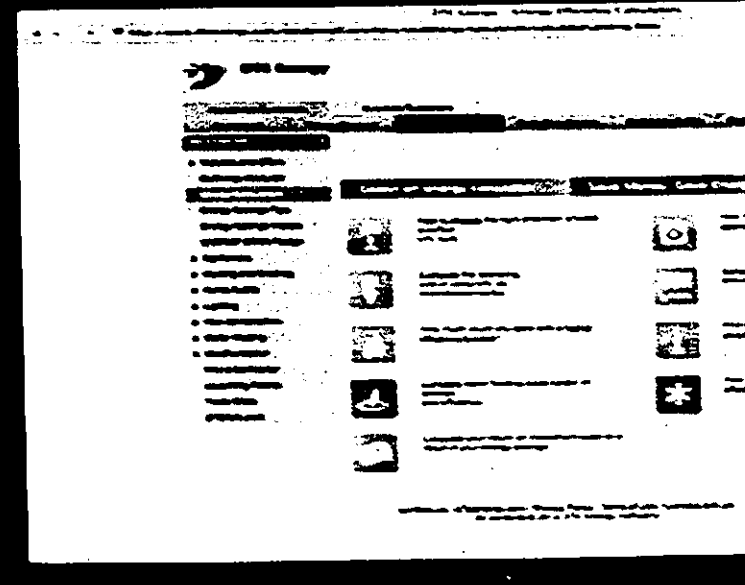
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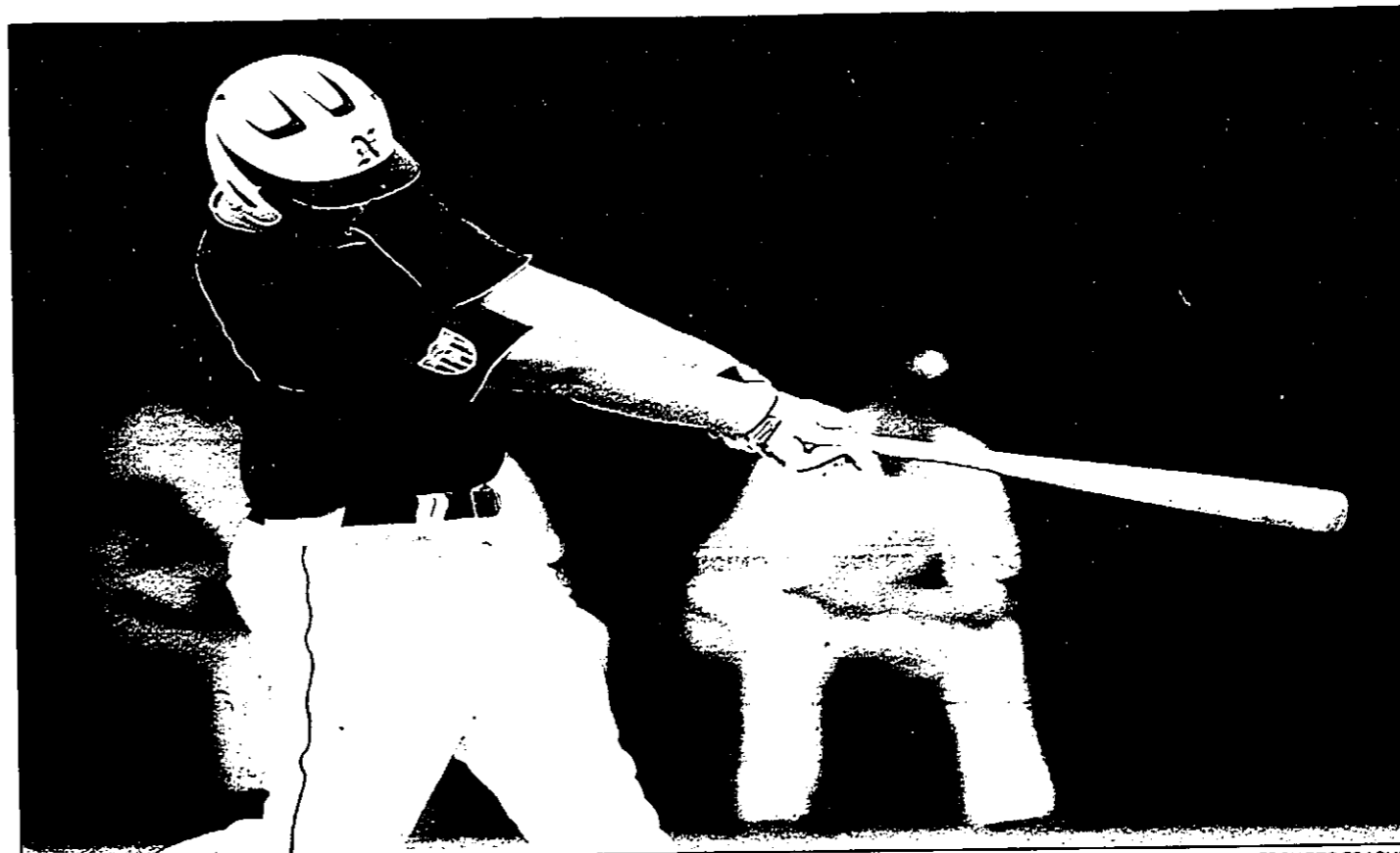
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SECTION B (NRNN)
 THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2012
 HOMETOWN WEEKLIES
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SPORTS

JEFF THEISEN, EDITOR
 jtheisen@gannett.com
 (248) 437-2011 EXT. 228



Broncos' Zach Wilds launched this pitch for a run-scoring double in Northville's big seventh inning against the Youngstown Kuboffs' July 27.

