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HOMETOWN WEEKLIES

Volume 55
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NOVI NEWS

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ELECTION COVERAGE

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NOVI NOW Stella! performing

Stella! -- comprised of four of Michigan's most talented singer-songwriters; Jen Sygit, Jo Serrapere, Diana Ladio and Laura Bates -- will perform a Comfy Couch concert at Newport Furnishings (52504 Grand River Avenue, Wixom) at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

This four-piece, all-women, American roots band from Detroit has been referred to as a singer-songwriter super group with three vocal harmonies and two writer voices. Stella!, partly named after her baby daughter, was first conceived of by songwriter Jo Serrapere after a conversation with American music critic and Creem Magazine co-founder Dave Marsh. Jo was inspired to put together a new group where she could showcase her country-roots songwriting.

Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for students age 8-18. For tickets, contact Steven Johnson at (248) 910-4941. For more info, visit <http://www.comfycouchconcerts.com/> or <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/131614>.

The Last Days of Lawrence High: A Murder Mystery

The Novi Civic Theatre presents a night of dinner, laughs and intrigue with *The Last Days of Lawrence High* - a murder mystery dinner theatre performance taking place at Lyon Oaks Banquet Center.

Written by Nancy Edwards, of the Second City, *The Last Days of Lawrence High* is the story of a high school closing its doors after 100 years of service. One final reunion party is planned and the alumni of every graduating class have been invited. When a murder occurs at the reunion, everyone a suspect! Could it be the ex-homecoming queen turned cosmetics mogul? Perhaps it's the jealous ex-cheerleader going through a divorce? Maybe it's the 2010 class president that doesn't want her legacy to die. Who knows?

Performances are 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 22-23. Tickets (\$35) include dinner and show, with a cash bar available. Tickets can be purchased online at cityofnovi.org or at the Novi Parks box office.

All performances will be held at the Lyon Oaks Banquet Center, located at 52251 Pontiac Trail, Wixom.

For more information, please contact Lauren Sorrentino of the Novi Civic Theatre at (248) 347-0400 or visit cityofnovi.org.

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City, firefighters agree to new contract

Negotiations ongoing with part-time union group

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The restructuring plan of the Novi Fire Department took a step forward Monday with the city council's approval of a new contract with the Novi Professional Firefighters Union.

City Manager Clay Pearson said the agreement represents a big step forward in terms of a new day with the city's fire service operations.

"It opens the door toward one of our core strategic goals of providing an integrated fire delivery service system," he said.

The contract, which would have gone to arbitration had an agreement not been reached, calls for supervi-

sors and fire protection officers to change their shifts. Supervisors previously worked 24-hour shifts and FPO's worked 12-hour shifts Monday through Friday.

The new schedule will put both on 12-hour shifts covering a 24-hour period Sunday through Saturday. Supervisors will begin their new schedule on Jan. 1, while the FPO's must wait until the part-time firefighters, who are part of another bargaining group, agree to the same schedule.

The plan calls for both the part-time and full-time firefighters to work together throughout the week as opposed to the current system in which the full-time employees do not

work overnight or on weekends. It also includes more than \$138,000 in concessions, including cutting overtime, contributing to health care and pension and more.

Pearson said negotiations are ongoing with the part-time group and believes a contract will be coming forward shortly.

Also included in the contract was a letter of agreement that prevents the city from laying off any employee in the union for the length of the contract as long as the city's finances are equal or better than what is projected in the most recent fiscal analysis projections for the 2010 total taxable value.

Council member Justin Fischer was the lone dissenting vote on the contract because of that stipulation.

"This agreement ties the administration's hands and ties the council's

hands," he said. "If and when taxable values fall to 9 percent or 6.9 percent in 2010 or 2011, which is under the threshold, we cannot make the tough decisions in a fair manner because we now have a protected union group in our city."

"I feel this clause is too risky and quite honestly a step backwards." Council member Dave Staudt agreed with Fischer and "would rather have seen the letter of agreement not be part of our final settlement," but said the restructuring of the fire department that comes from the agreement will have much longer term effects.

"I'm not completely happy with it but I'm happy we settled it and happy we are moving forward," he said.

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JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Learning how to write

Junior Allison Burke was one of a handful of Novi High students who took advantage of the school's Japanese Club's calligraphy activity on Oct. 5 where students learned how to piece together the written language of Kanji. Students learned that it is derived from the Chinese written language.

Novi News fall expo features exhibits, programs, prizes

The Novi News second annual Senior Health & Living Expo, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, has something for senior citizens as well as their friends and family.

The expo is presented by the Observer & Eccentric and Hometown Newspapers in partnership with Oakland Community College.

Free admission, free parking, free health screening and free refreshments (bagels from Detroit Bagel, assorted juices and coffee) are on the day's agenda, along with more than 40 exhibitors presenting ideas and services to help senior citizens lead healthier, happier lives.

OCC is located off the Orchard Lake Road I-696 exit. Parking is available out of Building H and a trolley will provide curb service to eventgoers.

Prize drawings will be held throughout the day. Prizes include movie and theater tickets, along with a grand prize of a one-night stay at the Townsend Hotel and a \$150 voucher for dining at the hotel.

The expo is a one-stop way to learn about assisted living options, health and fitness services, estate planning, Social Security Administration updates and volunteer opportunities.

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Special presentations are scheduled on emergency preparedness and how to avoid scams targeting senior citizens.

The first 50 attendees through the door will receive a special gift courtesy of the Novi News.

For a complete list of vendors, programs and prizes, see the special section online at www.hometownlife.com.

Plans for Kroger store fall through

Novi City Council turns down large rezoning request

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A rezoning request for a proposed \$20 million project on the south side of Ten Mile Road and east of Novi Road was denied Monday night by the Novi City Council.

City council members cited several reasons for turning down the proposal, most notably that it did not comply with the city's master plan and that the benefits from the project did not outweigh the detriments.

The project called for a Planned Rezoning Overlay of approximately 28.7 acres. The current zoning is office service and light industrial, and the request was to change that to community business with some portions of the property remaining office service.

Slated to be built on the site were a 64,245-square-foot Kroger store and a 40,978-square-foot neighborhood shopping center.

Novi Mayor David Landry said he could not support it because the city has so many vacant retail buildings and it would not be right since they recently turned down a similar rezoning request at Beck

and Ten Mile roads.

"With respect to a PRO, this just doesn't look like a PRO. There are no certainties and the benefit is not here. You enter a PRO to get rid of uncertainties," he said. "At the end of the day the only certainty we have here is a grocery store, and we have already decided not in this area of the city."

Matt Quinn, who represented the applicant, told council that some of the benefits of the project would be a three-acre conservation area near Novi Ice Arena along with improvements to parking, road extensions, sidewalk additions and improvements and a pocket park among others.

He also noted there is shortage of grocery stores in the city, and Kroger, which was a "shovel-ready project," would fill a need.

Mayor Pro-tem Bob Gatt said that Quinn's pitch nearly swayed his opinion of the proposal, but in the end the benefit was not there.

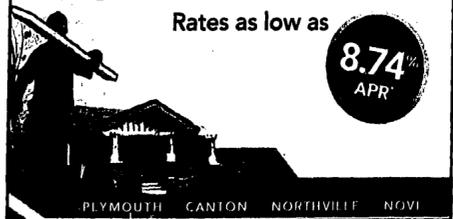
"A PRO has to be something that ponies up something that is so good for the city we cannot turn it down," he said.

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Novi News will now offer advertising on Yahoo! sites

The Novi News, part of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies, is partnering with Yahoo! to offer local advertisers more opportunities for digital advertising. The partnership that begins in 2011 allows the O&E and Hometown group to offer advertisers digital ad space not only on hometownlife.com but also on Yahoo! sites as part of their local advertising solutions. As a result, local advertisers will benefit from expanded digital reach and enhanced audience targeting capabilities based on geography, user demographics, interests and more against that expanded audience. The alliance combines the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies credible local brands and multimedia sales and marketing expertise with the powerful digital brand credibility and audience of Yahoo! The new relationship will enhance the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies' audience solutions capabilities by increasing total digital audience reach 80.7 percent of local internet users. "The Observer & Eccentric and Hometown local audi-

ence solutions, combined with Yahoo! provides powerful and effective reach, targeting, and results that deliver the right audience at the right time with the right solution," said Susan Rosick, O&E/Hometown publisher and executive editor. "Local advertising continues to be an important area of focus for us, and Yahoo! is committed to helping local businesses reach high quality target audiences," said Hilary Schneider, executive vice president, Yahoo! America. "This relationship significantly expands our local offerings and gives advertisers the technology and scale they need to reach their consumers online."

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and Hometown Weeklies services western Wayne and Oakland counties, reaching over 1 million readers with 13 local community newspapers and on www.hometownlife.com monthly. The new digital venture with Yahoo! enhances advertising solutions and is a strategic evolution for the suburban Observer & Eccentric/Hometown media group, which was recently recognized with awards by the Michigan Press Association for Best Ad Idea and Best ROP Auto Ad, among others.



JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Library Jubilee

Carol Kapusky takes a look at some of the items offered up for silent auction at the Oct. 8 Friends of the Novi Library Jubilee celebration. Milford author Thomas Lynch was the guest speaker for the evening.

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Grooving for a good cause

Annual chamber fund-raiser hits fifth year

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

A variety of wines and select food from local restaurants will once again highlight the annual Grapes and Grooves fundraiser for the Novi Chamber of Commerce.

The fifth annual event, which takes place at the Atrium of Novi, has grown in popularity every year and has proven to make for an elegant evening.

"It's a good date night or ladies night out," said Dawn Peters, project manager for the chamber. "It makes for a nice evening with music, wine and food, and it is always a well-attended event."

The Mick Dobbay Jazz Duo will provide the music for Grapes and Grooves, which



More than 100 people are expected to attend the fifth annual Grapes and Grooves fund-raiser at the Atrium of Novi on Oct. 22.

runs from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 22. Six restaurants have signed on to provide food (Carrabba's Italian Grill, California Pizza Kitchen, Toasted Oak Grill and Market, Gus O'Connor's, the Grapevine and Buca di Beppo) and eight wine ven-

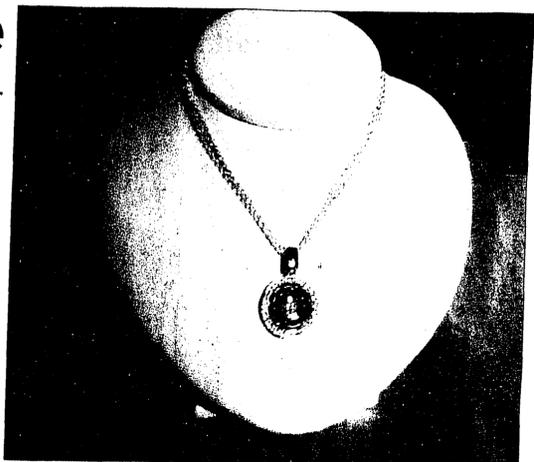
dors, including some from Michigan, will provide samples throughout the evening. This also will be the second time the event will include a silent and live auction, featuring jewelry, tickets to sporting events and shows, wine baskets, dinners and more.

Grapes and Grooves is presented by Varsity Lincoln of Novi and is open to the public, not just chamber members.

Registration can be done at www.novichamber.com or by calling (248) 349-3743. Single tickets are \$35 each, while groups of six or more pay \$30. Pre-registration is required, and after Oct. 15, all tickets are \$40.

The Atrium of Novi is located at 43155 Main St.

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This necklace from Larson Jewelry Design will be one of several items auctioned off at the Grapes and Grooves fundraiser for the Novi Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 22.

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Novi to outsource forestry services City estimated to save \$50,000 annually

BY NATHAN MUELLER
STAFF WRITER

The days of forestry operations being done by Novi employees is now a thing of the past.

In an effort to save money now and in the future, the Novi City Council approved a contract Monday night with Asplundh Tree Service to handle the maintenance responsibilities associated with forestry operations.

The estimated cost to do the work with in-house staff and equipment was \$232,350 annually. Asplundh entered into a one-year contract with the city, with three-year renewal options, for \$183,479.

As a result, two full-time staff members and three seasonal employees will lose their jobs, thus saving the city money in the future in terms of legacy costs related to retirement health care and pension.

"It's tough. It's like asking me which one of my children do I want to give up," said Rob Hayes, director of public services. "These guys are all top-notch and great workers, and it is tough to see us lose that in-house service. But, unfortunately there is only so much revenue to go around."

Hayes was charged with finding cost-savings in his department after the union group did not offer wage concessions as part of its new contract.

He said he had to look at what was the "least mission-critical" service performed by the department of public services, and forestry operations fit the bill as many of the daily activities are not directly related to public health and safety.

The in-house crew handled such projects as tree and limb removals associated with storm clean-up, tree pruning, stump grinding, maintaining the tree inventory asset management program and managing the hazard tree-woodland violations.

City Manager Clay Pearson said the decision to layoff employees is taken "very seriously," but this move is one of many the city has made recently to balance the budget for future fiscal years.

"We are always looking at ways to be more effective and efficient," he said.

Hayes admitted that trying to get the same level of service from a contractor is "going to be difficult," but that is what the city is going to strive for.

He also said that having recently-hired John Thompson, parks and forestry asset manager, on board will help with the transition.

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JOHN REIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Light on their feet

Marge Hildebrand and Mel Knopf hit the Novi Senior Center's floor on Sept. 28 for their monthly fourth-Tuesday dance. The pair are from nearby Farmington Hills.

BEST LOCAL SPORTS COVERAGE. PERIOD

Novi Police and Novi Community Schools partner to prevent bullying

Oct. 20: All students, teachers, and community members asked to wear pink on National Bullying Prevention Day

Every day thousands of children wake up and are afraid to go to school. Not because they haven't completed their homework, nor are they nervous to take a test, but because they are fearful of bullying.

Bullying has rapidly become one of the leading concerns within schools and for law enforcement agencies. Bullying can lead to poor grades, school violence and teen suicide. The Novi Police Department and the Novi Community Schools are dedicated to providing a safe, vibrant and enjoyable learning environment and encourage ALL students, teachers, and community members to wear pink on National Bullying Prevention Day — Wednesday, Oct. 20 — to tell others, "Bullying stops with me!"

