

HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIFE AT NOVI LIBRARY, A11

# NOVI NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013 • hometownlife.com

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Five lucky winners will receive a gas card so they can shop some more.

Be sure to look for a story on resale shops and your favorite finds in the August edition of *Hometownlife Woman*.

## Jazz Festival

Schoolcraft's Livonia campus will once again host the Michigan Jazz Festival. Nearly 30 bands will entertain thousands from noon to 9:15 p.m. Sunday, July 21. A variety of soloists and groups will be performing on six different stages.

Workshops will also be conducted for those interested in learning more about this American style of music. Between 5,000 and 6,000 people attend the festival each year. Four of the five stages are indoors. Parking and admission are free, and patrons mix and mingle with other jazz lovers, buy CDs and talk to their favorite performers and enjoy a bite to eat. Information is available at [www.michiganjazzfestival.org](http://www.michiganjazzfestival.org).

## Thousands expected for Rathayatra

By Cal Stone  
Staff Writer

For the fifth year, Novi will host a Festival of Chariots — one of India's most ancient and popular festivals that is celebrated in hundreds of cities throughout the world — on Saturday, July 20.

It'll begin at 11 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center with a colorful, three-mile parade through the city's major streets and culminating at Fuerst Park. There, more than 20 tents will be set up with various forms of entertainment, a free lunch, dancing, yoga, more live music, shopping, cooking demonstrations, activities for children and much more to celebrate India's spirituality and culture.

"The 28th annual Festival of Chariots ... is the most unique and broad reaching festival hitting the streets of Michigan," said Ganesh Kathiresan, media coordinator. "We're expecting over 7,000 people this year."

See RATHAYTRA, Page A2



Piyusha Kalle (center) and Niva Musunoori (right) help to carry the flag announcing the symbolic arrival of the Festival of Chariots to Novi last year. JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## HISTORY

The "Festival of Chariots," known throughout India as the Rathayatra festival, has been celebrated since ancient times as one of the most important yearly events in the Vaishnava-Hindu faith. The festival celebrates Lord Krishna's return to Vrindaban. Every year, over one million people from around the world descend upon Jagannath Puri (India) to celebrate. Huge processions accompany the chariots playing songs with drums, tambourines, and trumpets. Children line the streets through which the chariot will pass and add to the mass chorus. It is also telecast live on many Indian channels and international channels.

The Festival of Chariots was first performed outside of India on July 9, 1957 in San Francisco, under the supervision of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. Srila Prabhupada, as he is more affectionately known, is the founder of the International Society of Krishna Consciousness. Today, the Festival of the Chariots is performed around the world. Detroit held its first event in 1985 and has become one of the largest celebrations outside of India.

## PROVIDENCE PARTIES FOR PARKER

### Hospital's therapist dog turns 7

By Lonnie Huhman  
Staff Writer

An important birthday was celebrated last week at Providence Park Hospital for one of its most valued volunteers — Parker, a black Labrador retriever whose job it is to go around and visit with patients, families and friends.

The therapist dog who makes people smile turned 7. In honor of his work, a birthday party was thrown, and other dogs like him attended. Parker was the first dog brought on by the hospital in 2009, and ever since he has played a big part.

"This was a very forward-thinking idea that was and still is supported by hospital staff," said hospital dog handler Linda Malec. "Parker and the other dogs are really important for us here."

Parker is owned by the hospital and visits every weekday with patients, visi-

See PARKER, Page A2



Handler Kathy O'Brien and Parker the dog greets others at his seventh birthday. LONNIE HUHMANN

## REQUEST A VISIT

Providence's therapist dogs are usually requested to visit an individual or family through a quick phone call or email. Those interested in meeting Parker can email [parker@stjohn.org](mailto:parker@stjohn.org) or call 248-465-5800 and ask for Parker.

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Welcome to third annual Observer & Eccentric Media Christmas in July contest.

Look for the holiday icon (pictured above) on the pages of the July edition of *Hometown Life INSPIRE* in print or online at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and then correctly identify all pages where the icon appears.

Submit an entry form via U.S. Postal Service or Facebook at [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com).

Winners will be selected in a random drawing of all correct entries.

