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FEATURES

Always an artist
Kevin Martin's approach to art is from the heart **PAGE 1B**

SPORTS

Hello and good bye
Hockey stories about Joe Zukas and Jamie Bufalino **PAGE 1C**

Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 70, NO. 47, 38 PAGES
ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 71¢)

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NOVEMBER 26, 2009
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Week ahead

22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 1 2 3 4 5

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

Happy Thanksgiving
◆ All banks are closed.
◆ All federal, state and municipal buildings are closed.
◆ No mail delivery.
◆ Garbage pick-up is delayed one day.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

◆ The 34th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade steps off at 10 a.m. on Kercheval at Lewiston, Grosse Pointe Farms. It heads down Kercheval through the Hill to the Village in the City of Grosse Pointe.
◆ The Grosse Pointe Lions Club annual Jingle Bell Fun/Walk/Run begins at 9 a.m. at the Grosse Pointe South High School athletic field, Fisher and Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Registration is in the John & Marlene Bolls Athletic Center at South.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

◆ Free parking is available on all surface lots and municipal parking garages in the Village and on the Hill; and street parking along Mack Avenue in the Farms.
◆ Free gift wrapping is offered from noon to 5 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Art Center, 16900 Kercheval. Customers must present the gift's receipt from a Village business.
SUNDAY, NOV. 29
◆ Free parking on all surface lots and municipal parking garages in the Village and on the Hill and street parking along Mack Avenue in the Farms.
◆ Free gift wrapping is offered from noon to 5 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Art Center, 16900 Kercheval. Customers must present the gift's receipt from a Village business.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

◆ Drew Georgeson, D.O., discusses "Vanish Those Veins" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Henry Ford Cottage Hospital, 159 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. He discusses the minimally invasive TriVex System used for removing varicose veins. To register, visit henryford.com/hottopics or call (800) 436-7936.

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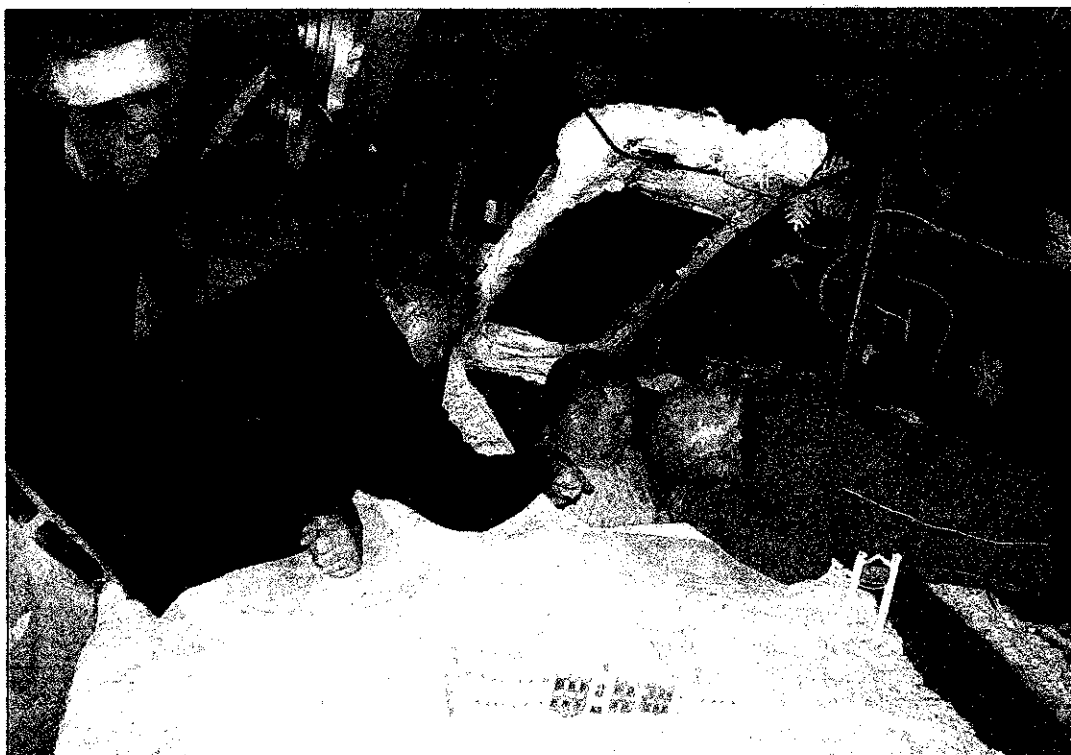
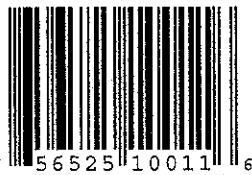


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Chris Walsh in the driver's seat. His front view port is disguised as a window of an office building at 63 Kercheval on the Hill, located atop the raised canopy. The building in front of the cockpit represents Richard Elementary School.

Sleigh ready to fly

38-foot Santa float revved up and ready to go

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Dick Ruzzin, a retired General Motors designer, spoke last week with the pride of a father describing his child's first step when telling how a Pontiac V-6 engine in the Grosse Pointe Santa float started on the first try.
"It sat here nine months and started up in three seconds," said Ruzzin, of Grosse Pointe Park.
Ruzzin and fellow members of Friends of the Grosse Pointe Parade met last week at the float's winter storage facility.
They helped prepare the sleigh for another year of carrying Santa and eight reindeer in the 34th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.
The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 27, on Kercheval at Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms. Marchers head down Kercheval to the

Village in the City of Grosse Pointe.
The Friends refer to themselves as Santa's helpers.
Three years ago, founding members Ruzzin, John Stevens of the City of Grosse Pointe and Bruce Burton of Grosse Pointe Farms helped plan, design and build the float.
"We have more people getting involved every year," said Stevens, a City councilman.
One of the newest helpers is Rob Ermanni of the Farms.
"I'm a life-long Grosse Pointer and have gone to the parade for many years," he said. "I now have two small children (Robbie, 3, and Sadie, 1), so I decided it would be something neat to get into."
Robbie is on the cusp of learning that his father has an in with Santa.
"By next year, he'll know," Ermanni said.
William Demeter, a Park resident and former race car driver and builder, said helping with the float is his way of "giving back to the communi-

See SLEIGH, page 6A

Woods' top cop calls it a career

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

After 34 years, it's time for a new routine.
Michael Makowski announced he will retire as director of the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department, effective Dec. 31.
Makowski, 59, rose through the ranks from patrol officer to director, doing the job he wanted to do since he was growing up on Detroit's east side.
"I was able to fulfill two childhood dreams here," he said. "I wanted to be a police officer and a fireman, and with the department of public safety, I was able to be both."
Makowski joined the department after three years with the Army's 101st Airborne Division. Following his discharge, he moved to the Woods while he was working on a degree in criminal justice at Wayne State University. He was hired as a Woods patrol officer in 1975. He married, bought a house, and raised

See MAKOWSKI, page 3A



PHOTO BY KATHY RYAN

Mike Makowski retires after 34 years in the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department.

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Seeing red

General fund balance drops; immediate cuts requested

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

An audit showing a negative \$210,000 unreserved fund balance prompted an accountant on the Grosse Pointe Shores finance committee to call for cost savings by making immediate cuts to non-union employee benefits.
"We can't afford them," said Ted Kedzierski, in his first term on the city council. "This should have been done years ago."
He wants to reconfigure the pension plan, retiree health care and a sick-day policy that lets employees cash out unused days allotted for sick time.
The audit this month by Plante & Moran showed, for the period ending June 30, the city's general fund balance dropped \$727,000 during the last two years. In March 2007, the fund totaled \$802,000. One year later, \$477,000; and in June, \$75,000.
"Of that \$75,000, \$285,000 is reserved for sanitation-related expenditures," said Plante & Moran senior manager Jenny Cederstrom.
That means the unreserved fund balance is \$210,000 in the red.
The accounting firm is required to report the deficit to the state.
Such reports are triggered by "any fund with a deficit," explained David Harrington, a Plante & Moran partner.

See BALANCE, page 7A

Heads up

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

A bunch of head cases will march in Friday's Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.
They'll be led by Sean Moran, a founder of the Big Head Corps. Eight members of the volunteer organization plan to wear cartoonish, oversized papier mache heads in the parade, which begins at 10 a.m.
The route starts at Kercheval and Lewiston in the Farms and goes down Kercheval to the Village, downtown City of Grosse Pointe.
Big heads weigh between 15 and 40 pounds.
"Too much wind can make you stagger a bit," said Moran.
Other marchers are Scott Adlhoeh and Mike Levan of
eliminated. A hole in the facing allows us to get good front vision."
Moran became a big head fan in his youth watching Detroit Thanksgiving Day parades. He and the corps are keeping the heads alive by paying \$200 each year to march down Woodward.
This year, a group of members from Grosse Pointe is taking the extra step to march in Grosse Pointe.
"We are all local guys that just want to give back to a community that has been great to us and, most of all, bring a smile to the kids," said Dan Connell of Connell Building Company in the Farms.