NABF tourney success from start to finish

31st year of World Series in Northville could have been best yet

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent
 Scott Baldwin is likely napping right now. The director of the NABF World Series tournament in Northville had his hands full last week with the biggest turnout of 12 teams. The tournament started last Wednesday with a skills competition and opening ceremonies. Northville won three of the four skills events and then made a run at the championship before bowing to Creekside Fitness of Youngstown, Ohio, 3-0, in the semi-final game. Creekside Fitness then went on to play the Sayo Grays in the title game last Sunday. "After a seesaw battle

marred by injuries and ambulance visits, Sayo broke a 6-6 tie in the top of the seventh inning and it looked like they would get out with the win," said Baldwin. "However, with two outs in the bottom of the inning and things looking bleak, (tournament MVP) Zack Miller hit a screaming line drive down the right field line for a two-run double to win the game and National Championship in walk-off style." Miller earned Most Valuable Player honors in the NABF World Series while Carmen Caruso of the Schenectady Indians was named as the tournament Batting Champion. The final records for each team were: Creekside Fitness:

5-1; Sayo Grays: 5-1; Toronto Mets: 3-2; Top Tier Nationals: 3-1; Northville Broncos: 2-3; Team Cincinnati: 2-2; B45 Marucci Titans: 2-2; Schenectady Indians: 1-2; La Plata Juniors: 1-2; Ohio Glaciers: 1-3; Allen Baseball Academy: 0-3; and Kuboff: 0-3. The tournament was only slowed down slightly due to some inclement weather that struck the area on Thursday and Friday. That, said Baldwin, was due to the outstanding Northville Public Schools ground crew that was quick to keep the weather from being a factor on the field. "They were unbelievable in their support," said Baldwin. "They were out mowing before dawn every day to make sure the tournament

went well." Baldwin said the tournament could never be possible without all of the support given by the Northville community. "Our volunteers worked tirelessly to organize, keep score, announce, and officiate the games," he said. "Our banquet, chaired by Carrie Slosinski, at the Sheraton was our largest (400) and most successful ever." Even the teams that played noticed how much work the volunteers put in. "I'd like to thank the tournament staff for an awesome tournament and wish the Broncos organization well in the future NABF World Series," said Northville Broncos coach Ken Cheslik.

Broncos make run to NABF quarterfinals

Team does community proud against top-rated teams

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent
 There's no doubt that the NABF World Series is chock full of some of the best U16 teams in the country, so it's always a question at the beginning of the tournament of how well the local Northville Broncos are going to stack up. This year the Broncos proved they could play with the best of them, going 2-3 overall while making a run to the semi-finals before bowing out against a very strong Creekside Fitness squad, 3-0. Creekside went on to win the NABF championships over the Sayo Grays. The run toward the finals was the far-

thest any Northville squad has ever made it in over 30 years of NABF tournaments. "In our semi-final game, we faced a very good pitcher who was able to throw a one-hitter against us," said Northville coach Ken Cheslik. "And though we did very well holding them to only four hits, we just couldn't make anything happen." "Our guys played great and if a couple of breaks went our way, the ending would have been different." The Mustangs did earn a 2-2 victory over the Top Tier Nationals in the quarter finals to earn a berth to the semifinal game.



Northville Broncos Nolan Waldeck, left, is congratulated at home by a teammate after scoring on an error by the Youngstown Kuboffs.

Ferrante earns All-America status

Northville sophomore takes second in Junior Olympics

By Sam Eggleston
 Correspondent

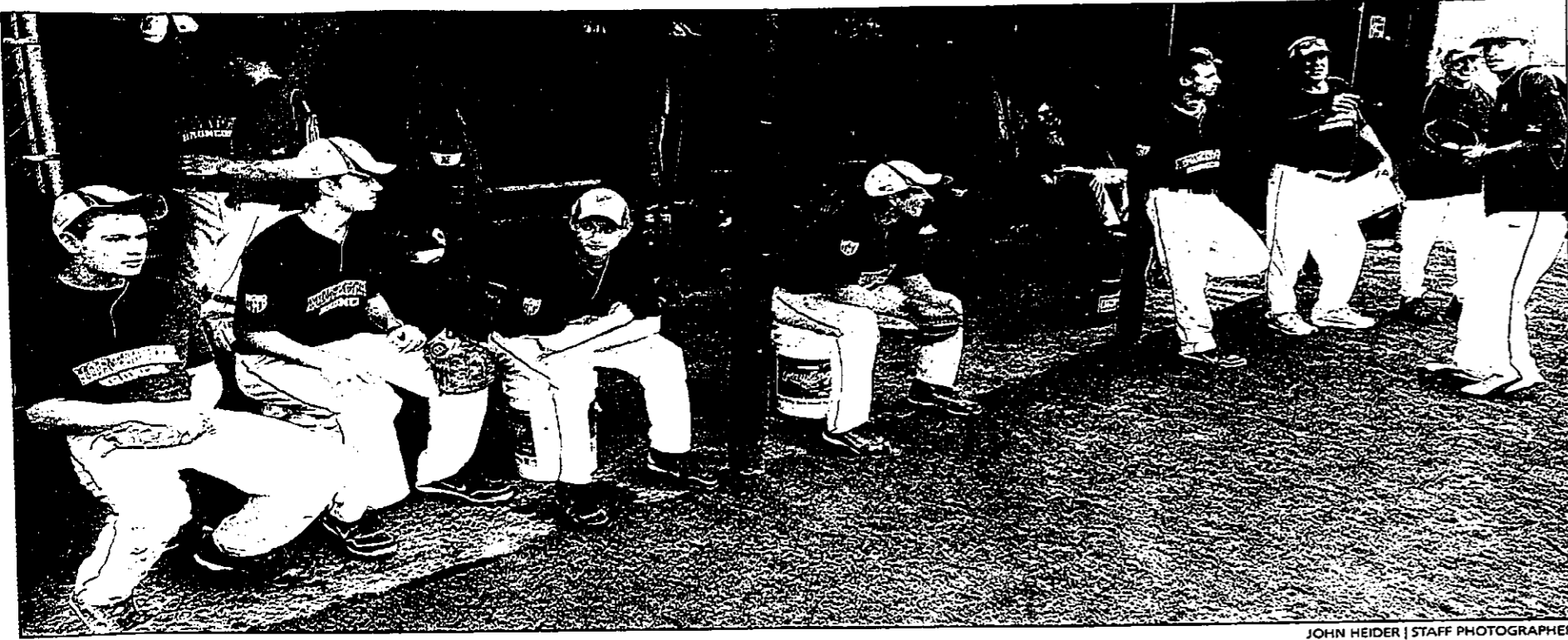
If you want to be the best, then you train with the best and compete with the best — that's the typical law of athletics. Jason Ferrante, who will be a sophomore this fall at Northville High School, has been doing just that. When he's not wearing the orange and black of the Mustangs, he's found training with the Michigan Accelerator track and field team. There he has run, with success, in the 4-by-800 relay as well as the individual 800-meter race. That training and his desire to run against the best athletes paid off earlier this year with a state championship title in the club track scene and last week with his 4x800 team to take a silver medal and earn All-America status. Ferrante, who recently ran in the Junior Olympics and placed second in the 800-meter race, will be a sophomore this fall at Northville High School, recently ran in the Junior Olympics and placed second in the 800-meter race, and earned All-America status.



