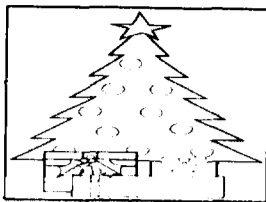


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Grosse Pointe, Michigan

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December 16, 2001



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School Millage Vote

WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, Dec. 19

Christ the King Lutheran Church presents its 19th annual living nativity outside of the church from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call (313) 884-5090.

Monday, Dec. 20

State Sen. Martha Scott, D-Highland Park, holds her monthly coffee hour for constituents at the Caribou Coffee in Grosse Pointe Woods from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Woods holds a free public reception in honor of resident and Olympic gold medalist Carly Piper at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center at 6:30 p.m.

The Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meets in the Woods city hall at 7:30 p.m.

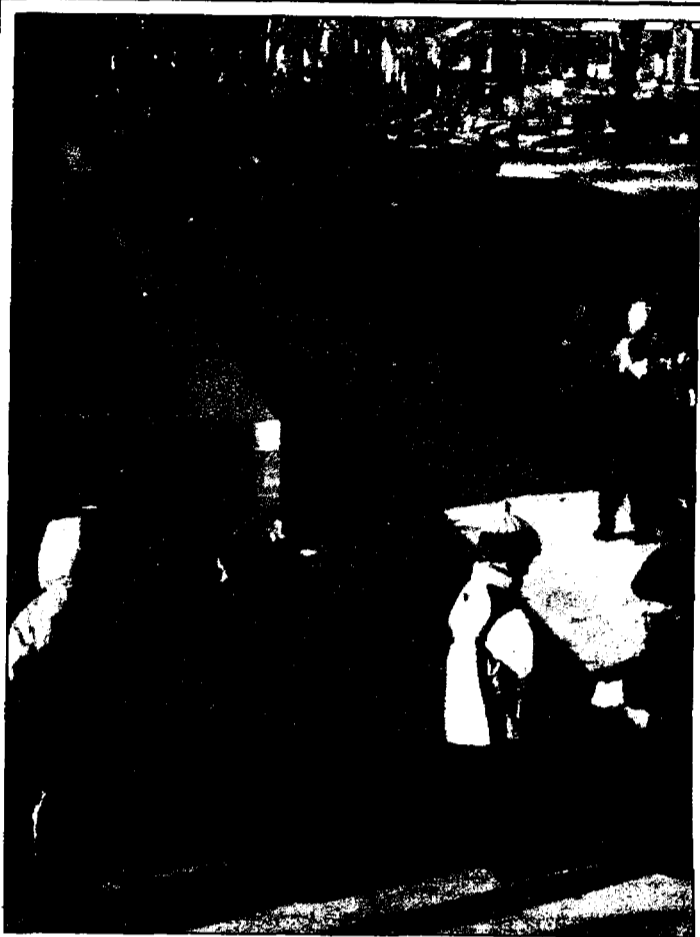
Wednesday, Dec. 22

The next Teen Activities Group event will run from noon to 2 p.m. at Harbor Lanes Bowling, Jefferson Ave., just past 10 Mile, in St. Clair Shores.

The cost is \$10 for bowling shoe rental, pizza and pop. Deadline for registration is Monday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park.

This activity is co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Farms and Woods parks and recreation departments.

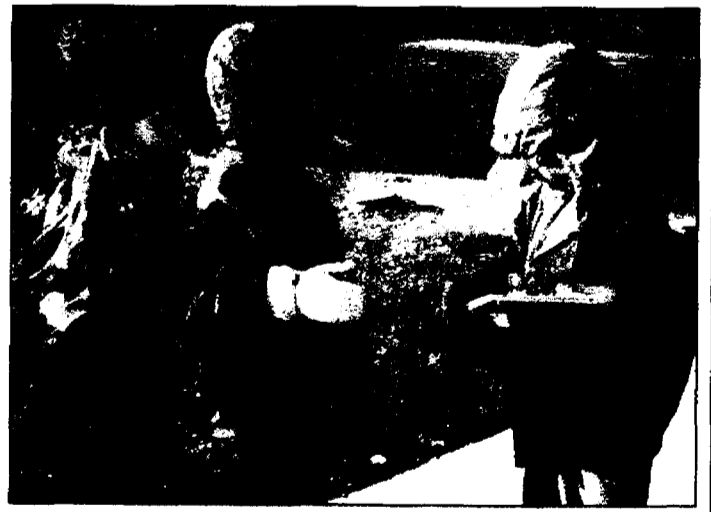
For more information, call the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park at (313) 343-2405.



Photos by Robert McKean

Book chain

Talk about a human chain. This one, the first ever, was 1,100 kids long and stretched from the old Park Branch Library on Kercheval to the new one on Jefferson at Lakepointe. The last 100 books were passed along the Children's Book Brigade. Below, schools Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Klein and library board President John Bruce applaud arrival of the first book passed along the chain. For more photos and story, see pages 17, 19 and 20A.



Above, Paige Crowley, Matt Farber and Ben Peters from Miss Hall's first-grade class at Trombly Elementary take their jobs in the brigade seriously.

Jake's suitor says retailers eyeing his plan

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

Cullen Meathe, who last month announced plans to replace the old Jacobson's property in the Village with a mixture of retail shops, office space and luxury condominiums, is recruiting additional partners and potential tenants for the project.

"CVS (Pharmacy, the vacant building's owner) has extended our purchase agreement," said Meathe, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident and owner of Metro Cars Inc.

CVS representatives could not be reached for comment.

"We have teamed up with a large national developer," said Meathe. "I've assembled a local team and augmented it with the expertise and financial strength of a large player in the condominium industry. We believe if all parties are reasonable and understand the economic realities of the project, we can move forward. Failing that, we won't."

One of those parties is the City of Grosse Pointe, where for decades Jacobson's anchored the downtown shopping district.

"Extending the agreement allows us to an opportunity to put together a best and final plan with the city," Meathe said.

"CVS overpaid for the property and created a problem for everyone. I'm trying to deal with that. We can overcome it. Everyone needs to be open-minded."

In November, Meathe proposed demolishing the building and an adjacent city-owned parking deck for replacement with a new six-story structure, the top four floors of which would be living space.

The garage is worth a reported \$5 million.



"The bottom line is dialogue with the city council with scrapping the structure and starting fresh," Meathe said. "This is about trying to make the right deal for the community. I continue to be excited."

Meathe said he has contacted a number of potential retail tenants.

"We have a significant amount of retail opportunities that have been most intriguing," Meathe said. "We're in the process of getting letters of intent from these prospective retailers. So far, the mix has been very unique and quite intriguing. Frankly, I think most people would be very pleased with the mix we're anticipating putting in there."

Meathe plans to update city officials this month in preparation of a more formal presentation next year.

"We are in the process of designing a computerized model of our proposal," he said. "We intend to present that to the city in the middle of January. You'll see a full-blown plan in January. Everybody has to be sensitive to the economic reality of the project."

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POINTER OF INTEREST

Dr. Daniel Spitz

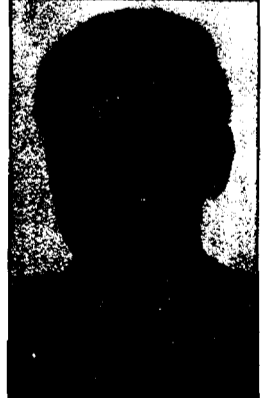
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms

Age: 35

Family: Wife, Jodi; and two sons, Keegan, 3, and Jacob, 1

Occupation: Macomb County Chief Medical Examiner

Quote: "People tend to think of forensic pathologists working with the dead, but really the work that we do is for the living."



Dr. Daniel Spitz

See story, page 4A

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Grosse Pointe News


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yesterday's headlines

50 years ago this week

■ Grosse Pointe receives an early Christmas present from Uncle Sam's Post Office department.

For the first time in the suburban community's history, mail collected locally gets a "Grosse Pointe 36, Mich.," stamp cancellation marking. Heretofore all mail collect-

ed here has been cleared through the Roosevelt Park station in Detroit. Stamps have been canceled with the Detroit marking used for the entire metropolitan area.

■ Officials from the Michigan Department of Health approve plans by Grosse Pointe Farms to expand capacity of the water

treatment plant on Moross between Lakeshore and Grosse Pointe Boulevard.

The project entails building two open filter beds outside at the pumping station to handle increased water demand during summer months.

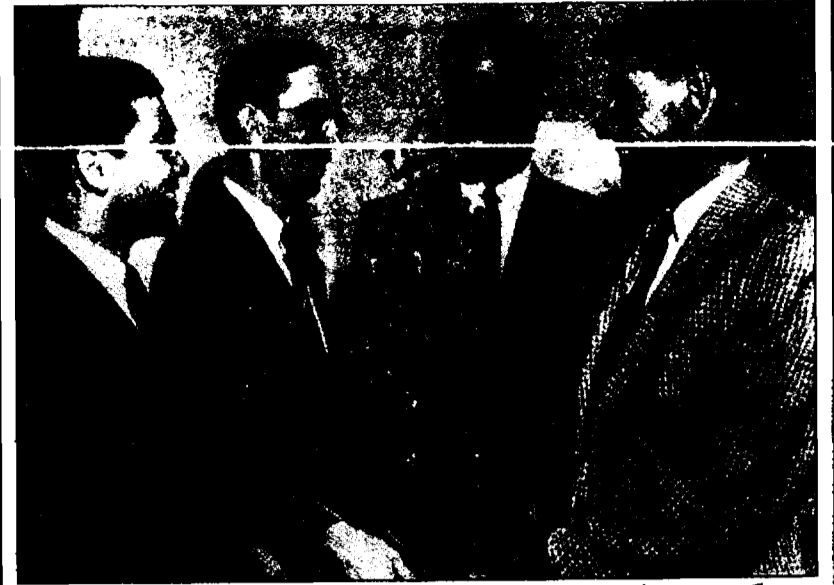
■ Holiday shoppers on the Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms are assured of ample parking space.

Through agreement between city and public school officials, shoppers can use a portion of Richard Elementary grounds to handle the anticipated overflow of holiday gift buyers.

25 years ago this week

■ City of Grosse Pointe police suspect arson is why

50 years ago this week



Free Press presents state grid trophy

Hal Schram, prep sports writer, second from left, presents the Detroit Free Press State Class A Football Championship trophy to Grosse Pointe High School Blue Devil tackle Jim Ogden as coach Ed Wernet, right, and all-star Don Eugenio look on. The award was made at the annual Dad's Club Football Roundup held at the High. (From Dec. 16, 1954 Grosse Pointe News.)

an old barn that had been converted into a garage at 17266 Mack burned to the ground.

The structure had been condemned and ordered torn down.

■ Former Texas Gov. John B. Connally appears in the Pointes for a fund raising reception at the Country Club of Detroit.

Henry Ford II sponsors the event to raise money for Connally's Republican campaign for president.

■ A sharply divided school board ignores tradition and names a newcomer, not a trustee, to fill a mid-term vacancy created by the recent resignation of Ann Ardussi.

The new board member is

Cathy Brierly, a housewife and mother of three from the Mason School District.

10 years ago this week

■ Grosse Pointe children really are above average after all.

Students make significant gains in 44 percent of test subjects during this year's Michigan Educational Assessment Program. Results place the district in the top 5 percent statewide.

■ Lights will shine on Blue Devil football next fall.

Members of the Grosse Pointe Farms city council approve a proposal by the lights committee at Grosse Pointe South High School for illuminated nighttime

games. Conditions include allowing only six night games per year, lights must be turned off by 10 p.m., and no games can be scheduled between Sunday and Wednesday nor on consecutive nights.

■ Prosecutors consider it a little victory in what has become a five-year battle to sentence two Detroit men for the 1990 carjack murder on Detroit's eastside of Grosse Pointe Farms resident Benjamin Gravel.

The Michigan Supreme Court orders Recorder's Court Judge Dalton Roberson to sentence convicted killers Kermit Haynes and Cortez Miller as adults.

5 years ago this week

■ No animal is too scraggly to share Christmas joy with Santa Paws and the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

Ask Buzzster the dog, adopted by Society President Korinne Martin.

Buzzster joins about 120 other animals having photographs taken with Santa during a fund raising event for the Society at the Children's Home of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Woods.

■ St. John Hospital and Medical Center breaks ground on a cancer center. The three-story facility is due to open by October 2001.

■ The feared Y2K computer glitch won't hurt Detroit's ability to pipe fresh water to the Grosse Pointes, according to Detroit water representatives.

Even if computer problems surface, the Fox Creek pumping station on East Jefferson will be immune. The facility is operated manually, not by computer.

—Brad Lindberg

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 96 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

The deadline for news copy is Monday 3:00 p.m. to insure insertion.

Advertising copy for Section "B" must be in the advertising department by 10:30 a.m. on Monday.

Advertising copy for Sections "A" and "C" must be in the advertising department by 3:00 p.m. on Monday.

CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS: Responsibility for display and classified advertising error is limited to either cancellation of the charge for or a re-run of the portion in error. Notification must be given in time for correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility of the same after the first insertion.

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Business people

JPMorgan Private Client Services has appointed **Todd E. Holquist** as client advisor. He joins JPMorgan's offices on the second floor of the Bank One banking center in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Before joining JPMorgan, Holquist worked at Munder Capital Management in Birmingham and at the Cornerstone Schools in Detroit.

Clark Hill Member **Daniel J. Scully** was one of six attorneys from Michigan inducted as a fellow into the American College of Trial Lawyers during the annual meeting in St. Louis, Mo., in November.

Scully, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident, has been in private practice for over 25 years. He began his legal career in the greater Los Angeles area where the primary focus of his practice was defense of product liability litigation. He began practicing in Michigan in 1984 and joined Clark Hill in 1996 as a partner in the tort litigation group. Scully's practice continues to be primarily focused in the defense of product liability litigation.

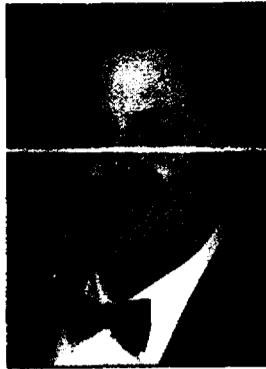
2 Pointers in WSU Engineering Hall of Fame

Jim Croce of Grosse Pointe Farms and Brian Geraghty of Grosse Pointe Shores were recently inducted into the Wayne State University College of Engineering Hall of Fame.

Croce earned his bachelor's in electrical and computer engineering from Wayne State University in 1986. For nearly two decades he has held a variety of positions in the electricity, natural gas, and energy technology fields.

Croce began his career at ANR Pipeline Company and Michigan Consolidated Gas, where he was responsible for the planning and development of new infrastructure to capitalize on emerging markets in the deregulating energy industry. In 2001, he was appointed vice president of business development at DTE Energy Technologies, where he was responsible for overseeing DTE's business development activities relating to the industry transformation of environmentally friendly fuel cell and biomass-based power generation systems.

In 2003, Croce joined NextEnergy as CEO. NextEnergy, a non-profit corporation, is charged by the state with advancing Michigan as a world leader



Jim Croce



Brian Geraghty

in alternative energy technologies.

Geraghty, director of Design Analysis Engineering for the Ford Motor Company, earned his master's in mechanical engineering from Wayne State University in 1972. He is in his 40th year of employment at Ford, with 31 years in management positions.

Geraghty started his career at Ford in product engineering, designing and developing powertrain components. He then moved up to supervising teams of engineers developing emission calibrations for passenger cars. Continuing his succession in management, Geraghty led a team that

and very low exhaust emissions. The car took first-place overall in the 10-day event that traveled coast to coast from MIT to Cal Tech. The 1970 team, the first to win a national competition for Wayne State, introduced an emission control system design now in production in virtually every car sold in the United States.

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Technology

Everybody likes numbers, so here are a couple you should enjoy. It is estimated that to digitize one medium-sized library of 400,000 volumes, it would cost \$1,000,000,000. Yes, that's a "B" as in billion.

Are libraries and librarians going anywhere? Will the Internet take their place? The answer is NO!

Not yet! Not now! Not in our lifetimes!

So open a new book, smell the new book smell and tell the kids, "Shhhh."

Have a tech question or subject you would like addressed in this column? Want to comment or add your two cents worth? My e-mail address is mtmaurer@comcast.net.

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Many mutual funds now ahead of S&P 500's +7 percent

Portfolio managers, investment advisers, floor traders, day-traders, mutual funds and hedge funds are all smiling once again! Thanks to the recent year-end rally, many portfolio gains now exceed the benchmark S&P 500's 6.8 percent gain for 2004. And they don't want to give it back!

As the nearby "At-A-Glance" table shows, stocks meandered last week. At Friday's close, the Dow was down fractionally — off 49 points or about 1/2 of 1 percent. Nasdaq drifted down 20 points, about 1 percent. Crude oil dropped \$1.83/barrel, closing last Friday at \$40.71. OPEC

announced it would cut its production 1 million barrels next January, to stabilize prices. Since crude contracts are paid in U.S. dollars, and the dollar is down 7 percent in 2004, the Saudis have suffered a \$3.00/barrel currency loss this year.

Calendar this week
Wednesday, Dec. 15: The Fed Open Market Committee announced its 1/4 of 1 percent increase in short-term interest rates, as expected. Analysts are still trying to decipher whether the Fed, in its press release, reaffirmed its commitment to retaining a "measured

Let's talk... STOCKS

By Joseph Mengden



pace" in fighting inflation. Wednesday, Thursday: President Bush hosted a two-day conference on his economic agenda, which featured 1) making his prior tax cuts permanent, and 2) trying to sell his idea of personally owned equities as part of his Social Security reform. Friday, Dec. 17: Release of another increased consumer price index.

Social Security

When FDR signed the bill establishing the Social Security Administration in the mid-1930s, the thought of a lifetime pension, upon retirement at age 65 was unheard of. Last week, LTS reviewed life expectancy statistics on the Internet. Based on our decennial census, the data was compiled by the National Vital Statistics System, a federal department. The 1930, U.S. census showed a life expectancy of all newborns at 59.2 years, including all males and females, both white and African-American. Compare that to the life expectancy age of 77.3

years in 2002, the latest data available. No wonder U.S. health care is the envy of the world! Of course, as one ages, one's life expectancy increases. LTS is very happy to report his average life expectancy at about 85 years!

Just as longer life spans have upset the assumptions of prior actuaries, so does the immigration into the United States by foreign young adults, whose life expectancies are longer than U.S. newborns and who have not paid U.S. Social Security taxes.

A catastrophic epidemic, AIDS or some unknown virus could have the opposite effect.