See HEAD, page 6A

POINTER OF INTEREST

'Everybody wanted to shake our hands.'

Norman 'Eric' Abey



Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
Age: 86
Claim to fame: Took an Honor Flight Michigan tour to the World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.
See story on page 4A

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Yesterday's headlines

1959

50 years ago this week

◆ **ABANDONED HOUSE VANDALIZED:** Fire added havoc to decay and neglect when a blaze swept through the attic of the late Dr. and Mrs. Harry Norton Torrey's gray-stone Renaissance mansion on Lakeshore.

Fifty-two firemen from Grosse Pointe Shores, Woods and Farms battled to confine the fire to the upper floor. The house would cost about \$1.5 million to build today.

Police, who have been patrolling the grounds since spring when the house was last occupied, discovered the fire after chasing several teenagers from the area. A number of burned out fires in the attic were previously reported.

◆ **WOODS' CITY HALL DAMAGED:** Vandals broke into Grosse Pointe Woods' municipal building currently under construction, causing extensive damage to woodwork and plaster in the council chambers.

Vandals broke a half-gallon jug of glue and wiped the substance over the east side wall and the entrance door on the south wall.

◆ **NEW WOODS STREETS:**

The Grosse Pointe Woods City Council voted to accept the deeds of dedication that allow seven streets to be laid on subdividers' land immediately south of the Macomb County line. Deeds of dedication were accepted for Briarcliff Road, Edmunton Drive, Eight Mile Drive, Moorland Drive, Morningside Drive, River Road and Wedgewood Drive.

1984

25 years ago this week

◆ **MORE STREET CLOS-**

INGS SOUGHT: Like the little Dutch boy who stuck his finger in the dyke to hold back rushing water, Grosse Pointe Park City Council is faced with a growing wave of citizens wanting their streets closed to Mack Avenue traffic.

Residents in the 1400 block of Yorkshire are the latest to petition council to put a cul-de-sac at their corner to reduce theft, quick exits after thefts and excess traffic.

The matter was referred to the planning commission for study.

◆ **ARMED ROBBERY:** A man held a steel-plated revolver to a Grosse Pointe Park resident's head and demanded money. The resident gave the robber his wallet containing credit cards and about \$45.

◆ **ASSAULT:** A 21-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods resident returning to her house on Hampton was confronted by a man in her driveway. He reportedly told her he wanted to talk with her.

She screamed and he started to choke her. The assailant then threw her to the ground and fled in a dark blue van.

1999

10 years ago this week

◆ **MACK/MOROSS OPTIONS:** Architects hired by the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council presented council members with a plan for a community center at the corner of Mack and Moross. The 80,000 square foot facility would contain three swimming pools, two gymnasiums, a running track, meeting rooms, a fitness room, a senior center and a small cafe, or snack bar.

◆ **JEEP FEAST:** Like a Thanksgiving turkey, a 1999 Jeep Cherokee was nearly picked clean after being reported stolen from a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods. Police recovered the vehicle in

Detroit minus its wheels, front and rear bumpers, headlights, hood, battery, radio and airbags.

◆ **WINNERS:** The Grosse Pointe North High School girls swim team won its first Class A state championship and Grosse Pointe South's girls basketball team captured the Class A district title.

2004

Five years ago this week

◆ **MORE PARKING:** A Grosse Pointe Woods business owner took the initiative to do something about the parking problem on Mack. John Lamia, co-owner of Lamia & Lamia Salon bought the house on Stanhope behind his business and converted part of the property into parking spots for his business. He received a parking variance from the Grosse Pointe Woods Zoning Board of Appeals. The house will be kept as a rental.

◆ **MULTIPLE MUGGINGS:** One man is believed responsible for three muggings in the same day in Grosse Pointe Woods. The first victim received a black eye and lost \$60 cash when confronted while walking in the 1800 block of Hampton. The man's friend, also of the Woods, was punched in the face. A few minutes later, a cleaning lady reporting for work at an office building in the 19200 block of Mack in the Woods was approached by a man who pulled her by the hood of her sweatshirt. As the woman tried to pull away, security personnel approached and the suspect fled on foot.

◆ **25 SUSPENSIONS:** A 24-year-old Detroit man with several misdemeanor warrants and 25 current driving suspensions was caught driving in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The man posted \$200 bond and was released the next day.

— Karen Fontanive



FROM THE NOV. 25, 1999 ISSUE OF THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS

1999: From soup to shirts

Eighth-graders at the Grosse Pointe Academy collected 40 to 50 bags of fall and winter clothes and other items for patrons of a Detroit soup kitchen. Pictured are eighth-graders, Rose Urbiel, Betsy Alandt, Margaret Leahy, Alexandra Leheta, Brad Detwiler and Mark Grignon.

Community survey in works

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

A survey is being considered to gauge what Grosse Pointers feel is right and wrong with the community.

"We want to find out what people are satisfied with and, if they're not satisfied, why," said Sheldon Wardwell, board member of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and a resident of the Farms.

The idea grew out of the chamber's policy committee.

"We thought futuring studies done many years ago had run their course and this might be a good idea to work with the five Grosse Pointes on planning for the future," Wardwell said.

The survey hasn't been ap-

proved or priced, much less written.

Half of the estimated \$10,000 cost would be paid by the chamber. The five Pointes likely will contribute about \$1,000 each.

City councils in the Farms and Shores have discussed the community-wide effort.

"Normally, when we do a survey, there's pretty significant price tag associated with it," said Brian Vick, Shores city manager. "It's one of those situations we really can't pass up. It will set a benchmark moving forward with regard to how citizens view services — what is highly desirable and which ones we should shift in priority."

"It's something we're looking

at for strategic planning for the future, not only as individual communities, but through greater cooperation among the Grosse Pointes," said Shane Reeside, Farms city manager. "(We) are continuing to look at strategic planning for the future, in light of the economic climate. We ultimately will be coming back to the council before anything formally goes out."

Wardwell expects planning to continue through January.

"I would guess that we'll have the survey in February or March," he said. "Our hope is to have a survey by next spring and from there work together with the mayors, manager and council to establish some parameters."

Santa Claus is Coming to Town ...

Are You?

It's Parade Day in The Village!
Friday, November 27th

9:00 a.m. Happy Holidays
Jingle Bell Walk/Run
Presented by The Grosse Pointe Lions Club

10:00 a.m. Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade
Parade starts at the corner of Kercheval & Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms and proceeds west on Kercheval through The Village, Downtown Grosse Pointe

Presented by **PENTASTAR**
Amusement

The Village Aglow Tree Lighting Ceremony

4:30 p.m.
Select Ensemble from **Pointe Singers**
In concert at the corner of Kercheval & St. Clair

5:00 p.m.
Tree Lighting
Followed by community caroling,
Kercheval & St. Clair

Hot Chocolate
courtesy of the
Grosse Pointe Boat Club

The Village Aglow
Presented by
Treasure Trove

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Bring the receipt from your Village purchase to the Grosse Pointe Art Center at 16900 Kercheval and receive complimentary gift wrapping throughout the holiday season!
Thursday through Saturday only,
Noon to 5 p.m.
Courtesy, City of Grosse Pointe

Free Off-Street Parking!
Free parking on all surface lots and municipal parking garage. Saturday & Sunday only. Does not apply to metered parking on Kercheval Avenue. Free parking weekends courtesy of Grosse Pointe Chamber Foundation, the City of Grosse Pointe, the Grosse Pointe Village Association, Trader Joe's and E. P. Frohlich Trust.

Santa Claus Visits The Village!
Village Toy Company
Friday, November 27th
12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 28th
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Village Ace Hardware
Friday, December 4th
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 5th
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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VILLAGE DOWNTOWN GROSSE POINTE **THE HILL**

Grosse Pointe News

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

Revenue outlook more than gloomy

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

When an auditor says, "It is what it is," it's usually not good.

At least when Dave Harrington of Plante & Moran said it this month while giving dismal revenue projections to the City of Grosse Pointe council.

Harrington, presenting the results of an audit for the year ending June 30, said he expects an \$885,741 drop in property tax revenues during the current fiscal year.