MARYBETH FERRANTE
 Jason Ferrante, who will be a sophomore this fall at Northville High School, recently ran in the Junior Olympics and placed second in the 800-meter race, and earned All-America status.

The Accelerator team trained in a second-place performance in the Junior Olympics in Baltimore, Maryland last week. The finish gave each athlete a silver medal and All-America honors. His teammates in the race were Marvin Franklin, Keegan Biegalski and Ben Hayes. "Placing high in such an elite field of athletes means so much to me and my track season," said Ferrante. "It shows all of the hard work I have put in over the years and how my training is really paying off. It also helps give me confidence and momentum towards my upcoming high school cross country season." Ferrante will likely be a key element in the Northville cross country season as he looks to step into a role vacated by the graduation of Edward Clifton. He'll be running with standout harrier Dan Siminis. "All of my training is definitely going to pay off this year in cross country," said Ferrante. "I feel like the foot speed I have developed over this track season is going to translate into my cross season and give me an edge over other athletes. I'm hoping to do some big things this year for Northville." Ferrante's ultimate goal is a Division I scholarship to run in the collegiate ranks as well as an All-State finish in high school track and the boys 800-meter school record. In cross country, he said he hopes to earn All-State status, get on the all-time record board and help Northville make a run at a state championship.

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The Broncos dugout.



The Broncos played hard on July 27 — as the muddied and torn up uniform of this player can attest.



Broncos Nolan Waldeck reaches first after a Youngstown throwing error during Northville's July 27 game. Waldeck eventually scored a run in this, the 7th inning that saw two throwing errors and three wild pitches by the Youngstown, Ohio, Kuboff's.

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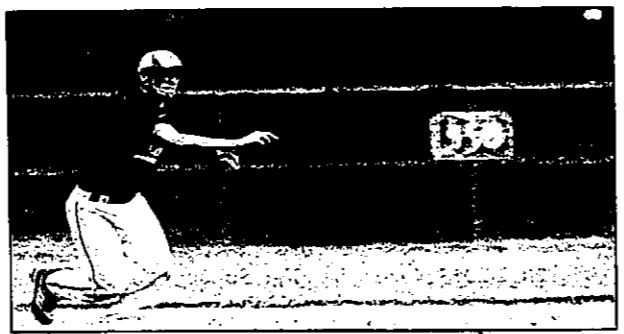
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Monday through Thursday, a senior rate of \$18 holes with cart for only \$20 on a recreation day. A new deal has launched for adult golfers. Foot league rates are \$20 for 18 holes and \$30 for 36 holes. Senior special \$20 Mon-Thurs, \$40 after 3pm everyday. 7 a.m. to dusk 7 days per week. (Want to get the lay of the land? Visit northvillehillsclub.com)

for more about public courses in Michigan, visit www.golf.com



Broncos shortstop Jake Cheslik fires a shot to first after making a play in Northville's July 27 game.

BRONCOS

Continued from page B1

In pool play, the Broncos took a 9-1 loss to Creekside Fitness to begin the tournament, bounced back with a 7-3 victory over Kuboff last Friday and bowed to the Sayo Grays, 5-2, on Saturday.

"We have a great group of kids that I'm sure will find success in the future with whatever they choose to do," said Cheslik.

Northville also did well in the opening ceremonies of the tournament last Wednesday. Out of four events held, Northville won four with Zach Wilds earning the top honors in the home-run derby with six homers out of 10 pitches in the opening round and four-out-of-five in the championship round. Wilds is no stranger to the derby, having made the finals last year before being edged out for the title.

Jake Cheslik won the Golden Arm competition for the Broncos and the speed team of Eric Fox, Nolan Waldeck, Evan Wieland and Daniel Baldwin won the Road Runner Relay. It was the best any Northville team has ever done in the skills competitions.

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NABF Northville Broncos pitcher Jake Hansen looks in to his catcher on July 27 as he nears the end of the game. The Broncos beat the Youngstown, OH, Kuboff's 7-3 in this first game of Friday's playoffs.

Two Northville players make All-Star ranks

Wilds, Waldeck make 2012 NABF All-Tournament team

By Sam Eggleston
Correspondent

Even in the talented field of NABF World Series players, there are those who rise to the top as the crème de la crème.

This year, two of those top athletes happen to be from Northville.