Proper funding of Social Security has become an exceedingly complex problem, even without the equity-funding question. Since it affects almost every citizen, it just won't go away. Be prepared for the political rhetoric to continue for the rest of this decade.

Is the AARP for you?

AARP used to be called

the American Association of Retired People, a non-partisan membership organization for people 50 and over.

Several years ago, the name was shortened to just AARP. With over 36 million members (cost is \$12.50 per annum), it maintains executive offices in most states to assist its membership, which grows by one member every 11 seconds.

Years ago, LTS joined AARP to obtain its supplemental medical insurance, a program for retirees without corporate retirement benefits. Thus Medicare is LTS' primary carrier, and AARP is the secondary carrier.

The December 2004 AARP Bulletin arrived last week. One article caught LTS' eye: "Cruising Through Retirement."

Over the years, LTS has participated in six oceanic cruises, including the Caribbean, Alaska, Mexican Riviera and the QE-II from Honolulu to Los Angeles.

But this article focused on assisted living for the elderly aboard a cruise ship, rather than the local facilities near home.

After all, the stateroom aboard ship has a walk-in shower, housekeeping, laundry and dry cleaning, in-room food service or a variety of dining facilities, 24/7 medical care, library, theater, card room (bridge, anyone?), free TV movie rentals, a casino and peri-

Stock Market at a Glance

Friday Close, 12/10/04	
Dow Jones Ind.	10,543
Nasdaq Comp.	2,128
S&P 500 Index	1,188
Euro	1.3226
Crude Oil (Bbl.)	40.71
Gold (Oz.)	433.90
3-Mo. T-Bills	2.24%
30-Yr. T-Bonds	4.82%

odic ports-of-call. The November 2004 Journal of the American Geriatrics Society contains an analysis of costs comparing assisted living on the cruise ship vs. a typical assisted living facility and found them to be more or less comparable — about \$3,000 per month — but with milder winter weather aboard the ship in the Caribbean.

With the "boomers" approaching retirement by the end of this decade, it wouldn't be surprising if AARP became the third political party!

Joseph Mengden is a resident of the City of Grosse Pointe and former chairman of First of Michigan. "Let's Talk Stocks" is sponsored by the following Grosse Pointe investment-related firms: John M. Rickel CPA, P.C. and Rickel & Baun P.C.

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The Internet? Don't make book on it

Do your kids read? I mean do they read books besides the "Harry Potter" tomes?

Last week, I wrote about the wonders of the Grosse Pointe library system's Web page. Now let's talk about librarians, libraries and books.

Based on the reading test scores among school children around the country, we are in trouble as we rush to make the Internet the sole source of information. More than one educator has said, "Don't you know the Internet has made libraries obsolete?"

I beg to differ. First of all, not everything is on the Internet, even with its 1 billion pages. I did not count them myself; the Internet told me. Oops! See what I mean? Where did that fact come from? Only a small fraction

Pointers on Technology
By Mike Maurer

of books are on the Web, and they aren't cheap.

If you want the Journal of Biochemistry, Physics Today or The Journal of American History, you will pay to the tune of thousands of dollars. You may not want those specific items, but you know what I mean.

Let's say you are looking for information on Native Americans. If librarians were like the Internet, they might say, "Here are 10 articles. There are 40 more, but we're not going to let you have them ... not now, not yet, not until you try a search in another library. The Internet does this all the time, but no one seems upset. They just don't know any better, as mom used to say.

We need the Internet's scientific, medical and historical information when accurate, but there also is a — I guess the best word would be "cesspool" — of waste right beside that needed info. I personally

wouldn't want my kids learning about race relations from the Ku Klux Klan Web site.

One great boon for libraries and their patrons has been the full-text digitization of journals. But what you don't know, even from the most legitimate sites, can hurt you. Footnotes (remember those?), tables and graphs are often missing or show up on the Web site in an unreadable format. They don't at the library, and your friendly neighborhood librarian can lead you right to them. Digitized journals are great, but they should not be your exclusive source.

States can now buy one school book and provide it to everyone in a particular grade. Let's take it one more step. Why don't we have one national high school, a national university and a small cadre of teachers teaching everyone the same thing via streaming video? Everyone's learning

experience would be exactly the same. And we can stamp their hands when they graduate. (Yes, that was sarcasm.)

Oh, wait! What are we going to do with all those football teams? Whew, that was a close one. (Of course, there would be no dog-at-a-day-home-work arguments.)

Speaking of universities and libraries, I bet you didn't know that there is no library-less university in the United States.

The newest state university in California at Monterey opened without a library building some years ago. For the last two years, they have been buying books by the tens of thousands because they couldn't find what they needed on the Internet.

Speaking of streaming information out of context, I just had a strange thought. When the power goes out, you can't read a computer monitor by candlelight. Here's another disjointed thought. Man has been reading for millennia and has had librarians for most of that time. The Internet as we know it has only been around for 15 years. If you follow the teenager analogy, the Web is also scrawny with pimples.

See TECHNOLOGY, page 15A



Scouts spread parking cheer

The Girl Scouts of troops 1503 (pictured) and 2596 of Monteith Elementary School helped the Grosse Pointe Business and Professional Association of Mack Avenue cover the meters on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Farms. The meters will be covered to provide meter-free parking through Jan. 2. Grosse Pointe Park will also offer meter-free parking along Mack. Also pictured is Ken Poulos, president of the association.

St. John plans \$156 million wing, ER expansion

By John Minnis
Editor

The \$156 million expansion at St. John Hospital will be just what the doctors — and patients — ordered. “We asked the doctors, staff and patients what they wanted,” said Mark R. Taylor, president of St. John Hospital and Medical Center, in announcing the major expansion at a press conference last Friday. “This expansion leads us into the 21st century. We’re very excited in this project for the future.”

The expansion of the St. John campus at Mack and Moross in Detroit will have minimal impact on neighboring Grosse Pointe Woods. A ramp leading to an underground loading dock as part of the expansion project was approved Monday night by the Woods Planning Commission.

St. John plans to add an eight-level, 288,000-square-foot North Pavilion that will face the back parking lot. With a tall, atrium lobby, the wing will become the hospital’s main entrance.

The North Pavilion will include an upgraded and consolidated cardiovascular institute with catheterization labs, electrophysiology labs, vascular labs, special procedure rooms, recovery space and offices for research and education.

The wing will add 144 private rooms and will consolidate outpatient diagnostic

services, including X-ray, MRI and CT scans and lab services.

Project manager David M. Sessions, vice president, affiliated services, said the North Pavilion will consolidate services that are now scattered throughout the hospital.

Demolition of the kitchen and education building to make room for the new wing will begin in September. The \$141 million North Pavilion is expected to open in 2008.

Also included in the overall project is a \$15 million expansion and redesign of the emergency department, which was last revamped 10 years ago.

The emergency department will be doubled with the addition of 30,000 square feet and will include private treatment modules to increase patient privacy. The emergency entrance will be moved closer to Moross Road to improve ambulance accessibility, and more convenient parking will be added for emergency patients and families.

The emergency department project is expected to be completed in early 2009.

Greg Jakub, director of public relations, said road access to the St. John campus will remain as is throughout and after construction.

Elliot Joseph, president and CEO of St. John Health, pointed out that the hospital has grown considerably

since it was founded in 1952.

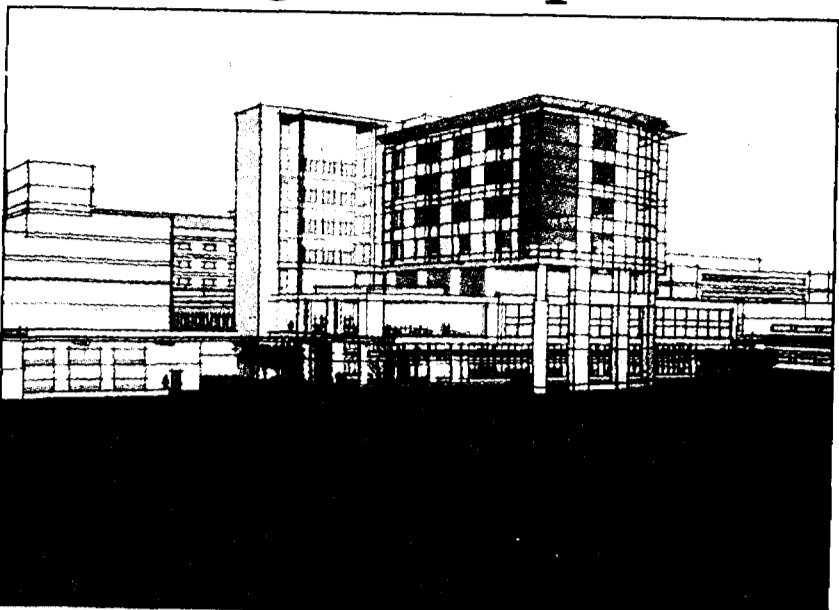
While the hospital still provides immediate care for its surrounding Detroit and Grosse Pointe residents, St. John has become a regional destination health care facility and is among the top 100 “heart hospitals” in the United States.

Last year, St. John saw 81,203 emergency/trauma visits, handled 655 open-heart cases, performed 4,918 cardiac catheterization/angioplasty procedures and admitted 36,589 patients for an average stay of 5.05 days.

Joseph said St. John spent \$130 million in care for the poor last year, up 30 percent from the year before. Twenty-six percent of St. John patients live in Detroit.

Funding for the improvements will be generated from St. John Hospital’s retained earnings, a bond offering through its parent company, Ascension Health, and philanthropic contributions.

The construction management services will be provided by a partnership of Skanska, a global construction services group, and The Brinker Group, a Detroit-based, a minority-owned company that will provide 25 percent of the services. The architectural firm for the project is HarleyEllis, which has an office in Southfield.



When completed in 2008, the North Pavilion planned for St. John Hospital and Medical Center will become the campus’ main entrance and will house a cardiovascular institute, all imaging and labs and 144 private rooms.

Sunrise still interested in City

Having withdrawn from future Jake’s plans, national senior housing provider calls for meeting with City

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

An international company that provides senior housing has pulled out of the Village, but not the City of Grosse Pointe.

“Sunrise Development is interested in our community for pursuing some project to provide assisted living,” said Mike Overton, city manager.

Overton said he was scheduled to meet with company representatives this week, after the Grosse Pointe News deadline.

Sunrise, the nation’s largest provider of senior living services, in April proposed transforming upper levels of the vacant former Jacobson’s building on Kercheval into condominiums for active, independent

seniors.

The building was intended for seniors 65 to 75 years old who share the goal of downsizing their living space yet maintaining residence in the community that has been their home for years.

Although company representatives have withdrawn the plan, they appear to have another location in mind other than the Village.

When the Jacobson’s concept was introduced, Sunrise representatives stressed their interest in the community, according to Mayor Dale Scrace.

“I said great, come on back when you have something to talk about,” Scrace said.

Sunrise provides various types of residential living depending upon the required degree of care.

Some facilities are built for independent seniors, oth-

ers are for people requiring moderate care or assistance.

The company is building an example of the latter type of facility on Mack at Brys Drive in Grosse Pointe Woods. Sunrise also has proposed an Alzheimer’s-care facility in the former Masonic temple building on Vernier south of Mack.

“I think it would be a welcome addition to the community,” Overton said. “It’s common knowledge there’s a need for that type of housing.”

Pointe residents for decades have been calling for senior living. About 25 years ago advocates wanted senior housing on municipal park land behind Grosse Pointe Woods city hall.

Sunrise has 370 residential developments in numerous communities in south-east Michigan, in 33 other states, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Woods planners help ramp up hospital expansion plans

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

St. John Hospital and Medical Center has started to clear the first of several hurdles before it is able to begin construction on its \$156 million expansion on its main campus.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission made a unanimous recommendation that the Zoning Board of Appeals allow the hospital a special land use in its north parking lot to construct a ramp to an underground loading dock to be built at the rear of the hospital.

The ramp, which makes an 18-foot decline along the north and west perimeter of the parking lot, is located in the Woods and runs along the backs of residential properties, most of them owned by the hospital, on

BournemOUTH and Raymond.

The hospital has also agreed to plant 8-foot evergreen trees between the ramp and a 6-foot brick wall that buffers the parking lot from the residential properties to screen the sight and sound of the trucks.

The ramp plan had the endorsement of several residents on BournemOUTH and Raymond who attended the planning commission’s public hearing on Monday, Dec. 13.

Members of the Planning Commission withheld comments but did pass a resolution that requested a number of conditions be met. In addition to the landscape screening, the commission requested that the hospital provide the city with an accurate parking count in the back lot and signage

approval.

The Grosse Pointe Woods City Council, which acts as the Zoning Board of Appeals, is expected to hear the variance request at its Monday, Dec. 20, meeting.

Dan Caren, an architect with HarleyEllis, which has been retained by the hospital for the construction project, said the hospital must obtain other variances from Detroit.

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Legacy of forensic pathology lives on in Spitz family

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

In the medical field it's not uncommon for sons and daughters to follow their parents' footsteps in their specialties and practices. It is unusual, however, to find a family legacy being passed from generation to generation in the medical examiner field. What's even more rare, if not unheard of, is for a son to take over the role of a county's chief medical examiner from his father.

Such is the case for Dr. Daniel Spitz, who has come back home to claim the position held for the past 15 years by his father, Dr. Werner Spitz, in Macomb County.

Like many children, Daniel Spitz often talked with his father about his work, which at times was hard to avoid with work sometimes being in the headlines.

"I always enjoyed it growing up," Daniel Spitz said. "I always enjoyed hearing about the cases my dad was working on. My dad wrote a textbook on forensic pathology back in 1972, and with my being born in 1969, that book was always around when I was growing up. It was quite intriguing, especially for a young kid. The kids in my neighborhood knew what my dad did, and they always had questions. When I got a little bit older, about 15 or 16, I got to see my first autopsy. I thought it was an interesting career, but when I got into medical school, I thought I'd get into more clinical work dealing with patients. It was only toward the end of medical school that I thought of doing this as a career."

Daniel Spitz spent five years completing his residency in forensic pathology, with four of those years doing hospital pathology work at Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago.

At first what Daniel Spitz thought of as an obligatory stop along the way in becoming a forensic pathologist, he found he enjoyed working in a hospital setting and even co-authored a book on the subject, "Differential Diagnoses in Surgical Pathology."

"Some of my colleagues felt there was a need for a book like this," Daniel Spitz said. "It's more for the pathologist in training. It's an easy book to use."

Daniel Spitz then went on to Miami, where he spent a year in training in forensic pathology. After Miami, Daniel Spitz became board certified in forensic pathology (he is one of about 350 board certified forensic pathologists in the country), and then spent three years in Tampa, Fla., as an associate medical examiner.

But when Daniel Spitz

POINTER OF INTEREST



Dr. Daniel Spitz recently returned to Michigan to serve as chief medical examiner for Macomb County, the position held by his father, Dr. Werner Spitz, for the previous 15 years. "Macomb County is a rapidly growing county and one that has some long-term opportunities for a chief medical examiner," Daniel Spitz said. "Since the county is still not a huge county, and I had some interaction with the director of the health department, it was a good opportunity for me to become a chief at a relatively young age."

first learned that his father was considering stepping down from his position in Macomb County, he considered the advantages to moving back home.

"Macomb County is a rapidly growing county and one that has some long-term opportunities for a chief medical examiner," Daniel Spitz said. "Since the county is still not a huge county, and I had some interaction with the director of the health department, it was a good opportunity for me to become a chief at a relatively young age."

The lack of certified medical examiners in Michigan also made Daniel Spitz an attractive candidate for the chief medical examiner's position in Macomb County.

"In most of the counties in Michigan, there are a lot of non-pathologists, and certainly a lot of non-forensic pathologists, who are dealing with death investigations. They're physicians, perhaps in family practice or OB-GYN, who double as the medical examiner. They're the ones who ultimately decide if an autopsy is necessary, and then have to hire a forensic pathologist to do that. Ideally, it's best to have a forensic pathologist who is the same person who does the autopsy."

As Macomb County has grown, so have the number and types of cases that are handled by the chief medical

examiner. "It will become a more complicated job as more and more people come to live here," said Daniel Spitz, who expects to conduct about 1,000 death investigations and about 350 autopsies in his first year on the job in Macomb County. "More and more people mean more and more deaths, unfortunately."

"What's amazing about Macomb County is the number of drug overdoses. It rivals the number of drug overdose cases you have in a big city. It's amazing the amount of heroin, cocaine and prescription drug deaths you see."

As Daniel Spitz has come along from a young boy with a morbid curiosity of the photographs in his father's textbook, he now sees the work as a forensic pathologist as one that benefits the living instead of focusing on the dead.

"It's more that there are stories to tell and answers to give," Daniel Spitz said. "I don't generally think about the suffering somebody endured. When I see them, they're out of their element, they're in my area. The objective is to determine what happened. People tend to think of forensic pathologists working with the dead, but really the work that we do is for the living. The answers that we give are for

See POINTER, page 13A

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Call for help to remove carbon tet extinguishers

By John Schulte
Deputy Director
Grosse Pointe Park
Department of Public Safety

Some homes and businesses built in the Grosse Pointes at or near the turn of the 20th century were equipped with carbon tetrachloride liquid fire suppressants. The glass containers were supported by brass cradles and often attached to 2-by-4 wood supports in the attic. The carbon-tetrachloride liquid is sealed in a

glass vessel with a fusible link, which serves as the trigger mechanism to release the fire suppressant. When the glass container is heated by the fire, the liquid agent is released to suppress the fire.

Also located in some homes are brass, hand pump carbon tetrachloride extinguishers that were designed for homeowners' use.

The practice of hanging these agents in residences and businesses was discon-

tinued after concerns arose about its toxic effects to firefighters. Subsequent testing later determined that these fire suppressant devices were carcinogenic.

These extinguishing devices may be present in your homes, and they need to be properly removed. Residents of Grosse Pointe Park are advised to contact the Public Safety Department at (313) 822-7400 if you locate or suspect that you have one of these devices. Do not attempt to move or transport these items to our fire quarters. Transporting these items creates the risk of breakage and the release of this hazardous material. The Public Safety Department will assist you in having these items removed directly from your home by a qualified professional. Residents of the other Grosse Pointe



Grosse Pointe Park public safety Lt. John Kretzschmar holds a glass container filled with the once-used fire suppressant, carbon tetrachloride. Exposure to the liquid in the container, like many that were placed in homes built at the turn of the 20th century, has proven to be a health hazard.

communities are advised to contact their local departments for their removal procedures.