"Based on projected anticipated reductions for the budget cycle you'll be working on in the spring, you'll see another reduction of approximately \$950,000 funds for July 1, 2010, or a cumulative reduction of \$1.8 million, or 32 percent," he said.

He added, "We don't see an increase for the following year (2011). There's potential for over a 35 or 36 percent reduction in your taxable value and total property tax revenue."

Property taxes represent about 80 percent of city income.

"You're looking at losing 1/3 of 80 percent; you're looking at

25 percent reduction in spending," Harrington said. "It is what it is."

Fund balance

The city isn't alone, and things could be worse.

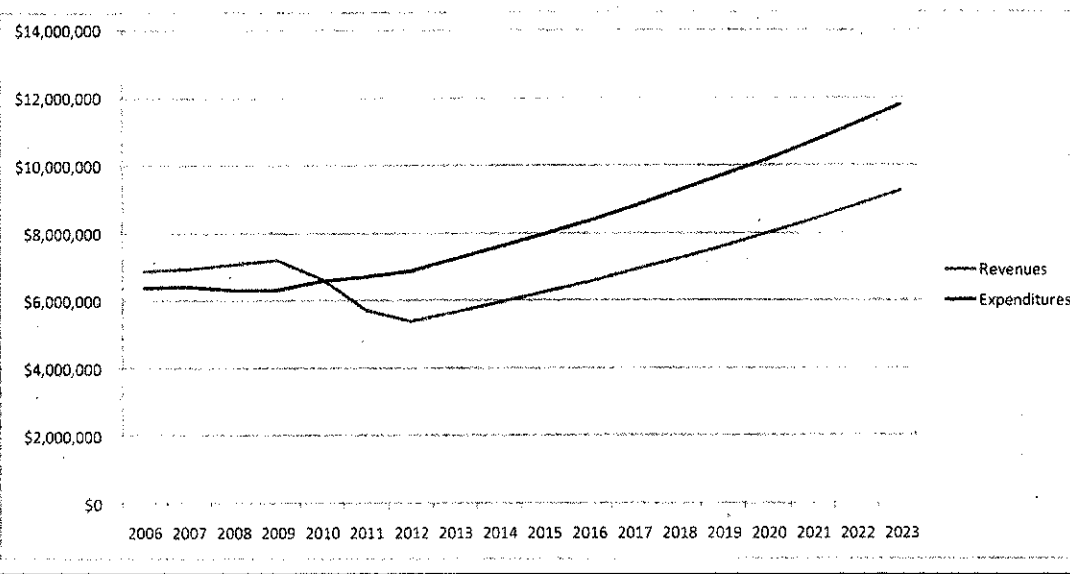
"The difference is you have a fund balance," Harrington told members of the council. "You have time to recognize. Obviously, things have to change one way or another."

As of June 30, the city had a \$1.3 million reserved balance. The unreserved, undesignated balance totaled \$1.7 million. Some \$29,000 was designated unreserved to cover potential losses.

"Total fund balance (including the capital projects fund) increased from \$5.8 to \$6.3 million, this year," said Plante & Moran's Manju Patnaik.

A three-year budget forecast predicts that, under current conditions, starting during 2010, expenditures will exceed revenues. The gap grows to about \$1 million for the fiscal year ending 2011 and to about \$1.4 million for the fiscal year ending 2012.

"The budget for fiscal year 2011 will be considered in the spring of 2010," said Peter

New Assumption - 14 Years Out
General Fund

SOURCE: PLANTE & MORAN

A City of Grosse Pointe 14-year financial forecast shows expenses exceeding revenues through at least 2023.

Dame, city manager. "That's my \$1 million problem."

The gap maintains itself without narrowing through at least 2023, unless something changes.

"We have a structural deficit," said Mayor Dale Scrace. "That's what we need

to work on as we get ready for next year's budget."

"It's a matter of finding the proper balance (between) what services the community would like to retain and which they might be willing to pay more for to retain, and things that could be eliminated,"

Dame said.

Structural deficit

Even if the economy bounces back, the city won't get much of a rebound in revenue.

Property values can go down as fast as the market bears. On

the other hand, state law limits increases in property tax assessments to the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less.

In what Harrington called the "new reality," it would take 14 years of state-limited increases in assessed property values until the city could collect the same amount in property taxes as last year.

"It will take a constitutional amendment to give a local government the authority to raise other kinds of money within its community, if it chooses to do so, to support itself," Dame said.

He said local governments in Michigan lack the authority to control their own destinies.

"We are beholden to the state for our primary source of revenue, property tax revenue," Dame said. "Major changes have to happen at the state level for us to be able to deal with our problems."

Auditors said the city's books were "clean (and) in good shape, which is very rare."

The audit carried an unqualified opinion representing the auditor's highest level of assurance.



PHOTO BY KATHY RYAN

Deck the halls

Grosse Pointe Woods Public Works employees Dan Difranto and Mario Marinello made sure the lights were working as they decorated city hall. Vita Barbaro puts the final touches on the high spot. The three are also preparing for the Woods Aglow tree lighting ceremony, Tuesday, Nov. 24.

MAKOWSKI:
Attitude is everything

Continued from page 1A

his family in the community he helped serve and protect.

"I love this community," he said. "Grosse Pointe Woods is a beautiful, viable and safe community, and I hope I had something to do with keeping it that way."

Makowski is proud of the work his officers have done under his tenure in keeping the residents of Grosse Pointe Woods safe.

"We have had a consistent pattern of low crime in this community," he said. "I attribute that to the hard work of the officers in this department. I also credit the citizens for their long-standing support of this department. We work well with our residents and our business owners. They are a big part of our success."

It was important to Makowski that he led by example.

"I think I brought professionalism to the department," he said. "I have high expectations for my officers and I believe they should be held accountable for what they do. It's not always easy disciplining an officer, but it is something that needs to be done. We have high standards and we need to see to it that they are met."

Makowski looks back on his career with a great sense of satisfaction, knowing he was able to do exactly what he had wanted to do since he was a child. But he also can't help note some of the more difficult days in his tenure as those that involved the deaths of children.

"Thankfully, there weren't many of those," he said. "But I still relive them. I still remember the calls I received at 2 a.m. As a parent, they can't help but affect you."

Makowski's tenure as director of the department brought many changes, especially when it came to technology, including laptops in patrol cars, video equipment and electronic report writing.

"Remember the old Dick Tracy watches we used to read

about when we were kids?" he asked with a laugh. "That technology is here now. We have cameras everywhere, cell phones and radios. It has changed police work. For example, cameras in patrol cars have really cut down on complaints, from both citizens and officers."

He also cites converting duty time to 12-hour shifts for patrol officers and a field training program for new department members as major accomplishments on his watch.

Makowski feels good about the department he will hand off to his yet-to-be-named successor, but worries the financial crisis facing the area may have an impact.

"I've been fighting to keep up the level of service, and I would hope that there are not huge changes made just for the sake of saving a dollar," he said. "You have to be careful about what you are hoping to accomplish. Maintaining a strong public safety department should be a city's No. 1 priority."

Makowski's dedication to Grosse Pointe Woods will be missed, said Mayor Robert

Novitke.

"He has served this city well for a very long time," he said. "He's done a great job, and we thank him for his many years of public service."

Makowski hasn't made firm plans for life after retirement.

"I'll probably be doing all those things that I haven't had time for," he said. But with a Harley in the garage and several kayaking trips planned, along with sharing gardening time with his wife of 25 years, Mary, he won't be relegated to a rocking chair any time soon.

"I'm looking forward to spending time with Mary, who has been very supportive of my career. She's a good friend," he said with a smile.

He will finish out his tenure abiding by a philosophy that he maintains has served him well for many years.

"I really believe attitude is important," he said, showing off his coffee mug that reads, "Attitude is everything. Choose a good one."

"I've always tried to remain positive. We all have trials and tribulations in our lives, but you'll get through them if you maintain the right attitude."

Economy clouds water options

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Shores is between a rock and a hard place about where to buy its drinking water.

A recent engineering study narrowed the Shores' top options to remaining a customer of Detroit or becoming a customer of Grosse Pointe Farms.

In terms of water costs alone, staying with Detroit

will cost more in the long run, according to the study's 30-year forecast. Yet, remaining a Detroit customer would eliminate an immediate need for the Shores to invest in infrastructure improvements.

Switching to the Farms will be \$5.3 million to \$7.2 million less expensive in the long run, but require immediate capital investment to build a transmission line and a 500,000-gallon storage tank.

In the meantime, the

Shores' contract to buy water from Detroit has expired. Until terms are renewed for a mandatory 30 years, the suburb lacks bargaining strength to negotiate lower rates.