Why pink? In 2007, two high school seniors did what they thought was a simple thing. They stood up for a fellow student — a freshman boy — who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. The two seniors bought a bunch of pink shirts, handed them out and texted their friends to wear pink. The next day, the entire student body was wearing pink.

"A report from the American Medical Association on a study of over 15,000 6th-10th graders estimates more than three-and-a-half million youths engage in bullying activity

LEARN MORE
For more information or to join Novi's efforts on National Bullying Prevention Day, contact the Community Relations Office at (248) 735-5628.

and more than a million are victims of moderate or serious bullying each year," said Peter Dion, superintendent, Novi Community Schools. "In Novi, we acknowledge that communities across the state and country share the same concerns, but what sets Novi apart is the fact that we want to send a strong message to other communities that Novi will not tolerate bullying as acceptable behavior toward one another."

Bullying occurs when a person is picked on repeatedly by an individual or group perceived with more power, either in terms of physical strength or social status. It is the on-going harassment from one peer to another resulting in mental, physical and/or psychological pain. Bullying can be physical or verbal. Boys tend to use more physical elements when bullying and girls tend to be more verbal. Bullying can occur anywhere; on the bus, in the neighborhood, before or after school, in the cafeteria or hallway, or on a computer (Cyber bullying). Sometimes kids torment

others because that's the way they have been treated. They may think their behavior is normal because they come from backgrounds where everyone regularly gets angry, shouts, or calls names. Some popular TV shows even seem to promote meanness — people are "voted off," shunned, or ridiculed for their appearance or lack of talent. A recent study showed that boys who are school bullies in grades six through nine had at least one criminal conviction by age 24.

"Strong partnerships between schools, law enforcement agencies and parents are the key to stopping bullying," notes Novi's Director of Public Safety and Chief of Police David E. Molloy. "Partnering with the schools and the community in National Bullying Prevention Day strengthens messages being shared each and every day. Together we must stop the silence and raise awareness for this rapidly growing concern in our society."

Students, teachers, and community members who want to join the effort, but have no pink shirt? No problem! How about a pink necktie, t-shirt or jewelry? By wearing pink, we'll be telling the community that bullying is not okay. Wear PINK on October 20th...and take a stand. Together, we can put an end to bullying.



Blue and green

At a recent Novi Rotary club luncheon meeting members raised money for charity by holding a University of Michigan vs. Michigan State University trivia contest. Among the Rotarian contestants were Sparta fan Kristin Gargano, club Fun & Fellowship Co-Chair (left); Maryanne Cornelius, Novi City Clerk and a past club president (center); and U of M Alumnus Bryan Berent, current club president. The contest was declared a victory for charity by Cornelius.

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Entertainment

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by Jack Bolling

Long Term Insurance

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
by Richmond Financial

Guided Imagery and Aromatherapy

12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
by Wings of Healing

Social Security Programs, Services and Updates

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
by Social Security Administration

Scams Targeting Senior Citizens

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
by Better Business Bureau

Emergency Preparedness

Small group 15 min. presentation
on the half hr. 9:30; 10:30; 11:30;
12:30 at booth # 48



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Del Grebe
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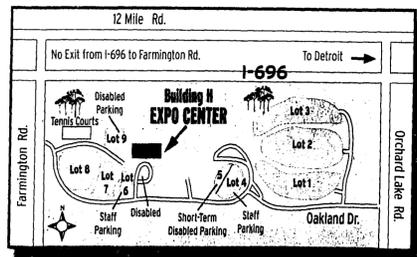
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11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES

Republican Thaddeus McCotter, Democrat Natalie Mosher and Libertarian John J. Tatar are running for a two-year term for the 11th Congressional District of Michigan, which includes the western Wayne and western Oakland County communities of Canton, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth, Milford, Redford Township, South Lyon and Westland, as well as other communities. McCotter is the incumbent. Members of Congress receive an annual salary of \$174,000. The election is Nov. 2.

WHAT WE ASKED.

1. What is your position on the U.S. role in Afghanistan? How long should combat troops remain?
2. Do you support making investments in alternative energy sources? Why? Why not?
3. What can you do in Washington, D.C., that would directly help Michigan's jobless rate? Be specific.
4. Does the United States need immigration reform? If so, what measures do you support to address the issue?

WHAT THEY ANSWERED.



Name: Thaddeus G. McCotter
Age: 45
City: Livonia
Number of years you have resided in the 11th District: 40
Family Info: Wife, Rita McCotter (registered nurse), three children, George, Timothy and Emilia
Education: Detroit Catholic Central High School, University of Detroit, BA; University of Detroit Law School, JD
Professional background: Bar-admitted attorney
Elected offices held or related experience: Trustee, Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees (1989-1992); Commissioner, Wayne County Commission (1992-1998); Senator, Michigan State Senate (1998-2002); U.S. Representative, U.S. House of Representatives (2003-current)
Community involvement (past five years): Chamber of Commerce (all within the 11th District); Friends of the Library (various throughout district); Historical Society (various throughout district); Fraternal Order of Police (C/O Oakland Chapter, Michigan Bar Association); Monaghan Knights of Columbus; Right to Life of Michigan, etc.
Website: www.mccotterops.com
Phone number: (734) 524-0834

1. Following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, America commenced Operation Enduring Freedom to depose the Taliban and destroy al-Qaeda's base of operations. Today, in Afghanistan America and her allies are leading a counterinsurgency operation to secure Afghan's freedom and prevent their nation's reversion into a terrorist safe haven. Arbitrary timelines divorced from the reality of counterinsurgency efforts on the ground are injurious to the Afghan and American people. The decision of how long combat troops remain ultimately rests with the commander-in-chief of our armed forces, President Obama, and at any time the sovereign government of Afghanistan can refuse our assistance.

2. Government does not "invest" your money; government spends your money - typically where you wouldn't, including Washington's politically favored individuals, entities and causes. Regarding energy, a sound policy to lower energy costs requires maximizing American production, promoting common sense, community-based conservation and encouraging free-market innovations in alternative fuels through the use of tax credits. Thus, we must oppose big government tax-and-spend approaches, most notably the House-passed "cap and tax" proposal that will raise energy costs on Americans and kill jobs, especially the manufacturing jobs powering our Michigan economy.

3. Our prosperity and recovery will come from the industriousness and ingenuity of the American people not from more trillion-dollar tax-and-spend, big-government schemes out of Washington. Higher taxes, spending, deficits and debt will only worsen this recession. To create the conditions for a sustainable economic recovery requires ensuring people keep their hard-earned money through tax relief, reducing government spending, cutting out bureaucratic red tape, ending unfair trade practices - especially from communist China, and by breaking up the "too big" insolvent banks that, unfortunately, are now statutorily protected by the recently passed financial "reform" bill.

4. We must never blame the illegal immigrants who have been enticed to America and exploited by big business and big government. Fixing the broken immigration system to protect the sovereignty, jobs, wages and tax dollars of citizens necessitates increasing border security, eliminating taxpayer benefits to illegal immigrants, punishing business that "cheat to compete," affirming there will be no amnesty; reforming the legal immigration system by emphasizing the asylum and legalization, and providing localized, sustainable economic development to under-developed nations. Importantly, we must never cheapen the hard-earned citizenship of those immigrants who followed the law.



Name: Natalie Manooogian Mosher
Age: 66
City: Canton
Number of years you have resided in the 11th District: 40
Family Info: Married to Bob Mosher; two children, Rob and Aaron
Education: BA, Education, Michigan State University, 1965
Professional background: Chief Development Officer, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy; Director, National Reliance Volunteer Coalition; High School Teacher, Plymouth
Elected offices held or related experience: Erie County (Ohio) commissioner
Community involvement (past five years): Leadership Canton, Ravine Homeowner's Association, Board President; Canton Township Tax Board of Review
Website: www.mosherforcongress.com
Phone number: (734) 299-9595

1. It's time for us to hand over the reins to the people of Afghanistan themselves. We've already spent \$1.1 trillion fighting two wars in the Middle East. Now let's spend that money on building our economy, creating jobs and investing in infrastructure instead. I support a timeline that would begin the process of pulling troops out of Afghanistan within the next 10 months. Our troops have distinguished themselves with their brave service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now it's time for them to come home.

2. Investing in alternative energy helped bring North America's largest lithium-ion auto battery plant to Livonia. The plant will employ 3,000 workers to create advanced batteries for the electric cars of the 21st century. Not only does investing in alternative energy create jobs, it sets us on the road to energy independence. Reducing our dependence on foreign oil will make us more secure. For these reasons, I strongly support investing in alternative energy. Unfortunately, Thaddeus McCotter has voted time and again against alternative energy and in favor of big oil. See H.R. 2454, 6/26/09; H.R. 7060, 9/25/08; H.R. 6049, 5/21/08.

3. First, I will support loans and tax credits for our small businesses so that they can grow and hire new workers. My opponent, Thaddeus McCotter, voted against plans to support small businesses during the economic crisis (see H.R. 5486, 6/15/09). Second, I will support investments in job-creating alternative energy technologies (see above), and in the research institutions that drive innovation. Third, I would fight tirelessly for funds to repair and maintain Michigan's roads, bridges and other infrastructure. To read my detailed job plan, visit www.mosherforcongress.com. The citizens of the 11th District deserve a representative who takes job creation seriously.

4. Yes. Frankly, our current system is broken. As part of the solution, I support passage of the DREAM Act. Once they graduate from college or serve in the U.S. military, this bill would grant legal status to those who came to the United States as minors. I support the creation of a guest worker system, which will reduce the incentive for immigrants to cross the border in the first place. Immigrants who learn English, who have not committed a crime, and who have paid their taxes should have a path to legal status.



Name: John J. Tatar
Age: 61
City: Livonia
Number of years in 11th District: Resident of Livonia for more than 41 years
Family Info: Divorced, Son, John II, 29, Captain in the Air Force, married with two children (granddaughters). Daughter, Carrie, 26, completing her PhD in gross anatomy
Education: BS, Education, 1970; MS Ed. Administration, 1984; Graduate of Command and General Staff College, 1986
Professional Background: Retired teacher in Livonia 31 years, subjects taught included American history and government. Retired Lieutenant Colonel, 31 years of service, U.S. Army Reserve, Medical Service Corp., veteran Desert Storm. Owner of American Heritage Construction Co. since 1984.
Elected offices held or related experience: Not a career politician Assistant Cubmaster, assistant Scout master, commander of several units in the military, XO of several units in the military company, battalion and brigade levels. Band leader
Community involvement: Scouting
Website: www.orgforjohnatatar.com
Phone number: (734) 968-4715

1. Prosecution of the Afghanistan war was a mistake. We need to protect America from enemies at our own shores, not half way around the world. We must bring the troops home as soon as possible. The Middle Eastern countries are rife with tribalism and war lords. This mentality does not lend itself to a democratic form of government. We should realize the longer we stay, the results will be greater expenditures of money and men with no positive results. We can no longer be the policeman of the world. It has bankrupted the American way of life.

2. Government should get out of the private sector. Government's nothing but a hindrance to man's abilities to develop new technology. Let the free market determine when and what new technology should be developed. Government does not have the authority to regulate, nor should it regulate over another, based on which lobbyist has the greater sphere of influence over the elected officials. Government is an unequal power that must relinquish the control it exerts on our free enterprise system because government has only the Constitutional authority to protect Americans' life, liberty and property, and not to meddle in our affairs.

3. Taxes need to be cut permanently as President Kennedy did in the early '60s which not only stimulated the economy, but increased government revenues and reduced joblessness. The U.S. financial system is based on "fiat" money and must be corrected by Congress to get back to an honest money system. This mistake was implemented by the Federal Reserve and FDR and has led to our present economic condition over the past 100 years. If the government cuts spending, then allow the people to keep their hard-earned money, the American people will spend money and stimulate the economy by itself.

4. I believe that the United States needs no new immigration reforms. The problem of illegal immigration can be dealt with on case-by-case bases, with no amnesty. I also believe that state law supersedes federal law regarding these issues and therefore no amnesty can be given by the federal government. The challenge, for example, by Obama on the Arizona law was totally misguided and misplaced. Arizona law mirrors the federal statute that has been in place for decades but has never been enforced.

Mosher: Stimulus plan is working

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Natalie Mosher supports the stimulus plan passed by Congress and believes governmental spending in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can help turn the economy around. "I think we can bring it close to home, by investing in alternative energy," Mosher said. "Right in our own backyard in Livonia, we had the A123 plant that just opened up. It's North America's largest lithium ion auto battery plant." Currently 300 employees are employed. Mosher said 3,000 will eventually be employed there. "These are really good-paying jobs; they certainly can sustain a family, I think it gets

us off the dependence on oil that we do need to get off of," Mosher said. "So I do support the recovery act because I'm really happy to see it come back. Unfortunately, my opponent has voted against this time and again in terms of alternative energy and in favor of big oil."

BUSINESSES NEED CREDIT

Mosher believes businesses need to be able to obtain loans. "We have to provide credit to small business," Mosher said. "Small businesses are the economic engine of our country; they do create the jobs. We do need to work in partnership." One of the most pressing issues facing small businesses in southeast Michigan is the loss of capital and credit,

Mosher said. "I've been knocking on doors. If someone opens up and share with me that they own a small business, they are not able to get any credit. If they could get credit, they certainly would be able to hire people and expand their business."