You could win a \$500 gift card (grand prize) to Showroom of Elegance in Canton, a \$100 gift certificate (second place) to the Rugby Grill in the Townsend Hotel in downtown Bir-

mingham, or a \$50 gift card (third place) to Meijer. In addition, up to 10 other winners will receive a pass for two to any area Emagine Theatre. Mail your entry (see the form inside the July *INSPIRE*) to Christmas in July, O&E Media, 41304 Concept Drive, Plymouth, MI 48170 or go to [hometownlife.com](http://hometownlife.com) and see the Facebook information. All entries — mail and online — must be postmarked or submitted by midnight July 31. Good luck finding the holiday icons.

## Sentencing delayed for McCotter staffer

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Sentencing for a former staff member of former Congressman Thaddeus McCotter for her role in the petition scandal that led to the Livonia Republican's resignation has been pushed back a week.

Howell resident Mary Turnbull was expected to be sentenced Tuesday morning before Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Leo Bowman after she pleaded no contest to the charge of conspiracy to commit a legal act in an illegal manner. Her sentencing will now take place at 8:30 a.m. July 16 in Oakland County Circuit Court.



Turnbull

The charge came after several of McCotter's petitions to appear on the 2012 primary ballot looked to have falsified signatures. Several sheets appeared to be photocopies and not valid petitions. The scandal led McCotter to drop out of the race and ultimately resign from Congress. It resulted in a special election last year that cost more than \$650,000 among the former 11th Congressional District communities, including Livonia. McCotter's former seat is now occupied by Kerry Benivolio, a Millford Republican. Turnbull faces up to five

See SENTENCING, Page A2

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# Nash plans regional water quality meeting

By Joanne Maliszewski  
Staff Writer

Just as all roads lead to Rome, all storm water from homes and businesses flows to Oakland County's lakes and streams, and eventually the Great Lakes.

Regionalism is my big issue. Right now, we are just reacting to problems," said Nash, who ousted former longtime Commissioner John McCulloch in the November 2012 election.

Cooperation and partnering is the only answer Nash sees to protect what the state and counties have. Oakland County has 1,400 lakes and serves as the headwaters for five major watersheds in eastern Michigan: Shiawassee, Huron, Rouge, Clinton and Flint.

There were management problems, human resource problems and purchasing issues." Additionally, by separating from a totally Detroit run system, there's great potential for an improved credit rating that would better allow the sale of bonds for improvements.

often in the Clinton Watershed, for example, which has had problems with bacteria and algae. "Everyone has heard of E. coli. It's a signal that shows other bacteria is in the water. It results from some kind of spill somewhere."

said, is also causing concern for water quality. "The new way of drilling is different and very dangerous. There are studies that show the higher risk of cancer after drilling because of leaking into the air. The gases are the most volatile.

## Hands-on

Dylan McMorris, 10, gets a lesson in handling a firehose from Novi firefighter Matt Marken during a July 1 visit to Novi Fire Station 4.



STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Eight Mile project to begin around July 22

The Road Commission for Oakland County expects to begin work on the resurfacing of Eight Mile between Napier and Taft roads on the Novi/Northville Township line and in the City of Northville on approximately July 22.

expected to be completed in November. The section between Napier and Garfield is expected to be completed in 2014.

improvements and sidewalks will be completed between Beck and Taft roads.

but it may be reduced to one lane at times, with traffic directed by flaggers.

On June 25, Novi Police spotted the man driving northbound on Meadowbrook Road and failing to stop. He was pulled over at Malott.

The police had him perform field sobriety tests, during which he reportedly had trouble with his balance. A search by the police turned up a grander with 0.3 grams of marijuana. The man was arrested for OUID.

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# Snyder: Medicaid bill will benefit all

By David Veselenak  
Staff Writer

Gov. Rick Snyder said he believes the proposed Medicaid expansion bill approved by the state House is one that affects more than just low-income residents.

"We're talking about helping Michiganders. We're talking about people with a real need," he said. "We're also talking about ourselves. What's the problem? Today we have a broken system."