All of this is happening while auditors are warning city officials of an impending structural deficit unless something is done to save money.

"Does a 30-year forecast impact a decision today? Absolutely," said Brian Vick, Shores city manager.

Moross and Grosse Pointe Boulevard. Those costs haven't been determined.

"(You'd) need a single feed transmission line up Lakeshore to the tank," said Tom Biehl, a partner at Hubble, Roth & Clark, the Shores consulting engineers, to the city council last week.

The tank would be required by the state Department of Environmental Quality to provide the Shores a backup water supply during emergencies. The Farms already has a tank buried next to its filtration plant.

Recent analysis of the Farms plant concluded the Shores could link to it without having to pay \$6 million to expand filtration capacity.

"The existing plant has enough capacity to service the Shores without an expansion," said Shane Reeside, Farms city manager. "At one time, we were looking at the potential of providing water to the Shores and Woods, for which we'd have to expand

See ECONOMY, page 6A

Chamber seeks new director

As Mary Huebner plans the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting in January, she does so with a heavy heart.

Huebner, who co-founded the chamber with Jane Lightfoot in 2005, will be stepping down as president and executive director as soon as a replacement is found.

"I have accomplished what I hoped to when we launched the chamber," Huebner said. "Today, we have a strong, engaged and growing membership despite the struggling economy and we are making a positive contribution."

Huebner said she won't leave "until it's perfect for the chamber and the board."

Since its founding, the chamber has organized countless networking opportunities for its members and created the coveted "Pointer of Distinction" awards, sponsored "Victory in the Pointes" and "A Fair in Fall" and the recently-announced "Live Well" campaign.

The executive committee of the chamber board is leading the search for "someone with Mary's energy, creativity, deep knowledge of the Grosse Pointe communities and her organizational and leadership skills," said Grosse Pointe Farms businessman Ed Russell. "Resumes are being accepted at grossepointechamber@gmail.com."

Costs and savings

The study — based on current, yet ever-changing data and projections — concluded that the Shores would pay between \$32,726,454 to \$34,537,907 over 30 years if it stayed with Detroit.

The cost from the Farms over the same period would total \$27,363,114. The cost of water doesn't include the expense of linking with the Farms plant, constructing a water storage tank and helping maintain the Farms filtration plant at the corner of

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POINTER OF INTEREST

Veteran **Eric Abey** visited the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. which honors the 16 million veterans like himself who served during the second world war.

Honored for service, honored for life

By Karen Fontanive
Staff writer

Don't tell Eric Abey there's no such thing as a free ride. Earlier this month, the World War II veteran, not only got a free ride, but a free trip to the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight Michigan.

"A few friends in the VFW heard about it, went and told me, so I contacted them," said the Grosse Pointe Farms resident.

Honor Flight Michigan is a non-profit group that provides all-expenses paid trips for Michigan's WWII veterans to visit the memorial erected to honor their service. Since its inception in 2006, it has sent more than 1,200 Michigan veterans to D.C.

Abey, along with approximately 20 other WWII veterans, boarded a plane Saturday, Nov. 7, at Metro airport bound for D.C. Each veteran received a T-shirt to be worn on the trip identifying them as a member of the Honor Flight.

A convivial man never at a loss for a story, Abey was impressed and honored by the trip, beginning at Metro airport.

"As we went through the corridors, people would stop and clap as we went through," said Abey.

That respect was shown throughout the day from the airports here and in Maryland and as well as the memorial.

"I never shook the hands of so many people," he said. "Everybody wanted to shake our hands."

At the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport in Maryland, the group was met by soldiers representing every branch of the military.

"They were in Class A (dress) uniforms and the Army



Eric Abey in his Honor Flight Michigan T-shirt in front of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

band was there too."

The group boarded a bus for the hour trip to D.C. and the memorial.

"We spent quite a bit of time at the memorial," he said. "Nobody rushed us."

After the memorial, the group traveled to Arlington National Cemetery for a tour and to watch the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Someone in the group suggested they also

visit the U.S. Marines memorial in the cemetery. Then it was back to the airport.

While the day trip was fulfilling, it also was exhausting.

"Oh, I had a ball. I was really tired when I got home," said Abey. "I sat down and fell asleep all night. I didn't get up until 8 a.m. I didn't even get a chance to change my clothes."

Abey served three years in the Air Force — 1010th Signal Company, 28th Service Group,

20th Air Force — as a radio repairman.

At one time, there were 16 million living U.S. veterans of World War II. Today there are about two million. Abey belongs to a VFW post that several years ago claimed more than 3,000 members. Today, he meets monthly with four other

members at a local restaurant. "We have our own waitress," he says proudly.

It is the goal of Honor Flight Michigan — and similar operations in other states — to enable all veterans to visit the memorial created in their honor. The advanced age of the veterans — only a small per-

'We can't all be heroes.... Somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by.'

WILL ROGERS

centage are under age 80 — requires special treatment. There is a "guardian" assigned to every three or four veterans and a "personal" guardian if a vet is wheelchair-bound. Because he has difficulty walking due to a back injury, Abey used a transport chair in Washington, something he truly appreciated. "He pushed me all day long. I don't know how he did that."

The widowed Abey regales neighbors, friends and acquaintances with stories of his service years and his life. One such listener is former neighbor, Christina Michaud, who, even though she has moved with her husband and three young children to Grosse Pointe Park, keeps in regular contact with Abey. She suggested he write his memoirs. Abey has written and self-published two books: "Three Years in the United States Air Force" and "Love, Marriage and the Veterans of Foreign Wars."

"My time in the military was a vacation. The memorial is for those who were killed or injured," he said.

As humble as he is about the honor, it didn't make him any less appreciative of going. "They did a good job," added Abey. "Everything went like clockwork."

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

Buzz around in a Vespa

By Brad Lindberg
Staff writer

Vespa, the little Italian motor scooter, is best written in italics. The happy camper design boasts free-wheeling motion.

A Vespa displayed at Burger Pointe restaurant in the Village won't be stationary for long if a plan by two Grosse Pointe businessmen works out.

The scooter is up for grabs in a drawing before Christmas.

Starting Friday, Nov. 27, people can go to Burger Pointe on Kercheval in the Village in downtown City of Grosse Pointe, fill out entry forms and make a donation to win the motor bike.

"All the money goes to the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce," said Joe Ricci of the Farms, owner of Joe Ricci Vespa of Dearborn. "It's a good cause. All businesses benefit from the chamber."

Ricci said the S-50 model he donated is worth about \$4,000.

"Vespas are considered a moped," Ricci said. "You can be 16 years old and drive it. Its engine is less than 55 cc. It has an automatic clutch, so there's no shifting. It's the same scooter you see people riding in European cities and in movies."

Well-known movies with

Vespas include Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck in "Roman Holiday," and Matt Damon in the "Talented Mr. Ripley."

"Curiosity has been overwhelming," said Mark Seeley, Burger Pointe owner and Grosse Pointe Woods resident. "People are pretty excited."

Test rides aren't available.

"The delivery man took the battery out of it," Seeley said. "I think he anticipated that I'd like to tool around on it."

"We're going to give the scooter away right before Christmas," Ricci said.

Vespa is Latin for wasp.

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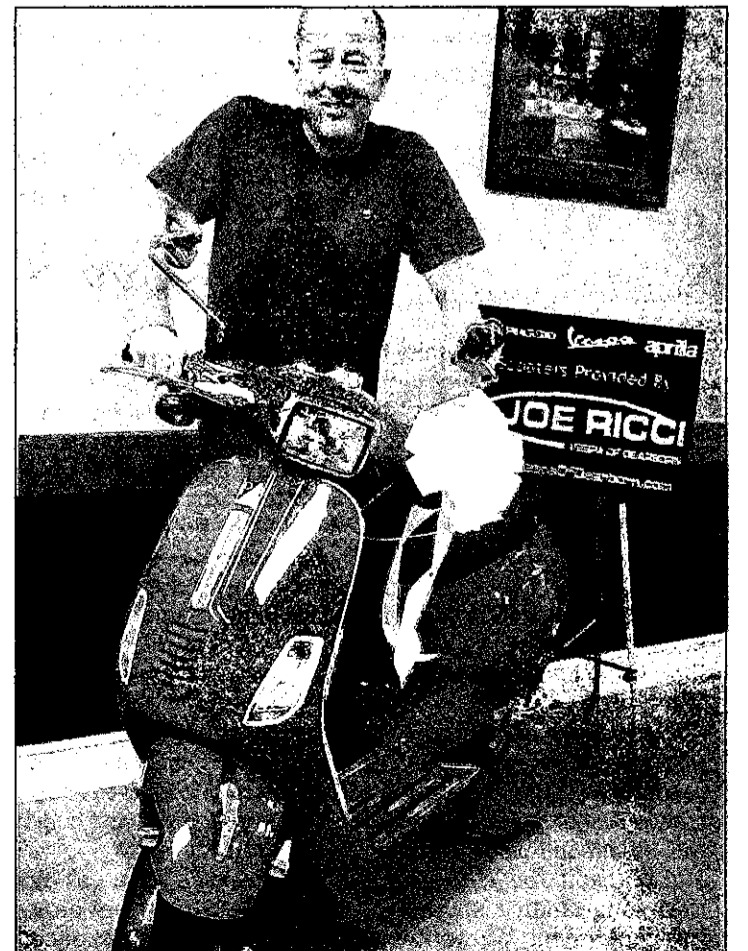


PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Grosse Pointe residents Mark Seeley, owner of Burger Pointe restaurant in the Village, with a Vespa that Joe Ricci of Dearborn donated to be raffled off to raise money for the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

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CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

No public parking on St. Clair below Village

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Residents of a block of St. Clair south of the Village commercial district have won their war with shoppers who hog on-street parking.