Zach Wilds and Nolan Waldeck were selected to the 24-member team after the Broncos had their best showing in the 31 years of the

tournament. Their team went 2-3 and made it to the semi-finals before bowing out to the eventual champions, Creekside Fitness, 3-0.

"I am extremely excited about being selected to the 2012 NABF World Series All-Tournament team," said Wilds. "I met a lot of really nice kids from Ohio, Illinois and New York this year. Our team had a great time and knowing the team who won it all,

Creekside Fitness from Youngstown, Ohio, was who we lost to in the semi-finals makes me feel pretty good about our team's performance."

Waldeck agreed, noting it was a pleasure to participate against some of the country's best players.

"I just would like to say being selected for the 2012 NABF World Series All-Tournament team is such an honor," he said. "I am hon-

ored to be a part of a group of such high-caliber ball players who have worked so hard in this tournament. Playing with players from all around the country was just such an amazing experience, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to play in this tournament"

The All-Tournament team also included:

from the Toronto Mets: Austin O'Boyle and Daniel Procopio; Creekside Fitness:

- Ryan Megyasi, Kane Durkin, Trent Collins, Steve Dayton and Dave LeMas-
 - ters; the Sayo Grays: Josh Palacios, Emanuel Casellano, Johnny Gonzales and Elvin Ramos; B45 Marucci Titans: Nick Fanti, Aaron Floyd and Chris Weiss; Top Tier Nationals: Laim Carter and Frankie Farry; Ohio Glaciers: Kurtis Kaszmaul; Allen Baseball Club: Kenton
- ti: Zack Gray and Henry Moore.
- According to Scott Baldwin, director of the NABF tournament in Northville, the All-Star selection was not finalized as of press time, but the recommendations were expected to be approved by the NABF national offices.

SPORTS SHORTS

Northville Mustang Baseball Alumni Game

This Saturday, the Northville community is invited to visit and enjoy our first ever Mustangs Alumni Baseball Game. Come support our baseball community while mingling with friends and Alumni from Northville High School 1980s through 2012. Watch a baseball game on the "Old Hill" at 8 Mile and Center St, and share some old baseball memories.

Feel free to sponsor a player of your choice in our 1st ever "Home Run Derby" by pledging \$10 for 10 pitches to be thrown to an individual during our Home Run Derby.

Warm ups begin at 10 a.m. with the first pitch at 12:30 p.m.

Home Run Derby Competition is open to all Northville Baseball Alumni whether recreation, travel or Mustangs.

Motor City Madness Fastpitch hosts tryouts

For 6-12 year olds, Madness has a Defensive Clinic on Aug. 6 and an Offensive Clinic on Aug. 7 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Power Park in Novi.

For 13+ year olds, Madness has a pre-tryout practice on Aug. 9 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Power Park.

Tryouts are Aug. 11-12th at Power Park. The schedule is as follows:

- 2pm-4pm: 10U (10 and under)
- 4pm-6pm: 12U (12 and under)
- 6pm-8pm: 14U (14 and under)
- 12-2pm: 16U (Sunday only)

Pitcher and catchers run an additional 30 minutes.

For registration information and more details, please visit our website at <http://www.eteamz.com/motorcity>.

The Madness organization will consider players from Novi and the surrounding communities. Please contact Chris Lawler at cmadness softball@gmail.com for questions.

NHS Family Sports Pass available

The 2012-2013 Northville High School Athletic Boosters Club Family Sports Pass is now available to order. This convenient pass provides admittance to all Northville High School and Middle School sports regular home games.

A one-time cost of \$125.00 covers your immediate family, including your NHS student or students or \$50 for an individual pass.

Novi Sports Roundup

Hanlon signs with St. Francis

Recent Novi graduate Kevin Hanlon signed July 30 to continue his cross country running career at the collegiate level at the University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill. this fall. A member of both the Wildcats' cross country and track teams, Hanlon dropped his freshman-best 5k time of 21:35 to 17:06 by his senior year. With the track team, he cut his one-mile run from 6:12 to 4:58 and his two-mile run from 13:19 to 10:46 during his four years in the program.

A scholar athlete at Novi, Hanlon plans to major in business.

Girls track and field

Novi's girls track and field team was well-represented among the recently-announced All-County team. Recent grad and Division I shot put champion Sam Pavlika, along with the 400 relay team of D'Mya Davis, Mariah Smith, Janee Hood and Jasmine Ward, were named to the All-County first team.

Hurdler Kelly McCloskey made the second team, while Taylor Pavlika, Jackie Mullins and Kerri McMahan earned honorable mentions.

Golfsmith

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Huge Indoor Putting Green

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Callaway RAZR X Black Driver
30077342
4-PW, AW Steel
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Orig. \$699.99 - \$859.99

\$169.99
Save \$80
Callaway RAZR X Black Fairway
30080076
30080076
30076226 / Orig. \$249.99

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Save \$126
Callaway RAZR X Black Driver
30076479
Orig. \$399.99
Special price expires August 5

\$149.99
Save \$100
TaylorMade RAZR X Fairway
30077438
Orig. \$249.99

\$199.98
Motorola MOACTV GPS Watch
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Orig. \$299.99

BUY 2 GET 1 FREE
Save \$45
TaylorMade Penta TP5 Balls
30077428

BUY 3 GET 1 FREE
Save \$34
TaylorMade Penta TP3 Balls
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 / 11AM - 3PM
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golfsmith.com

By Chris Jackett

Motor City Madness prevails



Novi-based Motor City Madness 13U Red won the USSSA 13U Eastern World Series in Maumee, Ohio (July 18-22). They played nine games in a tournament with 25 teams from nine states and finished with a record of 8-1. Pictured: (Front, from left) Isabella Buttazzoni, Aziza Afzal, Genny Soltesz, Nicole Ireland, Madison Ampe. Middle: Lauren Holdsworth, Nicole Rinkel, Kaitlyn Wolschlager, Sydney Jascoe, Shirley Hao, Sydney San Juan, Coach Adam San Juan. Back: Coach Chris Soltesz, coach Brian Wolschlager, head coach Scott Ampe.

