

NOVI NEWS

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013 • hometownlife.com

Outdoor movie night

Novi Town Center will tonight be hosting a free outdoor movie — the popular Dreamworks animated “Madagascar 3” near the clock tower fountain area. Seating open at 7 p.m., the movie starts at dusk. Free popcorn will be served with beverages available for sale.

Your best resale find

Tell us in 25 words or less (include a photo, too) about the best bargain or simply your favorite purchase at a resale shop. Send your email to rosiek@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include what you bought (name of shop) and where (include a community location) and why you believe it is the best. Five lucky winners will receive a gas card so they can shop some more.

Graduation

O&E Media photographers took hundreds of high school graduation photos over the last few weeks, including Novi and Catholic Central. Browse the graduation galleries on our website — www.hometownlife.com — and you just might find an image you want to add to the family album. Every graduation photo is for sale, and purchasing one is as easy as clicking on the yellow “buy photo” button above each image...

Couple found dead in home

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

Two bodies believed to be an adult male and female were found inside a home on Porter Street in Novi Tuesday morning. “The preliminary evidence at the scene suggests an apparent murder/suicide,” said David Molloy, Novi’s director of public safety/chief of police. At 11:23 a.m., a welfare request was made by an attorney’s office when one of the residents did not show for a scheduled court hearing. Uniform officers

responded to the residence, located on the northwest corner of Taft and Nine Mile roads, to check on the family.

Officers entered the home with the assistance of a family member who was present at the home. Once inside, they discovered an apparent crime scene with two deceased bodies believed to be residents of the home.

Molly said the approximate ages of victims are 55 for the female and 59 for the male.



Two deceased bodies were found in this home on Porter Street in Novi this morning.

See COUPLE, Page A2

Every Wednesday



Susan Thomson makes a purchase from Dean Tatu and VanHoutte Farms during Walled Lake’s Farmers Market. The market takes place on West Maple Road, about a half mile west of Pontiac Trail, every Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October. About a dozen vendors are there every week, rain or shine, with loads of produce, flowers, baked goods and crafts for sale. JOHN HEDDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dorsch sends racist email

Mayoral hopeful makes comments following Zimmerman’s verdict of not guilty

By Cal Stone
Staff Writer

George Zimmerman’s not-guilty verdict Saturday in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin caused mixed reactions throughout the nation, but one of the most alarming came from a Novi mayoral candidate.

Shortly after 3 a.m. Sunday, Novi’s seven City Council members and the city’s communications director received the following email (emails in this article are verbatim): “After the George Zimmerman verdict, I don’t want them fixing my road or anything else, understand?”



Dorsch

The message, sent via postmaster@noviweb.com on the city’s website (www.cityofnovi.org), indicated it was sent by Jason G.W. Dorsch, a resident of Novi since 1987 and a candidate for mayor in the upcoming November election.

Dorsch was contacted by phone Monday by the *Novi News*, but said he didn’t know anything about the email. When asked if it could be forwarded to him to read and then call back and respond, he agreed.

He did not phone back, but within an hour sent the following email to the *Novi News*:

“In response to your email,

This message was rude and irresponsible, but I wasn’t the one who took a bid from a contractor that used illegal Hispanic laborers to repair a subdivision road in Novi last year.

True irresponsibly takes place when people are not able to take responsibility for their past or future mistakes.

I have no further comments about this matter. Stay golden Stone!”

The *Novi News* requested

See COMMENTS, Page A2

Robberies linked to Gladwin man

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff Writer

A 23-year-old Gladwin resident faces armed robbery charges in connection with an armed robbery of a CVS store on Nine Mile at Haggerty early July 9, as well as similar robberies in Novi and South Lyon.

Farmington Hills police arrested Jared Douglas Spencer, who had been charged with loitering in Wixom, after a video photo of the man was sent to area police departments, said Police Chief Chuck Nebus. “A Wixom officer who was

very alert said he thought the individual in the photo we sent looked like the individual arrested for loitering near a Cash America store,” Nebus said.

The man was later connected to the robbery of a 7-Eleven store in Novi and a CVS in South Lyon, Nebus said.

In the Farmington Hills case, Spencer is accused of entering the CVS store at about 5:30 a.m. July 9 and after asking the employee for several different brands of cigarettes,

he demanded the money from the register. He fled from the store with several cartons of cigarettes and cash, according

to police.

Spencer has been charged by the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office with one count of armed robbery in the city of Farmington Hills (a felony punishable by

life or any number of years imprisonment), one count of unarmed robbery in the city of Novi, one count of unarmed robbery in Lyon Township (both felonies punishable by up to 15 years imprisonment), and one count of carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent.

Spencer was arraigned in the three jurisdictions July 10 in 52-1 District Court in Novi. He was to appear in the same court at 9 a.m. July 17 for a pre-exam.