Interlopers on St. Clair between Kercheval and St. Paul will be forbidden and on-street

parking spots reserved for residents.

For resident Duncan MacEachern, safety played a big role in his decision to petition his neighbors for new parking rules.

"We constantly have people pulling into our driveways and onto our lawns," he said. "They're not always looking."

All 13 heads of households on the block (two properties are vacant) signed the petition. Unanimous support exceeded the city's requirement that 75 percent of households on a block request a change in traffic regulations.

"I'm concerned with the safety of residents and children," said Mike Wilson, a petitioner.

"If someone's coming from the lot (behind CVS Pharmacy), they just goose it."

Members of the City of Grosse Pointe council recently supported the residents and designated the block for residents-only permit parking.

"There have been numerous complaints from residents about congested parking, litter and traffic in their block," said James Fox, head of public safety. "Several complaints concern employees, shoppers and patrons in the Village who park there and prevent residents and their guests from being able to park in front of their homes."

Parking had been allowed only on the east side of the block in one-hour increments be-

tween 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. On-street parking isn't allowed on the west side of the block.

"One-hour parking was intended to discourage on-street parking," said Peter Dame, city manager. "It hasn't worked."

Fox said motorists often park on the block six to seven hours.

"We've written several violations," he said. "It's mostly Village patrons."

City officials supported the petitioners.

"Parking is congested at certain times of the day," said Fox. "(Resident-only parking) would prevent commercial parkers from utilizing spaces on that block and allow residents and guests to park on the street."

Each household also will receive two guest permits. Contractors parking in the street risk getting ticketed unless residents notify the city ahead of time. No parking violations carry \$25 fines.

City officials retained the right to review the policy when property on the block owned by Sunrise Senior Living, which has canceled its planned development, is sold for new development.

The policy becomes effective as soon as street signs can be put up and permits printed for residents.

It will cost the city about \$200 to replace current parking signs and print parking permits, Fox said.

HEADS: Local guys giving back

Continued from page 1A

Adlhoch & Associates, Phil Pitters, Dane Lupo of Lupo and Kozcur, Farms Public Safety Officer Jim Corbett and dentist Peter Shumaker.

They're foregoing an appearance fee.

"We understand things are tight," Connell said. "So, we're going to sponsor the big heads and pay for it."

Moran and a couple of friends formed the corps three years ago.

"In the first year, we had more than 90 people become Big Head members who donated their dollars and time to help the parade," Moran said. "This year, we have 120 members."

The papier mache heads are owned by the Parade Company. About 300 characters are stored in the company's Detroit warehouse. Designs include a rooster, bulldog, the Grinch, caricatures and more.

Moran will be a cow in the Detroit parade but doesn't know what he'll be in Grosse Pointe.

"Our goal is to recreate new heads and to eventually have

the whole collection in the parade as it once was," Moran said. "I'm a 30-something man who has seen many treasures of Detroit go by the wayside because of budgets."

The Parade Company is a 501(c)(3) charitable entity whose sole mission is to provide the pleasures of the Thanksgiving Day parade and fireworks. We thought what better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than to give back

and thank those who before us made this such a joy."

Children go nuts when big heads walk by.

"That's what will motivate us through the 2-mile walk in Detroit and the 1 1/2-mile walk here in Grosse Pointe," Moran said. "It doesn't feel like its that long. The experience ends quite quickly."

For more information on the Big Head Corps, visit theparadecompany.org.

ECONOMY: Sustainable water utility

Continued from page 3A

our plant and add more filtration."

Fluid forecast

The engineering forecast was based on financial information that changes daily, according to Jamie Burton, the engineering firm's environmental specialist.

Some variables are out of the Shores control. If Flint drops out of the Detroit water system, for instance, remaining customers would pay the consequences.

"Detroit has indicated by (Flint) leaving the system, everybody's rates would go up 6 percent," Burton said. "If you project 30 years into the future, the Grosse Pointe Farms option, long term, is the cheapest."

However, there are impacts to the Farms options, such as, in the short term, raising your water rates to pay to make the connection."

Burton acknowledged the difficulty of making major infrastructure investments during current economic conditions.

"However," he said, "having a sustainable, viable, lower-cost water utility is a cornerstone to economic recovery and development. There's really two decisions to be made: stay with Detroit or go with the Farms."

Documentary premiere Dec. 3

The premiere of the film documentary, "Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, A Prophet Among Us?" is hosted by Pointes for Peace at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Ark at St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton Road, Grosse Pointe Park.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and seating is limited to 300. The event is free; donations are accepted.

Gumbleton is the special guest at the screening along with Detroit filmmaker Tony Gallucci, who has been filming Gumbleton for several years.

"Bishop Tom Gumbleton has long been a prophetic and controversial figure in the Catholic Church, speaking out against war, the treatment of victims of sexual abuse, and the unjust treatment of the poor," said Gallucci. "Internationally known for his work of peace and justice, 'A Prophet Among Us?' presents Tom's message of non-violence and unconditional love."

The 30-minute documentary will be broadcast on WTVS-Detroit Sunday, Dec. 27.

Information on a DVD of the documentary, including a 55-minute version featuring more

detail and extended interviews, is available.

Pointes for Peace is a community-based group of Eastsiders and others who are committed to educating for conflict resolution and other strategies to work for peace on local, national and international levels. Membership is free.

All are welcome at Pointes for Peace weekly gatherings at 7 p.m. Sundays at Panera Bread on Kercheval in the Village of Grosse Pointe.

For more information, call Carol Bendure at (313) 882-7732 or e-mail pointesforpeace@yahoo.com.

SLEIGH: Driver, Start your engine

Continued from page 1A

ty." The float is 38 feet long. It features Santa's sleigh and eight reindeer flying 13 feet over a miniature representation of the Pointes. The landscape is complete with miniature buildings modeled after the real things.

The float this year has an upgraded sound system to better play Christmas carols along the 1.5-mile parade route.

"We added another 1,000 watts of power," said Mark Lorkowski, owner of Expert Electronics in the Village and a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods.

This is the second time Lorkowski has donated his

time and equipment for the sleigh's sound system.

"Last year, it sounded good," he said. "But, we wanted to improve it. We added two, 12-inch sub-woofers. It won't necessarily be louder, but it gives a clearer sound."

Burton designed and built the float's chassis. He drove the float its first two years in the parade. The driver cockpit is hidden under a model of the Hill.

"It steers from the rear," Burton said. "We did that because we have tight corners from Kercheval to side streets. If it steered from the front, the reindeer would run into light poles."

The driver's view port is disguised as a window of an office building at the corner of Kercheval and McMillan.

This year, Chris Walsh, a City councilman, is doing the driving. Burton advised him to steer by looking down at the roadway beneath the cockpit and following the center stripe.

Stephen Sholty, former City councilman, will join helpers walking next to the sleigh.

"One of the fun features of walking alongside the sleigh is kids giving me letters for Santa, which I hand up to him in his sleigh," Sholty said.

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You may drop off clothing bags at 717 University Place Just S. of Charlevoix in Grosse Pointe City, from December 3rd - December 5th

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More parade stories on page 9A II

22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 1 2 3 4 5

WEEK AHEAD:

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

Continued from page 1A

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

◆ The 2009 Holiday Concert & Tea begins at 1 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Performing Arts Center in Grosse Pointe North High School. The event, with entertainment provided by Grosse Pointe North and South high school choirs, is sponsored by the Mother's Club of Grosse Pointe South High School and the Parents' Club of Grosse Pointe North High School.