Fall practices begin Aug. 6 with football

The 2012-13 Fall sports season officially begins next week, when approximately 110,000 student-athletes begin practice in eight sports in which Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsors post-season tournaments.

Practice sessions begin on Monday in football, followed by all other sports on Wednesday. Practice in football must begin on Aug. 6 for all schools wishing to begin regular season games the weekend of Aug. 23-26. Schools must have 12 days of preseason practice at all levels before their first game, which may not occur before 16 calendar days. All football schools must also conduct at least three days of practice before beginning contact, and those sessions may not include any pads.

In golf and tennis, competition may commence no earlier than after three separate days of team practice, and not before seven calendar days. The first day competition may

FALL DATES TO REMEMBER

Cross Country: Regionals - Oct. 26 or 27
Finals - Nov. 3
Football: Selection Sunday - Oct. 21
Pre-Districts - Oct. 26 or 27
District Finals - Nov. 2 or 3
Regional Finals - Nov. 9 or 10
Semifinals - Nov. 17
Finals - Nov. 23-24
Girls Golf: Regionals - Oct. 10-11 or 12-13
Finals - Oct. 19-20
Soccer: Districts - Oct. 15-20

take place in golf and tennis is August 15. In all other fall sports, contests can take place after seven days of practice for the team and not before 9 calendar days. The first day competition may take place in cross country, soccer, swimming and diving, and volleyball in the fall is Aug. 17.

This year, two football dates precede Labor Day,

Regionals - Oct. 23-27
Semifinals - Oct. 31
Finals - Nov. 3
Girls Swimming & Diving: Athletic Quals - Nov. 13
Finals - Nov. 16-17
Boys Tennis: Regionals - Oct. 11 or 12 or 13
Finals - Oct. 19-20
Volleyball: Districts - Oct. 29-Nov. 3
Regionals - Nov. 6 & 8
Quarterfinals - Nov. 13
Semifinals - Nov. 15-16
Finals - Nov. 17

and Thursday varsity games will take place both weeks. Subvarsity competition may begin on Aug. 22. In Week 1, 81 games will be played on Thursday, 222 contests will be played on Friday, and 23 games will be played on Saturday. The following weekend, 239 games will be played on Thursday, 67 games will be played on Friday, and 5 games

will be played on Saturday. There are several significant rules changes on football for 2012:

- On passing plays, a receiver must first contact and establish control of the ball while inbounds - regardless of the opponent's action. In other words, a catch cannot be ruled on plays where the receiver may have come down in bounds if not for the action of the defender.

- If a player's helmet comes off during a play, and did not occur as a result of a foul by the opponent, that player must leave the game for one play, unless it happens on the final play of a half or an overtime.

- Hand contact by a blocker below the waist of a defender is now considered blocking below the waist.

- The kicking team may not contact a member of receiving team on a kickoff until the ball has traveled 10 yards, or unless a member of the receiving team initiates the contact.

- Jerseys of the visiting team must be white in color, and home jerseys are restricted in the use of white for varsity competition. This was a rule change made in 2007 for implementation this season.

- In soccer, Michigan will not participate in a National Federation rules change this year involving the disqualification from a game when a player receives a second yellow card and the subsequent red card. In Michigan, the player will still be ejected from the contest, but that team will not continue the game a player down. The penalty for a hand ball by a player other than the goalkeeper to prevent a score has been changed. If the goal is prevented, the penalty remains a disqualification of the player; however, if the goal is scored, the penalty will now be a caution to the player who deliberately handled the ball.

- There are no substantial rules change in other fall sports.

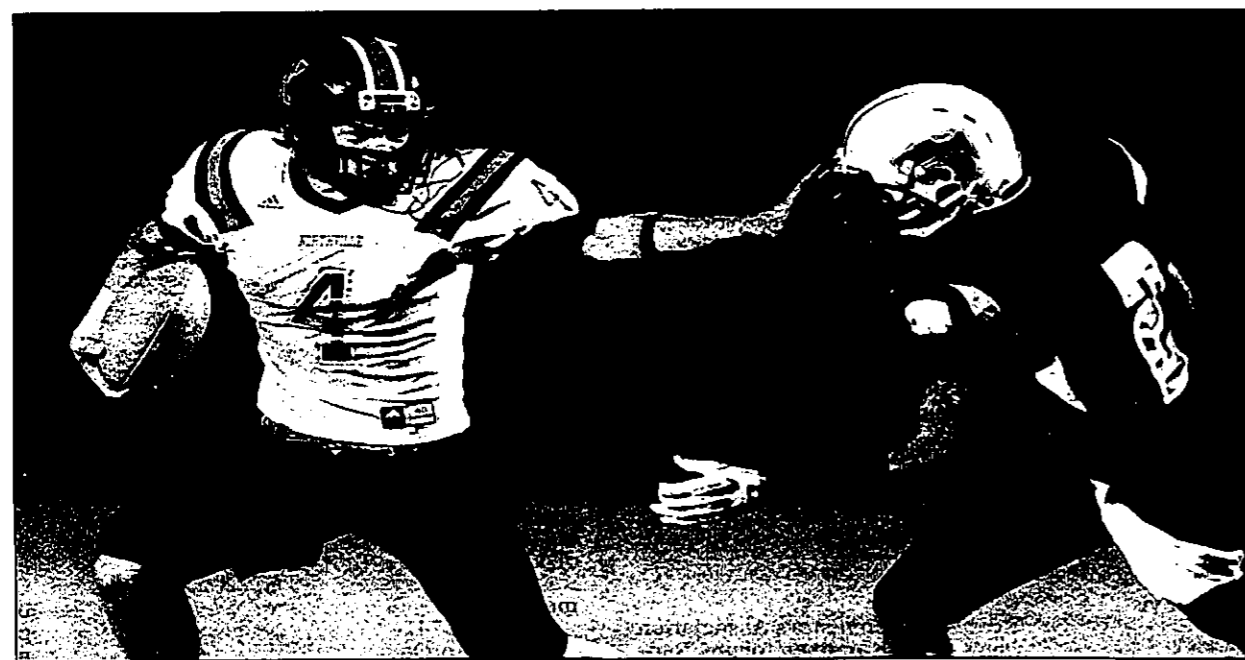
2011-12 athletics participation drop slower than enrollment decline