Jared Douglas Spencer

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Crawford enters race for husband's Lansing seat

Novi's county commissioner seeks 38th District office

Kathy Crawford currently holds the Oakland County Commission seat for her husband once he dies, and now she's looking to succeed him as state representative in Lansing.

Novi, Novi Township, Walled Lake, South Lyon, Lyon Township and part of Northville is represented by Republican Hugh Crawford, Kathy's husband. Because of Michigan's term-limit law, he will complete his third and final two-year term on Dec. 31, 2014.

"The 38th District seat is an opportunity for me to expand my knowledge

and experience, so I can influence public policies, statewide, to help the local citizens who have been so loyal to me," she said.

The couple are both lifelong Novi residents. After more than 30 years of public service in the Field of Aging for both Oakland County and the City of Novi, Kathy launched her political career six years ago when she was elected to the Novi City Council. After serving three years, she was elected in



Crawford

2010 to her current position as Oakland County Commissioner, representing the Novi community.

She said over the years, she has demonstrated what her constituents expect from a public servant. "I'm a hard-working, grassroots ambassador for our growing communities," she said. "Voters deserve the type of independent, critical thinking that I bring to all issues."

Based on demographic shifts in the 38th District, she wants to spearhead a comprehensive master plan in Lansing for all older adults over 50 years of age. She believes an all-inclusive strategy is needed to ensure our state offers the proper programs and services for this growing group.

"We need to be smarter about planning for the future for this large group of older adults who stay here and spend huge amounts of disposable income in our local areas," Kathy said. "That's what helps to keep Michigan's economy stable - and strong."

Kathy and Hugh have been married for 49 years, and they have three grown children and two grandchildren.

For more information about her bid for state representative, visit www.kcrawford.org, or email her at kathy@kcrawford.org.

Two drunken driving, third offense

A Redford woman was arrested for her third drunken driving offense after being stopped by Novi Police for driving with no headlights on after dark and going 80 in a 45 mph speed zone. On July 7, police spotted her on Novi Road speeding and pulled her over

near Main Street. She hopped the curb while stopping. Police reported observing her putting a plastic bag inside her purse as they approached the vehicle. It was also reported she smelled of intoxicants and was slurring her speech. After stumbling out of the car, she had difficulty with the field sobriety tests. Her blood-alcohol content registered .143 per-

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

cent. A search of the vehicle turned up a marijuana joint and Zanax pills that did not have a prescription. There was no vehicle forfeiture because it did not belong to her.

A man passed out at the wheel in the middle of the roadway at Riddle Creek and Glen Ridge Court on July 7. Novi Police found the man's Nissan in park with him sleeping in it while it was still running with the lights on and still in the road. Police reported smelling intoxicants; the man refused to take a breathalyzer test and was arrested for OWI. Police obtained a search warrant to take blood from him, which they did at Providence Park. The case is pending.

Vehicles keyed

While parked on Chipmunk Trail, a Chevy Prizm was keyed by an unknown suspect. Novi Police reported there was long, continuous scratch along the car. The report was told to police on July 5, but the incident happened sometime on June 22-23.

A second incident of a vehicle being damaged

happened on Montana Avenue on July 5-6. A GMC Sonata was keyed while it was parked in front of the owner's home. There was a 12-to-18-inch long scratch along the truck that was estimated to cost \$1,000 for repair. There are no suspects.

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COMMENTS

Continued from Page A1

a follow-up interview, but Dorsch has not replied.

The 31-year-old owns Sky Net Technology, a computer/tech firm in Novi. He is running for mayor against incumbent Bob Gatt and Realtor Joseph Samona for the two-year seat.

Dave Staudt, mayor pro tem, forwarded Dorsch's initial email to the Novi News.

"Mr. Dorsch's comments in a message to City Council members are racist and irresponsible," Staudt said. "His views do not reflect those of our very diverse community. I call for him to immediately

COUPLE

Continued from Page A1

withdraw as a candidate for Novi mayor."

Dorsch sent an email to Staudt, again, shortly after 3 a.m. Tuesday.

"If you would like, I could talk to the Novi News about the sexual assault that took place between me and the novi police. Is that what your trying to hide? I was raped by a Novi cop and if your trying to hide the facts, good luck."

David Molloy, Novi's director of public safety/chief of police, said, "I have no clue what Dorsch is referring to."

Staudt said Dorsch has sent similar emails in the past "that we have not responded to."

dstone@hometownlife.com
248-437-2011, ext. 237

Delay: Fifth Avenue reopening hits a snag

By Lonnie Huhman Staff Writer

The reopening of the Fifth Avenue Club and Restaurant has hit a rough spot that could prevent it from happening sooner rather than later.

The Novi City Council voted to pass a resolution to rescind the city's Oct. 8, 2012, liquor license to Grace Sharing Club, LLC (dba Fifth Avenue Club and Restaurant), given the failure of the applicant to take steps to secure occupancy permits and issuance of such license by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

However, there is a stipulation. According to Assistant City Manager Victor Cardenas, the licensor, Grace Sharing Club, LLC, has until Aug. 7 to secure an occupancy permit.