BALANCE: City owes itself money

Continued from page 1A

The state will respond by putting the Shores on a deficit reduction plan.

"If you can demonstrate during the current-year budget process that you will have a positive number June 30, 2010, that gets you off the (state's) radar screen," Harrington told the council.

Brian Vick, hired last winter as city manager, said the negative balance is an "inevitable" consequence of the former village's three-month reconfiguration this year to a city form of government.

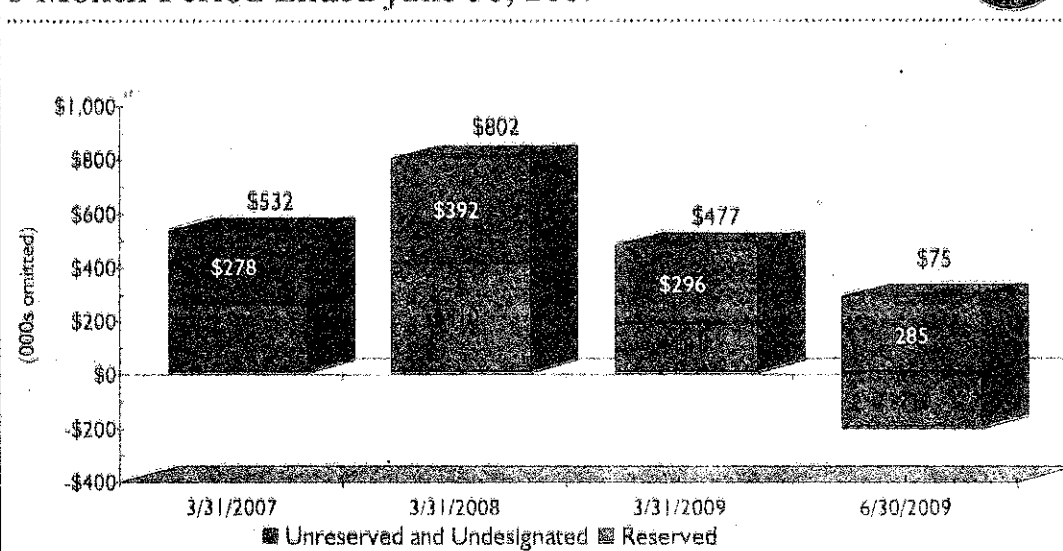
"For a three-month period, residents did not pay taxes," Vick said. "We used available revenue we had to move through that three month period. The overall budget is not in debt. Essentially, we owe ourselves some money."

"(Having) \$75,000 at the end of the year is better than you anticipated," Cederstrom told the city council at last week's meeting, "primarily because you came in better than anticipated for the three-month period; but also because you had built up (\$477,000) reserves from the previous period."

The deficit had resident John Booth concerned about receivership.

"To my knowledge, this community has never had a negative, overdrawn general fund," Booth said. "The big issue is the chronic inability of the council and its finance committee to come up with any kind of realistic revenue projections. The pie-in-the-sky revenue projections of the last three years have exhausted almost all funds we had in reserve, resulting in a demerit from the state. It is a travesty to continue that."

General Fund — Fund Balance Analysis
3-Month Period Ended June 30, 2009



SOURCE: PLANTE & MORAN

Grosse Pointe Shores general fund balance June 30, 2009.

He recommended the city create a resident task force of financial experts to help city officials resolve budget problems.

Legacy costs

Kedzierski's cost-cutting plan targets legacy costs and sick pay.

Shores employees currently can bank up to 200 sick days and cash out up to 100 percent of them, depending on the department, according to Kedzierski.

"Our sick pay liability as of June 30, is \$708,050, and it's going up \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year," Kedzierski said. "That represents what we owe the city's nearly 50 employees for sick pay. They can cash that out. If they all retired right now, we'd have to write them checks for \$708,050. That is not in the budget."

He said sick pay should be offered on a use-it-or-lose-it basis.

"To me, sick time is for when you're sick," he said. "It's not meant to enrich yourself."

As for legacy costs,

Kedzierski would reduce them by adding five years to the current 25 years of service an employee must work to qualify for full retiree benefits.

In addition to requiring 30 years of employment, he wants the city to stop paying

health care coverage for retirees' spouses and dependents; plus stop providing at age 65 a Medicare Advantage policy that includes extra coverage.

"I'd like to amend the plan to have provisions similar to

the state, which requires 30 years of service," he said.

Spouses and dependents would no longer receive health care coverage, at least for life, he added.

He also wants to change the city's defined retirement benefit plan into a defined contribution plan in which a stated amount of money each year is paid into the retirement fund.

"We have excellent services because we have great employees," Kedzierski said. "But, after being on the finance committee for the last couple of months and looking at our finances, we can't continue to do business as usual."

New reality

The auditors said the Shores, like "every community" in Michigan, is facing declining revenues. Property values are going down, which translate into lower municipal income.

"Revenues (as of June 30) came in less than budgeted by about \$130,000," Cederstrom said. "They were lower than anticipated, primarily in property tax revenue. That's due to

declining property tax values."

Property taxes comprise about 84 percent of Shores' income, according to Cederstrom.

The city's tax receipts are expected to go down another 9 percent, according to Kedzierski, citing Wayne County officials.

"Our real estate tax is about \$5.2 million," Kedzierski said. "Nine percent of that is just over \$450,000. We have to find that somewhere."

"When any community or organization sees their revenue decrease, they have to change," Harrington said.

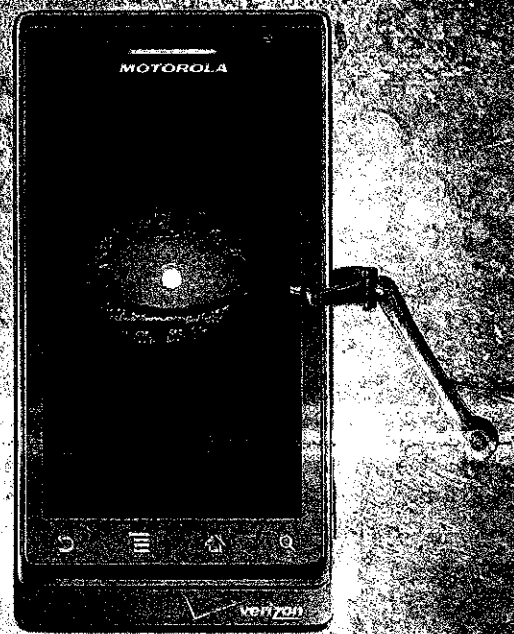
He forecast, based on current conditions and practices, the community will see a structural deficit grow to about \$400,000 per year by 2012 and stay that way for years. The prediction came despite this year's municipal budget including \$300,000 in cuts from the year before.

"Now's the time to address how this community wants to examine steps they'll take to get back to a balanced budget," Harrington said.

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PART 'WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?'