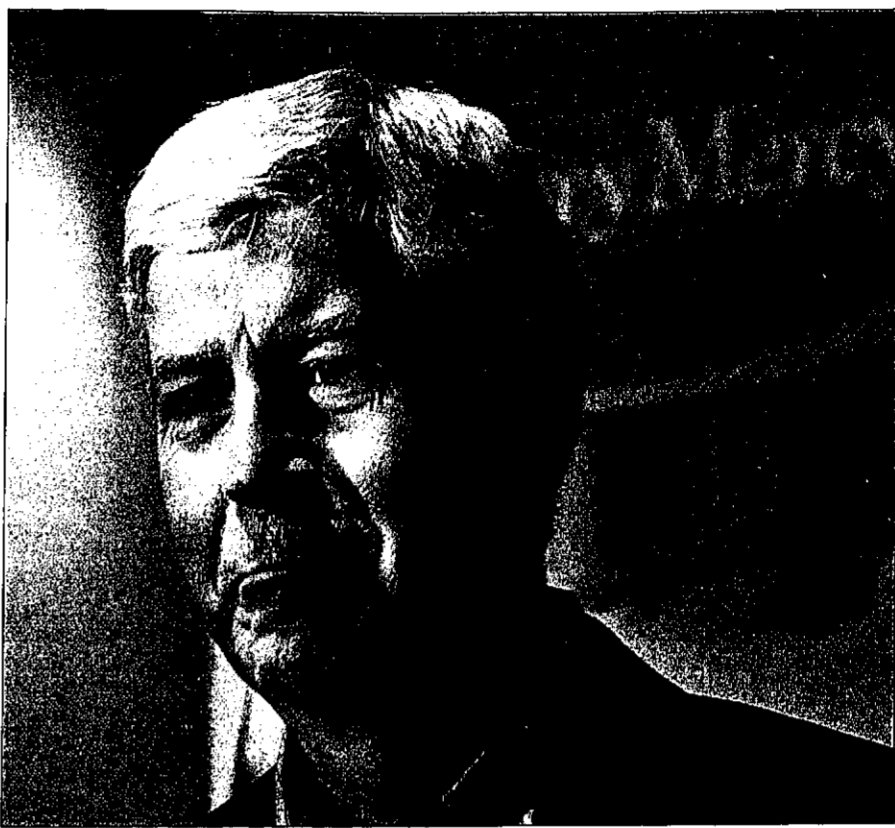
Snyder recently brought his Medicaid expansion talk to Livonia, urging an audience of mostly doctors and nurses to contact their state senators and urge for the expansion of the program.

"This is something that I thought was critical enough to get out on the road and engage the general public," he said. "Too often, we can let a few people dominate a discussion. The issue we have in front of us is we have a problem with politics."

The expansion, part of the Affordable Care Act, allows states to expand Medicaid to residents earning 133 percent of the poverty level starting in 2014. It would provide full federal financing for those eligible for Medicaid starting in 2014 through 2016, and would go down in financing until 2020, when 90 percent of financing will continue from the federal government.

The House approved the expansion last month, 76-31, with both Democrats and Republicans voting "yes." The Senate did not take up the bill before the summer recess, a move Snyder has criticized.

A work group of six senators appointed by Sen. Majority Leader Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, is slated to meet this summer to discuss the legislation. In a release, Richardville said he does not consider the issue dead and plans to review it. The Senate met July 3 but did not vote on the



Gov. Rick Snyder stopped Monday at St. Mary Mercy Hospital to discuss Medicaid expansion legislation. BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"We're talking about helping Michiganders. We're talking about people with a real need. We're also talking about ourselves. What's the problem? Today we have a broken system." GOV. RICK SNYDER

issue. "A comprehensive plan for a healthy Michigan is critical to the well-being of our population and our state," he said. "I look forward to reviewing their suggestions and sharing that information with my fellow legislators, the governor and the speaker (Jase Bolger, R-Marshall)."

Snyder said while he doesn't agree with every aspect of the health care law, more commonly known as "Obamacare," approving the expansion in Michigan is important to help save money for hospitals, doctors and patients. He said many people who cannot afford health care will go to a hospital emergency room, a place that's not equipped well enough to handle people with the common cold or other

treatable ailments. "Does anyone know anyone that likes going to the emergency room? The answer is no," he said. "We like the people that are working there because they're angels, they're taking care of us."

"It's a really important place, but it's not a place for primary care." Dr. Mohammed Arsiwala, medical director at the St. John Providence urgent care in Livonia, said the expansion is something he hears about regularly from patients who come to the urgent care facility. He said approving the legislation would fulfill a need that would cover plenty of people who can't afford pricey medical care.

They are always going to have this huge, dark cloud over

"Medicaid expansion is really about three things in the state: to expand access to over

400,000 Michigan residents, to slow increase in health care premiums for employers, as well as to really steward our state resources and our tax dollars," he said. Arsiwala said the hope is that the cost of health premiums will go down, along with a decreased number of ER visits. With less being spent on ER visits by people who cannot afford them, he said a greater balance of care could be achieved. "You have to give lower cost and higher quality care," Arsiwala said. "With greater coordination of care between the specialties, between the primary care doctors, between the hospital system. This is coming, whether you like it or you don't like it."