"The 30-day window is one final period of time in which the applicant may make all reasonable efforts to secure (1) all necessary building permits to allow occupancy of the building and, (2) completion of such improvements and issuance of a certificate of occupancy," Cardenas said.

"By passing the resolution last Monday," he continued, "the City Council officially requested that the Michigan Liquor Control Commission does not issue the requested license unless that certificate of occupancy can be obtained."

The decision was approved by a 6-0 vote as part of the consent agenda, and no comments were made by the council on its passing.

The sole owner of Grace Sharing Club, LLC is Kwang Hsung J.



The owner of Fifth Avenue in Novi has failed to secure an occupancy permit. JOHN HEIDER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

ordinance. Cardenas said city staff has been in contact with owners and have sent several correspondences for the past few months.

According to Novi's Community Development Director Charles Boulard, the current status is as follows: as of July 15 the county Environmental Health Department had received revised drawings/information and they were under review. The revised drawings for building, electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits are also under review and are likely to be approved; permits could then be issued when OCH approval is granted. However, Novi has not yet been provided with an update on the schedule for repair of the required elevators.

The Novi News could not reach the owner.

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Consulting with Dr. Shields, doing the in-depth health analysis, and submitting blood work for his requested profiles revealed I have Hashimoto's thyroiditis on top of significant food allergies. Discovering for the first time there was a biological and chemical basis for my "normalcy" was incredibly relieving. Following the program's schedule of supplements and diet not only had me avoiding foods that were attacking me, the result has been a rebalancing of my systems and the feeling for the first time in my life that I was in control of my health.

— Chris Chalmers

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Ex-priest from Novi to plead guilty in child porn case

By Tresa Baldas
Detroit Free Press Staff Writer

An ex-Catholic priest who years ago was removed from public ministry for alleged sexual misconduct with a boy is scheduled to plead guilty this month to child pornography charges, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office and a court filing.

Timothy Murray, 63, a former pastor of St. Edith parish in Livonia, is to enter his plea July 24 before U.S. District Judge Victoria Roberts, according to a filing in Detroit federal court July 9. It's not clear what charges he will plead guilty to.

According to court documents, a 2012 child pornography investigation

led Department of Homeland Security agents to Murray's Novi home, where they discovered a stash of sexually explicit videos of boys ages 6-16.

Murray, who was home during the December search, volunteered to go to the police station, where he made several admissions, the documents show.

■ He downloaded child pornography off the Internet and had roughly 500 images and videos.

■ He views child pornography weekly and child pornography helps him masturbate.

■ He prefers 13-year-old males.

■ He was removed from the ministry of the Archdiocese of Detroit in 2004 because he had sexual

contact with a minor: He touched a 13-year-old boy's genitalia in the child's bedroom about 30 years ago.

According to court records, Murray was never criminally charged over the earlier incident. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office declined to investigate the claims because the statute of limitations had expired, an archdiocese spokesman said in 2004. The Archdiocesan Review Board, which received the complaint, commissioned an investigation, put him on leave and eventually removed him from the ministry.

Murray was ordained in 1977. He served at St. Dorothy in Warren, St. Veronica in Eastpointe, St.

Linus in Dearborn Heights, St. Raphael in Garden City and St. Martin de Porres in Warren before becoming pastor of St. Edith in 2000.

In 2004, when the misconduct allegation surfaced against Murray, a letter from the archdiocese was read to parishioners at St. Edith, telling them that Murray had been placed on administrative leave. "I think it was a little shock and probably a lot of sadness," youth minister Colleen Misak said at the time.

Murray is free on bond. Neither he nor his lawyer were readily available for comment.

Contact Tresa Baldas: 313-223-4296 or tbaldas@freepress.com

Sentencing again delayed in petition scandal

By Darrell Clem
Staff Writer

A computer-savvy Canton resident has issued a warning to consumers after he received repeated telephone calls he attributed to a bogus technical support scam.

The resident, a consultant who has spent decades in the computer industry, didn't want his name used because he was afraid it might trigger more scams directed at him.

But he said he knew better when a caller, without disclosing a company name, called him and advised him that his home computer wasn't receiving the updates it needed from a server.

He was well aware that sophisticated criminals use such tactics hoping to obtain personal information they can use to hack into a computer or gain remote access to it.

"I've heard about this scam before and I wasn't about to bite," he said. "I always do updates on my computer by hand, so I know what's going into my machine. I just hung up."

After receiving repeated phone calls, the man has issued a warning for others who may be vulnerable to criminals who initiate phone calls and pose as technical support employees.

His advice: "Hang up."

Computer expert warns of scam

"Hackers are always looking for ways to get your information. Don't provide them with information. Don't begin to follow their directions."