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Grosse Pointe News

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EDITORIAL

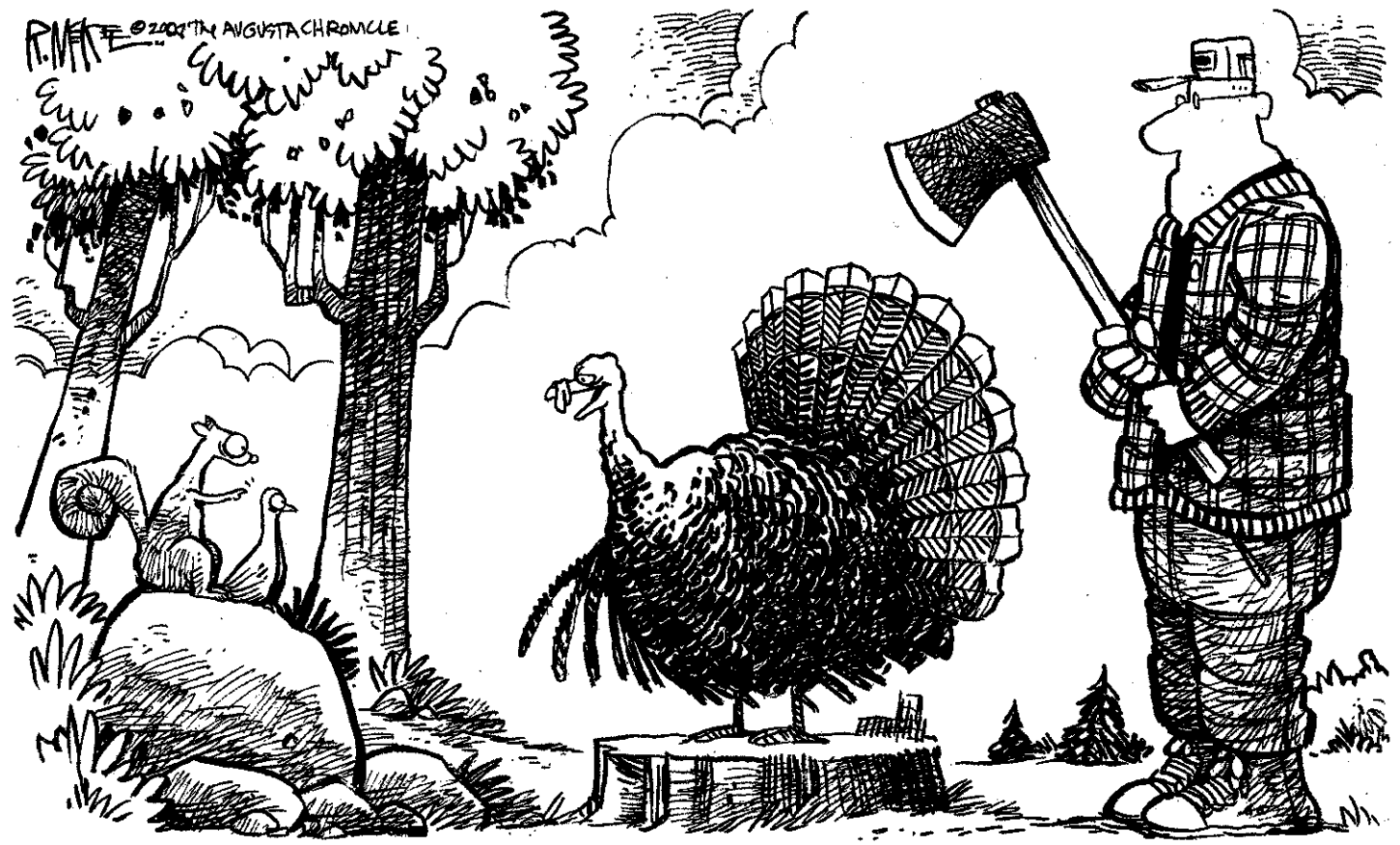
Be thankful

President George Washington presented the following Thanksgiving proclamation, Oct. 3, 1789, in New York:

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits and humbly to implore his protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

"Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of his providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which he has been pleased to confer upon us.

"And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great lord and ruler of nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our national government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a government of wise, just and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations—especially such as have shown kindness to us, and to bless them with good governments, peace and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best."



"I KNOW IT'S BEEN A TOUGH YEAR AND TIMES HAVE BEEN HARD, BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR... AFTER ALL, WE STILL HAVE OUR HEALTH!"

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. Longer letters may be edited for length and all letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include a daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday.

Revenues fall

To the Editor:

I don't know whether to be more upset with the Shores financial mess or the inertia of the mayor and council in even deciding when to begin to formulate a plan to address the city's financial crisis.

Apparently, the majority of the council doubts a real crisis exists.

Here is why the Shores is in a financial crisis:

Grosse Pointe Shores has been on a state fiscal watch list and is now on a state credit watch list because, in part, the council transferred all of the city's reserve funds over the past three years to cover overdrafts in its current operating accounts.

This year's operating deficit is a negative \$231,000.

During the same three-year period, the mayor and council watched as annual actuarial reports documented that liabilities for unfunded pension and post-retirement medical benefits were climbing rapidly.

When added to outstanding bond indebtedness increased by the recent harbor renovation improvement bond, the Shores' total liabilities now approach \$30 million against declining annual revenues, now less than \$5.9 million.

Alarmingly, even in the face of pressure from residents and two members of the council to switch to a multi-year forecasting budget, the council and city management have steadfastly refused to budget more than one year at a time.

At the last quarterly finance committee meeting and again at the most recent monthly council meeting, auditors Plante & Moran, bluntly informed council they recommend not less than three-year rolling annual budgets, preferably five-year.

Further, Plante & Moran stated the average Michigan municipality faces a decline of 27 percent in gross receipts, and because of revenue caps due to the Headlee Amendment, irrespective of any economic recovery, it will take at least 10 years for municipal revenues to equal the revenue level of last year.

Plante & Moran warned that all Michigan municipalities are facing structural operating deficits requiring an immediate review and reorganization of operations in each municipality.

Unfortunately for the Shores, unlike many other Michigan communities, the council's past over-spending and recent increases in already generous employee salaries and benefits has exhausted the very reserve funds that other more fortunate communities retained, allow-

ing them time for a more orderly transition to a much lower level of receipts and expenses.

The Shores management and council should be in crisis mode. It is not. Rather, it's steady as she goes.

What do the mayor and city manager propose as a course correction to deal with the problems outlined by the city auditors? At the recent city council meeting, upon a motion made by manager Brian Vick, the council voted to expand its present three council member finance committee into a new committee of the whole by adding the three remaining council members, plus the mayor and Village manager, the latter two whom were already "ex-officio" finance committee members.

The city manager proposed that the new (finance) committee of the whole meet once a month, more frequently than the present finance committee which meets quarterly.

This is really no change because the current finance committee reports to the whole council at every monthly council meeting.

The only practical consequence of this motion is to remove council discussion of sensitive financial and employment issues from the regular city council meetings that are now quite well attended. Residents may attend committee of the whole meetings but only as observers and with limited opportunity to make comments after the committee's discussions.

To top it off, the city manager suggested, and the mayor accepted Vick's recommendation, that while the first meeting of this new finance committee of the whole will be in mid-December, this meeting would be more organizational with serious discussion likely to be deferred until the beginning of January.

So much for the urgent financial crisis!

If these guys were firemen, city hall would be in ashes before they even began to discuss whether the building was really on fire.

JOHN L. BOOTH, II
Grosse Pointe Shores

Voter's have say

To the Editor:

In the guest editorial, "Don't sign recall petitions," Nov. 19 Grosse Pointe News, Edmund Brady, rather than respond to the real issues behind the Grosse Pointe Shores recall, chose to be derisive and divisive, labeling the effort as that of "failed candidates and their supporters."

Such desultory language gives us clear insight into where Mr. Brady and the in-

cumbents that he represents are coming from.

Our founding fathers and countless patriots since have fought and died so citizens can have a free choice in determining who represents them in our democratic electoral process.

Being a "failed candidate," I am happy to be in the company of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan as citizens who fell short in an election.

Mr. Brady's editorial also contains a major factual error. The Shores budget is not balanced, a fact auditors recently had to report to the state of Michigan.

Those residents who heard the recent report from Shores auditor's Plante & Moran know that last year's budget was out of balance due to deficit spending in the range of \$325,000.

This year's budget has a huge deficit due to unaccounted liability for retiree health care expenses that may exceed \$750,000.

Nobody should be deceived by the efforts of Mr. Brady and the incumbents to think the Shores recall is over sour grapes about an election that happened a decade ago. I don't think anybody involved with the recall is happy that we have had to resort to this step.

However, incumbents abused their power to influence the outcome of the election for the new Shores charter and city council. They did this by obstructing release of employee salary information, and by failing to make the precarious financial status of the city clear. Shores voters were denied their right to cast a truly informed ballot.

Unfortunately, Shores voters have approved a charter that will let the council hike their property taxes all the way up to 20 mills. This will be a very difficult matter to undo.

Shores voters, though, can easily regain their right to cast an educated vote on the incumbents by signing the petitions asking for a recall election.

Now that many of the facts on the status of the Shores' fiscal health have come out, facts that citizens should have had before last February's election, what better way to end the controversy once and for all by letting voters have their say.

DR. ROBERT E. LEE
Grosse Pointe Shores

Shores' problems

To the Editor:

In his guest editorial, "Don't sign recall petitions," Nov. 19 Grosse Pointe News, Edmund M. Brady Jr. is absolutely correct in saying Grosse Pointe Shores residents live in a wonderful community.

I'm sure during his tenure in office, when the economy was good and life was more care-free, things were much different.

Mr. Brady's comment about basing a recall campaign solely on a one-mill increase might also deserve credence if it were, in fact, the only matter of concern. Unfortunately, while he may not be aware of it, the one-mill tax hike is the least of Grosse Pointe Shores' problems.

Being placed on the state of Michigan's fiscal watch list is certainly a more serious concern, especially for those who understand the devastating impact of falling into state receivership.