"We need to work in concert, government with business. It's a true partnership." Mosher believes the financial system needs "some serious" reform. "We need to end the predatory lending practices of the banking industry, regulate the high-risk behavior of hedge fund managers on Wall Street, close corporate tax loopholes, encourage companies to keep

Please see MOSHER, A9

McCotter: Tax relief means more jobs

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Thaddeus McCotter believes the stimulus plan is not working, and thinks tax relief is necessary so families can weather the economic storm. "The stimulus has not even lived up to what its proponents have said," McCotter said. "The stimulus plan was an attempt to keep unemployment at 8.5 percent, but with interest, it put the country a \$1 trillion further in the hole, McCotter said. Stimulus plan supporters, including U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, now realize there isn't much left to that plan to get the economy going, McCotter said. "As we've seen with the \$26 billion attempt to bail out states and others, there's not going to be a simple spending

solution to this," McCotter said. "In fact, what the spending will continue to do, and we've already seen this, it will continue to deepen the recession and prolong it because the fiscal situation of the United States is untenable. "What you have to have, and again this is not a novel approach, but you have to have tax relief that allows people, especially families and small businesses, to weather the storm and regain their confidence," McCotter said. "For small business to be hiring again, you have to make sure the larger investors put their money into investment and creation of jobs, rather than hold it back, or rather than feel that there is no utility to it because the profit incentive has been marginalized or minimized to the point that they don't want to do it."

TOXIC ASSETS REMAIN McCotter, who opposed the Wall Street bailout, said that bailout was unacceptable and problems remain with the banking industry because the "zombie banks are floating around." "The Wall Street bailout did nothing to clean those toxic assets out of the system," McCotter said. "It did nothing to decentralize the banking system in the United States by taking the large failed companies that had put us in this position and break them up and wall them off." Instead the smaller community banks had regulations tightened up when they weren't the problem, McCotter said. The bipartisan banking reform through the Troubled

Please see MCCOTTER, A9

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EDUCATION

Thursday, October 14, 2010 hometownlife.com

Candidates excited for opportunity to serve on Board of Education

Both focused on keeping Novi district at the top

BY NATHAN MULLER
STAFF WRITER

The face of public education in Novi is changing. And the two candidates for the Board of Education are anxious to be part of it.

Jason Manar and Brian O'Meara will vie for the one open seat on the seven-member board at the Nov. 2 general election, and both have diverse backgrounds and detailed ideas for maintaining Novi's status as one of the top districts in the state.

Brian O'Meara is the longest tenured resident of the two having lived in Novi for eight years. He is a certified public accountant and currently serves as the director of corporate reporting at PulteGroup, Inc.

O'Meara has four children in the school district and said his focus as a board member would be to not just "maintain" what Novi has but improve it.

"It's not going to be as easy as it used to be," he said. One area that is a concern of his is the relationship between the administration and teachers, as the sense he gets is that the level of morale has decreased over the years.



O'Meara Manar

CANDIDATE WEBSITES

Jason Manar
www.jasonmanar.org
Brian O'Meara
www.brienomeara.com

nication as one of the areas the board can improve in.

He also said his background as a teacher gives him a "unique perspective and understanding of what teachers go through and the challenges they face daily."

One of his goals if elected is to evaluate all the programs and services the district currently provides and see what services can be consolidated with other districts.

He also wants each school to have a committee in place to review programs and decisions and see the impact it is having on the individual schools.

"It would allow us to see if things are being served their purpose," he said.

The two men are competing for the seat vacated by Katie Racon. The team is for four-years.

"The teachers are the biggest asset in any school and we have to make sure they understand they are valued," he said. O'Meara is a proponent of a multi-year budget that allows the board to "identify problems before they happen," and says the district needs to look at sharing services with other districts to ensure the classroom is protected.

Manar, on the other hand, moved his family to the city one year ago from Iowa. He is a former special education teacher, working for one year in Kentucky, and now works for the United States Department of Justice.

Like O'Meara, Manar is committed to "ensuring Novi stays a destination for parents looking for top quality education for their children."

He has served on the Novi School Budget Guidance Committee, and sees commu-

nsmuller@gannett.com | (248) 437-2011, ext. 255

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Cal Stone
Voice Mail: (248) 437-2011, ext. 237
E-mail: cstoney@gannett.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

International Peace Day

Novi Woods third grader Madison Kotowicz makes her peace pinwheel spin during her school's Sept. 21 parade. Students of Novi Woods took time to make their own peace pinwheels and then paraded around the school on the 21st for International Peace Day.



Novi Woods students parade around their school on Sept. 21 with pinwheels they've made for International Peace Day.



Novi Woods' students made peace pinwheels with peace symbols for their Sept. 21 parade.



Novi Woods students plant their peace pinwheels during their Sept. 21 event.

Guitar heroes

Brothers and Spanish guitarists Cello, left, and Lito Romero entertain a group of Novi Meadows students on Sept. 23 with music from their homeland, much of it composed by their father Angel Romero. The brothers are visiting about 5,000 students in two weeks for an artists-in-residence program sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. Novi Meadows students (below) listen to Cello and Lito Romero as they place classical guitar for them on Sept. 23.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



online at hometownlife.com

LOCAL NEWS

Hometown Weeklies | Thursday, October 14, 2010

(NN) A9

NOVI COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Judge Morris speaking in Wixom

Oakland County Judge Denise Langford Morris, the Democratic candidate for Michigan Supreme Court Justice, will address the Democrats of West Oakland County club Tuesday, Oct. 19.

The meeting will be held at the Comfort Suites Inn at Wixom Road and the south side of I-96 in Wixom, next to Meijer. Snacks and coffee will be provided at 6 p.m. The meeting begins at 7. The public is welcome to this free event.

Foreclosure options

Facing foreclosure? Can't afford your mortgage payments? Learn your options at a free class at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27 at REMERICA United, 47720 Grand River, Novi.

Call Deb Johnson to reserve a seat at (313) 719-5838.

Moving the new you

Excel Rehabilitation Services is a private practice Physical Therapy provider in Novi and hosting a free, informal seminar to discuss the changes your body will go through when losing weight and the importance of proper exercise to maximize results and minimize discomfort during this time.

Come and learn at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19 at 39500 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi. Light refreshments will be served as well as the recipes used to make the tasty, healthy snacks.

Please call (248) 888-6800 to RSVP or if you have any questions.

City survey sent to 1,200 residents

Novi residents are being asked to rate several community characteristics and City services with 1,200 households receiving surveys this week.

The City of Novi is conducting the survey to compare 2010 results with those received with the 2006 and 2008 National Citizen Surveys. The survey will determine which services residents use most often, what they think about City services, and how they view general issues such as development, the local economy, parks and recreation offerings, public safety, and traffic. Findings will help Novi gauge budget and service priorities.

The survey is being conducted by the National Research Center, a Denver firm. The firm has worked with the International City and County Management Association to develop the



Jill Jack live

Detroit-area singer/songwriter Jill Jack has won numerous awards, recorded multiple CDs and been blowing away live audiences for many years. She'll be performing a special concert with her band at The Grapevine of Novi (on Main Street, downtown) at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Cover is \$5; reservations are highly recommended at (248) 344-4044.

National Citizen Survey, a standardized questionnaire that allows cities across the nation to compare results. A report on the results will be presented in early December.

Randomly selected residents began receiving postcard notification alerting them they had been chosen to participate in the survey in late September.

The City has no role in selecting survey participants. Participants were chosen at random by the National Research Center.

Residents who were not selected to participate in the mailed survey will still have the opportunity to have their voices heard. The same survey sent to randomly selected households will be made available online at cityofnovi.org.

Residents who have questions about the survey can contact the Community

Relations Office at (248) 735-5628.

Share your favorite Halloween photo on hometownlife.com and win!

Share a photo of your favorite Halloween decoration (your home, your pumpkin, your costume, other) with readers at hometownlife.com (see the Reader Submitted Photo Gallery on the homepage) and you could win a prize!

Post your photo and then we will ask hometownlife.com visitors to vote. The top three vote-getters will win a prize. First prize is two tickets (in a suite) to the Nov. 29 Carrie Underwood "Play On Tour" concert at the Palace with special guests Sons of Sylvia and Billy Currington.

Second prize is two tickets to Rock of Ages, Nov. 9, at the Fisher Theatre, featuring Constantine Maroulis — the American Idol finalist who was nominated for a Tony Award for his starring role in Broadway production.

Third prize is four movie passes to Emagine Theaters in Canton or Novi or the Palladium/Birmingham Theater in downtown Birmingham.

Readers can view the Halloween gallery and recommend your photo. Be sure to include a first and last name and the town where you live (only contestants from Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne counties are eligible to win prizes, but anyone can recommend a photo).

Those who share photos that receive the most "recommend" votes as of midnight, Oct. 31 win prizes and will be published in the Novi News.

Wanted: Vacation photos!

Take a copy of your Novi News along on your vacation and we'll publish a photo of you and your travel companions in the paper with the headline: Wish You Were Here. Just be sure to include the newspaper in your photo.

Send your photo in a jpg format to cstoney@gannett.com. Identify everyone in the photo (first and last names) and tell us where they live. Tell us when the photo was taken and where. Tell us what was special about your trip, if you wish. Include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if necessary.

Then look for your photo in the newspaper and on our Facebook site under WISH YOU WERE HERE!

MOSHER

FROM PAGE A7

Michigan rather than outsourcing them overseas and keep lobbyists away from lawmakers," Mosher said. Smart government policies will help small businesses create jobs.

FEDERAL RESERVE NEEDS OVERSIGHT

Mosher would like to see congressional oversight of the Federal Reserve to ensure that the U.S. monetary policy supports the interests of small businesses and entrepreneurs and "not just those of big cor-

porations."

Mosher proposes tax incentives for small businesses who hire new employees and for businesses that hire in high unemployment areas like southeast Michigan.

Mosher also supports tax cuts for middle-class families. "Middle-class families are paying too much in payroll taxes," Mosher said. She promised to work to reform the tax code "so that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share," she said.

"There's nothing wrong with making money," Mosher said. "We just need to ensure some basic fairness in our tax policy."

kabramc2@hometownlife.com | (313) 222-2591

MCCOTTER

FROM PAGE A7

Asset Relief Program was a failure. "It will continue to be the one largest drag on this economy," McCotter said.

To address the problem, the failed banks should be walled off and broken up. "We're still talking about AIG at this point," McCotter said. Much of the debt and toxic assets remained parked at AIG even after AIG's and TARP bailouts, McCotter said.

McCotter believes banks will continue to carry the toxic assets and not free up capital for the public. Without that infused capital and cleanup of the toxic assets, there won't be a solution, McCotter said.

MANUFACTURERS NEED CAPITAL

"States like Michigan which are capital intensive in the manufacturing sector are going to continue to suffer," McCotter said. "What's worse is federal regulators are coming into our community banks and forcing them to write down their books and telling them to recapitalize outside. They weren't the people who

caused the problem. These are things that were not addressed."

McCotter hopes that Congress will recognize that TARP failed.

On tax relief, McCotter said about 40-50 Democrats have signed on to let the tax cuts continue. He believes the tax cuts have enough votes in the House, but he doesn't know about the Senate.

"You have to do it because if you don't do it, you will have the people with the greatest ability to invest and create jobs not going to do it," McCotter said. "They will sit on the sidelines because their rate of return on investment will be diminished."

"Right now, that probably is the worst place you want to start especially with the banks being frozen. You want to get private equity investment from outside of these financial institutions to start to come back in, to start to reinvest in the economy."

"If you tell them they aren't welcome or tell them that they've somehow done something wrong where they merit special disparate treatment under the tax laws, then they're not going to do it."

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Jennifer Fischer, APRN, BC
Radmila Greenstein, MD
Sue Illikman, APRN, BC
James Kappler, MD
Cheryl Kincaid, RN
Manak Saad, MD
Stuart Winston, DO

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Novi resident dances through unique, exciting jobs

Former Miss Michigan now working for Detroit Tigers

BY CHRIS JACKETT
CORRESPONDENT

Some 23-year-olds are just wrapping up their college experiences, while others are, well, also wrapping up their collegiate experiences, but all while rubbing elbows with the Detroit Tigers' front office

Novi resident Nicole Blaszczyk just turned over her Miss Michigan crown three short months ago, but has spent the time since working full-time as a social media intern with the Detroit Tigers while she takes the last two semesters worth of classes toward a marketing degree from Wayne State University and acts as an extra for locally filmed movies, music videos and television commercials.

"The Tigers actually sought me out. When I was down there for the first pitch, I mentioned to them I was going into marketing and wanted a sports focus," Blaszczyk said. "It's a brand new position that came down from the MLB."

She threw out the first pitch at two Tigers games, in Sept. 2009 and again in May 2010 during Polish-American Night (she's Polish, if you couldn't tell).

Blaszczyk started the job one week after her Miss Michigan duties ended June 19, meaning she went through the interview process for the internship during the last month of her reign. She said the position continues until at least opening day 2011.

"I update their Facebook, anything that's posted on there," Blaszczyk said. She also writes the front office blog, works at promotional events, interacts with guests and events around the park, basically "capturing the experience and giving fans what they can't see and read in the newspaper."

A side project she has gotten involved with since starting the new job is working directly with Tigers President/CEO/General Manager Dave Dombrowski and Vice President/Assistant General



The 2009 Miss Michigan, Novi resident Nicole Blaszczyk (center) poses with fans during a Detroit Tigers game at Comerica Park. Since her reign ended, Blaszczyk is now employed by the Tigers.

Manager Al Avila updating the wall-sized depth chart in the executive office whenever an injury or trade occurs. The chart includes rosters with individual magnets for every player on all 30 MLB teams and all of the Tigers' farm leagues' teams.

Growing up in a baseball-loving family, Blaszczyk is thrilled to simply say she goes to Comerica Park in Detroit for work because it doesn't feel like a job to her. However, when she tries to factor her class schedule into her day, that's when the pressure starts adding up.

"It's been harder when the team's home because we pull 12-13-hour days," Blaszczyk said.

Mix in her role as an extra in locally-shot films such as "LOL," "Laughing Out Loud," "Scream 4" and "Transformers 3" (all three are slated for 2011 releases), as well as in an Art Van Furniture commercial and as one of six girls

in Miley Cyrus' upcoming "My Kind of Boy" music video (which is only released overseas right now), Blaszczyk can easily say she keeps busy with her balancing act of responsibilities.

"It's exciting to see more and more films coming here and people working," she said, noting that production and catering companies are benefiting, not just local actors.

But Blaszczyk said she enjoys the various things she does, dipping her toes into different fields to get a feel for her future. She said she's better able to handle her busy life thanks to the Miss Michigan experience.