CANTON RESIDENT

If calls persist, he said, ask which company the caller is representing and try to get as much information as possible in case bank accounts and other personal information are compromised.

"Hackers are always looking for ways to get your information," he said, adding later, "Don't provide them with information. Don't begin to follow their directions."

According to a Microsoft website, cyber criminals don't just prey on computer users through email messages and fake websites. They sometimes call, claim they are from Microsoft or other companies and offer to help solve or computer problems or sell software.

Once access to a computer is gained, according to Microsoft, criminals can:

- Trick computer users into installing malicious software to capture sensitive data, such as online banking user names and passwords. They might also charge to remove the software.
- Take control of a computer remotely, adjust settings and leave the computer vulnerable.
- Request credit card information and bill for phony services.
- Direct computer users to fraudulent websites and ask that personal information be given there.
- According to the Microsoft website, neither the company nor its partners make unsolicited phone calls to charge for computer security or software fixes.

Like the Canton man, Microsoft warns against trusting unsolicited phone calls or providing personal information. Moreover, the company suggests never giving control of a computer over to a third party unless it can be confirmed the person is a legitimate representative of a computer support team.

Microsoft also suggests taking the caller's information and reporting it immediately to local authorities. And never provide credit card or other financial information to a caller claiming to be from Microsoft tech support.

dclcm@hometownlife.com

Wixom adds Hummer to fire department fleet

The City of Wixom Fire Department is the recipient of an HMMWV vehicle as part of the 1033 Federal Surplus Program, which provides military surplus equipment to public safety agencies through the Law Enforcement Surplus Office (LESO).

The vehicle will be used for off-road specialty calls for service, such as search and rescue operations in addition to brush and grass fires.

Time, material and equipment to retrofit the vehicle (including engineering, paint and graphics, water pump and tank, hoses, and emergency lights) were donated by area businesses: Ceradyne, Inc., Blades Tool, Midwest Thermal, Wixom Towing, Cadillac of Novi, Whelen Engineering, Apollo Fire

Equipment, Warn Industries, Inc., Highlander Graphics, and Varsity Lincoln. The Humvee will be on display at the Wixom Hot Blues & BBQ event on July 18.

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Novi adopts revised Hazardous Mitigation Plan

By Lonnie Huhman
Staff Writer

The City of Novi adopted a revised Oakland County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which now addresses natural and man-made hazards that can threaten life and health in the community.

"These hazards can impact the quality of life, property, the environment, and infrastructure," said Ray Garbarino, HMP Emergency Management coordinator, in a memo to the Novi City Council. "The HMP provides strategies that minimize the impact of these hazards by committing to a multi-step program, including defining the problem, identifying

The HMP was originally prepared in 2005 and adopted by Novi in 2006.

During the original planning, some of the hazards specific to Novi were identified in 2005 as the following: the potential of an accident involving the release of hazardous chemical and materials, Tornadoes and the vulnerability of manufactured home communities, thunderstorms and resulting power outages, vehicle accidents on Novi Road, I-96, M-5 and I-275, potential for structural fire at one of the senior citizen facilities, gas line ruptures at construction sites and the need to upgrade communication equipment.

By adopting this plan Novi maintains its eligibility for FEMA hazard mitigation grant funding.

See HAZARDOUS, Page A9

HAZARDOUS
Continued from Page A8

used by police and fire departments.

Mitigation strategies were also recommended for the City of Novi in 2005.

One is to provide additional hazmat training and equipment for the public safety departments. This is an ongoing thing, but the Public Safety Department said participation in MABAS and Western Wayne County Hazmat Team has

reduced risk. Another is increasing public awareness of the dangers of tornadoes, which was helped greatly with the installation of severe weather sirens giving Novi adequate siren coverage.

The mitigation strategies for 2012 include the following: additional training to address the potential civil disturbance/terrorist target at the 12 Oaks shopping mall.

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March for Meals campaign's success recognized

Western Oakland Meals on Wheels has been awarded the National Silver Medal from the Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) in recognition of the success of its 2013 March for Meals campaign.

The event included the Annual March for Meals Breakfast, held at the Novi Senior Center in honor of all the volunteers who give their time and smiles to make sure "No Senior Goes Hungry."

Volunteers were met and honored by a very supportive group of Novi officials: Mayor Bob Gatt, City Manager Clay Pearson, Director of Parks and Recreation Jason Magnus and Director of the Novi Senior Center Rachel Zagaroli. The Novi leadership was joined by Mayor Todd Wallace of South Lyon, Supervisor Tom Zoner of Commerce Township, Mayor Greg Baroni of Highland Township and Oakland County Commissioner Kathy Crawford. The Meals on Wheels volunteers were presented with gift bags filled with goodies from generous local merchants such as McPherson Oil Mobil, Deneveth's Nursery and Becharas' Coffee to name a few.