Park OKs Class C license for pizzeria

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

It will likely be possible to get a glass of beer or wine with pizza at what some have called "an east side landmark."

At its Monday, Dec. 13, meeting, the Grosse Pointe Park City Council approved a Class C liquor license transfer from the former Brosnan's Bar on Jefferson to Mama Rosa's Pizza in the 15100 block of Mack.

The council unanimously approved the transfer upon the recommendation of Public Safety Chief David Hiller, whose department conducted the required background check of the business and its owners of the past 33 years, Anthony and Germaine Milana.

"The applicants have been longtime business owners in Grosse Pointe Park with a good reputation," Hiller said. "We've had zero troubles and zero problems at that location."

Councilman Greg Theokas, who moved that the council approve the transfer, said, "It's been a good anchor on Mack Avenue."

Although a Class C license would allow the Milanas to serve beer, wine and liquor, the Milanas will only add beer and wine to their menu.

The Michigan Liquor License Commission will have the final say in the approval of the transfer.

Pointer

From page 4A

the family members or so a case can be prosecuted, if need be.

"The fun part of the job is to take the information that you get from a homicide victim, piece together the scene and the circumstances as to what happened, and to take it back to court and to relay that evidence to a jury in a way they can understand so they can make a decision as to what went on. Going to court and providing testimony is a big part of the job. It shocks me when I talk to people who don't like that as part of this job. That's the reason these cases are done. It's not to do the autopsy and write the report, but it's to take the information and to make sense of it."

In addition to his work for Macomb County, Daniel Spitz also does quite a bit of private consulting in forensic pathology.

"Private work can involve private autopsies. These are autopsies that don't fall under a medical examiner's jurisdiction. A family member may want an autopsy for their own personal reasons. Maybe they want to know for genetic reasons, or maybe no one in the hospital sat down with them and explained why their loved one had died. Unfortunately, some doctors in hospitals don't feel comfortable talking about certain things, like why someone died, so people hire a forensic pathologist to find out what happened."

In all it's Daniel Spitz's interest and dedication to and perspective of his work that have catapulted him to the top at a relatively young age and made him a good fit for Macomb County.

"If you look at his education and his prior experiences in Florida population areas with a lot of

cases plus the fact he's board certified, it all adds up to a nice package that adds up on its own merit," said Thomas Kalkofen, director and health officer of the Macomb County Health Department. "He also brings to us the information he's gained on the administrative side that gives us a different look on how to run this office. There's more involved in doing the autopsies and giving reports. We're fortunate to be able to get him to work for us at this particular time."

Daniel Spitz also has the endorsement of an even tougher assessor: his father.

"I've worked for Macomb County since 1972," Werner Spitz said. "You don't build up a job for 32 years just to pass it off to just anyone. I'm confident he'll continue to do a good job and perhaps improve on the work that's been done."

While Daniel Spitz can make a career for himself anywhere, he feels there's no place like home.

"I have a lot of friends here with whom I went to high school," said Daniel Spitz, who now calls Grosse Pointe Farms home. "I'm back to playing hockey two to three times a week. I hadn't played for the past four years living in Florida. My family lives close by; my parents (Anne and Werner Spitz) live in Grosse Pointe Shores, and my sister (Rhona Dempsey) and her four children live in the Farms. My brother, Jonathan, lives in Chicago, so I'm a little closer to him. Plus I have two young sons, Keegan, 3, and Jacob, 1. Grosse Pointe is a pretty nice place for kids to grow up. There are lot of activities and I'm sure they'll benefit."

"I liked Florida a lot and I'm sure I'll go back frequently, but it's nice to be back."

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Libraries and their places in society

While the last 100 books were being transferred from the former Grosse Pointe Park Branch Library to the new Carolyn & Ted Ewald Memorial Branch Library along a 1,100-member Children's Book Brigade on Tuesday, Google, the Internet search engine, announced that it was about to digitize the entire University of Michigan library.

That means all 7 million volumes in one of the nation's top research libraries could potentially be available to anyone with an Internet connection.

The first book to arrive at its new home in the Ewald Branch Library

Opinion

was "The Incredible Journey of Lewis and Clark" by Rhoda Blumberg. The last one was "The Little Red Hen" by Margaret Zemach.

It is ironic that the U-M announcement would come on the very day 1,100 students from Pierce Middle and Defer and Trombly Elementary Schools would be passing along "old" technology.

This all brings us back to the question, "Will libraries become obsolete in an Internet world?"

Michael Maurer, our technology columnist, whose wife is a librarian, thinks not. He argues that there is a lot of knowledge out there online, but

who is going to help you sort it out? Who is going to help decide what is "good" information and what is garbage?

Traditionally, librarians (and editors) have been the gatekeepers, the people who vet information and pass judgment on its validity.

Now it appears the entire breadth of human knowledge can be put online, a task as daunting as "Beam me up, Scotty."

A U-M librarian is quoted as saying that it would take 1,600 years using traditional technology and practices to scan in all its 7 million tomes. But with Google technology and expertise,

it will only take six years.

Again, will land-locked libraries become obsolete?

Probably not. But they will probably house fewer bound volumes.

Also, as Mr. Maurer discusses in this week's column, libraries do other necessary things, such as subscribe to various news and database services and publications. For occasional research, it is not cost effective for each of us to subscribe to such knowledge sources. But when we all help pay for it through our public libraries, it makes knowledge less costly.

We cannot overstate the importance of the announcement made by Google and U-M. Maybe it is not on par with the human genome project, but there are parallels.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to take part in the celebration of knowledge and the opening of the new Ewald Branch in the Park. The dedication ceremony is planned for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2005. The public is invited.

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Saving Social Security II

By Michael Goodell
 Grosse Pointe Farms

The concept of creating private investment accounts to preserve Social Security is gaining momentum in Washington and throughout the country. Public opinion polls show consistent support for this form of Social Security reform. It seems most people don't share the left's doubts about their ability to handle their own money. Unfortunately, private investment accounts by themselves won't save Social Security.

It will take at least 20 years before private investment accounts will reduce Social Security outlays, and, since the program is a pay-as-you-go program, any diversion of tax revenues now will increase the deficit by some \$2 trillion dollars over the next 10 years. It would be, as Paul Krugman stated in the New York Times, a case of borrowing money to invest it in the stock market. This is true, as far as it goes, and if that were the sum of the matter, perhaps private investment accounts would be a luxury we can't afford.

But it isn't simply a question of whether to borrow money to establish these programs. The fact is, we will be borrowing far more than \$2 trillion if something isn't done.

Last week, President George W. Bush dismissed the idea of raising taxes to cover the cost of establishing private investment accounts. "We will not raise payroll taxes to solve this problem," he declared.

In one sense, this is reasonable. Most wage earners pay Social Security taxes, but some lower-income people pay a disproportionately higher amount. This is because the income subject to tax is capped, currently at \$87,500, though it is scheduled to rise to \$90,000 next year.

On the other hand, since the federal government is already posting record deficits — \$413 billion this year — it is fiscally irresponsible to increase the shortfall by reducing revenues without a corresponding cut in expenses. Furthermore, it is fiscal irresponsibility that makes the establishment of private investment accounts a venture fraught with peril.

Social Security is currently running a \$200 billion surplus. Since that money has been spent on day-to-day operations of the federal government, it means the current budget deficit is actually \$613 billion. If the Bush administration and Congress had practiced the sort of fiscal restraint for

which conservatives were once known, the Social Security surplus could be used to fund private investment accounts without incurring any debt.

The reasons for the deficit are numerous. Obviously, tax cuts reduced revenues. So did loss carry forwards from the collapse of the dot-com bubble. Extraordinary expenses arising from 9/11 and the subsequent war on terror increased expenditures. Add to that the fact that Bush has never seen a spending bill he wouldn't sign, and we have the government-by-drunken-sailor situation we face today.

The only way to make private investment accounts work is by increasing revenues and reducing expenses sufficiently to avoid increasing debt. This can be done by implementing three steps.

The first is to increase revenue by eliminating the cap on wages subject to payroll taxes. This tax increase would fall exclusively upon the most wealthy, those earning more than \$90,000 a year. However, this burden would be ameliorated to some extent by providing them with a larger portion to invest in their private accounts.

The second step is to shift the new benefit determiner from wages to prices. Currently, benefits are tied to taxpayers' earnings, which have increased at a dramatically higher rate than prices have. Determining new benefits on the basis of price inflation would result in immediate and substantial savings.

Some might argue that this would not be fair to new retirees. After paying into Social Security their entire lives, what right do we have to reduce their initial benefits? It would be a fair question if Social Security were a traditional pension plan, but it isn't. People don't pay into it. They don't have an account. Their payroll taxes have been used to pay other people's retirements and to fund the U.S. government.

Finally, it is time to give serious consideration to means-testing Social Security benefits. They should be determined not by the amount of payroll taxes paid, but by the retiree's need. Beginning with non-real estate assets of \$300,000, retirees' benefits should be reduced at a rate of 1 percent. This would ensure that those who need the assistance of Social Security will have it, while eliminating the discordant reality of low-wage workers paying for retirees living the good life in their condos overlooking the 17th tee in Boca Raton, Fla.



Address comments to cartoonist Phil Hands at phands@grossepointenews.com or go to www.philtoons.com

Find joy in the holiday

So what's wrong with a great big birthday celebration? I truly don't believe Jesus would object to our going a little crazy or having a little extra fun during the holiday season. What other time of year allows us the freedom to hang twinkling lights from our rooftops, have giants sleighs with Santa and Rudolph racing across our lawns and reindeer bobbing up and down in our yards?

The holidays are a time for a joyous celebration, and many of us go all out. 'Tis no time for judgment of taste versus tacky; you have to admit many of the outlandish decorations bring huge smiles to our faces.

We pile into our cars and take our out-of-town- guests on tours of the annual displays, from gaudy to traditional. And this is no trivial pursuit; this is competition in full bloom! Take a trip up Lakeshore if you doubt me. You can almost hear the symbols clang as the exhibitions reveal themselves to the voyeurs among us.

There is no denying that the commercialism of the holidays can be an assault on the senses of those of us over 40 who remember the beautiful and reverent creche scenes with angels gently lingering in the backlights. Even then, we laughed at songs like "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" and the Chipmunks singing "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth."

We were subtly eased away from a Christmas dominated by old time carols, when Nat King Cole introduced us to his lovely "The Christmas Song." Then along came Andy Williams, Perry Como, Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra and the country renditions of old holiday standards by Brenda Lee and others. Rosemary Clooney and Crosby resurrected Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" in their delightful holiday movie.

We are delighted to be included in two caroling parties this season. What a great way to enjoy the season. We hope it snows.

I would suggest that if you are offended at the sight of a giant, plastic Snoopy or Grinch, get over it. Someone out there is celebrating just being alive in this great country, and perhaps someone else wants his grandchildren to see the biggest and brightest demonstration of Christ's birthday party right in his front yard. It beats the heck out of being Scrooge!

Just because some of us get into the spirit of the season by flinging and flaunting various displays of exuberance doesn't mean we have forgotten the reason for our celebration. We still attend services to worship, sing carols, exchange gifts and share what we can with those who have less.

We become mellow at this time of year, more generous and patient with our fellow man. Tolerance, forgiveness and generosity peak. We speak more eloquently of our desire for a lasting peace in this troubled world, and we reach out to others more than at any other time of year. If only we could hold tight to these feelings well into the new year. These are resolutions we can keep.

Happy holidays and may God bless you and yours.

— Lauren Chapman

Letters

Vibrant city
To the Editor:
 As a longtime Grosse Pointe resident and past president of the Grosse Pointe Theatre, I know what a valuable asset the Grosse Pointe War Memorial is to all residents of our community.

I have been following with great interest the proposal to develop high-end

condominiums on Lakeshore and hope that the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council realizes the potential of this great opportunity for the entire community as a whole.

Not only will this giant-step forward create diverse housing options which do not currently exist in our community, it will generate new tax dollars which will benefit the community as a whole.

I encourage the Farms Council members to consider all of the favorable benefits of this progressive decision and not bow down to the few but noisy individuals who oppose any kind of change in this community.

After all, who wants to live in a ghost town? Let's keep Grosse Pointe a vibrant, growing and exciting community.

Lawrence Marco
Grosse Pointe Woods

Growth in the Pointes
To the Editor:
To Grosse Pointe Farms City Council Members:
 Because of your position on the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council, I feel compelled to call your attention

to an article on the front page of the Business section of The Detroit News, Nov. 30.

The article is about the resurgence of downtown Birmingham, a town that not long ago appeared headed for extinction as shoppers and merchants went elsewhere, stores closed, and empty buildings sat idle. Perhaps the most visible reminder of the decline was the defunct Jacobson's store in the heart of the city.

Does all this seem painfully parallel to another Detroit suburb? I hope so.

Yet today, downtown Birmingham is booming. Upscale restaurants, stores, offices and residences abound. Moreover, according to another article in the Dec. See LETTERS, page 10A

How we used to celebrate the Christmas season in Germany

In my youth, the Christmas season started on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The Advent time before Christmas was free of today's commercialism, and the only fun for us youngsters was to open — every day — another window on the "Adventkalender" and to light another candle on the Advent wreath on Sundays. All in all, pre-Christmas partying, drinking and celebrating were unheard of in Germany at that time. The Advent and Christmas seasons were celebrated more in a religious and family fashion.

The visit of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6 was actually a fore-runner for things to come. Unlike our American happy, jolly, fat-bellied Santa Claus, our St. Nicholas looked like the historical Bishop of Myra, who paid a visit to children and read from a long list all our major and minor misdeeds. Only after promising that we would do

better in the coming year, would we receive his presents.

These consisted mainly of sweets, cookies, chocolates and nuts. The Nicholas visit was always anticipated with a great amount of fear because his companion called "Knecht Rupprecht" would dish out instant penalties on the behind of bad-behaving youngsters. On his back he carried a big sack with two feet sticking out at the top. I was always worried that those legs were those of my friend Theo Lohmann and I might be the next candidate.

A few days before Christmas, my brothers and I were invited by our dad to join him in a search for a fitting Christmas tree. We always planted an ample supply of pine trees, and sometimes we had to guard these trees before Christmas from thieves.

During the war years the gift-giving dropped consider-

ably in quality and quantity. Chocolate became very rare and tropical fruits disappeared totally. (Sybille, my wife, had never seen nor eaten a banana until 1949.)

The few presents we received made us probably happier than the overabundance our children receive today.

I remember the year our great toy, the mighty "Boller" wagon (a hand-pulled, four-wheel wagon) disappeared just a week before Christmas. We could not understand why our parents did not make a big fuss about this while we thought a major crime had been committed. Miraculously the wagon appeared again at Christmas Eve under the tree with a fresh coat of paint.

In the afternoon hours of Christmas Eve our aunt secretly decorated the tree. After we had finished the evening meal we could hear a bell ringing outside signal-

ing that the Christ Child with presents had arrived. We stormed into the decorated room with a glittering tree aglow with real candles. Some of the tree decorations were sweets and chocolates. It took a great amount of will power and fear of detection not to rob the decorations.

Before enjoying our gifts, we had to join our parents and farm helpers in singing all the old and new German Christmas carols. The tree was kept in an unheated room and was maintained well into January each year. Under the tree was the manger, made elaborately by our village carpenter.

The second day of Christmas, the St. Stephen's Day, was always — like in most European countries — a holiday. On this day, every village came up with theater performances staged usually in the local beer garden hall by local "talents."

At midnight on New Year's Eve our village brass

band and our "Singing Society" went into full gear. They started at our end of the village and continued on at about 20 more locations. This was the traditional way of wishing everyone a happy New Year. For their efforts they're treated with homemade "mettwurst" (sausage) and some money. The sausages were cooked on New Year's Day and consumed with the local brew by all performers.

The next highlight of the Christmas season was the feast day of Epiphany on Jan. 6. This was the day of the traditional "Three Kings" singing performed by groups of boys from house to house throughout the village. The "Three Kings" —

Casper, Melchior and Balthasar — were dressed in white robes with paper crowns on their head. They were accompanied by a star holder, a manger carrier; two boys with baskets to carry the collected goodies, and one to clean with a broom the dirt brought into the house by us.

Money contributions were turned over for the benefit of the local chapel. We had two songs in our repertoire: one in regular German and one in low German. Both songs dated back many centuries and were repeated from generation to generation.

The above was written by a Grosse Pointe Woods resident about his Christmases as a youth in 1930s Germany.

Letters

From page 10A

and every one of us in this community is connected by the network of programs and services offered by the public, parochial and private schools, the municipalities and public services, the businesses, and the multitude of civic groups.

Each and every one of us has our own dreams and goals, and our community plays a large part in fulfilling those personal agendas. For me and my family, a child-friendly neighborhood and community is of utmost importance. Second to that — and the primary reason we moved to Grosse Pointe Woods — is the excellent, well-rounded education offered by the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Lastly, housing values that will continue to rise at a better-than-average pace make Grosse Pointe real estate a smart addition to our financial portfolio.

Add to all those necessities the other perks that surround us, like the pedestrian-friendliness which enables us to get to parks, school, shopping, the library, and the lake, all while giving our fitness a boost.

In addition to the educational opportunities offered by the schools during the day, our entire family can participate in classes, lectures, and clubs hosted by the public and private schools, as well as other organizations and businesses.

I have often been deeply disappointed in the "us vs. them" sentiment expressed

by many individuals, groups and businesses over the past couple years, regarding the public school financial problem. I expected a much more intelligent and responsible approach to the problem, with mass participation representing all facets of this community.

The school board members and administration have put on countless presentations on this topic, only to have weak attendance, in most cases — Dr. Suzanne Klein did one complete presentation for an audience of only two individuals. Not to be discouraged, the board and administration again plan to hold forums and presentations in the near future, to discuss the 2005-06 budget, now in the planning stage, as well as the upcoming millage election.

My hope is that throngs of open-minded individuals of all ages will attend these presentations, ask thoughtful questions, offer meaningful comments, gain better understanding, and even volunteer in their area of expertise on one of the many committees currently in action.

That is the kind of intelligent community action we expected to see, and participate in, when we chose this community above all others.

Theresa L. Fields
Grosse Pointe Woods

Thanks for donations

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Grosse Pointe Woman's Club, I

would like to thank the business people who so very generously contributed either gifts or gift certificates to our Annual Scholarship Luncheon/Fashion Show held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial on Nov. 15.

With your support you made a significant contribution to the success of the fund-raiser and for that we are most appreciative.

Our sincere thanks to Chico's of Grosse Pointe for presenting the fashions and to our club members who modeled the lovely fashions.