"It's basically a four-year degree wrapped into one long, exhausting year," she said. "The challenges that you're faced with, you have to wear so many hats. No college could've offered me that."

Living with a host family in Muskegon, Blaszczyk attended as many as three events per

day during her reign as Miss Michigan. With so many events, she's been to all corners of a lot of Michigan, but nothing compared to what I had seen post-Miss Michigan," Blaszczyk said.

Other than throwing out the first pitch at two Tigers games, Blaszczyk said her favorite experience during her reign was visiting the Eagle Village correctional facility near Cadillac that helps children exposed to substance abuse, whether on their own or through a family member.

"Going in and seeing these kids, on a personal level, (was special) because I knew where they were coming from," Blaszczyk said. "You are not defined by your parents. It was inspirational for them."

Between visits to unique locations like Eagle Village and visiting a bevy of other

special events throughout the state, Blaszczyk said the Miss Michigan experience helped her grow and taught her several life lessons.

"I think the biggest thing, this might sound a little cheesy, is that any goal you might have, you can achieve it if you set your mind to it," Blaszczyk said. "And being open minded, there's so much to learn and take in. I can only imagine what's beyond these five Great Lakes."

For now, the 2005 graduate of Novi High School said she'd use the lessons she's learned to finish her marketing degree in May 2011 and continue working hard with the Detroit Tigers' organization. She also has an agent who keeps her in the loop with opportunities to be on the silver screen.

"I'm back home and things are semi-normal, whatever normal is," Blaszczyk said.

Chris Jackett is a free-lance writer and former Novi News staff writer.

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STATE SENATE 15TH DISTRICT CANDIDATES

Republican Mike Kowall of White Lake Township faces Democrat Pam Jackson in the race for state Senate District 15. The seat is currently held by Republican Nancy Cassis, who is term-limited. They are vying for a four-year term, which pays an annual salary of \$79,650. The 15th District includes Commerce Township, Highland Township, Holly Township, Lynn Township, Milford Township, Northville (part), Novi, Novi Township, Orchard Lake, Rose Township, South Lyon, Walled Lake, West Bloomfield Township, White Lake Township and Wixom. Michigan state senators serve four-year terms. The position receives an annual base salary of \$79,650.

Name: Mike Kowall
Age: 55
Spouse: Eileen Kowall, married 36 years
Children: Marissa, Stephanie (adults)
Residency: White Lake Township, 29 years
Community involvement: White Lake Township supervisor
Related experience: White Lake Township supervisor (2004-current) and state representative for 44th District (1999-2001)
Profession: White Lake Township supervisor (1979-1972)
E-mail: MikeKowall@senate.com
Website: www.kowallforsenate.com



Name: Pam Jackson
Age: 55
Children: Melissa, Christopher (adults)
Residency: Commerce Township, seven years
Community involvement: Volunteer with Lakes Area Rotary Club and Lakes Area Optimist Club, on advisory committee with Oakland County Technical Schools Construction Management Program
Profession: Professor of mathematics, construction management and concrete construction management, Oakland Community College
Education: BA-Mathematics-Western Michigan University (1976), MA-Mathematics-Eastern Michigan University (1980), MS-Industrial Technology/Construction Management-Eastern Michigan University (2000)
E-mail: Pam.Jackson@StateSenate415@yahoo.com
Website: www.PamJackson@StateSenate.com



1. How would you balance the state's budget? Be specific. If you favor cuts, where and how much? If you favor tax cuts tell us what services you would reduce.
2. There remains a wide disparity in state funds allocated per pupil for school districts throughout the state. How would you address this concern? What is your recommendation? Be specific.
3. What are the top three ideas you would support to make Michigan's business climate more competitive?
4. Do you support multi-year budgeting? Why? Why not?
5. Michigan has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation. Explain why electing you is part of the solution. And tell us what needs to be done to spur the state's economy. Provide an estimate about how soon residents will see a change if you are elected.

1. Zero-based financing in this state is something we need to take a look at. I know for a fact the Department of Corrections and the DPRE are very burdensome on the state. Those need to be reconstructed. We just need to take a solid, common sense approach to each and every department. It would be very easy to have a 25 percent cut across the board, but with all the cuts that have already taken place, I think all the departments need to be analyzed, whether it's through a forensic audit or just a good internal audit.
2. We need to figure out a way to develop a stable tax base for education. That gets back to zero-based financing because we need to know what it costs to educate a child and spread that out statewide.
3. I support eliminating the Michigan Business Tax and Michigan Business Tax Surcharge, also oppose legislation in favor of services tax. I believe with these 3 main ideas that Michigan can be a business competitive state.
4. Yes I support multi-year budgeting. By creating a two-year budget it will bring predictability to state spending.
5. We need to be a state that is friendly to business and a job creator. I would work closely with my colleagues to provide legislation that would benefit Michigan. I'm a small business owner and I'm convinced our people can grow local businesses and create jobs if only state government would bring some sanity to our tax and regulatory code, which has been ranked the third worst in the country by The Tax Foundation. Residents should see a change very soon if the taxes are eliminated and businesses can grow.

1. Reforming Michigan's tax structure would allow support for: 1. Incentives for businesses to hire "Michigan First" promoting job creation and growth; 2. Increase funding for Pre-K-12 for equal access to quality education, maintaining affordable higher education; 3. Maintaining local police and fire protection; 4. Ensure health care for children, seniors, and the indigent; and 5. Invest in infrastructure for a mass transit system to promote economic growth. We must be proactive investigating all government programs for effectiveness and efficiencies; discard the obsolete. Once accomplished, we may not have to cut into important services or raise taxes.
2. While Proposal "A" was supposed to take care of this disparity, it still exists. Once we overhaul the tax structure to align itself with today's changing economy, a committee can construct a formula for equity of state funds. Students need to have equal access to quality education. Discussion about the consolidation of school districts and 150's with monies saved with efficiencies would allow more dollars to go directly to the classroom. What once worked in the last century needs to be researched for effectiveness and efficiencies where modifications and reforms could be introduced and implemented.
3. 1. Create an environment for small businesses to survive by eliminating the 22% surcharge and the personal property tax. 2. Create incentives for businesses and entrepreneurs to create jobs diversifying our economy. 3. Invest in Michigan citizens. Invest in education creating training facilities that can be retrofitted into closed schools offering college credits to be used at a future date. Forgive a certain percentage of college student loans if a student lives and works in Michigan each year up to five years after graduation. There would be more people living in Michigan. No child, no person would be left behind.
4. I support multi-year budgeting with quarterly reviews each year. Knowing what the state has to work with in the future allows for planning and reform.
5. Creativity and innovations with excellent problem solving skills to build consensus, is what our state desperately needs. This I would bring to Lansing when elected. Urban communities can be constructed with green spaces. The lot would be used as 20 percent down and the buyer would pay reduced property taxes over a given period of time. Incentivizing businesses to urban cities, fixing the tax structure for existing small businesses, diversifying our energy and agricultural portfolios will improve Michigan's economy within four years with efficient and effective mass transit. Strong cities and metropolitan areas are critical to restoring a prosperous Michigan.

Kowall eyes returning state back to basics

BY VICTORIA MITCHELL
STAFF WRITER

Republican Mike Kowall wants to return the state back to basics.

One area the 15th District State Senate candidate said he can achieve this is by looking at zero-based financing in Michigan.

Kowall, 59, said he knows corrections and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment are burdensome to the state and examining those departments as well as all state agencies with a common-sense approach is what needs to happen in order to get the economy back on track.

"There is no silver bullet, as much as we would like to think there is," Kowall said. The candidate said he believes you can nickel and dime enough spending at the state level to make a difference.



Republican Mike Kowall has been supervisor of White Lake Township since 2004.

Kowall said it would be easy to make cuts across the board, but he feels the right thing to do is look closely and cut out the fat and redundancies. He already sees opportunity in taking money from corrections to bolster crime prevention as a future state money saver.

Kowall said it costs about \$40,000 a year to keep some-

one in general population, not including health care. And, he said, the costs escalate from there and need to be stopped.

Kowall will face Democratic candidate Pam Jackson, a 55-year-old Commerce Township resident, in November. They are vying for the seat currently held by Nancy Cassis, who is term-limited.

Another area Kowall sees cost savings is education. The candidate said he believes consolidating school districts is a solution, and beginning with consolidating superintendents is a beginning.

Kowall would also like to see the time taken to get back to zero-based financing by determining how much it costs to educate a child and spread the costs out statewide. He said he would also like to see schools

Please see KOWALL, A15

Jackson thinks she has right background

BY KURT KUBAN
STAFF WRITER

Pam Jackson says she has always been able to solve problems — from the time she owned her own construction company to her nearly 30 years as a faculty member at Oakland Community College. And she believes Lansing is in dire need of a whole new generation of problem solvers if Michigan residents are going to continue to have the quality of life that is expected here.

Jackson, a 55-year-old Commerce Township resident, is the Democrat in the race for the State Senate 15th District. She is facing Republican Mike Kowall. They are vying for the seat currently held by Nancy Cassis, who is term-limited. Jackson has lived in the 15th District for 40 years and feels she has a pretty good idea what the residents of the district are looking for to represent them in Lansing.

"I feel like I carry the voice



Democrat Pam Jackson speaks during the Sept. 23 candidate forum at the Salem-South Lyon District Library.

of the district. I'm a problem solver. I know how to solve problems," said Jackson.

The Milford High School graduate has worked in public education for more than three decades, beginning with stints as a high school teacher in Milford and West Bloomfield, and then becoming a faculty member at OCC, where she

teaches mathematics and construction management — a program she helped develop. She has two master's degrees (in mathematics and industrial technology/construction management — Eastern Michigan University) and she is working on her Ph.D. in educational policy particularly as it pertains to the prison system.

This is Jackson's second crack at elected politics. In 2008, she ran unsuccessfully against Christine Long for a seat on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. She fared pretty well in that election, garnering nearly 9,500 votes — a number she says is more than double of what any Democrat had ever received in the Republican-dominated district.

And that is why she is optimistic in this election. She feels she has a broader appeal

Please see JACKSON, A15

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OUR VIEWS

38th District Hugh Crawford deserves second term in House

The Michigan House of Representatives 38th District includes Lyon Township, Novi city, Novi Township, South Lyon city, Walled Lake city and Wixom city and part of Northville city.

Vying to represent those constituents are incumbent Republican Hugh Crawford and challenger Jeff Gedeon. We commend Gedeon for entering the race to keep it from being uncontested, but the clear choice for voters is Crawford.

Crawford, a former Marine, who retired from Xerox Corp. after 20 years, is a well-known figure in Oakland County politics. The Novi native has served in a variety of capacities — local City Council, the Southwest Oakland Cable Commission, Novi's Parks and Recreation Commission, the Novi Lions Club, several area chambers of commerce and the county commission — before heading to Lansing in 2008.

Crawford became part of a bipartisan Freshman Caucus of 24 Democrats and 20 Republicans. The class pledged that whichever party is in control after this upcoming election, things will be done differently in Lansing. He is frustrated by the inefficiencies and wants to see it change and operate more like he was a county commissioner (and looking at Oakland County, that's a good thing.) The next Lansing lineup will include over 90 members each with two years or less experience.

Crawford, who opposes term limits, says it has taken him most of these past two years just to learn the position. In that time, he has built solid relationships with colleagues and lobbyists (the latter an element of politics that she stresses is vital to keeping legislators informed on issues).

Crawford opposes raising taxes and did not vote for or support any new increases in his term. With the exception of Medicaid and education, he says everything is on the table and subject to cuts. His priorities are energy, technology, health and regulation reform. Like many candidates, he recognizes Michigan must become more attractive to job providers. He supports eliminating the Michigan Business Tax. Government shouldn't create jobs, but rather an environment that's business friendly, Crawford says.

He's learned that transparency is a major issue with Lansing and said, "Funds are there, but there is lots of fraud and inefficiencies."

On education, Crawford feels that overall Prop A is working and he's not a fan of tweaking it — right now. He did not support the reduction in 20J funding for schools and has called for policies to reform state funding for local districts.

The 67-year-old offers a strong voice for senior citizens as he serves on the Subcommittee on Mental Health and, he also sits on the Regulatory Reform Committee.

The Novi News recommends voters re-elect Crawford on Nov. 2. He has earned the right to represent the 38th District for another two years.

ONLINE VOICES & VIEWS

The following are excerpts from readers participating in our online forum for discussing issues. In Your Voices. Find more comments on the discussion on the Web at hometownlife.com.

Walmart submits plans to join Novi Town Center

We can't be isolationist. I believe Walmart will increase business traffic in the area and who knows it just might be the catalyst to revitalize a downtown Novi. I don't think any mom-and-pop stores will be affected as usually is the case in a small community

NoviRonB

Aaarrggghhh!!! I do not live in Novi, but the first time the 96 exit is blocked up for all the sheep going to Walmart, I will not be back to use the rest of the malls.

analytictinker

Sinking fund millage up for renewal VOTE NO!!!

Wait a moment, mrjoey and anyone else with an instant "VOTE NO". Due to the peculiar and convoluted way schools are funded and the way the state allows certain monies from certain places to only be used for certain things, means this Sinking Fund is a good part of the physical plant maintenance budget. I don't like taxes. I certainly don't care for a lot of things going on in the school district, but not renewing this millage is draining the maintenance budget and a very short-sighted way of saving money. We should take care of what we own. This is the mandated way to do it. WelcomingChange

mrjoey

COMMUNITY VOICE

The Nov. 2 elections are approaching. Are you going to vote at the polls or by absentee ballot?



"I'll vote by absentee. It's a God-given duty."
 Florence Baptist
 Novi



"I'll vote by absentee ballot, since I'm at the Senior Center most of the time."
 Marion Cooper
 Novi



"I've been voting absentee for a couple of years since we moved here from Florida."
 Robert Lacroix
 Novi



"I'm going to vote absentee - seems more convenient, not having to stand in line."
 Richard O'Donohue
 Novi

LETTERS

No gas at Beck and Grand River?

While driving around town, I have observed that there are numerous gas stations lining the streets of Novi. On the corner of Beck Road and Grand River Avenue, however, one of the busiest intersections in town and very near to where I live, I have noticed that there is no gas station to be found. I believe that there is a legitimate need for a gas station near that intersection.