"We really wanted to pay tribute to our volunteers after another tough year in Michigan. They did not let fluctuating gas prices or an unstable economy stop them," said Margaret Davey, executive director. "And as always, we have received a positive response from our community and community leaders, which makes all the work that goes into this annual campaign worth it."



Pre-Fourth party

Entertainer Sheryl Suknic entertains a July 2 gathering at the Novi Senior Center for a pre-Fourth of July celebration of America, complete with harp and guitar music and lots of singing along. JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gebhardt to lead SEMCOG for 2013-14

A trustee of Schoolcraft College has been elected 2013-14 chair of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. Joan Gebhardt, the college board's treasurer, was elected to lead the organization at SEMCOG's annual General Assembly meeting June 20. She is the first chair representing community colleges in the 45-year history of the organization.

In accepting the position, Gebhardt said she is honored to be first chair of SEMCOG from a community college and "proud of the ground I am breaking."

Gebhardt added that she feels "very fortunate" that educational institutions — community colleges, intermediate schools, district, universi-



Gebhardt

ties — are a part of the membership of SEMCOG. "I commend the SEMCOG founders who had the foresight to recognize the importance of the education community and include educational units in our organization," she said. "It was important when SEMCOG was founded in 1968... it's even more relevant today."

Gebhardt was appointed to the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees to fill a vacancy in January 2007. She went on to win the seat in her own right the following May.

Since 2007, she has been an active and supportive member of SEMCOG and was elected vice chair in 2009. She has served on the Education Bloc, Transportation Improvement Program Development Committee and Membership and Legislative Task Forces.

Also elected SEMCOG officers were:

- » Kathy D. Vosburg, a Macomb County commissioner, as first vice chair. She will become the chair in 2014-15.
- » Robert Clark, mayor of Monroe, vice chair.
- » Rodrick Green, Superior Township trustee, vice chair.
- » Jeffrey Jenks, Huntington Wood commissioner, vice chair.
- » Phil LaJoy, Canton Township supervisor, vice chair.
- » Michael Sedlak, Green Oak Township clerk, immediate past chair.



Suite Dreams

Hard to top their fundraisers, but the Suite Dreams Project keeps getting bigger and better. Hats Off to them for 12 years of brightening the homes and bedrooms of sick children and area hospitals as well. Ladies brought out their best chapeaus at Meadow Brook Hall for another successful year at Suite Dreams and their popular Hats Off Luncheon. Shown (l to r) are Michelle Dillon of Plymouth, Karen Fox of Northville and Nicole Beaudoin of Novi.

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OPINION

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

OUR VIEWS

10-percent fund balance

Novi school administrators take lead with 1-percent pay cut

For others to follow, one must lead. Often, that can be painful, but the top administrators for Novi Community Schools realize that you can't ask someone to do something you're not willing to do yourself.

Several weeks ago, superintendent Steve Matthews and his cabinet — Carol Diglio, human resources; RJ Weber, academics; and Steve Barr, business — all volunteered to take a 1-percent pay cut that took effect in their most recent paychecks.

Why? Let's start by looking back two years ago when the state reduced by \$470 the per pupil funding amount. It was taking money historically earmarked for K-12 schools and giving it to colleges and universities. While those institutions, continue to give raises to employee groups, the Novi district has not. Being a public school district, Novi obviously cannot raise revenue through tuition like colleges

and universities can and have done. And it's anyone's guess how long this trend will continue as the state struggles endlessly with rising retirement costs and figuring out how to manage those.

Given the above, it's worth noting that the Novi district has a 10-percent fund balance. Simply put, its budget for the year is \$69 million and there is \$7 million extra in the bank.

Because Michigan distributes state aid payments to districts Oct. 20 to Aug. 20 (but not in September), a 10-percent fund balance means the district does not have to borrow money, and it allows Novi to manage its cash flow throughout the year. And that's something the district has been able to do very well, better than most districts, in fact.

So, why would these four administrators take a pay cut if there's that much rainy-day money available?

Because the school board's goal is to keep that fund balance at 10-percent, and one way to do that — without cutting programs and staff — is for everyone on payroll to take a 1-percent pay cut.

The district's secretarial group, for the first time ever, accepted the 1-percent pay cut and the food services group is still in the process of negotiating its compensation. The secretarial group has the ability to receive part or all of that cut back if enrollment grows beyond budget projections.

Both groups also opted for a different health plan that will cost those employees more while saving the district money — \$40,000 per year in the case of the 15 food services group employees who take the insurance. Those employees' premium sharing will decrease in exchange for higher deductibles and co-pays.

The district has met several times with the teachers group and will do so again later this month.

Some might say a 10-percent fund balance is too much, and that a portion of that money should be given back to employees who have made concessions. Others might argue the opposite, and say that one can't have enough in for a rainy day.

Regardless, if the board is asking the food services group to take a 1-percent cut — then any thoughts to privatize that group should be off limits for the length of the new contract.

