Polpourri for July 10: State Senator Mark Jansen recall drive appears to be going nowhere

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By The Grand Rapids Press

Remember that recall petition aimed at state Sen. Mark Jansen of Gaines Township about a month ago? You don’t? The folks behind it barely do. Tom Appel, the Rockford retiree who got the petition language approved, said he doesn’t plan to seek any of the 26,611 voter signatures needed to stage a recall election. “I filed because they asked me to and I was a registered voter in the area,” Appel says. “Jansen is not beatable in his district.”

Jansen, who was targeted in the petitions for his votes in favor of Gov. Rick Snyder’s tax reforms, said he can accept the recall talk, whether it happens or not. “But this was very offensive to members of my family,” he said.

Rematch time?
Miles eyes new lines

Patrick Miles Jr., the Democrat who lost to U.S. Rep. Justin Amash last fall, said he is looking at the new congressional district being created by this year’s reapportionment process. But Miles said he’s not sure if he wants to challenge Republican Amash in the district, which lost parts of Kent County and added Calhoun County. “I haven’t seen any of the analysis of what it looks like in terms of party strength,” Miles said.

According to several experts, the new district is slightly more Democratic but still solidly Republican. Miles said he’ll probably decide on another run by this fall.

Heating up?
Warming foes are many

There are lots of climate change skeptics out there, but a survey shows most Michiganders and government leaders want to see local municipalities do something about global warming. The University of Michigan’s Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy study found 70 percent of residents and 68 percent of local officials surveyed had that view. The poll also found local officials were divided about the seriousness of global warming.

Despite their differences, 61 percent of the GOP officials and 66 percent of the independents said local government has a responsibility to help reduce global warming. That view was held by 84 percent of Democrats.

A time to mourn
Dedication postponed