Many, many thanks to Carol Small and her staff at the War Memorial for their work in setting up for the boutique, the Crystal Ball Room and the serving of a delicious luncheon.

Following is a list of the merchants contributing this year for our raffle: Pat Scott Jewelry; Maloof Jewelry; Michael Agnello Jewelry; Edmund T. Ahee Jewelry; Valente Jewelers; Joseph DiMaggio Jewelry; The League Shop; Farmer Jack Market, Mack at Eight Mile; Cavanaugh's, Village; Moehring Woods Flowers; Viviano Florist; Curves for Women, socks; Jan and Jim's Hallmark; J. P. Hallmark Shop; Jean Azar; Olga, La Moda Hair Design; Tiffany Place Hair Designers; Bommarito Bakery; Avenue Hair Salon; Marcia Kuypers Jewelry; Pamela Zimmer, Mary Kay; Giglio's Market; Wright's Lamp and Gift Shop; Ronald & Anna Hair Salon; Mack Avenue Diner; Carole

Sulad, wine; the Grosse Pointe Theatre; and all printing of tickets by A. H. Peters Funeral Services.

The College Scholarship Awards are given each year in May to two recipients, one each from North and South high schools. These awards are sent to the college of their choice for each student which met the scholastic goals set forth by the Grosse Pointe Woman's Club.

My sincere thanks to the club members who worked with me to make this annual fund-raiser a success. We sincerely thank each one for your contribution and we speak for the future student recipients as well.

As the holiday season approaches we wish all a prosperous and blessed New Year.

Doris Strek
Chairman
Ways and Means
Committee
Grosse Pointe
Woman's Club

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http://south.gpschools.org/pub/mclub/

Pointe Ecumenical Men's Breakfast folks this story:

A sky diver jumps out of a plane and on the way down, the parachute won't open. The diver struggles with it, but nothing happens. Then he sees a figure flying up toward him. As the man flying up passes, the sky diver calls out, "Do you know anything about parachutes? No", the rising man replies, "Do you know anything about gas stoves?"

Father Cuny used the joke to illustrate the opposite directions that religious observance of the advent season and commercial

exploitation of Christmas take.

Greek Orthodox priest **Father Demetrius Kovadas** and Presbyterian interim senior pastor the **Rev. Bill Yeager** will close out the 2004 breakfast program at Memorial Church on Lakeshore on Dec. 17 and Dec. 24, respectively, at 7:15 a.m.

Ben Burns of the City of Grosse Pointe is a professor in the journalism program at Wayne State University. He can be reached at burnsben@comcast.net or by phone at (313) 882-2810.

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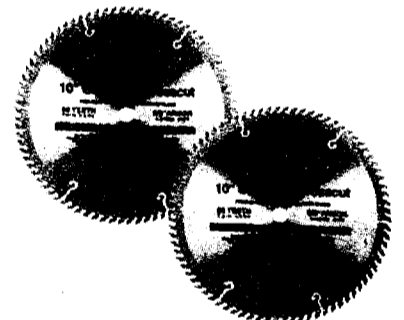
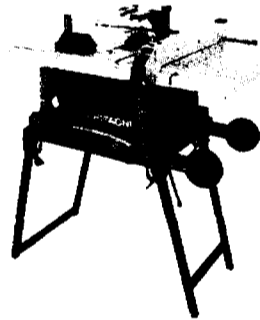
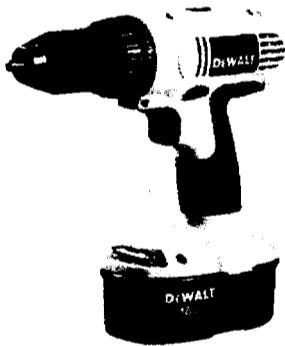
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Letters

From page 6A

1 issue of the Detroit Free Press, another \$150 million in new development is scheduled to come into the city of Birmingham in the next year or so. What caused the turnaround?

In a word, attitude. I'll leave it to you to read the articles in question, but I believe you'll see that

Birmingham's city governors were at one time the victim of "analysis to the point of paralysis." They were so busy studying every facet of every proposal to uncover possible negatives that little, if anything, was ever accomplished.

Their conservative attitude, well-intentioned as it may have been at the time, was inherently negative in its effect. Above all, it was not proactive. And a proac-

tive perspective is essential to growth and rebirth.

What came to mind as I pondered all this is the Grosse Pointe War Memorial's proposal to build a series of luxury condominiums on the property to the north of their facility overlooking Lake St. Clair. It's an innovative project that would attract more than a few well-to-do lifestyles that might otherwise be lost to the community.

Moreover, the property in question is currently sitting idle, occupied by old, mostly derelict houses that are ready for the wrecking ball.

What was the reaction to their proposal?

Based on the accounts in our local newspapers, the tiny but vocal mentality in this community that is perennially convinced the sky is falling raised its voice in protest. To hear their opposition, one would think the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, long a source of civic good in the Pointes, is an evil land baron, scheming to ruin the landscape with slum tenements.

Worse yet, it appears the

Grosse Pointe Farms City Council is willing to let this group of naysayers influence its own thinking.

Right now, the project is stalled under the pretense of further study. But what I sense is really happening here is that council members are letting themselves become tentative and overly analytical instead of decisive and positive. And if there is one thing the Grosse Pointes need at this juncture it is leadership that is decisive and positive; leadership that makes things happen.

The longer a project like this is delayed, the more it loses critical mass, to the point where no one pays attention to it anymore and it simply goes away.

I need not remind you of the vacant property at Mack and Moross that went the same disappointing route, or of the alarming signs of deterioration and inactivity that are visible throughout this area; but as the elected leaders of our city, it is certainly proper to ask you to do just that — lead.

Council leadership begins

with a proactive attitude that encourages and enables projects like the War Memorial's proposal, not one that nitpicks it to death.

From there, who knows what might happen? Perhaps it might inspire something good to happen in the old Jacobson's building. And from there, it might just generate a can-do, get-it-done attitude that gets the rest of the Grosse Pointes moving in the right direction again.

James L. Ramsey
Grosse Pointe Farms

fund approved. What else do they need?

I don't mind renewing current millages but asking for more money is ridiculous. The "Headlee override" that is mentioned needs to be spelled out in dollars and cents and not in rhetoric. How much more do they need? What is being done to control expenditures, if things are bad? What is being done to prevent non-resident users utilizing our school system, at our expense, without paying a cent in taxes?

Taxes, taxes and more taxes is not the answer! Let's have the board present to the community a white paper in terms of what they are doing and have done to control administrative overhead, salaries, debt, programs, construction, new programs, etc.

Every time I view the board's meetings they talk about spending, spending and spending. Why should they be exempt from any other business enterprise that is faced with financial problems that needs to focus on their core responsibilities?

L. E. Majewski
Grosse Pointe Woods

School millage

To the Editor:

I would like to thank you for already informing us about the Feb. 22 school millage election, now 11 weeks away. I appreciate the Opinion article, "23% school funds up for vote Feb. 22" (Dec. 9, Grosse Pointe News), in identifying the issues that will be covered. Also, that the residents who go down South to winter will have enough advance information so that they can vote pro or against before they leave or take absentee ballots with them.

The issue disturbs me, for most of the residents, at least in the Woods, have just received their winter tax bills which for the most part have gone up significantly.

I, for one, am concerned that in reading the article, the school board is going to ask for more money. They have gotten a bond approved and a sinking

Community action

To the Editor:

I was extremely pleased to receive my Neighborhood Club Winter Program 2005 brochure, and to see the letter from John Bruce, the executive director, on page six. This letter explains the purpose and importance of the upcoming Grosse Pointe Public Schools millage election, which will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Mr. Bruce's three-paragraph letter is a concise explanation of a complicated issue. Certainly there is more to be learned and understood on this topic. But the bottom line is: each

See LETTERS, page 11A

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Consume by 12/17

Why are some people paranoid about food expiration dates?

In the olden days, when I was growing up, if something didn't smell good or look fresh or taste quite right, you considered it spoiled and threw it away or spit it into the sink.

If your Rice Krispies were wiggling, you made a face, yelled "EEEEuuuuu," and dumped it in the trash. If the lettuce on your sandwich was wilted, you picked it off with thumb and forefinger and disposed of it.

Then you ate your sandwich.

I remember attending a summer camp where we were instructed, up front, before the first meal was served: "If you take a sip of your milk and you think it's sour, drink it anyway. Sour milk won't kill you."

Expiration dates are perplexing. You could come home from the supermarket with \$150 worth of fresh food packed in 40 flimsy, two-pint bags, one item per bag.

While unloading the goods and stashing stuff in the freezer, refrigerator and cupboards, you might note that some items carry a "sell by" date; others are stamped with a "consume



Margie Smith

by" date, still others with a "best when used by" date and a few with flat-out "expiration" dates.

Are these suggestions? Are they rules? Laws? Are they guidelines? Or are the cryptic clues for different degrees of spoilage?

On the "best when used by" date, the baby spinach leaves are crisp and green;

a lemon smells lemony; and cottage cheese is creamy and white.

On the "sell by" date, the spinach is floppy. The lemon has shrunk somewhat; the cottage cheese is watery.

On the "consume by" date, the spinach has wilted, the lemon has morphed into a smaller, firmer version of its former self and

the cottage cheese smells odd.

On the "expiration" date, the spinach is downright slimy. The lemon is a stone. The cottage cheese has sprouted blue fuzz.

If we ignore the cautions, do we face the possibility of an agonizing, painful, lingering illness, followed by an excruciatingly malodorous, disfiguring, brutish death?

Or are these dates yet another sign of the times — overreaction to an infinitesimal danger, followed by the passage of complicated laws requiring federal, state and local funds, an engineering team, a go-around with the National Fresh Spinach Advisory Board,

the creation of a mission statement, a written series of goals, a public advisory committee, policing policies and stiff penalties for those who don't toe the line.

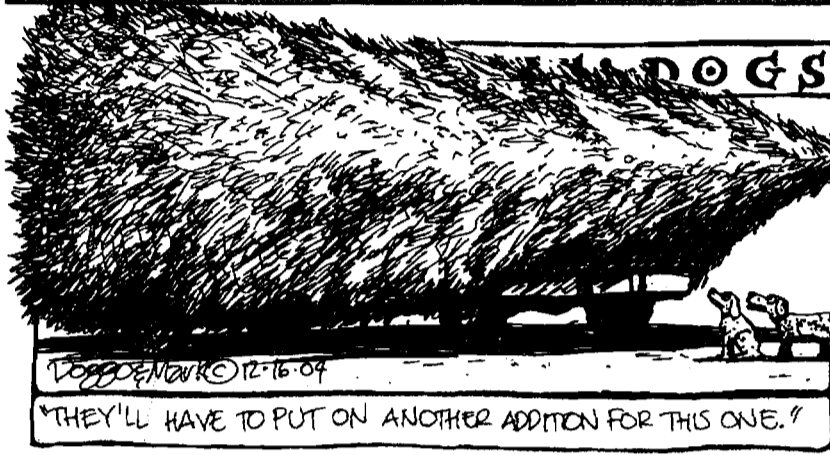
Give me a break. Who would willingly eat blue cottage cheese?

The mother of my two favorite grandsons was raised with expiration dates. She is an Expiration Date Nazi.

When she discovered I had given the boys some yogurt that was two days past its prime, I had to prove it was OK by grabbing the yogurt away from them and eating it myself.

This is not a good example for children.

Grosse Pointe News The Op-Ed Page



Visit the Grosse Pointe Dogs website: <http://gpdogs.keenspace.com>

fyi by Ben Burns

Soot suit

Tom Trefzer, 59, modestly doesn't recall ever kissing a pretty maid on her wedding day to bring good luck, but he has shaken many hands to accomplish the same end.

After 26 years of getting a Santa's-eye view of the Grosse Pointes and sticking his head in fireplaces, Trefzer has decided to turn over his chimney sweeping company and his black top hat to his associate, Justin Karr, 30, of the Park.

The tradition of kissing a chimney sweep on your wedding day or shaking his or her hand goes back to a tale of a sweep who fell from a roof and was hanging from a gutter by one foot when a maid reached through a window and pulled him to safety. They fell in love and were married, according to a tale posted on the Internet.

Trefzer, of the Park, does admit to almost kissing a critter one time during the years of staring into thousands of fireplaces.

An elderly lady pointed out her fireplace, and Trefzer put his head in and opened the damper and discovered himself eyeball to eyeball with a raccoon. Trefzer shrieked and jumped back, scaring his customer, and the coon shrieked and headed up the chimney. (Actually raccoons don't shriek, they have sort of a chattering click when they are upset, but that is another story.)

That leads us to Trefzer's best piece of advice for folks opening dampers. Keep



After 26 years, chimney sweep Tom Trefzer, 59, is handing over his trademark top hat to the next generation, Justin Karr, 30, of Grosse Pointe Park.

your head out of the fireplace. Early in his career, he pulled on a chain to open a damper and about 30 bricks fell right where his head would have been if he had inserted it in the fireplace to see what he was doing.

"I wouldn't be here to talk to you if I'd had my head in there," he said.

The black top hats and clothes worn by traditional chimney sweeps date to the 1700s, according to Trefzer, when they were at the bottom of the employment rungs and got their clothes as cast-offs from funeral directors.

"One time, an elderly woman, German I think, almost fell out an upstairs window she was so excited to see me arrive across the street to clean a chimney. She shouted, 'I haven't seen a chimney sweep since I was a little girl in the old country,'" Trefzer said.

Trefzer and Karr have

worked together for three years. Karr was originally a customer who asked if Trefzer would teach him the trade. "Not if you are going to be my competition," the owner of Safe Flue Chimney Service said. "But I'll train you if you are interested in buying my company."

"My body is now saying I can't do this any more," Trefzer said.

So Trefzer has turned his black top hat over to Karr. He says the customers all think "he is my son. He looks more like me than my son, Tom Jr."

As Dick Van Dyke phrased it in what may be the sweeps' theme song in Mary Poppins:

"Chim chiminey
"Chim chiminey
"Chim chim cher-oo!
"Good luck will rub off when

See FYI, page 11A

Streetwise

Question of the Week:

Do you have any special memories or thoughts about the Park Branch Library now that it is closed?



Barb Widener

As a teacher at Pierce, I loved being able to walk directly from the school into the library where the librarians were so helpful."

Barb Widener
Grosse Pointe Park

"I was a student at Pierce in the 1950's. The library was a fun place to meet with your friends and it was warm place to wait on cold days for your mother to pick you up."

Jeanette Dehn
Grosse Pointe Park



Jeanette Dehn

"Oh, gosh. It was so convenient for me when I was going to Pierce."

Sue Lindberg
Grosse Pointe Park



Sue Lindberg

"I just said 10 minutes ago that I wish the library was open. I ran over there all the time. The head librarian is the nicest man in the world."

Patty Murie
Owner of Lloyd David Antiques, Grosse Pointe Park



Patty Murie

"Not only did I take my two daughters there; as a kid growing up in Grosse Pointe Park, I went there all the time. I'll miss the quaint old library but I excited for the new one."

Jennifer Woodman
Grosse Pointe Park



Jennifer Woodman

"I like getting books from there."

RaeAnne Woodman
Grosse Pointe Park



RaeAnne Woodman

If you have a question you would like asked, drop us a note at 96 Kercheval on The Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or email to editor@grossepointenews.com

Points about the Pointes

Experience is a powerful teacher. Can it lull us into becoming prisoners of the past?

Experience can be a powerful tool in our lives. It allows us to not enter into situations as neophytes. The challenge in using our experiences as a tool is to not become a prisoner of our experiences, afraid of fresh thinking, trying something new or truly "thinking outside of the box". David Dotlich writes of the pitfalls of this unconscious behavior in his book, "Unnatural Leadership." Dotlich Sites case after case where dependence solely on experience rather than questioning it and thinking in fresh ways destroyed American icons like computer giant Digital Equipment, whose solely experience-based management decisions without fresh thinking led to its ultimate demise. Dotlich's advice? Use experience only as a tool, not allowing it to stifle fresh thinking. Excellence in our businesses, schools and communities will become mediocrity if we think otherwise. ...Ahmed Ismail (ahmed.ismail@comcast.net)

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Students' Book Brigade links old and new libraries

By Beth Quinn
Staff Writer

In a once-in-a-lifetime event, approximately 1,100 children of Trombly and Defer elementary schools and Pierce Middle School ceremoniously passed the 100 last children's books of the former Park Branch Library to the new Carolyn & Ted Ewald Memorial Branch Library in the first-ever Children's Book Brigade on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

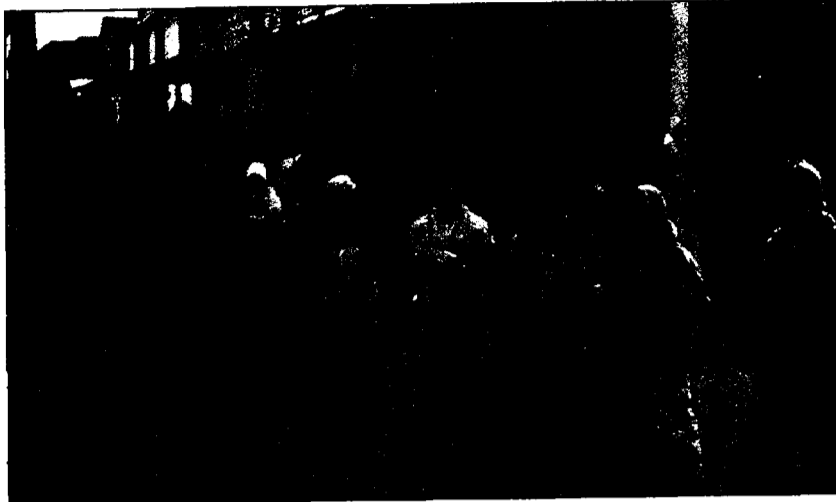
During the cold, crisp winter afternoon, the bundled-up children participated in a walking field trip with their teachers to a designated area along the brigade route, which followed west on Kercheval and south on Lakepointe to the future Ewald Branch Library at Jefferson.

Promptly at 2 p.m., the last books began their journey from the former Park Branch, being passed by hand from one student to the next until they reached the final destination at the new library. The first book to arrive at its new home was "The Incredible Journey of Lewis and Clark" by Rhoda Blumberg and the last one was "The Little Red Hen" by Margaret Zemach.

The children counted out loud the number of books as they handed them to the person next to them.

The route was closed to vehicles, and police were in attendance for the children's safety.

"The Student's Book Brigade is a wonderful opportunity for our students to be a part of a historical event in our city," said Walter Fitzpatrick, Trombly principal. "The children will



A group of Grosse Pointe elementary students moving the books along Lakepointe.

forever have a personal connection to the new Ewald Branch Library that will serve their learning needs for years to come."