Most of the gas stations in and around Novi seem to be in the vicinity of major establishments, such as shopping centers and restaurants, or near freeway on-ramps. Although the corner of Beck and Grand River is very near to a major hospital (Providence Park), a large shopping area including Kroger and Home Depot, numerous restaurants, three separate banks, and an I-96 on-ramp, there is nowhere to get gas without having to travel a mile down the road in either direction. This causes inconvenience to working people needing to refuel their cars after work, and also is a nuisance to travelers needing to quickly exit the freeway, fill up and hit the road again.

Being a new driver, I am just realizing how very often a car needs to be refueled. If we as a community could solicit a company such as Speedway or Mobil to construct a gas station on or near that corner, I am sure that I, along with many other citizens living and working in the area, would feel as if those frequent fill-ups would be more tolerable.

Kevin Shaw
 Novi

Consolidation won't work

Recently, it has come to my attention that there has been a proposal to merge Novi and Northville school districts. However, I feel that it is a very bad idea to do this. Although this could be a potential way to save money, consolidation would still not be a good idea. It should not be beneficial in any way to the two districts.

Superintendent of Novi Peter Dion is absolutely correct when he says, "It's not about doing more with less, it's doing more with more." The consolidation of these two districts would make more sense if they were smaller. By merging these two, you would be taking away the quality of education as well. With so many students in one district, it would be very difficult to have a good education program.

This brings another issue as well. People say that merging the two districts would save money, but it really would not. With the amount of students that would be in this district, the district would have to hire an innumerable amount of teachers and administrators. This would greatly increase costs.

The full joining of Novi and Northville just does not seem like a good plan at all. As the students, you and I can do something about this. We can raise our voices and keep things the way they are. Two separate school districts are better than one, even if it means cutting costs. Bigger is not always better.

Heel Bhattacharyya
 Novi Township

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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

E-mail: cstone@gannett.com.

Read or comment online: www.hometownlife.com

Deadline: Letters must be received by 10 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at www.hometownlife.com.

School electronics policy needs tweaking

Novi High School has a new pilot policy for electronics that I can relate to, being a student there. The new pilot policy states that students are allowed to use their electronics, such as, phones, iPods, etc., during lunch and passing times. The other part to this agreement is that every teacher has a red light, yellow light or green light classroom. The red light rooms are the ones that cannot use electronics at all. The yellow light rooms can use electronics when the teacher allows. The green light rooms are allowed to use electronics as they please. Personally, the idea of electronics in school is great, but not so much with all of the different rules.

All the different rules are not only confusing but can also get students in trouble. If you have a green light room and go to a red light room, most kids can forget very easily they aren't supposed to have their phones or iPods out. They can get in a lot of trouble too. That's not fair. There should be one guideline for every classroom. The only color classroom that should be allowed is yellow. This is the fairest and easiest way to protect the rules and electronics of the students.

Even though this new policy is loved by every student in the school, there is still room for improvement. It takes one step at a time, but I'm just hoping that the next step this school takes is towards a better policy that's equal in every classroom. This would be the best for everyone.

Lindsay Swope
 Novi High School Student

Students, get informed before voting

The vast majority of the youth of America is uninformed when it comes to politics. It is disturbing to think that the younger generation, that may be eligible to partake in the 2012 election, does not understand the on-going events of our government. Just because one is of age to vote does not mean one is informed enough to vote.

In 2008, politics found its way into history classes all over the country. Teachers tried to stay impartial but students expressed their own personal beliefs about our govern-

ment; most were uninformed. The students decided who they wanted to win the election based on hearsay instead of fact. They should have done research to choose and support their candidate and to learn about our existing government. In my history class, students insisted that George W. Bush should have been impeached during his presidency simply because they disliked him. They did not understand that there were no impeachable acts Bush had done. Their empty words inspired me to educate myself on politics so all of my opinions would be backed by fact. The results surprised me. I did not know anything about the candidate. I had, been supporting. Luckily, after my research I discovered that I still strongly supported my candidate but now understood why I maintained my support instead of doing so because of my parent's view.

As White Lake Township supervisor since 2004, Kowall said he has created an environment promoting small business growth by creating the policy and manna, roll out the red tape and roll out the red carpet. Kowall said by reducing red tape, new business owners can begin generating cash flow as quickly as possible — a cost-free incentive to promoting local business growth.

Kowall said during his time as supervisor the township has seen an increase of 2,000 jobs and a dramatic increase in taxable value in excess of \$85 million in the M-5 corridor, which stretches from Williams Lake Road to Bogie Lake Road. He attributes the growth in most part from retail and the attraction of big box stores. He works with a \$15 million township budget in a community with a population under 30,000 residents.

"I just feel driven to the fact that I know I can make a difference," Kowall said. "When I'm gone I want to know that I left not just White Lake, but the entire state in better shape."

Prior to his township supervisor role, Kowall served as 44th District State Representative from 1998-2001. He attended Oakland County Community College and is a small business owner. Kowall is married to his spouse of 36 years, Eileen Kowall, and has two adult daughters. He is a 29-year White Lake Township resident.

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JACKSON

FROM PAGE A13

than some Democrats would bring to the table. In fact, she believes her background makes her the better candidate.

"I would say to voters to compare our backgrounds. I'm not a career politician. I have expertise in a lot of areas that would be beneficial at the state level. I can make a difference in Lansing," Jackson said.

Jackson also owned a construction company, so she knows what the landscape looks like for a small business owner. And she feels that landscape is pretty rocky these days — and the state isn't doing anything to help. She feels the legislature must come up with a better tax system, because the current one is killing businesses not helping them. She would also like to provide tax breaks to companies that hire unemployed workers or create new jobs.

"I can't make jobs, but I can make it more conducive for companies to come to our state," she said.

She also suggested the state could create its own bank to provide loans for business owners, because the big banks just aren't lending money. "We gave them tons of money to help them out, but they're not helping us out," she said.

Jackson also favors keeping the state's generous tax incentives in place for the film industry — something Cassis has railed against. "It's another industry for us,

and I think it's fabulous," she said. "We need these incentives so we can keep all these wonderful college students here in Michigan."

One area where she has a distinct view from her opponent is in energy technology. While Kowall favors allowing more electricity-producing coal-fired plants to be built, Jackson said the state must move away from the polluting coal plants and begin investing in green energy projects like wind and solar. She believes that will lead to more jobs and a cleaner future.

The other big issue for Jackson is public education — not surprising for someone who has spent most of her professional career as a teacher. She is advocating changes to the way the state funds public schools, including either tweaking or completely overhauling Proposal A. She would like to see districts and intermediate school districts consolidate services.

"We need to adjust the public school model to fit today's realities," she said. "Every child should have a quality education, and an equal opportunity at that education."

While she knows the odds are stacked against her because she is a Democrat in a Republican-dominated district, Jackson said she is out there fighting for every vote, and that people are receptive to her once they hear her message.

"I'm here to make a difference," she said. "This state needs someone in there that can pick up the books."

KOWALL

FROM PAGE A13

partner more with local libraries.

The candidate said if elected, he would also prioritize bringing people back to work by abolishing the Michigan Business Tax and Michigan Business Tax Surcharge.

Kowall said we have to keep jobs in our state and people from crossing state lines. "We lose more jobs to Indiana than we do to India," he said.

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"I just feel driven to the fact that I know I can make a difference," Kowall said. "When I'm gone I want to know that I left not just White Lake, but the entire state in better shape."

Prior to his township supervisor role, Kowall served as 44th District State Representative from 1998-2001. He attended Oakland County Community College and is a small business owner. Kowall is married to his spouse of 36 years, Eileen Kowall, and has two adult daughters. He is a 29-year White Lake Township resident.

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More: For a complete listing of local and regional events, see the Novi Calendar online at www.hometownlife.com.

Submit: Send calendar submissions via e-mail to cstone@gannett.com; by fax to (248) 349-9832; or by mail to Novi News, 101 N. Lafayette, South Lyon, MI 48178. Items must be received by noon on Monday to be included in Thursday's newspaper.

LOCAL EVENTS

Celiac Disease and Gluten-Free Diet Seminar

Time/Date: 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16
 Location: Better Health Market
 Details: A digestive disorder could be causing your fatigue, joint pain or even your skin rashes. You could be allergic to wheat and barley and not even know it. You'll learn from the pros on how you can restore your health and reclaim your life at this free seminar.
 Contact: (248) 735-8100

Franklin Road Christian School Novi Open House

Time/Date: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19
 Location: 40800 W. 13 Mile Road, Novi

Details: Open house for students pre-kindergarten through 12th grade at this co-educational, college preparatory school with a nondenominational Christian philosophy. See classrooms in action and meet with faculty and administration.
 Contact: (248) 668-7100 or visit www.franklinroadchristianschool.org

Rock Financial Showplace

Location: 46100 Grand River Avenue, Novi

Contact: (248) 348-5600

Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo Date: Oct. 16-17

Details: This exclusive event is looking to collaborate with businesses in the Detroit Area to endorse the only expo designed to inspire and encourage individuals to embrace a life of health, beauty, wellness and fitness.

Contact: For general information about the Health, Beauty & Fitness Expo or to inquire more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities visit the website at HealthAndBeautyExpo.net or call (866) 625-6161.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Thursday, October 14, 2010 hometownlife.com

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

Contact Editor, Cal Stone
Voice Mail: (248) 437-2011, ext. 237
E-mail: cstone@gannett.com
Comment online at hometownlife.com

NOVI POLICE BRIEFS

Marijuana plants found in woods

A hiker found two four-foot marijuana plants in the woods at Novi Road and Arena Drive around 3 p.m. on Oct. 10.

According to the report, the man told police he found the plants while hiking and heard people's voices in the area but did not see anyone.

He took the police to the area northwest of the sports complex and there they found a shelving unit with four small dead plants along with soil in plastic bags. They also found the two marijuana plants

and transported them to the Novi Police Department.

Police have no suspects and a detective was notified.

Car contents strewn about parking lot

A Novi man had his car broken into and several of the items inside were broken or thrown outside the car while it was parked in the car port overnight on Oct. 10 on Beachwalk Drive.

The man said he must have left the car unlocked overnight, and when he returned to the car in the morning several things were damaged or

thrown outside. Nothing was stolen.

The owner said he doesn't believe he or his wife have any enemies.

Police also were notified of two other similar incidents with cars and a doorway in the complex was covered in powder from a fire extinguisher. Police have no suspects.

CB radio jacked from truck

The owner of Country Building Supply on Grand River Avenue had one of his dump trucks broken into and the CB radio was stolen from it while it was parked in the lot overnight on Oct. 9.

The unknown suspect broke a window to gain entry to the truck and took only the CB Radio.

Police have no suspects.

Police catch drunk driver

A 52-year-old man was arrested at 12:55 a.m. on Oct. 9 for drinking and driving after initially being stopped for failure to use a turn signal at Trans X east of Novi Road.

According to the report, when the officer approached the car he smelled a strong odor of intoxicants and admitted to having a "couple of beers."

He failed field sobriety tests and a preliminary breath test registered a blood alcohol content of .10 percent. The legal

limit for adult drivers is .08.

He was arrested and transported to the Novi Police Department where he was issued a citation for operating while intoxicated and released when sober.

GPS stolen from rental car

A Garmin GPS was taken from a rental car around 6:40 p.m. on Oct. 8 while it was parked in the parking lot on Orchard Hill.

According to the report, a security officer in the area noticed a man running into the parking from the east, and as she approached him he ran away. It was then that she noticed the window broken and the car and the GPS was missing.

A K-9 track was unsuccessful.

ful and police have no suspects at this time.

Money taken from wallet inside car

A woman had money stolen from her wallet that was inside her car while she was at work from 2:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 6.

The incident occurred at a business on the corner of Ten Mile and Novi Roads, and was noticed by the woman when she got off work.

Her rear window was smashed and the contents of the back seat. All that was taken from the wallet was \$200.

Keep eyes open for deer while driving

October and November are the two most dangerous months in Michigan for deer/vehicle crashes.

Vehicle/deer crashes can cause more than just damage to the outside of the vehicle. The 61,486 crashes last year resulted in 1,571 injuries and 10 deaths.

In 2009, all 10 deer crash fatalities involved motorcyclists.

"Motorcyclists are vulnerable to deer crashes as they travel Michigan's roadways," stated Coalition Chair Lori Conant of the Insurance Institute of Michigan.

"Reducing the number of injuries and fatalities from these types of crashes is a priority for the coalition."

October and November are the two most dangerous months in Michigan for deer/vehicle crashes.

Last year, there were 78 vehicle/deer crashes in Milford. Highland reported 77 crashes last year. Commerce had 57 vehicle/deer crashes last year and White Lake tallied 63. All motorists should "think deer" whenever they are behind the wheel and drive defensively, as if a deer can appear at any moment. And all motorists should remember to always fasten their safety belts. Safety belts often make the difference in surviving a serious crash.

In Michigan, deer crashes cost at least \$130 million per year, according to SEMCOG. The average insurance claim is about \$2,100 in damage, usually to the front end, often leaving the vehicle undrivable.

The coalition cautions drivers not to swerve out of a lane to avoid a deer. It's generally safer to hit the deer than run off the road or risk injuring another motorist.

Schultz receives Distinguished award

Secret Wardle announced that Thomas Schultz, a partner in its Farmington Hills office, received the 2010 Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award given by the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA).

Schultz has concentrated his practice in municipal law since starting with the firm in 1991. He is currently the City Attorney for the City of Farmington, and provides general

counsel services for several other Oakland County communities, including the City of Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township.

He has also acted as special counsel for other communities. In addition to municipal work, Schultz specializes in real estate transactions and litigation involving zoning and land use approvals, purchase and sales agreements, development approval documents, natural resource regulation, and subdivision and condominium issues.

Schultz graduated from the University of Detroit Law School in 1988. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Detroit (1985).

Schultz was recognized for his achievements exemplifying the highest level of accomplishment in representing municipal interests.

NOVI NEWSMAKERS

senting municipal interests in Michigan courts.