Novi's school board and administrators continue to try and manage the district's finances well, and a budget built on the assumption of a 10-percent cut is a method employees appear to be willing to consider.

It's not pleasant, but as Dr. Matthews points out, it's "certainly manageable given our current economic reality."

GUEST COLUMN

Free market: Best health-care solution

There is a great debate in Michigan and in other states around the nation on the topic of Medicaid expansion.

Like most of you reading this, I desire to find ways of providing access to quality, affordable health care for more Americans. But I wonder, is expanding Medicaid the best way to do this? What if you could provide access to affordable quality care to more individuals without expanding Medicaid? After extensive research, I have come to see that there are other, more sound options.



Patrick Colbeck

Rising health care costs is a serious issue. And costs are increasing in most areas of health care, but not all. Where are costs not increasing and what can we learn from this? Look no further than free-market healthcare segments such as laser eye surgery or plastic surgery.

Medicaid, on the other hand, joins the long list of government services that do not promote quality. Due to the poor Medicaid reimbursement rates for services, many physicians try to control costs by capping the number of Medicaid patients they serve. As more and more doctors begin refusing Medicaid recipients to avoid going out of business, where will these people go to be treated?

The Affordable Care Act seeks to control costs by increasing the premiums for everyone and then providing

subsidies, tax breaks or outright waivers to special segments of society. For example, employers with 25 or fewer employees will receive up to 40-percent subsidies on their health care costs. I suppose this is to hold them harmless in light of the projected premium cost increases of 30- to 60-percent in our state. This is not "cost control." It is simply "control."

When you boil down the options available to us when it comes to health care systems, there are three basic choices: federal control, state control or individual control. The governor's proposal to implement Obamacare by expanding Medicaid and utilizing a state-operated exchange is an example of federal control.

An excellent example of a state-controlled option is Sen. Bruce Caswell's bill SB 422, which would likely not require any waivers from existing federal law nor would it rely upon additional federal funds. As a third option, I have been pursuing a Michigan health care system that prioritizes individual control and the free market.

This third option starts with the observation that the proposal pursued by the governor called for two waivers by the federal government. If waivers are on the table for discussion, I would like to propose two alternative waivers that get to the heart of why I believe the Affordable Care Act is neither "affordable" nor "caring."

The first is to Obamacare's "minimum essential benefit" mandate, the primary driver behind the obscene jumps in health care premiums our

citizens will see in October as open enrollment begins on the government-run health exchange. Many people would simply like catastrophic insurance rather than all of the bells and whistles found in the minimum essential benefit laundry list.

The second of these waivers would be to allow government assistance eligibility information to be provided via one or more private exchanges rather than a single government-created exchange. Limit the government involvement to its current role of determining eligibility for government assistance. Let the private sector provide a framework where competition thrives in a consumer-friendly environment and people have more choice over what type of insurance they think is right for themselves and their families.

These waivers would put Michigan on a path to lower health care costs and expanded access to health care that would not only improve the health and well-being of our citizens, but would also improve our competitiveness with other states for jobs.

This July Fourth, we celebrated our independence and we celebrated our freedom. I implore you to not take that freedom for granted. If you do, there are too many people in government more than willing to exchange some of your freedom for a false sense of security. Obamacare is about control not freedom. If we truly want to increase access to quality care for all of our citizens, we need to pursue free market solutions.

State Sen. Patrick Colbeck, R-Canton, represents the 7th State Senate District.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Do you agree with Gov. Rick Snyder's proposal to expand Medicaid?



Robert Sad
Novi



Carole Lamphier
Novi



Jim Rose
Novi



Tom Brichford
Farmington Hills

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Country is transforming

Are there forces in play to "fundamentally transform" the country as candidate Obama promised in 2008? Why would we want to change a country where individual liberty and personal responsibility brought about collective greatness?

Columbia University professors Richard Cloward and wife Frances Fox Piven crafted a "crisis strategy" in the 1960s. Their anti-capitalist gospel called for economic collapse so severe that socialism would be accepted as the fix for a country out of control.

Piven tested it in New York City. She went door to door signing up welfare recipients. Her efforts combined with years of deficit spending led to a fiscal collapse and bankruptcy filing in 1975. A bailout ensued.

Events playing out today echo Cloward-

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. Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday for Thursday's print edition.

Web: www.hometownlife.com
 Mail: Letters to the Editor, 101 N. Lafayette St., South Lyon, MI 48178
 Email: stone@hometownlife.com
 Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

day for Thursday's print edition.

Why does the Federal Reserve continue to inflate the money supply? Interest rates arbitrarily set at near zero and stock market and housing prices artificially inflated by cheap money is another bubble in the making.

None of these actions on their own merit concern. Together they create a pattern that's troublesome. New York City was small enough to live another day as will Detroit. Who's big enough to rescue our Republic? Nobody, and maybe that's the whole idea.