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**SPORTS**

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Members of the Novi High School varsity cross country team take off from the school's 10 Mile parking lot on July 8 for a training run.

**Milford's Kettle top track athlete**

By Jeff Theisen  
Staff Writer

Milford distance runner Brian Kettle continues to pile up the medals, adding a pair of All-State performances to his list in 2013.

The junior finished third in the 1,600 meters after also finishing third earlier in the day as part of the 4x800 relay for the Mavericks.

Kettle is the 2013 All-Area Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Kettle showed amazing flexibility at the regional meet by qualifying for state as part of the 4x400 relay, the 4x800 relay, the 1,600 and the 800. He ran in all but the 4x400 at state. He was a regional champ in the 4x800 and the 1,600. Kettle holds the school record in the mile at 4:11.8 and has run a 9:17.5 in the 3,200.

After the high school season was completed, he went to nationals in North Carolina and helped the 4xMile team from Milford earn a National Championship and another top-four finish in the distance medley relay.

"Brian continues to build his resume as one of the best athletes to grace the halls of Milford High School. He is the ultimate competitor and races with great pride and determination," said coach David Gilbert.

**FIRST TEAM**

**Cody Snavely, Milford**

The senior Maverick finished his high school career with a pair of All-State performances, placing third as part of the 4x800 and sixth in the 1,600. Snavely was KLAA

See ALL-AREA, Page B2



Milford's Brian Kettle is the 2013 All-Area Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

HAL GOULD | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**They keep going and going and going**

Local runners put in mileage during summer preparations

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

Since pretty much the first day that school let out around Northville and Novi, there have been high school student athletes racking up the mileage. No, we're not talking about road trips, but rather long-distance runs. The girls and boys cross country athletes at Northville, Novi and Detroit Catholic Central have been training to help keep their teams some of the most competitive in the state.

For each athlete, the amount of training and miles varies, but longtime Novi coach Robert Smith said the actual summer routine typically comes down to a variety of summer factors. "Summer training is based upon experience, ability and motivation. Mostly motivation," he said. "It is my hope that the athletes run five days per week during the summer months. A solid base run of five miles is good for this time of the season."

Nancy Smith, who coaches the very competitive Northville girls cross country team, said her squad's summer workouts vary by athlete.

"Some athletes will do zero and some will do up to 300-plus miles, which they track themselves," she said. "I like them to condition at least five days a week, but it is not mandatory. We also do strength conditioning two times per week with Total Performance that (Northville athletic director Bryan) Masi has arranged for all teams that were interested."

Some athletes find ways outside of weight lifting and typical conditioning



Novi High cross country runner Trevor Malarkey takes a sip of water before heading out on a July 8 morning run with his teammates. The varsity team runs throughout the summer, so keeping hydrated is important. PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

to stay on top of their game. With the numerous road races throughout the region during the summer months, it's easy to find a place to run competitively nearly every weekend.

That, however, can work both in favor and against an athlete, said Robert Smith.

"I don't encourage summer races, but I don't discourage them either," he said. "It is a double-edged sword. Some athletes get discouraged because they cannot run as fast as they did last fall during our season. Others use the races as a motivation to get better. For the top guys, I hope they use it as a reality check—that they cannot just expect to be as good as last year."

Nancy Smith agreed about the summer 5Ks and other races. She said she

likes to hear of her athletes running one now and again, but doesn't want it to become a habit that can hurt their fall seasons.

"I do like to see them do a 5K here and there but do not like them to race every weekend as I feel this would cause them to peak too early in the season," she said.

**Keeping competitive in the KLAA**

Both coaches indicated that summer conditioning has become a required practice for teams looking to stay competitive in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association. The league, which is a powerhouse in the

See RUNNERS, Page B4

**Summer workouts in full swing for gridders**



Novi football players go through a yoga routine as they work core muscles during summer workouts.

Novi, Northville and CC all seeing strong turnouts

By Sam Eggleston  
Correspondent

You wouldn't know it if you traveled around to the local high schools last week, but the summer workout schedules for the area's football teams are in full swing—and the numbers are pretty impressive.

Last week, however, all the teams are recognizing a "dead week" mandated by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. Starting again Monday,

however, the football teams at Northville, Novi and Detroit Catholic Central were working hard once again.