Schultz received a congratulatory letter from MAMA President, Stephen K. Postema, in which he acknowledged, "Your contributions as municipal attorney for the City of Novi and other communities have been numerous. Your work on matters involving ordinance drafting, contract review, compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act requirements, property taxation and special assessments, property maintenance/nuisance abatement and the acquisition of land for public purposes are only some of the ways you have promoted and advanced the interests of Michigan communities."

Schultz was recognized for his achievements exemplifying the highest level of accomplishment in representing municipal interests.

Suttle selected for Top-Idea

Marilyn Suttle, CEO of Suttle Enterprises LLC, was selected from over 5,000 submissions to be featured in The 2011 Woman's Advantage Shared Wisdom Calendar. The calendar provides advice for women business owners from influential women leaders across the US and Canada.

Mary Cantando, Growth Expert of The Woman's Advantage, announced that Suttle's advice has been included in the calendar which was released on Oct. 1.

"Marilyn Suttle's quote was selected because it was powerful yet easy to understand. Her idea is relevant to almost every woman in business today," said Cantando. "Women business owners and those who dream of starting a business will learn so much from the advice provided by Marilyn and the other successful women quoted in the calendar."

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WE'RE OPEN!

Grand Opening Event
Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010
9 am-6 pm

Free Gifts • Hourly Raffle Drawings
Refreshments • Feeder Swap
(Bring in your old feeder for 20% off a new feeder)

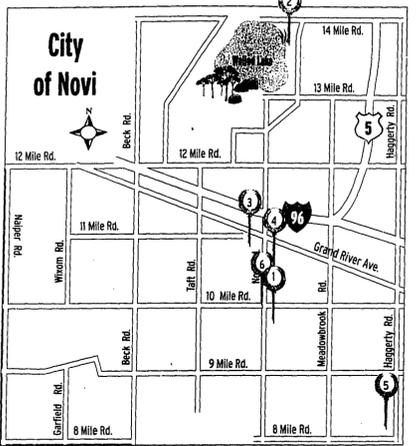
Grand Prizes
One 20 lb. bag of seed each month for 1 year
Advanced Pole System • Basic Set-up

Don't forget - Seed Sale is on through Oct. 17, 2010

Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

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(Located between Kroger & Home Depot)
Novi, MI 48374

(248) 374 4000 • www.wbu.com/novi



Compiled by staff writer Nathan Mueller

IN THE SERVICE

Joppich
Army Pvt. Steven M. Joppich has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. He is the son of Richard Joppich of Wixom, and Laura Ludwick of Novi. Joppich is a 2008 graduate of Walled Lake Western High School.

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\$7.77 off all repairs

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October is Men's Month!

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Quality • Service • Selection Since 1946
We carry a great selection of shoes and boots!

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With this coupon only. Expires 11-15-10.

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Novi, MI 48374
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10am-5pm
Tue., Wed. 10am-5pm
Sat. 9:00am-5pm

Novi 47750 Grand River West Market Square at Kroger 248-347-7838
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10am-5pm
Tue., Wed. 10am-5pm
Sat. 9:00am-5pm

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- \$100 off your Botox® treatment! For any new client (Reg. price at \$13 per unit)*
- Entry in a prize drawing to win FREE aesthetician services!
- 25% off our entire line of pharmaceutical grade skin care products*

Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided.

Thursday, Oct. 28th, 2010
from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Space is limited!
Call us to reserve your appointment today!

*Some restrictions may apply. Not valid with any other offer.

(800) 493-3223
19900 Haggerty Rd., Suite 103
Livonia, Michigan 48152
www.beautycenterofnovi.com

Dr. Brian Baker Dr. Jennifer Kim Dr. Jeffrey Meyer

CALENDAR
FROM PAGE A15

Location: Novi Civic Center, Activities Room, 45175 West 10 Mile Road, Novi, Michigan 48375
Details: Novi Toastmasters is a community-based club which is part of Toastmasters International. Our diverse group provides a mutually supportive atmosphere in which all can develop and refine their public speaking and leadership skills. Our members also have fun while building confidence in day-to-day communications and mentoring toward professional and personal excellence. Guests are welcome - and bring a friend. Visit www.novi.freehost.us.
Contact: Linda Krauter at PR@novi.freehost.us

Novi Rotary Club
Time/Date: Noon every Thursday
Location: Novi Methodist Church, 41671 W. 10 Mile Road
Details: Lunch is \$10 at meeting. Visitors welcome. Check Web site for speaker information: novirotary.org.

NIGHTLIFE
Andiamo Novi / Dirty Martini Lounge / Andiamo Theater
Location: 42705 Grand River Avenue, Novi
Contact: (248) 348-3838
"DON'T BE CRUEL - THE LIFE & TIMES OF THE KING"
Dates: Wednesday-Sunday nights through Nov. 28
Details: "Don't Be Cruel - The Life and Times of the King" is not a tribute show. The original production is a multi-media theatrical event brought to life through storytelling, video and a musical montage - putting "Elvis" in the spotlight once again as he chronicles his life through his own eyes starting with the day he died. Show times are: 8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday; and 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$25 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; \$35 Friday-Saturday and available at the theatre box office, by phone at (248) 348-4448 or 1-800-745-3000



JOHN HEDER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Colorful sky
A nice sunset at Novi's Sept. 24 home game. (Ticketmaster) or on-line at www.ticketmaster.com.
Contact: (248) 348-4448

Liquor Store
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 305.8135

Mbargo
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 44325 Twelve Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 374-3420

Bar Louie
Location: Twelve Mile Crossing at Fountain Walk, 4437 12 Mile Road, Novi
Contact: (248) 662-1100

The Grapvine of Novi
Location: 43155 Market Street, Novi
Contact: (248) 344-4044; www.thegravineofnovi.com
Live Blues Fridays and Saturdays: 8:30-midnight
Oct. 15 - Jill Jack; Oct. 16 - Bon Temp Roule; Oct. 22 - The Messarounds; Oct. 23 - Big Boss Trio; Oct. 29 - Don Swindell Quartet; Oct. 30 - The Pleasuretones

Novi Public Library
Location: 45255 W. Ten Mile Road
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-5 p.m.
Details: Unless noted below, all programs take place at the Library.
Contact: (248) 349-0720
Website: www.novilibrary.org
Five communities united by 1 book! Join the Great Read by reserving your copy of Annie's Ghosts by Steve Luxenberg and registering for a great variety of related events at the Novi, Northville, Lyon Township, Salem-South Lyon Township, and Wixom libraries. See website for more details.
Story Times: Please see the Library website or story time brochure for details.
Tech Time
Time/Date: 3-3:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14; 7-7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19; 3-3:15 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27
Details: One-on-one tutoring with either a librarian or computer tech on a topic of your choice. Investigating your family tree? Microsoft Word have you stumped? We have the tools to help. Please register
Haunted Graham Cracker Houses
Time/Date: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15
Details: Create your own creepy haunted house at the library. We will supply the house and all the candy to decorate. Registration is required and limited to the first 20 participants. For 9-12 graders.
Saturday Autumn Story Time
Time/Date: 1-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16
Details: Let the days get shorter and the leaves fall from the trees - the fun gets even better when we can

the third Wednesday of every month at the Novi Civic Center-Council Chambers starting at 7 p.m.
Novi Historical Commission Meeting
Time/Date: 7-8:45 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20
Details: Public is always welcome. Meetings discuss ongoing and future projects of the Novi Historical Commission.
Tamil Story Time
Time/Date: 10:30-11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 21
Details: Tamil volunteer storytellers read Tamil picture books to preschool aged children.
Author Steve Luxenberg visits NPL
Time/Date: 7-8:5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21
Details: Author of Annie's Ghost will share his amazing stories of how this year's Community Read book came to be. Soft and hardcover books will be available for sale and signing. Registration required.
Japanese Story Time
Time/Date: 10:30-11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 25
Details: Japanese volunteer storytellers read Japanese picture books to preschool aged children.
Lego Club
Time/Date: 6-6:45 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25
Details: Join us for Lego show-and-tell and building activities. We supply the Legos, you supply the imagination.
Spanish Story Time
Time/Date: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26
Details: Spanish volunteer storytellers read Spanish picture books to preschool aged children.

Walled Lake City Library
Location: 1499 E. West Maple Road, Walled Lake
Phone: (248) 624-3772
Essentials of Facebook
Time/Date: 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20
Details: An introduction to the popular social networking website; free hour-long program.
Contact: (248) 624-3772 or email admin@walledlakelibrary.org.



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NOVI NETTERS WIN CONFERENCE, ADVANCE TO STATES, B5
BUSINESS, B7



Mustangs roll past Wildcats 24-17
Baseline Jug and division title goes to Northville

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Northville scored a season low and Novi allowed a season high in points last Friday as the Mustangs claimed the Baseline Jug for the second straight year, with a 27-14 victory.

Flipping the score on the Wildcats (4-3, 4-1 KLA Central) from their gridiron victory over South Lyon last week, the Mustangs (7-0, 5-0 Central) marched to a division title in front of their home crowd.

"Coach (Todd) Pennycuff had that team prepared really well," Northville coach Matt Ladach said.

As expected, Novi's defense was the key factor in the game, holding Northville's explosive offense below 35 points for the first time this season despite allowing more than 24 points for the first time this fall. Of Novi's 64 tackles, seven were for a loss of yards. Junior Alex King led the way with team highs in both tackles (five) and assists (10).

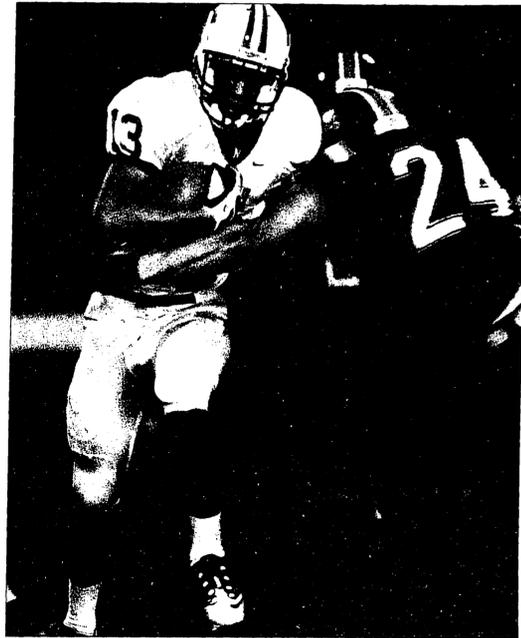
"We're a good defensive club. (Ladach) wasn't subbing out at halftime like he has been," Novi's Pennycuff said. "I look at their effort and they gave us everything they have."

The scoring started early after Northville senior Jonathon Alandt returned the kickoff 85 yards to Novi's 7-yard line. On fourth and one, junior quarterback Jeff Gertley ran into the right side of the end zone just 1:56 into the contest. A kick by senior Victor Bodrie gave the Mustangs an early 7-0 lead.

"That first touchdown was huge. All week our emphasis was on fourth down," Ladach said. "It was a big confidence builder for us."

The Wildcats responded with a seven-play, 80-yard drive capped by senior Zach Mohr taking the ball 32 yards up the left side for a touchdown. A boot by senior Scotty Stanford tied the game 7-7.

Neither team breached each other's 30-yard line for the rest of the first quarter, but the Mustangs started a nine-play, 60-yard drive that Alandt would finish off with a 2-yard touchdown run on the left side. Bodrie's kick meant a 14-7 lead



Novi's Zach Mohr tries to get past Northville's Matt Celentino.

and the Mustangs would never look back.

Novi's next drive was 10 plays, lasted two minutes, included two time outs and ended with just 30 yards of offense after a 1-yard loss at fourth and one on the Northville 49.

"They remembered assignments and took care of responsibilities. Our defense came up big for us. Our kids did a great job," Ladach said. "Special teams has been critical for us all season long. It paid off for us tonight."

Gertley hit senior Anthony Peraino with a 25-yard pass on the next play and then overcame strong pressure by junior Brandon Love for an 11-yard touchdown at the right end line just a few plays later. Bodrie's kick went wide right with 59 seconds remaining and Northville carried a 20-7 lead into halftime after a last-ditch effort by Mohr, who carried the ball 32 yards from Novi's 34 as time expired.

Junior quarterback Derek Ince connected with Mohr for a 15-yard gain early in the third quarter, but two plays later, he

Please see FOOTBALL, B4

Catholic Central wins regional, heads to finals

No. 1 ranked Shamrocks have momentum heading to title tourney

BY SAM EGGLESTON CORRESPONDENT

ON TAP

Two weeks before the start of the tennis season, the Catholic Central Shamrocks suffered their worst loss ever--varsity assistant and junior varsity coach Jim Zapton.

Zapton died of a sudden heart attack. The team was in shock at first, struggling at the lack of his presence and his guidance on the court. As the season has progressed though, the Shamrocks have found a way of remembering Zapton. They play in his memory.

"Coach Z loved Catholic Central High School and the boys on this team," said CC coach Joe Stafford. "Coach Z always preached about being a good teammate, playing the right way and putting the team first. He has been an inspiration to this team and we have dedicated our season to him and his memory."

It's in his memory that the team has been able to take 12 of the state's best players and have them all focus on the same goal: winning as Shamrocks, not as individuals.

The result has been phenomenal and Zapton would no doubt be proud. Not only are the Shamrocks ranked first in the state, they recently won the Catholic

Please see TENNIS, B5

Novi swimmers 7th in county 'Cats host Northville tonight

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Novi's lady tankers showed they were among some of the county's elite Oct. 1-2 as the team finished seventh of 27 teams at the Oakland County Championships.

Taking place at Waterford Mott, the Wildcats (2-3, 1-2 KLA Central) earned 154.5 points to finish six points behind Farmington Hills Harrison and 40 points ahead of eight-place Clarkston. Farmington Hills Mercy won the meet with 405 points, followed by Bloomfield Hills Marian with 262. Thirty more points would've placed the 'Cats third at the meet.

Sophomores Andrea VanderMey, Maranda Buha, Kara Berg and senior Madalyn Buha earned a huge 26 points by finishing sixth in the 200-yard medley relay in 1:53.15.