Jack Belisle
 South Lyon

No to stadium

As a lifetime Red Wings fan and longtime visitor to first Olympia and later Joe Louis Arena, I must speak in opposition to a new stadium. Not because of cost or location, but because approximately 44 percent will be publicly financed. Ilich Enterprises

The Fourth Amendment

This whistle blower named Edward J. Snowden has turned loose a

firestorm of embarrassment for the United States. Perhaps the worst of it is that we got caught brazenly ignoring our own U.S. Constitution. More specifically, we broke our own "law of the land" by throwing the Fourth Amendment under the bus.

Our shameful government is trying to characterize Snowden as the problem when, in fact, the bigger problem is the shame that our own government has brought upon itself.

I call upon all freedom-loving Americans to become active to regain control of our government and bring her back to full compliance with our Constitution.

Without adherence to this timeless and superior document, our country is but a ship adrift without a rudder or a moral compass.

Bob Cushman
 Northville

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GUEST COLUMN

Time to expand Medicaid coverage

As president and CEO of St. Mary Mercy Livonia, I had the honor of participating in a community forum with Gov. Rick Snyder at the hospital to discuss his plan to expand Medicaid health care coverage for nearly half a million Michigan residents.

The governor's Healthy Michigan Plan would use federal health care dollars to extend Medicaid coverage to more of the state's working poor so they can receive care in physician offices and patient-centered medical homes, which are better and less costly options than emergency room care or hospital stays.

I was encouraged to see the Michigan House pass the bill by a vote of 76-31, but disappointed to see the Senate table the vote to a later date. The community forum at St. Mary Mercy Livonia was one of several town hall meetings Gov. Snyder held to promote the plan.



David Spivey

At the forum, and in my daily work, I've heard from people who would be directly affected by this legislation. A Livonia-based business owner spoke about his pride in providing health care coverage to employees and their families, but worries about keeping up with rising health care premiums.

An urgent care physician treating low-income patients — the working poor who struggle to make ends meet — suffering with severe pain that could have been avoided with regular care management.

A patient financial counselor who sees firsthand what happens when medical crises affect those without insurance — job loss, bankruptcy, foreclosure, even death due to a lack of preventive care or early diagnosis. The cancer spreads, the diabetes becomes unmanageable, the hernia worsens while they wait and worry about the cost to see a doctor.

Resources stretched

Though St. Mary Mercy Livonia provides charity care, the rising numbers of uninsured patients are straining

the resources of hospitals across the state and country. Opponents of Medicaid expansion contend it will not solve the issue of the high use of emergency departments and new Medicaid patients continue to come to the emergency room for non-urgent conditions. Our experience — supported by national studies — has shown that care coordination — extended hours, call centers and patient-centered medical homes — result in better and less expensive care.

Opponents of Medicaid expansion say it will fail because physicians would be unable or unwilling to manage an influx of new enrollees.

However, a survey by the Center for Healthcare Research and Transformation found that 76 percent of Michigan family doctors and general practitioners have the capacity to take new patients, and 90 percent of all pediatricians said they could take on new patients.

Here at St. Mary Mercy Livonia, physicians have assured me they have the capacity and resources to take on new Medicaid patients as well.

Cal Stone,

Community Editor
 Susan Rosiek,
 Executive Editor

Grace Perry,

Director of
 Advertising

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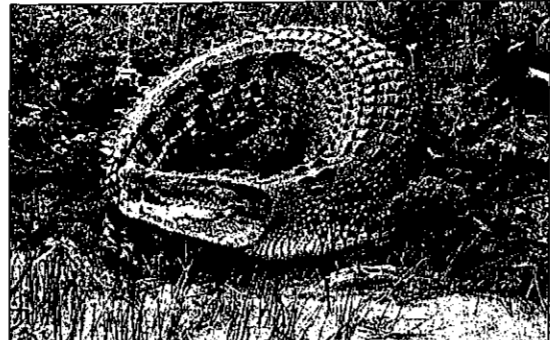
What to Expect?
 Be one of over 8,000 expected in attendance!

The festival begins at 11:00 am with an opening ceremony featuring a live musical dance and appearances from the mayor and other dignitaries. An interactive three-mile parade with live music follows in which thousands of visitors pull a four-story tall chariot by rope. At Fuerst Park, a grand celebration awaits the crowd, including an exhibition showcasing India's spirituality and culture. There will be over 20 tents offering FREE FOOD, live entertainment, unique shopping, cooking demonstrations, henna, Vedic culture and arts, and many kid activities. Visitors will see a colorful display of traditional costumes, Vedic rituals, unique music, and dramas. The whole family will enjoy exploring the unique attractions revealing the spiritual heart of India.