The logistics of the brigade were planned by Fitzpatrick, Defer Principal Ronald Wardie, Pierce Assistant Principal Margaret Steele, Grosse Pointe Park Police Chief David Hiller and Grosse Pointe Library Foundation Director Marcia Scavarda.

Pierce librarian Caren Villagas was the first person to receive the books and send them on their journey to their new home. The books were passed to Pierce seventh and sixth grade students who stood along Kercheval.

Pierce eighth graders were not involved due to space limitations along the brigade route. Since they will not be attending the school when construction is

completed on its new science labs and classrooms which will occupy some of the empty library space, the school's administration decided to have the lower classes participate.

"The eighth-graders are involved in other activities; this gives the underclassmen something special to do," Steele said.

When the books got to Lakepointe, the Pierce students handed them to Defer fifth graders. The Defer classes lined up in descending grade order, accompanied by the school's librarian Libby Vande Putte.

Defer sent out a letter inviting the school's parents and morning kindergartners to partake in the ceremony.

"We consider our connection to the public library to be very important since teaching our students to read is one of our highest priorities," Wardie said.

The last Defer kindergartner handed the books to Trombly Librarian Rachel Warpole who passed the books to her school's fifth graders. As with Defer, the

classes went from oldest to youngest. Trombly kindergartner Marie Troscinski of Grosse Pointe Park was the final link in the chain. She handed the books to Grosse Pointe Central Library circulation staffmember Laney Corrado who then handed the books to Grosse Pointe Library Director Vicki Bloom. She neatly placed the books on a cart.

"I'm just happy that the kids are a part of this," Bloom said. "I'm pleased that the library is opening soon so they all can come in and enjoy the books."

John Bruce, president of the Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees, was another enthusiastic participant in the brigade.

"This is such a great event," he said. "Having the kids being the link between the old and new libraries is so symbolic of the 75 years that the library has been part of children's lives in

Grosse Pointe."

Bruce took a moment to reminisce about his own childhood memories of the Park library. "Every week I would go to the library and make a right hand turn to the two shelves that housed books about sports," he said.

While he admits that the significance of retiring the Park library is "just starting to hit me," he is looking forward to opening a state-of-the-art library.

"Seeing one of the final steps of the Ewald Branch Library completion is very exciting for us," Bruce said. "This new library will fulfill a need within the community and among this generation of students who will benefit for years from the upgrade in technology and services."

The dedication ceremony is planned for 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8. The public is invited to attend.



Trombly kindergartner Drew Agley hands books to classmate Marie Troscinski who was the last student in the Student's Book Brigade.

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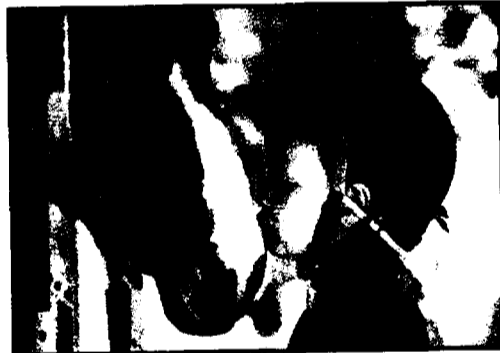
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G.P. Park Branch Library closes its doors forever

By Beth Quinn
Staff Writer

The library that opened its doors to all seeking knowledge, closed them permanently at 5 p.m. on Dec. 10. With a simple turn of a lock, the Grosse Pointe Park Branch Library ended 75 years of service to the community.

Perhaps it was fitting that the graceful old library spend its last night with the people who knew it best. After the last patron, Austin Jones, left, librarians and staff from the other Grosse Pointe Branch libraries joined the Pierce staff in a simple but spirited celebration.

"Most of the staff at any of the other branches worked here at one time or another," Grosse Pointe Central branch reference librarian James Moffet said.

The ones at the library last Friday were happy to reminisce about the times they spent there.

Clare Kre, who works in tech services at Central, talked about her father taking her to the Park library as a young girl. "It is a particularly fond memory because he died when I was 11," she said.

Romances, similar to those in fairytales, have started at the library. Former Grosse Pointe librarian Christine Mueller met her husband, Peter, at the intimate little library. The day they got engaged, they returned to commemorate that fateful meeting.

Retired staff member Paula Preuthun took part in the moving of the director's office from the basement of the Grosse Pointe Park City Hall to the Park branch in 1951.

She also remembers a time when the other Grosse

Pointes used the Park library as a distribution center for the book collections.

"The Park library had a little red station wagon which we loaded up with books once a week and took to smaller libraries in other Grosse Pointes," Preuthun said.

Much of the final day was like any other day though it was filled with last events — the last phone call, last checked out book and the last patron.

As the doors were being locked for the last time, the sound of the last books falling into the drop box got the attention of the librarians.

"Our last children's story time was bittersweet," Children's Librarian Cheryl Quinlan said. "Mothers came with cameras in their hands and tears in their eyes."

While the staff members were sad to leave the library, they were also philosophical about the move.

"I liken it to the moved from Tiger Stadium to Comerica Park," Pierce Branch head librarian John Clextion said. "The library, like the stadium, is a place full of history; so it was sad to leave, but when you go into Comerica Park, you say, 'Wow! We really needed this.'"

Clextion and his staff will spend the next few weeks preparing for the opening of their new workspaces at the library, but for a few minutes they celebrated the old place.

Though champagne is not permitted on library property, corks flew out of bottles of sparkling apple juice.

The bubbly was poured into plastic champagne glasses, and toasts were made to the grand old space.



Park branch library staff members, from left to right, John Clextion, Cheryl Quinlan, Tammy Ivers, Rachel Dombi and Debby Dumler stand in front the doors with a simple plastic sign that the Park branch library doors forever closed.

Defer Elementary School third grader Austin Jones was the last patron to pass through the Park Branch's book detector before the doors closed at 5 p.m., below



James Moffet, reference librarian at the Central branch library, pops a bottle of sparkling apple juice during the closing celebration.



Park Branch Library clock has a new home

Grosse Pointe Public Schools gave the new Ewald Branch Library a housewarming gift — a hand-carved wooden clock from the Park Branch Library formerly located in Pierce Middle School.

Its relocation is part of a goal to bring architectural and design features of the old library into the new one. During the planning stage of the Ewald library, a committee of library board members, staff members and patrons discussed various ways to physically move pieces of the Park branch to the new library. They talked about using some of the old bookcases, but they found that not to be feasible.

"Relocating the clock is a real link, not just a symbolic link, between the two libraries," said John Bruce, library president.

Since its opening in 1939, the clock has kept time over the Park's library main desk. At the Ewald Branch, it will be located in the main foyer.

— Beth Quinn



Holding the Park Branch clock in the new Ewald Branch Library are left to right, Grosse Pointe Library Director Vicki Bloom, Grosse Pointe Library President John Bruce, Grosse Pointe Schools Superintendent Suzanne Klein and Assistant Superintendent Chris Fenton.

Teen event planned for winter break

The next Teen Activities Group event will occur during winter break on Wednesday, Dec. 22, from noon to 2 p.m. at Harbor Lanes Bowling, Jefferson, just past 10 Mile, in St. Clair Shores. This event is open to all teenagers in the area.

Children may be dropped off at 11:45 a.m. and picked up at 2 p.m.

The cost is \$10.00 for bowling, shoe rental, pizza and pop.

Deadline for registration is Monday, Dec. 20, at 8 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park any day between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., or drop off registration at the white mailbox behind city hall; include name, address, phone and school and a check made payable to the City of Grosse Pointe Farms.

This activity is co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Farms Parks and Recreation Department and the Grosse

Pointe Woods Parks and Recreation department.

For more information, call the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park at 343-2405.

TopKid scholarships

TopKid will be presenting scholarship checks totalling \$40,000 at its award ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at noon. The award ceremony will be held at Mac & Ray's Banquet Center, 30675 North River Rd., Harrison Township, MI.

TopKid is a national non-profit organization dedicated to serving members of the United States Armed Forces by providing scholarships for their children. Grosse Pointer John Selden is executive director of the group.

For more information call (313) 824-8500.

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10:10 a.m. - Decorating and Lighting of the French Garden Christmas Tree

11:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II

4:30* p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

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8:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II sung by the Choir of Girls and Men

10:30 p.m. "Messe de Minuit pour Noelle" Charpentier sung by the Choir of Girls and Men with Chamber Orchestra

11:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II sung by the Choir of Men and Boys

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10:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II

SUNDAY, December 26

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11:15 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II with Blessing of Toys followed by Christmas Cookie Fellowship

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For more information, call the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park at 343-2405.

G.P. schools ask voters to renew, renew, restore

By Beth Quinn
Staff Writer

In a special school election, Grosse Pointe voters will be deciding whether to renew three school millages that they approved in 2000.

Voters will be asked to approve the Hold Harmless "Gap" Millage of 8.0784 mills on homestead property for five years. This millage also incorporates the technology millage which was created 10 years ago when the Grosse Pointe Library was part of the school district.

On the February ballot, there will be two non-homestead millage proposals. Non-homestead property millages affect business and commercial property along with rental and second homes. It does not affect owner-occupied residential property.

The first non-homestead millage will be a renewal of the current millage of 16.7875.

Originally, voters approved 18 mills for non-homesteads, but due to Headlee Amendment rollbacks, which limits growth of tax revenue due to rising property values to 3 percent

or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, that amount has been reduced over five years to the 16.7875 mills today.

The second proposal will be to restore 19 mills in order for the school district to receive its full foundation grant, or funding, from the state.

While the third millage has a starting point of 19 mills, state law requires that no more than 18 mills can be levied on non-homestead property.

Chris Fenton, assistant superintendent for business affairs, estimates that the 19 millages allows the school district to levy the full 18 mills for two years. After two years, the mills will again be rolled back to less than 18 mills due to the Headlee Amendment.

The gap millage is entirely based on the number of students enrolled in the school district as mandated by Proposal A. Since 1995, the state has limited to \$1,893 per pupil the amount the Grosse Pointe school system can collect in "gap millage" taxes. That amount has not changed even though inflation has risen approxi-

mately 25 percent in the last nine years.

"If the school district's enrollment goes up, then homestead taxes go up," Fenton said. "The homestead millage is not based on taxable value of property."

Fenton estimates that the district's enrollment will be flat over the next few years.

The three millages provide 23 percent of the school's operating budget. Even with the approval of the three millages, Fenton estimates a budget deficit of \$3 million to \$5 million in the 2005-06 school year.

The state has also made changes to the way school elections can be conducted. School elections can be held in only four months — February, April, August and October.

The Grosse Pointe school board decided to hold the elections in February in case the millages are defeated so it can make necessary changes to the budget and to notify affected teachers about job termination before May.

School elections will no longer be conducted by the school district. Now each Grosse Pointe municipality,

Year	Voted "Gap" & Technology (What Voters Approved)	Levied "Gap" & Technology (What Voters Actually Paid)
2000-01	8.0784 mills	7.4234 mills
2001-02	8.0784 mills	7.1340 mills
2002-03	8.0784 mills	6.8291 mills
2003-04	8.0784 mills	6.7021 mills
2004-05	8.0784 mills	6.5107 mills
2005-06 (proposed)	8.0784 mills	6.3500 mills (est.) Millage rate will be set by the Board of Education in September 2005.

Year	Voted (What Voters Approved)	Levied (What Business Owners Actually Paid)
2000-01	18.0000 mills	17.8236 mills
2001-02	18.0000 mills	17.4207 mills
2002-03	18.0000 mills	17.3632 mills
2003-04	18.0000 mills	16.9777 mills
2004-05	18.0000 mills	16.7875 mills
2005-06 (proposed)	18.0000 mills	18.000 mills(max.) The millage rate will be set by the Board of Education in September 2005.

in conjunction with the county clerk, will oversee the election. Polling places will no longer be at the three middle schools which previously held school elections. Voters will go to the polling places where they vote in municipal, state and federal elections.

Star of the Sea collects coats

The Starlight chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Grosse Pointe Woods is collecting gently used winter coats for all ages through Wednesday, Dec. 22.

The coat drive will benefit children and adults served by Crossroads. Coats in good

condition may be dropped off at the school office or the Parish office, located at Fairford and Morningside, through the 22nd.

NJHS students are selected on service, extra-curricular activities and citizenship as well as scholastic achievement.

Monteith students donate gifts

Students, faculty and families at Monteith Elementary School recently participated in a holiday fundraising project for the Salvation Army. The school raised \$1,100 to buy toys and gifts for needy children.

The fundraising project was organized by the Monteith Student Council. It sponsored two Spirit Days, Hat Day and Silly Sock Day as well as a bake sale to raise money for this project.

Students who participated in the Spirit Days paid \$1 to the Salvation Army collection. Teachers and staff also participated by donating \$3 for the opportunity to wear

jeans to school on Spirit Days.

Using the proceeds from the fundraisers, the Gallagher, Schudlich and Healy families from Monteith shopped for toys and gift cards.

They were able to purchase 40 gift cards and over 70 toys and games. All toys and gift cards will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children.

"Buying all the toys for other children makes me feel good because they may not have many things," Lindsay Gallagher, a first grader in Mrs. Trefney's room, said.

Thespians work to end hunger

Thespian troupes from Grosse Pointe South High School and other high schools have collected 13,255 pounds of food for local food programs as a part of a national food collection campaign — Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat (TOTS-EAT). More than 206,000 pounds of canned and non-perishable food was collected by more than 250 Thespian troupes from 26 states.

TOTS-EAT is a community service initiative of the

International Thespian Society (ITS), a division of the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) which is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and strengthen theatre education as a means of lifelong learning.

The Association's major areas of effort— educational development, teacher development, and advocacy — accomplish this mission by helping to improve the learning environment in the theatre arts.



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Detroit teen arraigned in GPF & City B&Es

Second 19-year-old suspect not yet caught

Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

"You're William Lee Sampson?" said, not asked, the judge.

Sampson, 19 years old and a veteran of the criminal justice system, rose from a swivel chair in the wings of Grosse Pointe Farms Municipal Court.

He'd been swiveling to keep his face away from a news camera.

Sampson relocated to the defendant's chair. Four straight legs. No swiveling. "Yes, your honor."

He was arraigned Dec. 8 on multiple felonies stemming from two home invasions, both toward the end of November in the Farms and City.

Arraignments for both crimes were handled in Farms court to accommodate Sampson's other legal commitments.

He was due the next day in Wayne County Circuit Court for arraignment on fleeing and eluding plus felonious assault. Charges

came from allegedly trying to run down a Detroit police officer while speeding away from authorities in a car stolen during the Farms B&E.

"I never knew me trying to run over a police officer," Sampson protested. "CCW — that's the only charge I got pending."

Sampson was referring to an arrest earlier in Detroit for carrying a concealed weapon.

He was out on bond for that offense when he and an accomplice allegedly committed the Pointe burglaries.

In further reference to Sampson's criminal record, Farms court officers mentioned his 2003 conviction in Detroit for unarmed robbery. "I understand that had been expunged off my record," he said.

Farms Judge Matthew Rumora arraigned Sampson for home invasions and car thefts committed on Nov. 24 in the 700 block of Notre Dame in the City, and on

Nov. 28 in the 200 block of Fisher in the Farms.

Charges included:
• Home invasion first degree, carrying up to 20 years in prison and or \$5,000 fine,

• Larceny, carrying a maximum four years and or \$5,000,

• Breaking and entering a garage with intent to commit larceny, a 10-year term,

• Auto theft, a five-year felony, and

• Receiving stolen property, carrying five years.

"Do you understand the charges?" Rumora asked.

"Yes, your honor."

"You're being charged as a second offender," Rumora said.

Sampson's felony record qualifies him for a sentence 1 1/2 times the normal maximum if convicted of the home invasions and related crimes.

Rumora entered a not guilty plea on Sampson's behalf and agreed to appoint him a lawyer.

Farms Detective Mike

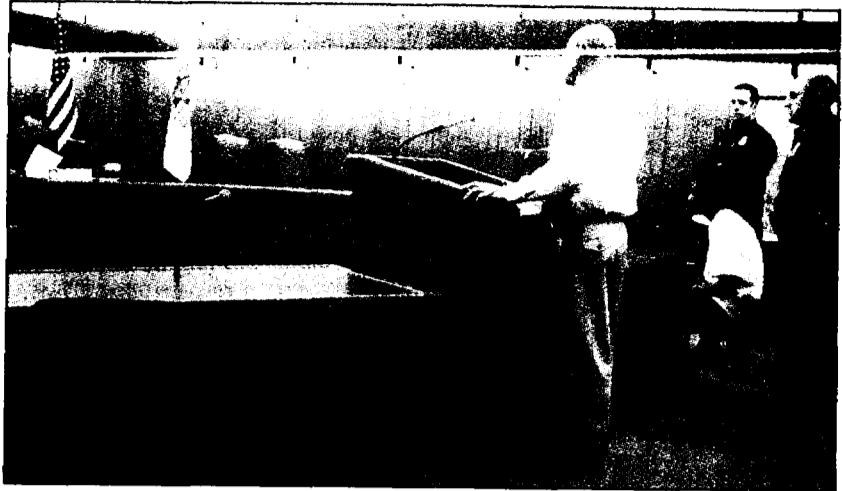


Photo by Brad Lindberg
Mike McCarthy, a Grosse Pointe Farms detective, explains to Municipal Judge Matthew Rumora why William Lee Sampson, seated right, rates a high bond on charges of two home invasions.

McCarthy explained why Sampson should face a high bond.

"Mr. Sampson's only 19 years of age, but he has what we believe to be four separate felony arrests at

Fisher alone," McCarthy said.

Rumora set total bond at \$200,000 cash.

The next step is a pretrial hearing in Farms court Wednesday, Dec. 15, after

this week's Grosse Pointe News deadline.

Police are still looking for Sampson's alleged accomplice, reportedly a 19-year-old Detroit man.

Mug

From page 22A

She called police. Officers already had been alerted by the victim's call.

"As I was talking to the dispatcher squad cars were coming down the street," she said.

Police arrested Moore walking on Calvin toward Mack. It was about 13 minutes after the first 911 call. One block away on Touraine, officers arrested Wadlington.

The husband and wife couldn't identify Moore in

the courtroom.

"I was watching his eyes more than anything because he was looking around a lot," said the wife.

Her husband said, "It was 7:30 at night. Lighting wasn't all that good. It wasn't like we were standing next

to each other."