Berg and Madalyn Buha teamed with junior Abby Hall and senior Becca Berman in an 11th-place 200-yard freestyle relay finish in 1:44.22 to earn 12 points, while Maranda Buha, Berman, VanderMey and senior Sarah Sultana scored 22 points in the 400-yard free relay with a time of 3:47.18.

With the three relay teams earning 60 points for Novi, the 'Cats had some work to do in the individual competitions.

VanderMey led the way with a first-place finish in the 100 backstroke in 57.65 seconds. She also finished second in the 200 IM in 2:08.76.

Sultana was also impressive in both events, finishing ninth in the 200 IM in 2:16.13 and 23rd in the 100 back in 1:04.81.

Finishing third in the 500 free, Berman scored 16 points with a time of 5:09.99. She also finished 11th in the 200 free in 1:59.93.

Senior Abby Glenn competed in both individual events Berman had, finishing 25th in the 500 free in 5:34.93 and 39th in the 200 free in 2:09.58.

Sophomore Rachel Aepelbacher was strong in the 1-meter dive, finishing 12th with 319.40 points.

The Buha sisters had a big meet in the relays, but did well individually, too. Maranda was sixth in the 100 butterfly in 59.97 seconds and 11th in 50 free in 24.98 seconds. Madalyn was 24th in 50 free in 25.98 seconds and 34th in the 100 free in 58.24 seconds.

Wrapping up the Wildcats' performances were senior Jacque Carless (14th in the 500 free in 5:22.90), Berg (39th in the 100 free in 59.24 seconds, 37th in 50 free in 26.66 seconds) and sophomore Kelsey Shurmur (26th in 100 fly in 1:04.21, 34th in 200 IM in 2:26.27).

For detailed meet results, visit www.noviswim.com.

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



Schubring, Giampa lead 'Cats to strong All-County finishes

Novi defeats Salem, 10th at county meet

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Despite some closer competition during the past week, the Wildcats' boys cross country team came away with successful showings at Plymouth Salem and the Oakland County meet.

Novi started off the week by defeating Salem 23-36 Oct. 5 at Willow Metro Park in New

Northville and Novi High cross country teams run at Cass Benton Park on Sept. 28.

Boston to improve to 3-1 in the KLA Central Division.

Seniors Brett Giampa and Joe Schubring led the way with identical 17-minute, 8-second finishes, 14 seconds better than the third-place runner from Salem.

They were followed by junior Dan Lee (fifth in 17:27), junior Ryan Tgiros (seventh in 17:44), senior Steve Pravato (eighth in 17:57) and junior Eric Gardner (ninth in 18:02).

"Dan set a new career personal record with his time of 17:27," Novi coach Robert Smith said. "Ryan Tgiros and Steve Pravato finished up the

Please see COUNTY, B4

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

had a 20-yard pass picked off by senior Levi Perry at Northville's 29.

"We made mistakes again that cost us. They're a very good football team and don't make very many mistakes," Penney said, noting the Wildcats aren't athletic enough to stop turnovers.

"The Mustangs went three and out on the ensuing drive, giving Novi the ball at their own 30. Novi responded by going three and out as Stanford sent a high 22-yard punt to Northville's 49, giving the Mustangs good field position for a six-play touch-down drive.

On second and seven, Gertley fumbled the ball, but recovered for a 22-yard pass to Alandt. After a 2-yard run by Gertley, he tossed an 11-yard pass to senior Jordan Lawrence in the right side of the end zone. Bodie's kick made it 27-7 Northville.

Novi had a three and out on the next drive, followed by a three and out by the Mustangs to start the fourth quarter.

"The game changes. Right now. For us," Mohr yelled to his teammates on the sideline

as the team lined up for fourth down.

However, Novi senior Brian Bush dropped Northville's 40-yard punt at the Novi 15 and Northville senior Michael MacLean recovered it at the 14.

The Mustangs attempted a 28-yard field goal after a three and out snap from the 11, but Bodie's kick went wide right.

The Cats took over at their own 20 and drove the ball downfield. On fourth and one at the Northville 32, senior Dominic Sabo burst up the right side for a 12-yard run. Senior Derek Kim caught an over-the-shoulder ball off a 32-yard toss by Ince on the next play.

Stanford's kick cut the deficit to 27-14. Northville has a three and out on the next drive.

Novi took over with 5:21 to go and drove the ball offfield. On fourth and four on their own 26, Ince hit Kim with a 14-yard pass up the middle. He had 52 yards on three receptions.

"Kim's done an outstanding job and he's someone I've really pushed hard. He kept us in the game," Penney said. "Ince did some things for us. We're not a passing team."

On second and 10 on the 50, however, junior Jeff Hewlett picked off an Ince pass at the Northville 32 and returned it 31 yards.

The Mustangs took over with 3:07 left in the game as almost

the entire Northville student section marched around the field to taunt Novi's student section, which was stopped by security 20 yards away from the Novi bleachers. Northville's team ran down the clock with four straight rushing plays.

With the crowd settled, the Cats took over at their 14 and Ince connected with junior Mike Jocz for an 18-yard reception out of bounds along the left sideline.

Although he tossed two interceptions, Ince went 5-for-10 for 85 yards and a touchdown for Novi. Gertley went 7-for-12 for 93 yards and two touchdowns for Northville.

Novi won the touchdown game with 225 yards on 42 attempts, compared to 154 yards on 39 attempts for the Mustangs. Mohr (87 yards, TD on seven attempts), junior Zach Masseran (67 yards on 13 attempts) and Sabo (42 yards on 12 attempts) led the Cats, while Gertley (88 yards, 1 TD on 19 attempts) and Alandt (41 yards, 1 TD on nine attempts) led Northville.

"Northville has a very good football club," Penney said. "They are a classy group over here at Northville and that's what makes it fun. I'm very appreciative to have a rivalry like this."

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

Novi volleyball defeats Class B state champs

Wildcats finish second to Class A champion Marian at invitational

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

ON TAP

League play is coming to a close as No. 9 Novi (23-31, 6-0 KLA Central) was scheduled to visit South Lyon (16-6-1, 3-3 Central) last Tuesday and South Lyon East (11-6-3, 0-5-0 Central) last Wednesday.

Hooamian had 11 digs, 11 returns, Robb had 10 returns, 10 digs and Subject had eight digs in the Wildcats' finals effort.

Fisette said Marian, North Branch and Bedford combined for between six and eight Miss Volleyball candidates, whereas the Wildcats' teamwork style of play has left Novi with no candidates.

"If you're going to shut one girl down, we're going to go to the next one," Fisette said.

gain any benefits last Saturday as the Mustangs won the invitational championship with a 25-13, 25-23 showing.

"The girls passed very, very well. I was really pleased with their serve receive," Fisette said. "23-25 is a lot better than we've ever played them."

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KLA CENTRAL

"The Cats used a strong team effort to remain undefeated in the Central Division last week, defeating both Plymouth Salem (11-6-1, 4-2 Central) and Livonia Stevenson (10-9-3, 2-4 Central).

Novi took care of Salem 25-12, 25-20, 25-13 as Subject had 20 assists and Robb had nine digs, 11 serve returns and eight kills to lead the Wildcats.

Junior Victoria Rose led Novi's offense with 12 kills during a 25-17, 25-18, 25-13 victory over Stevenson last Thursday. In a match that helped several players' personal statistics, Robb had nine kills, 10 digs and 10 serve returns; Subject had 28 assists; junior Anna Lu had 10 assists; Hooamian had 13 digs and 10 serve returns; and Green had 10 serve returns.

"I don't know what it is, the full moon or the karma, but it's hard to get the girls playing like they did. They kind of step back and think they can take a breather. Yes, we beat them in three, but you should've beat them with less points," Fisette said.

"By the time we got to Marian, those girls were pretty much whipped," Fisette said of their team. "We came off five pretty aggressive games and (Marian) sat around and hydrated. Sometimes, that comes to your benefit."

The exhaustion of five other matches, combined with Marian getting 90 minutes of rest, didn't help the Wildcats

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Novi golf wins conference title

'Cats look to improve in state title run

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

The Wildcats are headed to the Division I state meet this weekend in Ypsilanti. Novi's lady golfers won the KLA Central Kensington Conference championship and then placed third at the regional meet last week to earn a trip to States, where the program debuted with a 15th-place finish last fall.

Phasant Run was the school's first stop last week, with the conference meet taking place Oct. 5. Crushing the school record by 23 strokes, Novi led the field with a 336 team score. Co-Central Division champion Northville finished second with 349 strokes, followed by Livonia Churchill's 372.

Senior Megan Henry led the pack of 'Cats, finishing second overall with a career-low 78. Henry was followed by junior Kathleen Koenen (fifth with 84), senior Victoria Tomkinson (seventh with a career-low 85) and senior Brooke Collins (ninth with a career-low 89).

Plymouth's Kelsey Murphy won the individual conference title with a score of 74, but the South Division champions finished fourth of 12 teams.

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Wildcat Brooke Collins at Novi's Tanglewood on Oct. 7.

ON TAP

Novi (9-1 KLA Central) will compete in the Division I state meet tomorrow and Saturday at Eastern Michigan's Eagle Crest in Ypsilanti. Fresh off a Kensington Conference championship and school record score of 336, the 'Cats look to improve on the program's first-ever state title appearance, where they finished 15th of 15 teams last year.

Also advancing out of Novi's region are Northville and Grosse Pointe South, who finished sixth and tied for third, respectively, at last year's state meet.

"Cats two days later, however, as Northville won the regional meet on their home course at Tanglewood last Thursday. With the top three teams advancing to the state meet, Northville swung a 348, followed by Grosse Pointe South's 352 and Novi's 380. Churchill was fourth with 392.

Henry was second place among individuals as she led the Wildcats' with an 84. Koenen had a 97, Collins a 99 and Tomkinson a 100 to wrap up Novi's regional performance.

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Novi netters win conference title, advance to States

Bell, Brizard crowned regional champions

BY CHRIS JACKETT CORRESPONDENT

Novi's boys tennis had an eventful week, winning the KLA Central Kensington Conference title and finishing second at Regionals, earning a trip to the state meet.

"Pretty much, in both tournaments, we got contributions from everyone," Novi coach Jim Hanson said. "I was pleased with how the kids played. We pretty much held our seeds in conference and regional play."

The Wildcats (10-0, 8-0 KLA) went into the conference meet having swept the Central Division and defeating the other three division champions all in dual meets. The conference meet rained out Oct. 2 and was then split between Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday last week. Novi came out ahead with a dominant 28 points, nine ahead of second-place Northville.

Seeded first in all five doubles flights, the 'Cats followed through with five conference championship pairings, which combined for 20 of the team's points.

In the final, one doubles sophomore Jason Carless and senior Greg Richard defeated second-seeded Plymouth Salem 6-4, 6-1.

Two doubles juniors Bill Bell and senior Alex Brizard won their final 6-1, 6-2 over unseeded Livonia Stevenson.

Three doubles seniors Nathan Farooq and Chaitanya Kanikar defeated second-seeded Northville 6-4, 6-4, while the four doubles tandem of juniors Stephen Kovacinski and Brandon Sanders defeated third-seeded Canton 7-5, 6-1.

Senior Harsha Gotur and junior Vedant Ram defeated third-seeded Canton 6-0, 6-0 in five doubles.

The singles brackets were much tougher for Novi. Freshman Michael Chang, seeded second at four singles, made it to the finals before dropping a 6-2, 6-3 decision to top-seeded Northville.

The remaining singles players were each ousted by a higher seed as well. Third-seeded junior Andrew Cho lost to the second-seeded and eventual three singles champion from Northville 6-2, 6-0 in the semifinals.

Unseeded freshman Andrew Ying was knocked out of the two singles semifinals by top-seeded Salem 6-1, 6-4.

Sophomore Pavan Rao, unseeded at one singles, lost his quarterfinal match against fourth-seeded Canton 6-4, 7-5.

Every Novi flight was seeded for the regional meet last Friday, but many of the same results occurred.

Seeded third, Cho again lost to second-seeded Northville 7-5, 6-3. Similarly Chang was seeded one below second-seeded Northville in a 6-2, 6-0 semifinal loss at four singles.

"Basically, when we played them in singles, they won. And when we played them in doubles, we won," Hanson said of the Mustangs, who finished third overall with 17 points. "We move on. It's too bad Northville only missed it by one point."

Rao and Ying, both seeded second in their respective flights, were unable to hold onto their seeding, as Rao lost a semifinal match 6-4, 7-6(3) to third-seeded Milford and Ying lost a 3-6, 7-6(5) 6-4 decision to unseeded White Lake Lakeland.

"After watching him, I thought he should've been seeded. (Ying) didn't play bad," Hanson said of Lakeland's player. "He pretty much had an overpowering serve, which was the difference in the match. Their coach didn't put in for a seed because of the up-and-down season the player had."

The 'Cats were led again in the doubles flights, as all four advanced to the regional championships to face off with CC in a battle of the top two seeds, which the top-seed won in all four instances.

"When we matched up against them, we beat them at two (doubles) and gave them good matches at one, three and four (doubles)," Hanson said. "We pretty much held our seeds, which we have to do."

CC upped each Carless and Richard 6-2, 6-4 in the three doubles final, and Kovacinski and Sanders 7-5, 7-5 in the four doubles final.

Novi got the best of the Shamrocks and the rest of the region in two doubles, however, as top-seeded Bell and Brizard defeated CC 6-3, 6-1 in the championship.

The Wildcats - ranked No. 5 in Division I - finished second overall with 18 points, one ahead of Northville and behind regional champion CC, who are ranked first in Div. I. Clarkson finished fourth with 15 points.

"It was a very competitive regional," Hanson said. "Clarkston had a tough team. CC was very strong and showed me why they were ranked in the top two or three. Northville and Clarkson came up just a little short."

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COUNTY

FROM PAGE B1

scoring for Novi, with our harriers taking seven out of the top 10 places."

"The Cats followed their dual meet performance with keeping a 14-year streak alive at Saturday's Oakland County meet at Kensington Metro Park in Milford by placing 10th among a field of 41 teams.