For the first time in eight years, participation in high school sports in which post-season tournaments are sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association dropped below the 300,000 mark during the 2011-12 school year, but the decrease was still slower than the drop in the general student population at member schools.

A total of 297,317 participants took part in the 28 tournament sports offered by the Association in the past year - a 1.5 percent decrease from the 2010-11 school year figure of 301,921.

Student enrollments at MHSAA member schools were down by 3.7 percent for the past school year. Girls participation was down 1.2 percent from a year ago with 124,724, and the boys total of 172,593 was down 1.7 percent. Since 2006-07, the student population at MHSAA member schools is down from 531,903 to 487,651 - a drop of 8.2 percent. Participation in that time span has dropped from 313,093, a decrease of 5.0 percent. The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once.

Records for participation in 2011-12 were set in four sports - two for boys and two for girls. Once again, cross country and lacrosse numbers hit all-time highs in both genders. Also of note in this year's survey: Only two sports exhibited a drop in participation that was well beyond that of the enrollment. Boys golf was down 6.6 percent, and boys swimming



Mustang QB Evan Gertley tries to keep Wildcat Derek Gengel at arm's length during their 2011 Baseline rivalry game.

and diving was down 4.7 percent. Boys tennis continues a downward slide, with this year's participation of 6,815 the lowest point since the Association began tracking the numbers in 1991-92. Its losses since 2006-07 are the highest in terms of percentage of any sport at 21.5 percent (1,868 participants). By comparison, girls tennis participation is stable - up 0.6 percent

in the same time period. Girls cross country set another record at 8,135, and participation in the sport is up 15.0 percent since 2006-07. In that same time period, boys cross country participation is up 6.1 percent. Basketball figures dropped 1.9 percent for boys and girls in 2011-12; also continuing a decline faster than the drop in student enrollments, and participation in both

sports are at their lowest points since the Association began tracking the numbers in 1991-92. Since the 2006-07 survey, girls participation is down 10.9 percent and the boys number is down 8.8 percent - the second highest drops in raw numbers of all sports - girls are down 2,100 participants, boys 2,131.

- In terms of raw numbers, football has seen the biggest drop since 2006-

07, down 3,203 participants - a drop of 6.9 percent. A total of nine sports have participating dropping at a faster rate since 2006-07 than enrollment numbers would suggest - boys tennis, girls swimming & diving, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls skiing, girls gymnastics, softball, and girls track & field.

- Seven sports have seen significant increases in participation since 2006-07 - boys & girls cross country, boys and girls bowling, boys swimming & diving, and boys and girls lacrosse. In percentages, girls lacrosse is up 30.3 percent - and boys lacrosse is up 26.2 percent.

Ten sports had increases in participation in 2011-12 (7 girls & boys) and 18 sports had drops (7 girls-11 boys).

The participation figures are gathered annually from MHSAA member schools to submit to the National Federation of State High School Associations for compiling its national participation survey. Results of Michigan survey from the 2000-01 school year to the present may be viewed on the MHSAA Website - mhsaa.com - and clicking on Schools > Administrators > Sports Participation.

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REAL ESTATE

Improve your curb appeal with a few outdoor painting projects

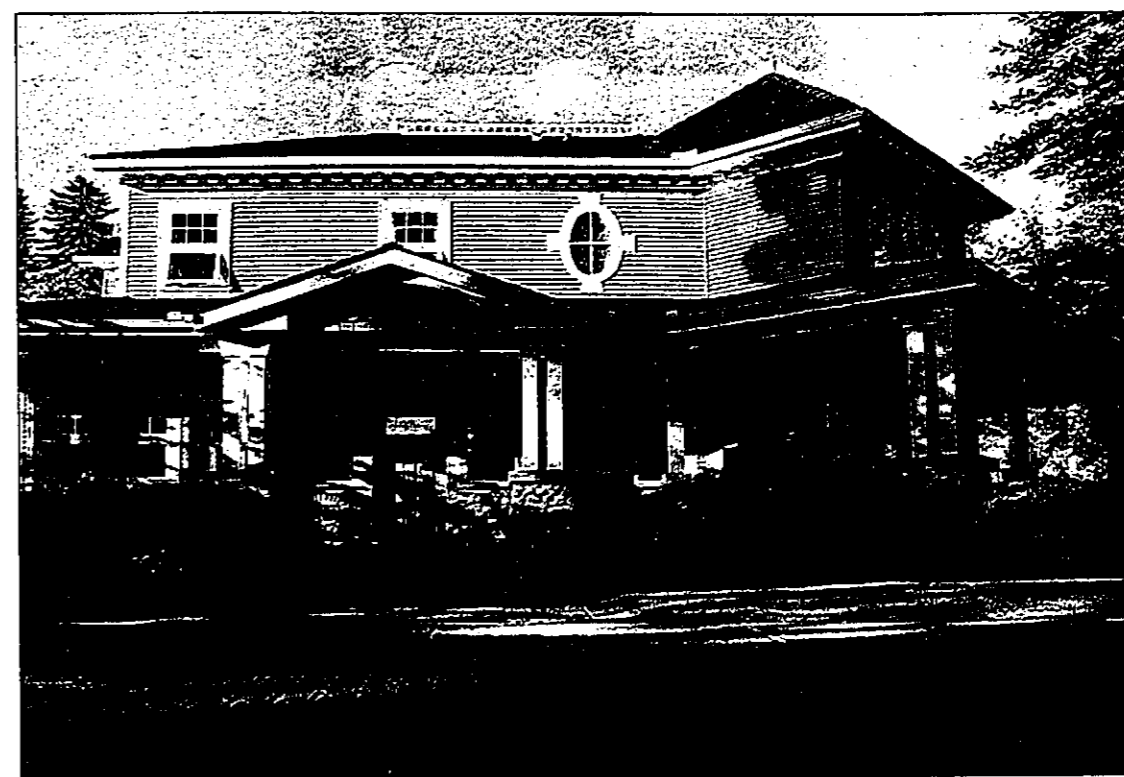
Summer is finally here, and with warmer temperatures and longer days, it's the perfect time to brighten up your home with a few outdoor painting projects. You can add the right amount of color and increase your curb appeal in just one weekend, leaving you the rest of the season to enjoy the finished product.