The examination ended early due to a change in Woodside's schedule. Testimony from police officers was due Wednesday, Dec. 15, after the Grosse Pointe News deadline.

Wadlington and Moore remain in Wayne County Jail, each on \$150,000 cash bond.

Woodside asked Rumora to lower Wadlington's bond. "I'm not inclined to do anything with the bond until the exam's over," Rumora said.

Moore's attorney, Shirley Ann Saltzman, also request-

ed lower bond.

"Thus far there is nothing presented in this courtroom that implicates Mr. Moore in this matter," Saltzman said.

"I agree," Rumora said.

"He has no felony record whatsoever," Saltzman continued. "He's 20 years old. He's been with his girlfriend, who's present in the courtroom, for four years. They have a home in Detroit and a child who's going to be 3. I ask for a low bond of \$2,500 (of which Moore would have to post only 10 percent). I know he will return. The family will post the bond. They will make

certain he is here."

"Given what we've heard so far, there's nothing implicating him," Rumora said. "But there's more discovery. I'm going to continue with it at this point."

Mark Brecht, the detective handling the case, expects to complete the hearing with police testimony and DNA evidence found on the woman's recovered items.

"Unfortunately, DNA (testing) takes a while," Brecht said. "The officers circumstantially will put the person at this incident."

Six GPW PSO's honored

By Bonnie Caprara
Staff Writer

As Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Director Michael Makowski put it: "Every day there are police officers, firefighters and paramedics who risk their lives or do something that makes them outstanding in their careers."

In the Woods, there are six such officers.

Cpl. Richard Dutcher, public safety officers Jeffrey Martel and Dennis Scott Walker and paramedics Charles Krantz and James Thompson were recognized by the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety with letters of commendation.

Public safety officer Daniel Marietta was granted a lifesaving award.

Marietta was given the award for his work in resuscitating a 2-year-old girl who had been a choking victim on Oct. 22.

"Officer Marietta, when he arrived, found the child was blue and her airway blocked," Makowski said. "His quick response and action was the correct procedure, and what he did saved the child's life. The child might not have survived if it had not been for Officer Marietta and the rest of the crew."

The rest of the crew, which included Dutcher, Krantz, Thompson and Walker, who assisted in transporting the child to a nearby hospital, were presented with letters of commendation for their efforts.

Makowski added that the

choking victim is still receiving in-patient therapy treatment and is expected to return home by Christmas.

Martel was awarded with a letter of commendation in his diligence in handling a not-so-routine traffic stop on Nov. 2.

While assigned to the patrol division, Martel observed a vehicle being driven erratically on River Road. He made a traffic stop, and the driver was unable to roll down the window on his vehicle. He subsequently opened his car door, and Martel observed a .38-caliber revolver within reach of the suspect. Martel was able to control the driver and take custody of the weapon before any harm was done to him or the driver of the vehicle.

Safety

From page 27A

Suspected prowlers

The Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety received four separate calls on suspected prowlers in their neighborhoods.

Two residents in the 1600 block of Bournemouthe reported seeing an unknown female peering through the windows of a house on that block at several times between 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 7, and 1 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

A resident in the 2000 block of Anita and a resident in the 2000 block of Roslyn both reported a man dressed in black lurking in back yards in their neighborhoods between 9 and 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Park either on Friday, Dec. 10, or Saturday, Dec. 11.

Tools taken

A hammer drill, a battery-powered drill, an electric sawzall and an electric saw were taken out of a van parked in the 21800 block of Van K in Grosse Pointe Woods sometime between 5 and 5:40 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10.

Grinched

Four lighted glass bulb ornaments were taken from a display in front of a house in the 1300 block of Brys in Grosse Pointe Woods sometime between 10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, and 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Fake ID

A 37-year-old Detroit man tried but failed to get out of trouble during a traffic stop in Grosse Pointe Woods on Sunday, Dec. 12.

The man did not have a driver's license but provided Woods officers with the verbal identification of another person, who had a suspended driver's license and an arrest warrant issued out of the 46th District Court.

When the man revealed his true identity, it was discovered he, too, had a suspended driver's license and was wanted for a warrant out of the 36th District Court.

He was also found to be in violation of his parole by driving a motor vehicle.

Drunken driver

A 20-year-old Grosse Pointe Farms woman claiming to be the only one of her friends sober enough to drive people home from a party was arrested for drunken driving at 3:14 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The woman was spotted by Grosse Pointe Woods officers at Cook near Chalfonte after being tipped off by an anonymous cell phone caller who warned of a black 2002 Volkswagen Jetta driving "all over the road."

Caught with drugs

Charges are pending against a 17-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods male who was caught with drugs and drug paraphernalia in his car found during a traffic stop on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Officers pulled over the teen on Vernier near Marter just after 10 p.m. for not wearing a seat belt while driving.

The officers found a "dime bag" of mushrooms, small plastic bags filled with suspected marijuana, a marijuana pipe and a scale during a search of the car.

— Bonnie Caprara

Grosse Pointe News



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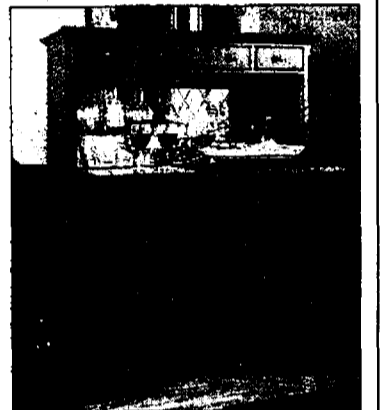
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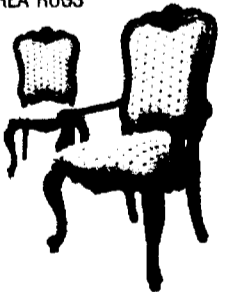
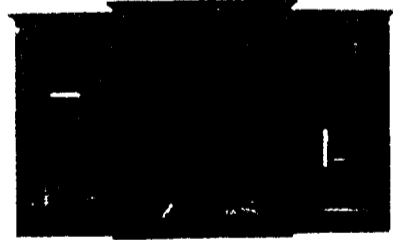
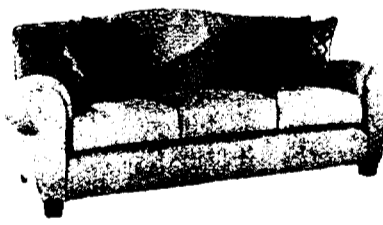


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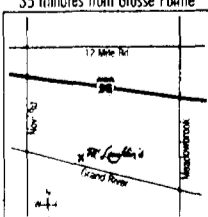
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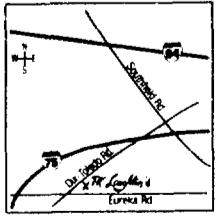


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Gift ideas

From page 23A

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The history of a luxury vehicle

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vehicle. Richly illustrated with hundreds of photographs, as well as never before published material from the Lexus archives, this impressive volume offers the kind of automotive lore that car buffs find irresistible. The book is available at bookstores, and Lexus dealers.

New wheels for their wheels

Worn, old tires are not only unattractive, but they could also be unsafe. If an older vehicle still has steel wheels, try replacing them with new aluminum alloy wheels that freshen the look of any car. A true car enthusiast knows that good tires improve the ride, response and handling of any vehicle, helping to make the ride safer and more enjoyable.

Listen to your favorite game — Anywhere

If your car aficionado spends plenty of time behind the wheel, then make the trip more pleasurable with the perfect accessory, the latest in portable satellite radios. With a satellite radio

receiver, you can enjoy dozens of channels of music, news, sporting events, talk radio channels, and local traffic and weather across the country. With today's digital sound quality, you won't miss your college alma mater's next game, even if it's being played half way across the country. Another gift to consider is a trip to a renowned automotive concours, such as the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in California, one of the premier concours in the world, exhibiting prewar and postwar automobiles as well as concept car designs. For more ticket and visitor information on the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, visit the Web site theconcours.com.

For a stocking stuffer idea, a traveling car-care kit includes everything your car lover will need to clean and detail a vehicle away from home (items include cleaners, polish, wax, mitts, towels, sponges, etc.). Also, a digital tire pressure gauge would come in handy.

With a little more thought and a few new gift ideas, you might be able to surprise the car enthusiast in your life this holiday season.

Custom car accessories make great gifts

(ARA) — Looking for the perfect gift for that car-crazy young man or woman on your list? If the sports car with the custom paint job that they've been eyeing isn't in the budget, give them the gift that will let them add the cool factor to the car they already have.

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The '04 Sebring sedan still looks nice

By Derek Price
With all the flashy new cars on Chrysler lots, it's easy to forget about the company's more traditional models. The 2004 Sebring sedan doesn't have the flashy looks of Chrysler's newest models, but it's still attractive. Its driving feel, however, is slightly unrefined compared to some of

its more recently designed competition.
Just drive by a dealership, and you'll see what I mean. There are stylish 300Cs, sporty PT Cruiser convertibles, gorgeous Crossfires, and fancy Pacificas, all of which scream for attention with gaudy styling and prime placement on nearby bill-

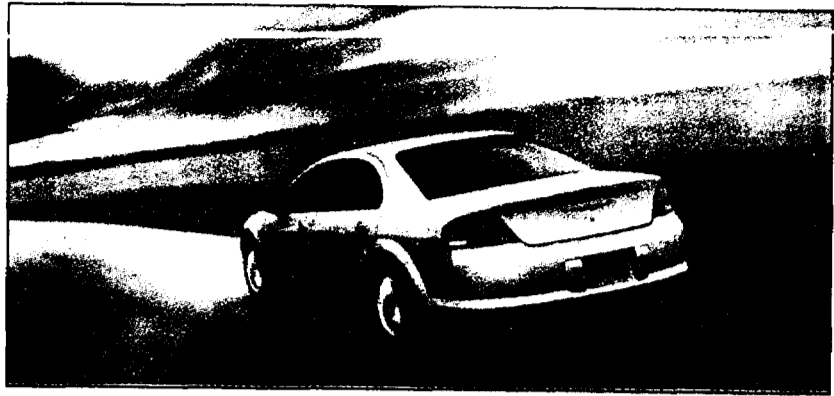
boards. Like the head cheerleader at a school dance, they're hot and they know it.
But hidden in a shadowy corner of this automotive dance hall is a car that's a little more quiet and reserved, yet still quite pretty. It's not loud and obnoxious, it's not going to cost a fortune to take out, and it doesn't have to be the center of attention everywhere it goes. It's the Sebring sedan.

You may not have known Chrysler still makes this model — its convertible sister gets all the attention, after all — but it's worth noticing if you're looking for a traditional, sensible, affordable, good-looking car.

The first thing you'll notice about the Sebring is its style. Swooping curves and sleek lines make it look slightly sporty and very elegant, a combination that's hard to find at its sub-\$20,000 starting price. A new front fascia shows off a large grille and sloping headlights, while modest fender bulges give it a hint of athleticism. For a mid-size sedan, the look is better than average, despite its aging platform.

The driving feel, however, doesn't quite match the pretty body. The engine feels a tad rough and unrefined; the cabin lets in too much noise at highway speed; steering and brakes feel competent but don't excel; and the suspension offers neither superb handling nor luxurious comfort.

For basic trips around town, the Sebring gets the job done. The 2.7-liter V6 engine on our test car had plenty of power for confident acceleration, but the delivery just didn't feel quite as smooth as its but-



The 2004 Chrysler Sebring Limited

Photo courtesy of Chrysler Internet Media

tery competition from Japan. Likewise, the ride wasn't harsh or particularly mushy, but it also didn't match the refined feel of some other mid-size sedans, most notably the Honda Accord, Toyota Camry, and Volkswagen Jetta. Even the new Chevy Malibu feels more upscale from the driver's seat.

On the upside, the Sebring has a slight size advantage over some of its competitors, and its price compares favorably. Also, the interior has features that might not come standard on other cars, and

there's plenty of room in both the front and back seats. For carrying big payloads, the back seat can fold down to let you pass cargo into the trunk.

This sedan is also noteworthy for its safety. In government crash tests, the Sebring scored a perfect five stars for frontal collisions. Safety features include multistage air bags that deploy with different levels of force depending on the severity of the wreck, optional side curtain air bags, and available antilock brakes.

All in all, the Sebring is still worth checking out

despite its slightly unrefined driving feel. It's not as hot as the newest Chryslers, but that doesn't mean it's not worth taking out for a spin. Roomy front and back seats make the 2004 Chrysler Sebring feel bigger than some of its mid-size competitors. It has a large trunk with rear seats that fold down for extra cargo room, too.

Why buy it? This is a good-looking sedan with a roomy cabin and lots of storage space. Its sub-\$20,000 starting price makes it look even better.

— AutoWire



COLD REALITY

Motor vehicles do not particularly like the cold. To begin with, batteries lose their charge as the chemical reaction that produces electricity cannot generate the same power when temperatures fall. For instance, at freezing, a battery's power can drop by about 15% while the engine needs about 150% more cranking power. At about 0°F the battery has lost about 35% of its power while the engine demands about 2.5 times more cranking power. Check your battery and charging system before the cold weather sets in. Also pay attention to the fact that falling temperatures thicken the engine oil, making the starter work harder. With this in mind, switch to a lower viscosity oil for the winter.

Cold weather can have a



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HINT: One good thing about cold weather is that the denser cold air is better for combustion and, hence, performance.

What to buy the car crazed

You know the type. Someone whose senses are ignited by the smell of high octane fuel. Someone who snaps to attention at the deep, low growl of a V8 engine and swoons at the sight of a very sleek, sexy body — with four wheels.

This, my friend, is the car enthusiast — a lover of all things automotive.

"For car enthusiasts there is no greater joy than dri-

ving, thinking and talking about great automobiles," said Denny Clements, Lexus group vice president and general manager. "But if buying them the car of their dreams isn't in the plan, there are certainly great gift ideas that every car enthusiast would love."

The following gift ideas are designed to satisfy the car crazed, or even someone who would appreciate a

unique, off-the-beaten-path gift for the holidays.

Improve driving techniques

Imagine taking a "hot lap" around a professional speedway, all in the name of improving your driving skills. Your car lover can

See GIFT IDEAS page 26A

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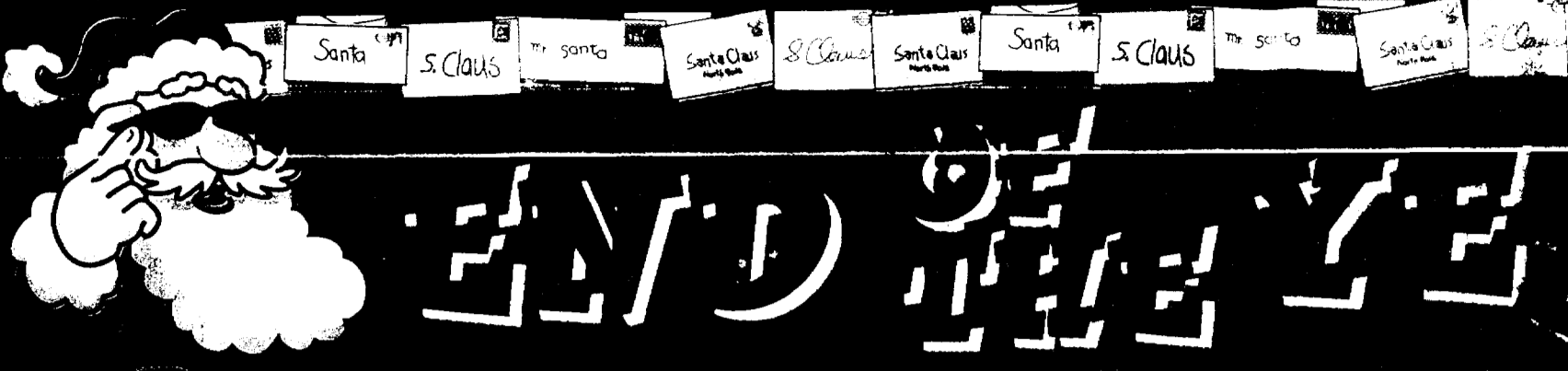
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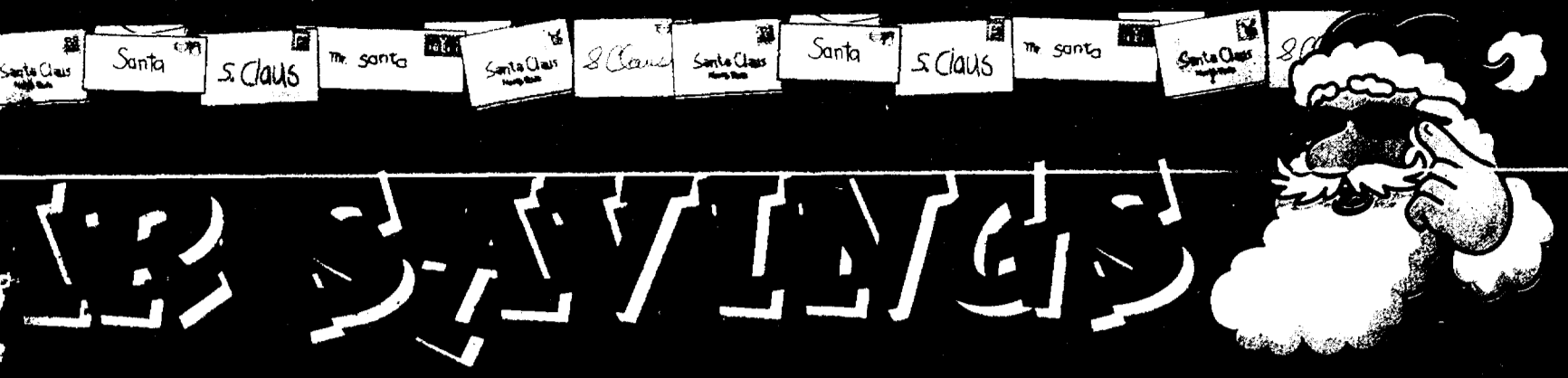
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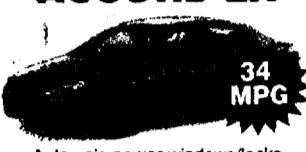
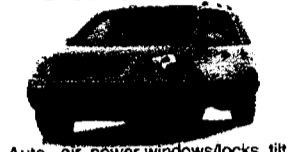

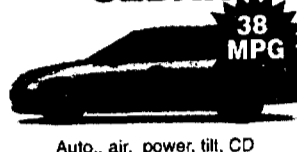

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Lindsay Ann Sandercott and Jon Bruce Cotton

Sandercott-Cotton

James Sandercott of the City of Grosse Pointe and Anita Sandercott of Grosse Pointe Woods have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lindsay Ann Sandercott, to Jon Bruce Cotton, son of Dr. David and Shery Cotton of Grosse Pointe Park. A July

wedding is planned. Sandercott earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Western Michigan University. She is a provider service representative with Health Plan of Michigan.