"The Oakland County meet is quite prestigious, with results and a traveling trophy dating back 51 years," Smith said. "It is quite an honor to again be part of history, to be part of the top 10. This meet is a preview of how things start to shake out before the state finals."

Novi accumulated 281 points at the meet, one behind Farmington and 32 ahead of 11th-place Birmingham.

Seahorn, Detroit Catholic Central took first place with 99 points.

"Oakland County is the hotbed of cross country in the state of Michigan," Smith said. "Most, if not all, of the top 10 teams will be representing their schools at the finals. The only thing that may be holding some teams back would be the lopsided and skewed regional setup that is present this year. This meet proves that Novi is

one of the top 27 teams in the state. It will be unfortunate if we don't get the chance to prove it."

Schubring (10th in 16:41) and Giampa (13th in 16:48) led the 'Cats again with a pair of course bests for their careers.

"Not only did Novi keep their 14-year top-10 streak alive, they also kept their 14-year streak alive having at least one All

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Winners in the 2010 Michigan Press Association Newspaper and Advertising Contest

2010 Better Newspaper Contest

Here is the list of winners and
comments from the judges.

The "Newspapers Fighting Cancer" contest
Second place - Milford Times - Series of stories about Christopher Cooper
Aileen Winglead

Spot News Story
Class B
1st Place Canton Observer - Questions Still Unanswered
Darrell Clem Well-written-good facts.
2nd Place Canton Observer - I'll Never Forget
Darrell Clem & Brad Kadrich
Class C
2nd Place South Lyon Herald - Primal Scream
Nathan Mueller
Hon. Men. Birmingham Eccentric - Groves Band Director Blasts...
Jay Grossman
Good details on story, but the spot story was actually the top story
"The presses roll on-for now."

News Enterprise Reporting
Class B
3rd Place Birmingham Eccentric - Parks Enhance Life
Jay Grossman
A great idea to show taxpayers what they're paying for.
Treated capably by the writer. Written with authority and good detail.

Design
Class B
Hon. Men. South Oakland Eccentric (Southfield)
Beth Jachman
Class C
2nd Place Novi News Bill Emerick
Lots of white space and very readable layouts.
Easy to read graphics and advertising

Feature Story
Class B
Class C
1st Place Northville Record - France Honors
Cal Stone
Captivating story. Well-told from beginning to end. Great quotes.
Editorial Writing
Class B
1st Place South Oakland Eccentric (Southfield)
Sandra Amstutz
Editorials should bring results-these did.
2nd Place Canton Observer Brad Kadrich
3rd Place Plymouth Observer Brad Kadrich
Class C
1st Place South Lyon Herald Kurt Kuban
These editorials handle with diplomacy and clarity a nasty mayoral race.
The writer doesn't flinch from entering the dialogue of personal politics
and in doing so underscores the rapid nature of negative campaigns.

Editorial Pages
Class C
1st Place Birmingham Eccentric Greg Kowalski
A note from the editor explained the emphasis placed on the
opinion page, but it wasn't necessary.
From local editorials and columns to letters and an appealing
editorial photo, it's clear that creating a good, local opinion page
is a priority here.
2nd Place Milford Times Phil Allmen
Clearly from the same family as the winner with some nice
touches of its own. "Town Talk" feature is nice and thank yous
are a good source to the community.

Local Columnist
Class C
2nd Place Birmingham Eccentric Greg Kowalski
Engaging and entertaining. I liked the idea of Chinese workers
basing their view of Americans on the products they were producing.

Picture Story
Class B
3rd Place Plymouth Observer - I'll Never Forget Bill Bredler
Photographer captured the tragic scene in a respectful manner-
from both close and far perspective.

Sports Picture
Class C
3rd Place South Lyon Herald - Second Base Crash Hal Gould
Way to capture a moment.

Sports Writing
Class B
2nd Place Redford Observer Jim Toth One Hour (Martin) Jaing

Sports Feature
Class B
3rd Place Redford Observer Jim Toth - On Board
Class C
1st Place Birmingham Eccentric - The Week That Was
Marty Budner
Great looking package with strong writing. Sidebar
"Alexander the Great" was a cute idea.
Overall, it stood out among the rest.
3rd Place Northville Record Sam Eggleston

Sports Coverage
Class B
3rd Place South Oakland Eccentric (Southfield)
Marty Budner
Nice variety.
Class C
1st Place Novi News Chris Jackets/Cal Stone
Very open, easy-to-read layout. Outstanding photos are displayed
with nice color. Inside pages are well-executed.

Special Section
Class B
2nd Place Plymouth Observer - Hometown Life Inspire
Alison Bergsiekler, Eron Powers
Nice variety of articles and ideas.
Hon. Men. Livonia Observer - 175th Anniversary
Karen Smith, Ken Abramczyk, Randy Masters and Dan Dean
Class C
3rd Place Northville Record - 21st Annual Victorian Festival
Cal Stone, Alison Bergsiekler, Eron Powers
Clean, easy-to-read layout.

2010 Better Newspaper Advertising Contest

Winners are:

Class 1: Best Ad IDEA
First place - Livonia Observer
Joe's Produce (designed by Linda Rigdon)

Class 1: Best ROP Auto Ad
Third place - Milford Times Dick Morris
Chevrolet (designed by Deb Elwell)

Class 1: Best Color Idea
First place - South Oakland Eccentric
Ice Cream Parlor
(designed by Linda Rigdon)

Third place - Livonia Observer Grand Tavern
(designed by Lynn Sharpe)

Class 1 Best Special Section
Second Place - Northville Record Buy Michigan

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STRICTLY BUSINESS

Thursday, October 14, 2010 hometownlife.com

Manage employee behavior with policies

Small businesses encounter daily challenges; some are easily resolved while others can be a constant headache. Other than the general economy, employees can be the biggest wildcard. There is no way to guarantee the loyalty, production, or conduct of any employee. But, there are ways to manage some employee behavior.

If an individual is a party to an employment agreement, the agreement can dictate the conditions of employment. The terms of a contract can range from salary, duties, length of time, benefits, discipline and behavior. If the employee breaches the agreement, the relationship can be terminated.

An employment agreement may also include certain non-disclosure and non-compete provisions that can be enforced after the relationship has ended. This is a protection that employers often require when an employee is privy to certain confidences and proprietary information of the employer (such as customer lists, business strategies). The standard that applies to these types of post-employment restrictions is that they must be "reasonable" in time and scope; so there is no "black/white" amount of time, geographic range or material that can be restricted. One right that cannot be "contracted away" is the right to sue the employer for various wrongful actions, such as sexual harassment.

Most employees, however, do not have contracts and are considered "at-will" employees. This means they have no job security and can be fired for cause or no cause. There are some protections available to these employees under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For many at-will workers, the threat of job loss at any time may be sufficient reason to be a good employee, but that is not always the case.

The potential for litigation resulting from a workplace is limitless. Wrongful termination suits, workplace discrim-



Takin' Care of Business

Daniel Hoops

improving the chances of success or a quick dismissal of a lawsuit is possible.

The best advice for an employer is to adopt some type of "employment policy" that gives all employees notice of what type of behavior is unacceptable and will result in discipline. Because every employer is unique, the specific terms and conditions of a policy must be discussed in advance of its adoption. Where employees should sign a copy of a policy is also subject to discussion, because it could be considered an "employment contract" based on how the employer enforces the policy.

At a minimum, an employer should provide strict rules related to the use of alcohol and drugs in the workplace; this will also minimize the risk of lawsuit by a non-employee who could be harmed by an intoxicated employee. The policy should provide rules related to the use of computers, including the personal use of business-owned computers and all other company equipment. So long as everyone is on "notice" about their conduct, there is very limited room to argue if the relationship is terminated because of a violation.

Some employers provide additional policies related to drug and tobacco screening, as well as screening the computer usage of their employees. Other employers specifically prohibit dating between employees or carrying weapons into the workplace. Many restrict off-the-job conduct if the employer fears that the conduct has the potential to embarrass or harm the employer's business; this is

especially the case with particular speech and political points of view.

The question is whether any of these restrictions are Constitutional. Contrary to what many might want to believe, employment is a privilege, not a right. Some employment relationships can give rise to certain rights in the relationship, such as through a collective bargaining, a tenure program or even a termination hearing.

But, an employee who engages in conduct or speech that embarrasses the employer can be fired without any protection under the 1st Amendment. The U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to speech or their beliefs from being silenced by the government. A private employer is NOT the government. A private employer is not restricting any rights; employment is a privilege and not a right.

Employers and their employees are in a relationship by choice. The employer makes an investment in its workforce and has certain expectations that the employee should meet. If the employee fails to understand those expectations, cannot meet those expectations or disagrees with those expectations, they are free to go somewhere else. The circumstances of any relationship are not always ideal, but over time they can change and the relationship between the parties can flourish. Remember, if the employer abuses its position of authority, the employee can always seek redress in a court or other proceeding.

Daniel S. Hoops is an associate professor at Walsh Business College teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the Business Law and Taxation Department. Hoops holds a master of laws in estate planning from the University of Michigan School of Law, a juris doctor from the Michigan State University Detroit College of Law and a bachelor of musical arts from the University of Michigan. He is also a 1987 graduate of Novi High School. He can be reached at Walsh College at (248) 823-1334 or dhoops@walshcollege.edu.



H2 Hydro-Hydroponics is located at 702 N. Pontiac Trail in the Walled Lake Commons Shopping Center.

Get growing with H2 Hydro-Hydroponics

Walled Lake is rolling out the green carpet for the newest addition to the downtown area, H2 Hydro-Hydroponics Indoor Garden Center.

Hydroponics is a method of growing crops indoors year-round, using water systems instead of soil. Soil-less cultivation is favorable because it produces higher crop yields and allows for plant growth in areas where traditional in-ground gardening is not possible - dreary Michigan winters, for example.

An Oakland County full-service indoor garden center, H2 Hydro houses an enormous supply of grow lighting, hydroponic systems, advanced

DETAILS

H2 Hydro-Hydroponics is located at 702 N. Pontiac Trail in the Walled Lake Commons Shopping Center and is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10-6 Saturday, and noon-5 Sunday. Find out more about H2 Hydro by calling the horticultural specialists at 1-877-742-4937 or visiting online at www.h2hydro.com.

able to assist customers with equipment and products for all their indoor growing needs. Owner Alex Michal, a 2009 graduate of Walled Lake Central High School, wanted to bring his business concept to the area where he grew up.

"We help you harvest" is our motto," said Michal. "We do design work and can help our customers with the smallest and most basic grow systems, to elaborate grow rooms, to most popular specialty services. Grow room design entails the planning and construction of any space into a one-of-a-kind, self-contained growing area.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stay connected with Bright House Networks' easy gadget

Bright House Networks has launched the easy gadget app for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. The new app will be available to both Bright House Networks' residential and business customers free of charge. Residential customers must subscribe to both Bright House Networks Home Phone and Road Runner services. Business Solutions customers must subscribe to both Bright House Networks Home Phone and High Speed-Internet services. easy gadget for the iPhone is now available on the Apple App Store.

Bright House Networks' new easy gadget app helps Bright House phone customers to stay connected while away from home and the office. The app allows them to:

- Instantly be notified of that important call on their Bright House phone from their friend or co-worker - then touch to call back or send a text message;
- View and listen to voice mail messages from a customer or their child's school right after the message was left on their Bright House voice mail service instead of waiting until they return to their home or office;
- Remotely forward their Bright House phone to their iPhone or any other remote phone when on vacation or on a business trip.
- Manage their contacts in an online address book and backup their iPhone contacts to the easy gadget online address book; and
- Use a free online directory search function to look up phone numbers for an office building or restaurant - then call or get directions; easy gadget app from Bright House Networks is supported on the iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad. The easy gadget iPhone app is fully compatible with the easy gadget app for Windows PC and Macintosh computers that Bright House Networks launched in 2009.

Small Business Resource Center database instruction

Join other local business professionals to learn the ins and outs of the Small Business Resource Center's database from a pro as an instructor from Gale Cengage Learning company for all your small business needs from 3-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19 at Novi Public Library.

Please register on the library website or by calling the Library at (248) 349-0720.

Hear Carhartt's success story

Find out the factors that have sustained the family-owned Carhartt business for 120 years from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4 at Walsh College, Novi Campus. Vice President of Human Resources Jennifer Piscopink will describe the company's durable corporate culture and dependable commitment to quality at a luncheon for owners, managers, and top level staff of privately held and family-owned businesses.

Tickets are \$30 for Walsh College alumni and partners; \$15 for students and B.L.I. individual members; and \$60 for all others.

Business Avenue: Small Business television program

If you are a small business located in Novi, you qualify to be part of the cable television line-up on Business Avenue. This 15-minute program airs on Novi Television and highlights your business. There is no charge to be included in this program. If you are interested in being featured on this show, please email smallbiz@cityofnovi.org.

Business Recognition Awards deadline extended to Oct. 25

The Novi Chamber of Commerce and City of Novi have partnered to present the 2010 Business Recognition Awards.

Businesses will be judged based on the categories below. Separate awards will be given to small businesses (under 50 employees) and large businesses (over 50 employees). Please choose one or more categories and provide information supporting the nomination. A business can only win in one category.

1. Community Builder: Businesses which partner with others to enhance the Novi community. Partnerships could include involvement with: Novi Schools, Chamber of Commerce, local service clubs, non-profit associations and the City of Novi.
2. Superior Business Practices: Businesses which create an optimal working environment for their employees. Businesses that have undertaken efforts to help boost productivity, innovation, and career advancement.
3. Customer Service Excellence: Businesses that demonstrate exemplary customer relations.

For more information and a nomination form, go to: <http://www.investnovi.org/News/News.asp?ID=1009&RA>.

Completed nomination forms can be emailed to info@novichamber.com.

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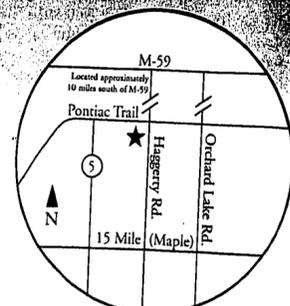
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