Your home, your style
Before rushing to pick out a new paint color or even accessories, first determine what will complement your home's existing exterior features. By keeping in mind your house's style factors - like its design, size and age - you'll be able to make updates that add value to your home. Next, look for inspiration by browsing through home catalogs, online or even by driving through a few nearby neighborhoods. Make note of the color combinations you like on homes that are similar to yours.

Once you have your new palette in mind, you're ready to get to work. The fastest way to make an impact? Apply a fresh coat of paint or stain to outdoor areas like doors, shutters, trim and fencing.

To achieve professional-looking results, be sure to use a high-quality painting tool. If you're looking for a brush that can get nearly every job done, try the new XL Elite brushes from Purdy. These are great for interior and exterior projects because they provide ultimate performance with any paint or stain by delivering the perfect finish on any surface. Plus, they work great in all environments, but best with heavy-bodied and fast-drying coatings. Also, when properly cleaned and cared for, Purdy brushes will last for a number of years.

Doors, shutters and trim do more than just accessorize your



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home; they also make a big impact on its overall impression. Unfortunately, they take a beating from exposure to the elements, causing them to become faded and dingy. By repainting them, you can quickly make your house look more polished and refined. As with any painting project, surface preparation is the first important step. Make sure the surface is clean, dull and dry before starting to paint or stain. It is also important to remove loose or peeling paint so that you are starting with a smooth and uniform surface.

Now that the house looks refreshed, don't neglect wood fencing and latticework. Update these surfaces with a new coat of paint or stain. Not only will it keep your entire property looking impeccable, it will help protect and extend the life of your fence or latticework. Surface preparation is also key for these projects. After cleaning the surface, remember to replace any broken or failed wood and replace any nails or screws that have failed before you start applying the paint or stain.

Be sure to add a few finishing touches to your lawn to really make it look pulled together. Planter boxes can add color and interest to your curb appeal, and can be re-

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— Courtesy ARA

Investing options in Asia

By Robert Meisner
Guest Columnist

Q: I travel to Asia and spend several months out of the year there. I am wondering if housing costs and/or the cost of living is less expensive in Cambodia than say Hanoi or other parts of Vietnam.

A: Generally speaking, upscale housing is generally more expensive in Cambodia. Every house usually has what is referred to as a "spirit house" separately attached which is designed to keep out the bad spirits and protect the family. The American dollar and English is widely accepted and there is a new high rise condominium under construction now in Phnom Penh. The units will range from \$150k U.S. to close to \$800k for a penthouse unit on the 20th floor or above. Condos in Hanoi generally are much more expensive per square foot in the city but as always, it depends on the location and the amenities.

Q: I hear Thailand offers a great climate for residential investment and/or living. What briefly can you tell me?

A: Bangkok has many condominium high-rises that foreigners can invest in. Of course, the closer to the river, where many of the five star hotels are located, the more expensive is this capital city. Indeed, condominiums are literally twice as expensive here than in Thailand's second largest city, Chiang Mai, which has no public transportation, unlike Bangkok, which has subways and buses. The economy is growing, but real estate is much cheaper than, for example, in Singapore, although the cost of living and currency is favorable to the U.S. dollar. It is best to consult with several different real estate agencies before making a purchase.

Q: I am interested in the residential opportunities for purchase in Seoul, Korea, because our company is planning on building a factory in the area. What do you know about Seoul?

A: Like most major cities in Southeast Asia, Seoul has a number of high rise apartments which they utilize as condominiums in the center or around the center of the city. Again, the cost of land in the center of the city is at a premium and is very expensive. However, Seoul has the opportunity to develop certain underutilized areas with respect to high rises, and new condominium apartments are being built at relatively modest prices. Transportation in Seoul is much better than, by way of example, Vietnam, as there are many more cars, with fewer restrictions in terms of purchasing, as well as the fact that there are at least two major auto manufacturers in South Korea. I would contact an Americanized broker to assist you in the purchase of an apartment near the core of the City.

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 \$5 shipping/handling. Call (248) 644-4433 or visit meisner-law.com. This column should not be construed as legal advice.

HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS/WAYNE

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 15-20, 2012, at the Wayne County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	43090 Ryegate St \$155,000 1937 W Franklin Dr \$69,000 1128 Whittier Dr \$165,000 GARDEN CITY 32673 James St \$84,000 31457 Sheridan St \$19,000 36515 Ann Arbor Trl \$175,000 38160 Ann Arbor Trl \$29,000 11498 Cardwell St \$50,000 29592 Curtis Rd \$130,000 36264 Dover St \$84,000 32827 Fargo St \$13,000 19351 Hillcrest St \$351,000 15455 Merriman Rd \$145,000	37478 N Laurel Park Dr \$111,000 29168 Rayburn St \$65,000 51553 Scone St \$140,000 NORTHVILLE 16795 Country Knoll Dr \$244,000 16065 Pine Valley Dr \$565,000 424 Adams St \$132,000 1676 Cassidy Place Dr \$149,000 304 Pinewood Cir \$62,000 136 S Union St \$317,000 784 York St \$102,000 REDFORD 14213 Breakfast Dr \$125,000 9976 Farley \$24,000	17309 Fox \$25,000 19420 Kinloch \$21,000 20102 Kinloch \$38,000 24645 W Chicago \$19,000 WESTLAND 34205 Arcels Dr \$72,000 8329 Emerald Ln E \$141,000 31510 Fairchild St \$60,000 32132 Glen St \$16,000 32326 Glen St \$53,000 8355 Rickie Ln \$80,000 11325 Carlson St \$100,000 369 S Norma St \$91,000
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HOMES SOLD/REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS-OAKLAND

These are the area residential real estate closings recorded the week of April 2-6, 2012, at the Oakland County Register of Deeds office. Listed below are cities, addresses, and sales prices.	BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP 3390 Burning Bush Rd \$770,000 831 Highwood Dr \$1,875,000 48375 Ardmore Ln \$315,000 4597 Kirtsgate Bnd \$685,000 1580 S Hill Blvd \$65,000 4592 Wagon Wheel Dr \$303,000 2860 Whittier Dr \$320,000 COMMERCER TOWNSHIP 5026 Birkdale Dr \$282,000 1720 Fenwick Dr \$50,000 4110 Forest Edge Dr \$220,000 3109 Ivy Hill Dr \$300,000 634 Grandview Dr \$122,000 1957 Tiley Cir \$155,000 FARMINGTON 2290 E King William Dr \$218,000 26805 E King William Dr \$27,000 27900 Berrywood Ln \$27,000	26262 Dundalk St \$180,000 24482 Martel Dr \$110,000 28490 Orchard Lake Rd \$200,000 28807 W King William Dr \$275,000 22974 Willowbrook Dr \$235,000 FRANKLIN 25675 Denison Rd \$285,000 26415 Scenic Hwy \$160,000 MILFORD 2250 Applewood Ln \$200,000 861 Byron Dr \$128,000 1164 Riverside St \$268,000 WYOMING 11772 Chase Dr \$430,000 29740 English Way \$250,000 22890 Ennishore \$359,000 26392 Fieldstone Dr \$259,000 40562 Lenox Park Dr \$251,000 27869 Middleton Dr \$152,000	47330 Scarlet Dr N \$207,000 21899 Shadybrook Dr \$200,000 1137 South Lake Dr Unit 219 \$42,000 24343 Venice Dr \$236,000 23361 Whitehall Dr \$460,000 SOUTH LYON 335 Gibson St \$105,000 22290 Quail Run Cir \$120,000 26451 Shumans Way \$50,000 255 University Ave \$65,000 SOUTHFIELD 25827 Arrowhead St \$66,000 27461 Sutherland St \$87,000 WHITE LAKE 935 Aglala Dr \$136,000 9694 Cedar Island Rd \$50,000 830 Sunnybeach Blvd \$150,000
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REAL ESTATE BRIEFS

Free foreclosure tours

Free foreclosure tours are 1 p.m. every other Sunday. Meeting place is Panama Road on the southeast corner of Middlebelt and I-96. Email Georgia@addvalue Realty.com or visit FreeForeclosureTours.com.

Finance seminar

Learn how to finance your purchase and rehab projects in and around Detroit. Hear from an expert in the lending business, Trent Dalrymple, who has more than 25 years of experience. Real estate and investment professionals are welcome. Seating is limited, so call (248) 547-3006 or sign up at www.metro-mi.com. These free one-hour seminars will be 6-7 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Metro Mortgage Investments, 26711 Woodward Ave., Suite 301, Huntington Woods.

Seminar on Tuesdays

A free Reverse Mortgage Seminar is 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday at Colonial Mortgage

Corp., 33919 Plymouth Road, Livonia. Learn about reverse mortgages. RSVP with Larry Brady at (800) 260-5484, ext. 33.

Investors

The Real Estate Investors Association of Wayne will have an open forum. Participants will discuss what they have learned. Investors will answer questions and offer a market update. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. each first Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster on Eureka in Southgate. Members are free, guests \$20, which will be applied to their membership. Any questions or concerns, call Wayne Koehler at (313) 277-4168.

Come & learn all about "flipping" notes

This is a seminar about buying financial notes secured by real estate at a discount and re-selling the note for a higher price for a profit. Sponsored by Real

Estate Investors Association of Oakland from 5:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 9, at Club Venetian, John R Road, just north of 12 Mile Road, Madison Heights. Seminar is free to members and \$20 for non-members. Call (800) 747-6742 or visit online at www.REIAofOakland.com.

Shopping for Investment Property

This is Class No. 3 in a series of 10 classes sponsored by Real Estate Investors Association of Oakland. The 3 1/2 hour class will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Royal Oak Senior Center, 3500 Marias, Royal Oak, (north off 13 Mile, between Crooks and Main). The class teaches "What & Where" to buy investment property. Cost is \$49, plus materials.

For more information, email to OREIA@addvalue Realty.com or call (248) 787-7325.

HOMES Real Estate listings including Northville Twp, Mobile Home Rentals, and Rooms For Rent.

OPEN HOUSE Real estate listings for various properties in the area.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL Real estate listings for various business properties.

RENTALS Real estate listings for various rental properties.

APARTMENTS Real estate listings for various apartment complexes.

CONCRETE Real estate listings for various concrete services.

RECYCLE This Newspaper advertisement for recycling services.

Garage/Moving Sales listings for various items and services.

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