"We've had a tremendous turnout this year for our off-season weight training, which actually has been going for us on a volunteer basis since January," said Shamrock's assistant coach Michael Mach. "Things have really cranked up since spring sports ended and summer break began. On any night, Monday to Thursday, one can drop by our weight room and see 125 to 150 of our kids—seniors to freshmen—working as one. It's a

very impressive sight, to see the kind of work ethic and commitment our kids are putting forth."

When it comes to high school athletics, the days of just showing up on the first day of practice and expecting to compete are long gone. Teams are expected to bring their "midseason" form into the first game of the year, and that requires conditioning throughout the summer. Of course, none of the workouts can be mandatory, but the turnouts are usually impres-

See WORKOUTS, Page B4

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## Uncovering the benefits of a bad job

Robert Half International

A bad job can be the result of a range of issues. Perhaps it's a lack of growth opportunities for a sales coordinator who's held the same role for four years. Or maybe it's a work/life imbalance for an executive assistant who spends late nights at the office and still has to catch up on projects at home.

We've all had a bad job at some point along the way. If your list of cons is longer than your list of pros, don't fret. There are tactics you can employ to tip the scales back in your favor.

Here are five ways to find the upside no matter how bad a job may seem.

### 1. Connect with new people

The biggest asset at your disposal may be the people you work with. Expanding your circle to cross-departmental colleagues can bring about unexpected benefits.

For one, they might become sources of support and friendship, helping to improve your job satisfaction. Further, they may be able to expose you to new projects or areas of the company that could hold some appeal.

So be a part of the office dynamic. This makes it easier to reach out to an extended group of people. Take part in hallway

chats, attend birthday events and bring a casserole to the monthly potluck or the summer picnic. When new people join the company, welcome them and express your interest in learning from each other.

Remember not to mention your discontent. You're not looking for others to gripe with. Simply focus on areas of interest. Any shared experiences or knowledge can open up a useful conversation. Follow up later via email and build a continued dialogue over time.

**Bonus tip:** In addition to peers, consider connecting with managers and even executives. You can still look upward when networking internally.

### 2. Tap your potential

Ask for projects that allow you to stretch your abilities and develop new skills. You may find that you enjoy whatever it is you begin working on and that your dissatisfaction is not so much with the company but with your current duties. An added benefit: You also can include action verbs, such as "managed," "mentored" or "developed," on your résumé.

**Bonus tip:** Ask your supervisors how you're doing with a new assignment. If you get words of appreciation, thank them and keep any glowing emails or reviews for your records. You can use these as a résumé addendum or for your



cover letter.

### 3. Investigate your industry

One thing a bad job can still help you do: explore your industry in greater depth. Many companies pay for memberships to industry associations and conferences, making it easier—and more affordable—to interact with your peers. By doing so, you can bring added value to your job, expand your professional network and potentially learn about future career paths.

You may even realize you're not as passionate about your profession as you once were. Instead of pinning your discontent on your current job, it may be the business that's not working for you. Sometimes it's hard to tell.

**Bonus tip:** Consider not just attending but speaking at an industry event. It's easier to get accepted as a speaker while employed, and being a featured presenter can boost your credentials in the eyes of future employers.

### 4. Propose process improvement

Your job dissatisfaction may be the result of barriers to efficiency in your office, such as a complicated approval process that drains your excitement for a project as it drags on. Rather than complain, suggest systems or processes that will alleviate pain points. Chances are you're not the only one who is frustrated.

You'll earn the goodwill of colleagues, and these individuals could serve as future references. Also keep in mind that spearheading these types of improvements is résumé gold.

**Bonus tip:** Create a proposal for your boss that clearly outlines the benefits of any changes you suggest. For example, "If we remove this review step, we can save a week in producing the financial report. Here's why that step is redundant."

### 5. Examine your career path

It's important to assess what you want—and what you don't want—for your future job to avoid landing in another unsatisfying position. And it's easier to reflect on your career path while employed; for one thing, you won't have the added financial stress.

Focus on targeting employers and roles that can offer you what you're looking for. This research phase can take time, so dig in now.

**Bonus tip:** Sign up with a staffing firm. A specialized recruiter can do much of the heavy lifting in a job search. These professionals are able to identify opportunities that might interest you and approach companies, confidentially, on your behalf. You don't have to make a move until you're ready.

Use the above tips to remain positive and productive when you're stuck in a bad job. Even if you can't leave at the moment, there are ways to stay motivated and find the right fit eventually.

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