The Toledo Zoo is a popular family destination. It is home to more than 9,000 animals. TIM RYAN

Win prizes from O&E for 'Wild Summer Day' at the Toledo Zoo



This saltwater croc which arrived this spring at the Toledo Zoo is the largest in North America. R. ANDREW ODDUM

July 27 a great day to head south to major tourist attraction

Hippos, polar bears, reptiles and a host of other interesting creatures await visitors to the Toledo Zoo.

The Observer & Eccentric Media in cooperation with the Toledo Zoo is sponsoring a "Wild Summer Day Trip" on Saturday, July 27.

Readers can win special admission passes and prizes as part of a special O&E Media and Toledo Zoo promotion. Go to hometownlife.com and enter our Facebook contest to win:

Grand Prize: Four Toledo Zoo admission passes and four Behind the Scenes tour passes and a \$25 gas card.

Runner-up: Four Toledo Zoo admission passes and a year membership to the zoo.

Third prize: Four Toledo Zoo admission passes.

Entries must be submitted by midnight July 18.

Other special events planned on the Wild Summer Day Trip (July 27):

A giant "Wish You Were Here" poster will be at the zoo so O&E visitors can take photos (along with having their O&E newspaper) for publication in print and online.

Youngsters who submit stories about "My Day at the Zoo" will be featured in the August Scoop's Hound Dog Highlights page.

The Toledo Zoo covers 74 acres and is home to more than 9,000 animals representing over 800 species.

It's one of the world's most complete zoos — it's also a top family destination.

The zoo has introduced many innovative exhibits. The African Savanna offers a recreation of the plains and jungles of Africa. The Savanna is home to the world-famous Hippopotamium®, the first of its kind in the world.

The Kingdom of the Apes exhibit, Primate Forest, Arctic Encounter® and multi-species Africa exhibit give visitors an amazing up-close experience while at the same time ensuring the well-being of the animals.

Two special exhibits include "Wild Walkabout: Wonders from Down Under" which brings the natural world of Australia to zoo visitors and the Arctic Encounter®, one of the nation's top polar bear exhibits.

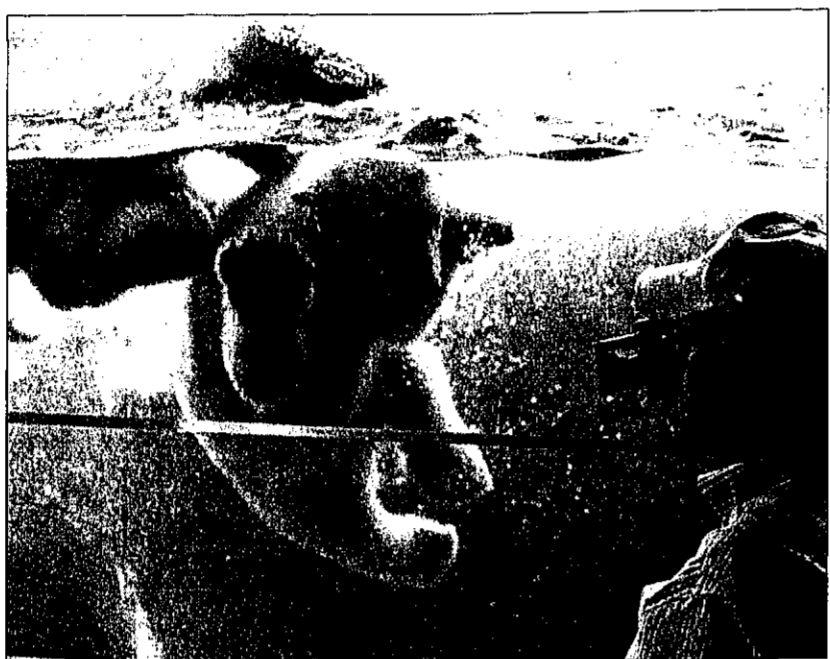
This is the fourth litter of polar bears the Toledo Zoo has had since 2006, said Randi Meyerson, assistant director of animal programs.

The exhibit, opened in 2000, is one of the top polar bear exhibits in the U.S. It features a 90,000-gallon pool and 6,000-square-foot land exhibit.

Creative design enables bears to see and smell the seals (which would be their prey in the wild) while on exhibit.

An interpretive center enables visitors to enjoy close-up, clear, underwater viewing of both polar bears and seals, as they learn more about these remarkable animals.

The cub's public exhibit hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Zoo visitors get an underwater viewing of polar bears. ANDI NORMAN



In Arctic Encounter, visitors can see male/female twin cubs born Nov. 21, 2012. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOLEDO ZOO



The wallaby is featured as part of Wild Walkabout—an Australian adventure at the Toledo Zoo this summer. KANDACE YORK



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Entree of the Week Cheddar & Bacon Stuffed Chicken Breast \$4.99 lb. <small>Save \$1.00 lb.</small>	All Natural - Never Frozen Baby Back Ribs \$3.99 lb. <small>Save \$1.00 lb.</small>		

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