Cotton earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration from DePaul University. He is a senior accountant with Health Plan of Michigan.

Babies

Margaret Mary Nicholson

Jim and Mary Beth Nicholson of Grosse Pointe Woods are the parents of a daughter, Margaret Mary Nicholson, born May 23, 2004. Maternal grandparents are Ronald Hicks of Grosse Pointe Farms and the late Rosemary Hicks. Paternal grandparents are Jim and Ann Nicholson of Grosse Pointe Farms. Great-grandmother is Virginia Bergstrom of Mukilteo, Wash.

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pointe counter points by kathleen stevenson

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December 16, 2004

Beauty through and through

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

He's from Italy. *Ciao*.
 His wife is from New York City. *Yo*.
 They both collect glass artworks from the Venetian island of Murano. But their passions for glass are fired for reasons as different as their native countries are distant from each other.

He's seduced by shape. To him, form follows art.
 She's fascinated that objects as functional as a vase can be transformed into eloquent expressions of distinction.

So, what happens when time comes for Nancy Olnick and husband Giorgio Spanu to add a piece to their world-renowned collection of 20th century Murano glass? Who gets the final say? "We're still married," Spanu said, leaving it at that.

"Giorgio and I have a similar aesthetic," Olnick said. "We're lucky that way."

The public can share the couple's good fortune by viewing "Murano: Glass from the Olnick Spanu Collection" through Feb. 27 at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

"We really fine-tuned this exhibition to what we thought was the *creme de la creme*," Olnick said. "There's not one piece we felt iffy about."

"High quality and design together, that was the main thinking," Spanu said. "Using the old techniques of skilled glassmakers but also with modern design. That is what made the pieces interesting."

About 300 vases, from monochromatic to brilliantly colored, occupy four galleries of the museum's American wing.

A fifth gallery contains 20 objects comprising "Detroit Collects Murano Glass," an exclusive coda to the main show featuring glass lent by local collectors.

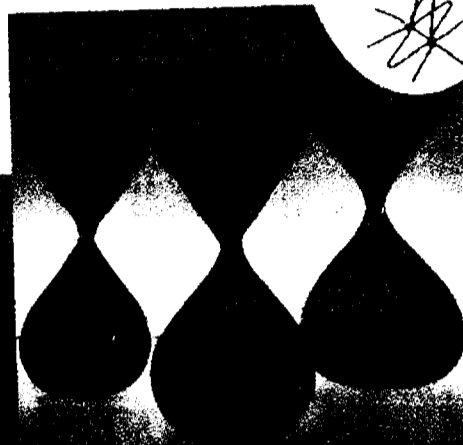
Works are displayed in cases lit by diffused illumination that reveals but doesn't blind. Light

draws out patterns, color and texture that connoisseurs say makes the medium so intriguing.

"Glass is magical," Olnick said. "Glass is an amazing material. It comes alive when you have beautiful lighting. Glass without light is nothing. Somehow the two of them come together and turns into this magical feeling. It emanates a sort of joy, some sophistication."

Almost all works are colored

See GLASS, page 6A



Photos by Brad Lindberg

A boldly colored chalice, above, receives prominent display at "Murano: Glass from the Olnick Spanu Collection" at the Detroit Institute of Arts through Feb. 27. Other works include, left to right, are an abstract chicken vase. Nancy Olnick and husband Giorgio Spanu happened upon the blue and green hourglass by Paolo Venini to begin their collection of Murano glass. Details of a red and white vase featured in an accompanying exhibition, "Detroit Collects Murano Glass."

Here Comes Santa
 Bring Your
 Children
 to see...



Saturday, December 18th
 11 am ~ 4 pm



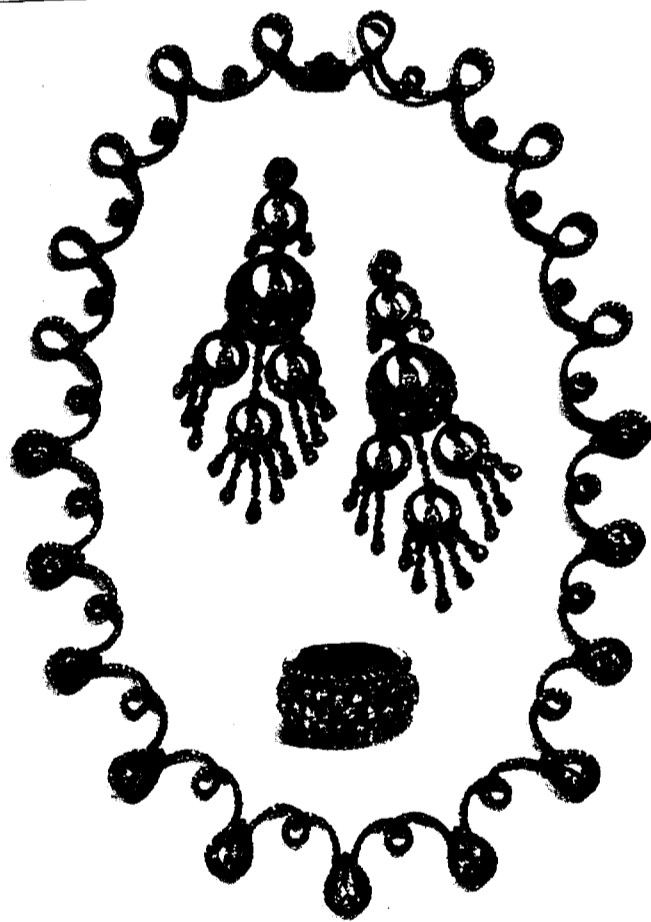
Sunday, December 19th
 Noon ~ 4 pm

P.S. Santa says... "Don't forget your camera so you can capture that special moment"



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Pastor's corner

A few words

By Deacon Rich Shubik
St. Paul Catholic Church

During this season of Advent, the parishioners at St. Paul Catholic Church are very busy. Every year we put up two giving trees with requests for presents from different organizations that work with families that need help.

I think this year we will be helping at least 15 different groups. The people of St. Paul Catholic have always come through, which should be no surprise if you know them as well as I do.

I have been here for almost 10 years, and they have never let us down.

Who thinks about Lent during Advent?

When you work for the church you have to stay one step ahead of the season. From Wednesday, Feb. 2, through Saturday, Feb. 26, we will once again open our hearts and open our doors to participate in the rotating shelter program sponsored by the Cass Community United Methodist Church.

What a great way for our parishioners to live out the gospel message: "When I was hungry you gave me food. When I was a stranger you took me in."

The rotating shelter program affords

the homeless the opportunity to concentrate on immediate needs without worrying about food and shelter. To help with the cost of this program we are holding our second annual Tennis outing on Friday, Jan. 7, at the Eastside Tennis and Fitness Club. If you join the club that evening, all of your membership fee will be donated directly to the St. Paul homeless program, and 100 percent of your fee will be tax deductible.

If you have any questions, please call Deacon Rich at St. Paul: (313) 885-8855.

The third annual Catholic Conference for Men sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit is coming up soon. The Father of God... The Fatherhood of Man program will be held on Saturday, Feb. 5, at University of Detroit Mercy's Calihan Hall, 4001 W. McNichols.

The day will begin at 8 a.m., with Mass presided over by his Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please call (313) 237-4689 or visit www.mensfellowship.com or call Deacon Rich at (313) 885-8855. Have a wonderful holiday.

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Living Nativity

Christ the King Lutheran Church will present its 19th and most authentic ever Living Nativity from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, at the church, 20338 Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods.

This year's animals will include not only sheep and donkeys, but also camels.

Songs, stories, carols and refreshments will be available. There is no charge.

For more information, call the church office at (313) 884-5090.

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Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
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10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist (Nursery Available)
e-mail: office@stmichaelsgpw.org

St. James Lutheran Church

170 McMillan Rd
Grosse Pointe Farms
Sundays
9:00 a.m. Education Time
9:45 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Worship and Holy Eucharist
Nursery available
Wednesdays
Noon-12:30 p.m.: Holy Eucharist
Phone: 884-0511
Visit our website:
www.stjamesgp.org

Christ the King Lutheran Church

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9:30 a.m. - Sunday School
& Bible Classes
Advent Worship Wednesday,
December 15th, 11:15 am & 7:30 pm
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Timothy A. Hotzerland, Assc. Pastor

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9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Dr. Walter A. Schmidt, Pastor
Rose Burnett L. Beecher, Associate Pastor
Robert Foster, Music Coordinator

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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10:10 a.m. Education for All
Nursery Available
Rev. Frederick Harms, Pastor
Rev. Morral Collier, Assc. Pastor

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Christmas Eve, December 24th
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10:30 p.m. Candlelight Mass featuring
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9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
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Senior High Youth meet Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
21336 Mack Avenue Grosse Pointe Woods
Phone: (313) 881-3343 Web Page: www.gphc.org

Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church

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December 19 - CHRISTMAS SUNDAY - 10:30 a.m.
Meditation: "You're Having A Baby!"
Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25
Peter C. Smith, preaching
December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - 9:30 p.m.
Prelude Music: 8:00 p.m.
Meditation: "The Christmas Gift"
Peter C. Smith, preaching
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Visit our website: www.japc.org 313-822-3456

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church

December 19, 2004
Family Christmas Celebration
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Rev. John Corrado, Minister

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Matthew 1:16-25
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10:00 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL
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Grosse Pointe Woods PRESBYTERIAN Church

19950 Mack (between Moross & Vernier)
Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Family Service
11 p.m. Candlelight Service
Dec. 26, 2004 One Service 10 a.m.
Service of Remembrance & Reflections
Jan. 2, 2005 One Service 10 a.m.
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8:30 - The Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. - The Festival Service of Music and Lessons for Advent
Friday, December 24
The Eve of Christmas
"The Eve is as the Day"
7:30 and 11:00 p.m. - Duplicate Services
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8:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Crib/Toddler Care
7:30 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Friday Breakfast
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00 p.m. Family Service
Rev. Jim Monnett, Jr., preaching
7:30 p.m. Lessons, Carols & Holy Communion
Rev. William C. Yeager, preaching
10:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols
Rev. William C. Yeager, preaching
5:00 & 7:30 p.m. - Crib & Toddler Care
Prelude Music 1/2 hour before services
7:30 a.m. Ecumenical Men's Friday Breakfast
December 26th - Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. only
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(313) 962-7358
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Fourth Sunday in Advent
7:30am Morning Prayer, 8am Holy Communion
9:05am Christian Ed., 10:00am Holy Communion
Lunch and Greening of the Church follows
Friday, December 24th, 2004
Christmas Eve
4:00pm Children's Pageant w/Communion
10:30pm Carol Prelude Service
11:00pm Festive Holy Communion Service
December 25th - Christmas Day
11:00am - Low Mass in the Chapel
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Tips to ease holiday overindulgence

The holidays provide the opportunity to eat and drink more than usual. According to a recent online survey conducted by the National Headache Foundation (NHF), 75 percent of respondents indicated that they plan to consume alcohol this holiday season.

Quite possibly, one of the most dreaded aspects of the holiday season is the hangover headache, caused simply by excessive alcohol consumption. Ninety-three percent of the online survey respondents have suffered from a hangover headache.

The discomfort of hangover headache is experienced the morning after because alcohol causes the blood vessels to swell or dilate which, in turn, triggers headache pain and may cause slight sweating. The alcohol also acts as a diuretic, which leads to dehydration.

To help avoid or lessen the suffering associated with hangover headache that often accompanies these annual festivities, the NHF offers some advice and a headache-free drink recipe.

If you choose to drink alcohol, do so in moderation. Try to sip your drink slowly. Mixed drinks containing fruit or vegetable juices will probably have less effect than straight alcohol. Avoid red wine, which contains naturally occurring chemicals called congeners. Forty-two percent of survey respondents listed red wine as the type of alcoholic beverage that most frequently causes hangovers.

Congeners impart the specific characteristic tastes to different types of wine and other alcoholic beverages. Unfortunately, they also may play a role in causing headaches. Congeners are more common in red than white wine.

It is advisable to reduce the actual number of alcoholic beverages you consume. Spend time catching up with an old friend at the snack table with a soda or glass of water.

Eat some honey. Honey supplies fructose, a sugar that helps the body metabolize the alcohol ingested, is rich in vitamin B6 and can reduce any hangover symptoms. Two tablespoons of honey on a cracker or piece of toast, before or after drinking, may prevent a hangover. Tomato juice, another good source of fructose, also allows the body to burn alcohol faster. The sugar in fruit and fruit juices may also reduce some symptoms of hangover; so consumption of these products can be beneficial.

Drink fluids containing minerals and salts. Liquids rich in minerals and salts offer relief from the dehydration caused by alcohol consumption. A cup of broth

Diabetes center

The Bon Secours Cottage Health Services Diabetes Center offers individuals with diabetes educational literature, videotapes, and private outpatient counseling to help them "live well" with diabetes.

Call (586) 779-7661.

or bouillon, for example, will replace fluid and will not cause nausea. In general, replacement of fluids with beverages, such as sports drinks or water, is helpful.

Drink a cup of coffee. Caffeine may provide some relief in alleviating the headache symptoms and decreasing the duration of pain. The caffeine acts as a vasoconstrictor and eases the dilated blood vessels. Consider drinking a cup of coffee as soon as you wake up the next morning.

Take Ibuprofen. While aspirin is OK, Ibuprofen is typically less irritating to the stomach, and can also ease the pain of hangover headache. Thirty-two percent of survey respondents stated that taking Ibuprofen is the hangover treatment that has been the most effective, more than any other treatment they tried.

Alternate nonalcoholic beverages with alcoholic beverages. Drinking one nonalcoholic beverage between each alcoholic beverage reduces overall alcohol consumption and helps replenish fluids. An easy way to achieve this is when ordering a drink at the bar, ask for a glass of water in addition to your alcoholic beverage of choice.

Eat greasy food before consuming alcohol. While it is wise to be health-conscious and avoid too much of these foods in general, this is a situation where eating fatty foods may be helpful. If consumed prior to drinking alcohol, these foods help line the intestines, which causes alcohol absorption to take longer. In other words, a burger or burrito before your beer or Bloody Mary might be beneficial.

The National Headache Foundation suggests the "Champagne Fooler," a headache-free recipe, for this festive time of year.

Champagne Fooler

1 1/3 cups apple juice
1 teaspoon lemon juice
12 ounces club soda

Chill four glasses. Mix together apple juice and lemon juice. Add club soda and stir gently to blend. Pour into glasses and serve immediately. Yields four servings.

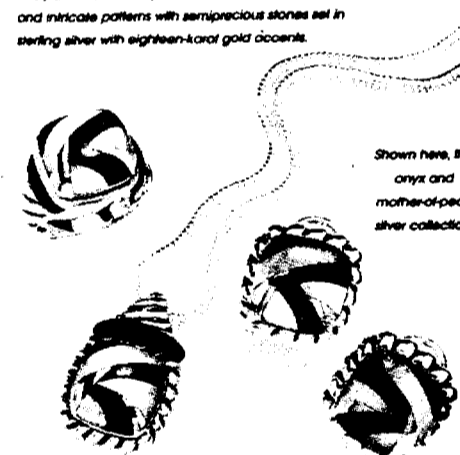
While a headache caused by drinking too much may be more common at this time of year, chronic headaches can be a problem at any time. In fact, 28 percent of survey respondents experience at least one hangover headache every month.

Headaches are a legitimate biological disease, which are treatable. If you are experiencing headache pain on a routine basis, make a specific appointment with your healthcare provider to discuss your headache problem and seek accurate diagnosis and treatment.

The National Headache Foundation (NHF), founded in 1970, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving headache sufferers, their families and the healthcare providers who treat them; promoting research into headache causes and treatments; and educating the public to the fact that headaches are a legitimate biological disease, and sufferers should receive understanding and continuity of care. For more information, call (888) NHF-5552.

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Blood pressure screening is free at BSC

As part of an ongoing community health program, Bon Secours Cottage offers free blood pressure screenings at the Cottage Hospital campus. Staff and trained volunteers are available to check community members for

undetected cases of hypertension, provide nationally accepted guidelines for follow-up with a health care professional and furnish additional screening and health education information.

Blood pressure screenings are offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Friday of the month in the main lobby at Cottage Hospital, 159 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms.

For more information, call Bon Secours Cottage Community Health Promotion at (586) 779-7900 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

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As part of its ongoing pulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation programs, Bon Secours Cottage Health Services offers the following classes for strengthening muscles and endurance training.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program — A physician's referral is required for this educational exercise program for persons with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Cardiac Rehabilitation Program — A physician's referral is needed for this educational exercise program offered to persons at risk of developing heart disease and those recovering from cardiac illness or surgery.

Call (313) 640-2582.

Well-child visits

By Dr. Peter Francis
Special Writer

Pediatric well-child visits are an important part of every child's health care. The objective of these examinations from birth through adolescence is to assess the child's overall well-being, monitor growth and developmental milestones, administer immunizations, give parents anticipatory guidance and catch problems in the early stages.

The frequency of well-baby visits during the first few months of life may vary depending on the infant's specific situation. After delivery, a newborn is evaluated daily in the hospital for two or three days until discharge. Some mothers prefer to be discharged 24 hours after delivering their baby. This is OK for a healthy baby with an uncomplicated pregnancy and delivery, but the newborn should still be seen in an outpatient setting within 48 hours of discharge.

Typically, breast-fed babies need to be evaluated sooner after birth than bottle-fed babies because establishing the breast-feeding process often takes time. To assure that the baby is getting adequate nutrition, visits to the pediatrician should be fairly regular until the baby has reached or surpassed his or her birth weight.

First well-baby visit

At your baby's first check-up, a medical assistant or nurse measures the baby's weight, length and head circumference to make sure baby is growing at a healthy rate. The baby's heart rate, breathing rate and temperature also are checked. The physician may then inquire about some of the following:

- How feeding is going.
- Number and frequency of stools, and number of wet diapers a day.
- Family medical history such as food allergies, asthma, etc.
- Home environment, including who lives in the home and if there are smokers or pets.
- Mom's sleeping and eating regimen, and if she is experiencing mood changes.
- If the baby is looking at faces and responding to voices.

Physical examination

After discussing the baby's adjustment to home, the physician will perform a thorough physical examination of the baby. This will include:

- Checking the eyes, ears, and throat.
- Listening to the heart for murmurs and the lungs for normal breathing.
- Feeling the baby's belly.
- Moving the legs back and forth to check the hips.
- Examination of the genitalia, and healing of a baby boy's circumcision, if one was done.
- The umbilical cord is checked.
- The skin is checked for rashes, jaundice or birthmarks.

Immunizations and general care

In the first 18 months, many of your baby's visits to the doctor will also include immunizations. Recently there have been some misconceptions that immunizations may harm the baby's immune system or cause certain neurological disorders. There is no scientific evidence to support these fears.

Despite all the cutting-edge technology and spectacular life-saving procedures now available, immunizations are still the single greatest medical advance of the last 100 years. One must only think back to the 1950s and the paralyzing fear of polio that Americans faced prior to the Salk polio vaccine.

If your baby does catch a cold, cough, or a fever within the first few months, do not administer infant Tylenol or over-the-counter decongestants. During these early months, his or her physician should see the baby if there is any sign of illness.

New parents are reminded that babies should sleep on their backs, without fluffy blankets or stuffed animals in their cribs. However, babies should not spend all of their waking time on their back. They need to spend some supervised awake time every day on their tummies in order to build up neck, arm, and shoulder muscles. This develops the strength that helps babies hold up their heads and also prepares them for important future skills such as scooting and crawling. Tummy time also decreases the chance of developing a flat or misshapen head.

Many parents are eager to start their babies on cereal, hoping that a full belly will help them sleep through the night. This is a myth. Evidence shows that babies who are fed cereals and baby foods too early (prior to 4 months of age) are at a much higher risk of developing Type II diabetes. These babies also have a higher chance of developing food allergies.

The first year of a baby's life seems like a whirlwind of sleepless nights and doctor visits. But immunizations will slow down around 15 to 18 months of age, and then a child is finished with shots until age 4.

If your child is healthy, he or she still needs to be seen yearly for a well-child visit to monitor his or her height, weight, blood pressure and various organ systems.

These visits also give the physician a chance to discuss healthy lifestyle choices with the child or adolescent.

Dr. Francis is a board-certified Bon Secours Cottage pediatrician and founder of Northpointe Pediatrics in Warren. For an appointment, call Bon Secours Cottage Physician Referral at (800) 303-7315.

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Know Your Skin

by Lisa A. Manz-Dulac, MD

Hives. Patients who experience a rash with itching may be suffering from a condition known as urticaria. Urticaria in and of itself is not a disease, but rather indicates your skin's reaction to another problem.

A sudden onset of hives may be linked to an allergic reaction, such as to a new medication, lotion, and chemicals or in rarer occasions, food. Rashes may also result from an infection. For some, winter cold air can cause a rash known as cold-induced urticaria.

Hives are usually the result of the release of a chemical called histamine from cells in the skin.

Histamine causes the blood vessels to dilate and leak fluid, and this causes the skin to swell, which irritates nerve endings, which results in the itching sensation. A feeling of nausea, vomiting and dizziness may also be present in severe reactions.

Patients with urticaria are most commonly treated with oral antihistamines and topical or oral steroids. Hives which do not resolve with typical treatments may require blood tests or biopsies to help determine the cause.

To learn more about hives, contact your dermatologist or call us at Eastside Dermatology, Dr. Lisa A. Manz-Dulac and Associates with offices in Grosse Pointe and New Baltimore. You can reach them at (313) 884-3380.

ADVERTISEMENT

Teen cancer support program is Jan. 10

Look Good... Feel Better for Teens with cancer is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m., Monday, Jan. 10, at St. John Hospital's Van Elslander Cancer Center.

A parent support group with a child psychologist will take place at the same time elsewhere in the center.

The Look Good... Feel Better for Teens program is open to boys and girls ages 13 to 17. Topics include nutrition, social issues and

possible changes in skin, nails and hair during chemotherapy and radiation.

The class also includes a 12-step hands-on makeup application lesson, a complete bag of makeup, hair-loss information, and wig and accessory demonstrations.

The teens can experience the best ways to keep skin looking fresh, see the latest looks for bandana and turban wear, learn how to "take charge" in awkward social situations, and meet other teens in similar situations. This is all done in a private setting with the help of experienced cosmetologists.

The program, scheduled quarterly, was developed on a national level by three organizations: The

Cosmetic, Toiletry, and Fragrance Association, the National Cosmetology Association and the American Cancer Society.

To register for the teen program, call the Van Elslander Cancer Center at (866) 246-4673.

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (248) 567-5353 or log on to www.2bme.org.

The Van Elslander Cancer Center is located at 19229 Mack at Moross, east of I-94.

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Bananas, nutmeg add flavor to this cookie

If I am the head chef of my family, my sister Colette is surely the head baker. Everything that Colette bakes is unquestionably the best ever. Whether it's carrot cake or cookies, you can always count on the most flavorful choices at the Rouleau family dessert table.

I turned to my sister for a Christmas cookie recipe that would be tasty (of course) but not make the baker a prisoner in the kitchen. Colette delivered a tasty recipe for a festive cookie that is not only easy to put together but also boasts the highest success rate for consistency.

Colette's Christmas Cookies

3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter at room temperature

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup mashed banana
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 3/4 cups oatmeal
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup Christmas M&Ms.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. In a large bowl, beat together everything



except for the M&Ms. Fold in the M&Ms. Spoon out the batter in rounded tablespoons onto a baking sheet that has been coated with nonstick spray. Bake the cookies at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes, or until set on top and golden brown on the bottom.

Remove from oven, place the baking sheet on a cooling rack for 5 minutes, then use a spatula to transfer the cookies to the rack to finish cooling. This recipe will yield about 3 dozen cookies.

Colette's Christmas cookies are a refreshing change to the ever so popular sugar-loaded cookies that show up around the holidays. These yummy cookies draw flavor from bananas and spice.

Enjoy this cake-like cookie all year. Chocolate chips can replace the M&Ms after the holidays. Thanks to Colette, way up there in Petoskey.

Sign up for 35th annual New Year's Eve Fun Run

The Belle Isle Runners and the Downtown Runners and Walkers will sponsor the 35th annual New Year's Eve Belle Isle Family Fun Run/Walk, on Friday, Dec. 31.

Runners, fitness walkers and race walkers will meet at 3:30 p.m. at the U.S. Marine Corps Training Center, 7600 E. Jefferson, just east of the Belle Isle Bridge.

There will be a one-mile fun run for children 12 and under, an open one-mile run/walk, a four-mile run and a four-mile race walk/fitness walk.

Runners will celebrate after the race at the Marine Training Center at an awards ceremony that includes refreshments.

All children 12 and under will get a trophy. Early registration begins

from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Marine Corps Training Center. Fee for children 12

and under is \$12 before Dec. 31; \$15 on race day. Adult fee is \$20 before Dec. 31; \$25 on race day.

For more information, call Jeanne Bocci at (313) 886-5560 or fax at (313) 886-2051.

New Year's Eve 2004

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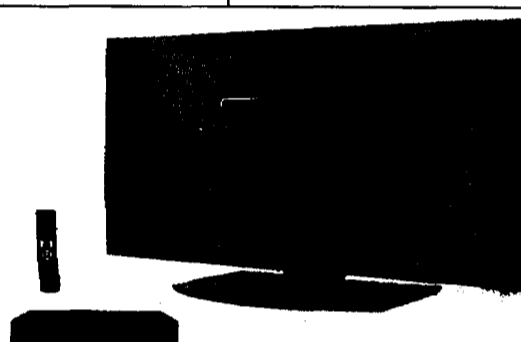
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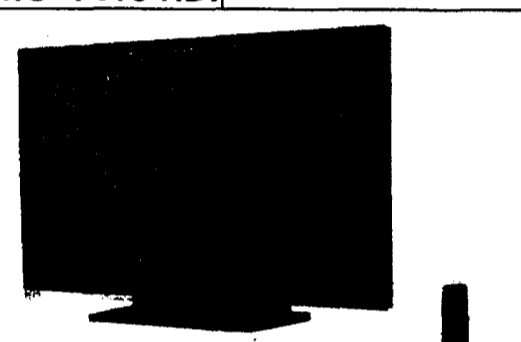
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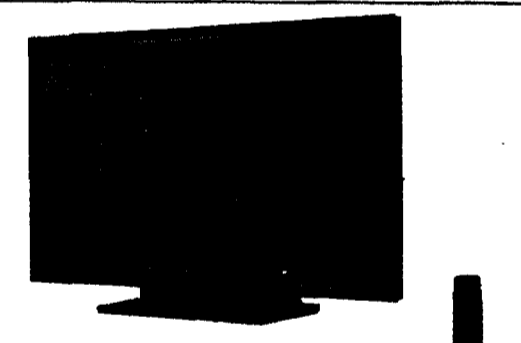
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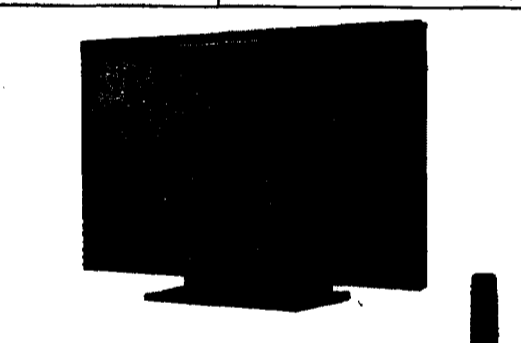
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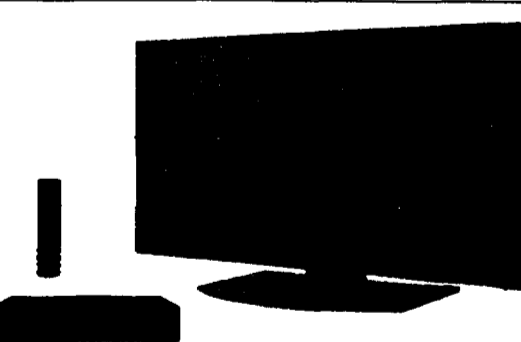
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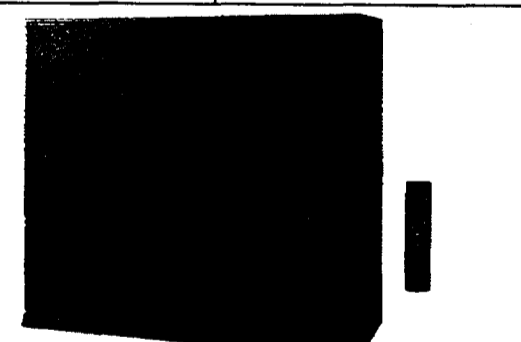
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Winning Thanksgiving tournament is as much a tradition as eating turkey for the St. Paul sixth grade basketball team. St. Paul finished first in the St. Margaret's Thanksgiving tournament, beating Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in the final game. In front, from left, are Nick Pangori, Dan Dusina, John Laciura, Mike Esse, Trip Wagner and Chris Cahill. In back, from left, are Christian Koppin, Charlie Miller, Will Quinn, Corbet Conroy, Matt Starrs and Nicky Diehl.

St. Paul wins another Thanksgiving weekend basketball tournament

Winning Thanksgiving tournaments has become a tradition for the St. Paul sixth grade basketball team. The team won its third consecutive Thanksgiving competition, beating three opponents to finish first in the eight-team St. Margaret's Thanksgiving Tournament. St. Paul had won the St. Clare tournament the last two years. "I thought we played well," said John Conroy, who coaches the team with Phil Laciura. "We played solid and patient offense and very aggressive defense." St. Paul was at its best in the championship game against a very talented Our

Lady Queen of Martyrs, winning 35-24. St. Paul had a 21-20 lead before pulling away in the fourth quarter. Corbet Conroy led the way with 10 points in the championship game, while Nicky Diehl, John Laciura and Will Quinn each scored seven. Chris Cahill and Christian Koppin added two points apiece. Dan Dusina, Nick Pangori and Mike Esse played strong defensive games, while Matt Starrs, Charlie Miller and Trip Wagner also played well. Conroy and Laciura did a good job running the offense in the final game, while Diehl, Cahill and Dusina did a good job of shutting down

the opponent's top scorer. "Defense was a real key," John Conroy said. "We scored some key baskets off our press." St. Paul beat St. Clement 27-20 in the semifinals and defeated St. Kieran 30-15 in the opening round. Conroy scored eight points against St. Clement, Laciura had seven and Pangori and Quinn each scored four. Diehl and Koppin had two points apiece. Quinn led a balanced attack against St. Kieran with eight points. Diehl and Laciura each scored six, Conroy and Starrs had four apiece and Miller scored two.

South spikers young but eager

our two players at the six position," Nugent said. "Brooke Ziehr, especially, came into her own in this tournament. You could see the switch go on. She's figured out just what this is all about. Kelly Springborn also played well at the six." Rachel Sullivan, a third-year returning starter at the important setter position, had an excellent tournament. "Rachel did a terrific job of setting all day," Nugent said. "She recognized that we have a young team and she took control. When we were having some trouble hitting, she created her own offense." Nugent said that the offense worked well around senior middle hitter Ashley Read, and Allison Fennell also played well at the position. "Our two junior outside

hitters, Margi Scholtes and Dana Schweitzer, are doing a nice job of learning the hitting techniques," Nugent said. Jessica Ogden was used sparingly because of an injury, but Nugent is counting on her to be a key player when the Blue Devils begin defense of their Macomb Area Conference White Division championship in January. Other players who will be counted on to make contributions in backup roles are Lauren Russell, Mary Kate Peltz, Valentino LoSavio and Emily Walton. "We're young and inexperienced, but the girls have shown a great work ethic in practice," Nugent said. "They've picked up a lot early in the season, and I think we should be a fine team that will accomplish most of our goals."

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South volleyball camp starts Dec. 30

The first session of the Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils winter volleyball camp series will be held on Thursday, Dec. 30. The first session of the third annual camp will stress passing fundamentals and defense.

The second session, which will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22, will feature attacking and serving fundamentals. Level 1 for grades three and four will run from 8 to 10 a.m. Level 2, grades five and six, will be from 10 a.m.

until noon. Level 3 for seventh and eighth graders will be from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. All of the sessions will be at Grosse Pointe South High School. The cost for each is \$20, but if campers enroll for both sessions, the cost is \$35.

North wins Armada tourney

Grosse Pointe North's wrestling team had a successful week, taking first place in the Armada Team Tournament and beating crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South in a dual meet. The Norsemen won all five rounds at Armada, defeating the host Tigers, St. Clair Shores Lakeview, Canton, Sterling Heights Stevenson and Warren Cousins. Five North wrestlers won all five of their matches, led by Scott Gawel at 215 pounds, who pinned his way through the tournament. Gawel has won 10 of his 11 matches this year by falls.

The other undefeated Norsemen were Mike Kurdziel at 119 pounds, Mike Czarnecki at 135 and 140, Mike Murphy at 171 and heavyweight Spencer Channel. Arsenio Hall at four wins at 130 points, while Jack Todd, wrestling at 140 and 145, had three wins. In the dual meet against South, North won 11 of 14 matches on the way to a 56-18 victory. The Norsemen will compete in the Macomb County Individual tournament at Anchor Bay High School on Friday and Saturday.

South swimmers have a productive opening meet

Grosse Pointe South's boys swimming team opened the season with a pair of decisive victories in a double-dual meet with Plymouth Salem and Ann Arbor Huron. The Blue Devils defeated Salem 134-49 and beat Huron 116-70. South won all three relays in state-qualifying times. In the first race of the season, the Blue Devils' all-senior 200-yard medley relay team of David Richardson-Rossbach, Luke Richard, Pete Stevens and Ryan Gunderson qualified for the state meet in 1:42.40, beating second-place Huron by three seconds.

"We have nine new swimmers on the team, and the seniors did a great job making sure they were all ready for their first high school competition." Three of the individual events were dominated by Blue Devils. Casey Browning took first in the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle, posting state cuts in both events. In his first meet of the season the South junior qualified for the state meet in four events. Sophomore Danny Basile narrowly missed the cut, finishing second in the 500 freestyle in 5:00.88. He was fourth in the 200 freestyle. South swept the 100 backstroke, led by Robby Browning, who finished in 56.73 to achieve another state cut. Richardson-Rossbach was second and Holm was third.

Huron's Steve Weinberg won the event. Robby Browning finished second in the 100 butterfly in 54.63 and Richard was third in 55.89. Both were state-qualifying times. Graham was fourth and Joe Ryan came in seventh. In the 100 freestyle, Sax, Gunderson and Alex Gabarino finished third, fourth and ninth, respectively. Stevens outswam Huron's Berloth to win the 100 breaststroke in 1:05.45. Manos was third in 1:08.80 and Jamie Handley was seventh. South divers took four of the top five spots in the one-meter event. Huron's Paul Dorsey won the diving competition, but South's Justin Linne was second with a score of 194.15 points. He was followed by Ty Lattimore (161.10), Kieran Connolly-Ng (156.20) and Alex Oddo (116.90). Thompson anticipates an exciting season, and is looking forward to the Blue Devils' next meet — a relay meet hosted by Birmingham Brother Rice on Saturday.

"The team is excited for our next meet," Thompson said. "There will be some high quality competition there, so it will be a good test to see how we stack up against some of the best teams in the state." Gunderson just missed a state cut as he swam to second place in the 50 freestyle in 22.90. He finished just ahead of teammates Richard and Alex Bordyukov.

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Hockey — Knights win thriller

University Liggett School's hockey team made sure none of its fans left early from the Knights' game with St. Clair. Most of the action in ULS's 2-1 victory came in the third third period. After trailing 1-0 for most of the game, Adam Rock scored the tying goal, assisted by Mike Zukas. Zukas then got the winner with nine seconds remaining.

with the assists going to Rock and Jake Keith. Alex Brooks was solid in goal for ULS, while Steve Molnar, Ryan Deane and Charlie Warren played well in front on him on defense. Last weekend, the Knights dropped a 4-3 decision to Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central. Stone Hazlett, Zukas and Keith scored the ULS goals. Rock collected two assists, while Zukas and Keith each had one. Once again, the Knights received solid defensive work from Molnar, Warren and Deane.

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ULS swimmers have four wins

Michael Fisher won two events to highlight University Liggett School's season-opening swimming meet with Lake Shore. The Shorians won the non-league meet 89-73. Fisher won the 100-yard freestyle in 57.55 and came back to win the 200 freestyle in 2:13.20. Sam Troyanovich gave the Knights a first place in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:10.42, while teammate Chris Andreacovich was second in 1:10.92. The two switched places in the 200 individual medley. Andreacovich won in 2:36.43, while Troyanovich was second in 2:48.15.

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