If this news wasn't bad enough, the Plante & Moran CPAs Financial Report delivered at the Nov. 17 Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting made it clear our city has not been properly governed for some time, with financial cash reserves now gone.

Despite receiving repeated warnings over the years from a number of well-informed residents, our elected officials neither made the necessary changes, nor sought professional help in steering our community away from financial peril.

As bad as the financial news and deficit news is, we're better off discovering this crisis now rather than later.

Trying to sweep bad news under the rug has never proven to be a viable solution.

Grosse Pointe Shores residents who care about the future of their community should attend the city council meetings, or at least watch council meetings on television, and see for themselves.

JOHN RICKEL
Grosse Pointe Shores

Licensed facility

To the Editor:

Serenity Way LLC, purchased a house in Grosse Pointe Woods to rent to elderly people as a community-based alternative to entering an assisted living facility.

It was never intended to be a state licensed facility. Renting a house to unrelated persons does not require a license. It was intended the residents contract with care providers of their own choosing, according to their individual needs.

Many unrelated individuals share houses in Grosse Pointe Woods. Some require home care assistance. All of these individuals to the best knowledge of Serenity, have been considered to comply with the city's ordinance which allows unrelated people to live together "as a family."

Pamela Boos, Serenity's owner, also owns Nursing Unlimited, an excellent home-care provider with a 30-year history of caring for ill and elderly persons. It is this fact, we believe, that caused the city to view Serenity's residents as "other than a family." The city has chosen to issue Serenity a ticket for noncompliance with the ordinance.

Rather than fight the ticket, and place these residents at risk of having to move, Serenity has applied for a license as a state adult foster care facility. It has received a provisional license number.

State law provides that if Serenity provides certain documentation beyond the application, and if Serenity's owner takes a brief educational course, it will automatically be issued a temporary license.

Once such a temporary li-

See LETTERS, page 9A.

GUEST OPINION By Bill Kalmar

Count blessings

Millions of families will be sitting down this Thanksgiving Day around a table laden with delicacies including, in some households, the centerpiece—a turkey with all the trimmings.

It's always a festive time to gather family and friends. Parades fill the morning; afternoons are punctuated with our gridiron heroes; and early evening brings another serving of pumpkin pie!

Many families use this as an opportunity to recall the events they are most thankful for as each person around the table recites his or her blessings.

As such, permit me to list a few items I am most grateful:

◆ Our three children, two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law and 11 grandchildren who every day bring us laughter and joy.

◆ Mary, my spouse of 46 years who without a doubt is the best friend and lover one could hope. Her sage advice, smile, sense of humor and ability to cope with my spur of the moment travel plans are attributes that reflect a marriage made in heaven. Perhaps our meeting for the first time in the basement of a Catholic rectory made this heavenly experience a reality.

◆ My being cancer-free for more than 18 months with an excellent prognosis, thanks to the special care from the doctors at Henry Ford Hospital and of course from my favorite nurse—my wife, Mary.

◆ My grandmother. Even though she passed away in October, she lived to be 105 years of age and provided us with a wealth of happiness and stories. She continues to live in our memories.

◆ The friends we have, some of whom we have known since childhood and new friendships we have formed over the years.

◆ Living in a country where we can express our support or lack thereof for various events without fear of recrimination. My wish to all is to have similar blessings and your holidays are filled with family and friends and loads of laughter. And lots of great food and maybe an occasional victory by the Detroit Lions!

Bill Kalmar is the former director of the Michigan Quality Council and a former resident of Grosse Pointe.

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I SAY By Brad Lindberg

Hilberry Theatre: Dreaming of summer



Current moviegoers unsettled by Mayan prophecy of the world's end seen in "2012" can stay assured that such a worry is no more than the "fierce vexation of a dream."

For, reaffirmed in the Hilberry Theatre's latest production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream," the Earth's guardians of the night are "new in amity," ready to make the world right and bless all of its inhabitants and progeny.

No matter how "Dream" is played, it always ends on a happy note. The work never wants for production.

From an audience perspective, people young and old are

attracted to the play's story of mixed-up lovers lost in a fairy world of pastoral poetry. Children love the fantasy. Teens like the jokes. Adults get the innuendo.

From the production side, the play's cast of 21 characters (more, if more fairies are wanted) almost always means every actor in a company gets a role.

Such is a practical consideration for the Hilberry, the repertory pride of Wayne State University's three-year graduate theater program. Students comprise the Hilberry's current company of 42 actors, designers, stage and theater managers. The more students involved in each production, the more they learn.

This season's roster of 21 actors come from 11 states, including three from Michigan. One each comes from Rhode Island, Florida, California and Idaho, thereby covering all points of the compass.

From the Midwest comes second-year actress Samantha Rosentrater. In "Dream," she plays Helena, a young woman in unrequited love with Demetrius.

The would-be couple is one of many pairs of confused lovers, lovers at odds with each other, lovers under fairy spells, lovers spitting and, in the end, lovers reconciling.

Among those couples are Oberon and Titania, king and queen of the fairies. They are in a tiff which, given their dominion over the world, disrupts the normal scheme of things; even causing the seasons, let alone young lovers, to know "not which is which."

If the character Theseus, Duke of Athens, is correct — and he is — when saying near play's end, "For never any thing can be amiss, when simpleness and duty tender it," then the casting of Rosentrater, however unamiss, must be acknowl-

edged as the proverbial hippopotamus wearing a tutu in the room.

She's not the typical mousy little thing found in Hilberry stagings of the play going back 40 years. Yet, in a deserved knuckle sandwich to stereotypical expectations, Rosentrater not only pulls off the role, she's among the best in the cast.

She flits around the stage convincingly as a giggly girl in love with love, or, when not, frazzled by the inconsistencies of it all.

Rosentrater has fun with audience expectations. She plays off her largess, at one time getting down on all fours and becoming a bench for her friend, but rival in love, Hermia.

The quirk of Rosentrater's casting is one of many insights into the play brought out by director Joe Calarco, a WSU professor and designer of the department's Ph.D. program rat-

ed No. 1 nationally by two education associations.

Calarco's casting decision followed general directions contained in the text, where early in the action Helena says to prettier Hermia, "O, teach me how you look, and with what art you sway the motion of Demetrius' heart."

Although Shakespeare's texts were written to be played, players often have a hard time with his poetry. Shakespeare's words often are corralled by convoluted sentences and layers of subordinate clauses. Some actors recite the lines rather than speak them. In "Dream," where many lines are rhymed couplets, actors often fall into a mechanical, sing-song regularity.

Rosentrater is not among those.

Also showing off in a recent performance was Jason Cabral, a second-year student from Rhode Island. Cabral took over

the role of Oberon's henchman, Puck. The role was Cabral's understudy assignment. Yet, he performed it as though it had been his main duty all along.

Cabral bounded across the stage monkey-like, squatting mostly, his second-year knees handling the strain like springs.

The players' action flowed through five acts with almost no changes of scenery. No problem.

The production's design team dressed the stage in a multi-layered, moody outdoor forest setting, darkly lit, for most of the play takes place at night. Yet, the setting translated well for indoor scenes, with tree trunks doubling as columns in the Greek palace of Theseus.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" runs through Jan. 29, at the Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass at the corner of Hancock in Detroit. For more information, call (313) 577-2972.

STREETWISE By Renee Landuyt

What are you thankful for this year?

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



'I am thankful for the world, oxygen and Fruit Roll-Ups.'

EVE BOURNIAS
Grosse Pointe Shores



'For TV because there is always something funny or silly on and I am thankful I can make a funny face.'

BRANDON KREUTER
Grosse Pointe Woods



'I'm thankful for animals, shoes, candy, cartoons and my family.'

MIA EUGENIO
Grosse Pointe Shores



'My cats, Charlie and Annabelle, my funny sister, Quinn, and for candy and holidays.'

MEG PANGBORN
Grosse Pointe Woods



'I am thankful that I can beat my dad in football, for the Spartans football, animals and bubblegum.'

MADELINE DODENHOFF
Grosse Pointe Woods

FROM THE ARCHIVES Compiled by Suzy Berschback

Old post offices in Grosse Pointe

The following article is from the archives of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, circa 1930. For more information, visit gphistorical.org.



In the early days of Grosse Pointe, there was no postal system. Instead, a person who was going to the destination of a letter would take it and pick up mail left for you. This method was slow, but was used until after the days of English rule.

Messengers were sent from Detroit and Grosse Pointe, but

this method was very dangerous, as well as slow. For example, a letter sent from Detroit early in January, did not reach Quebec until late March.

Postage rates were as follows: letters, double, triple and quadruple, were charged with double and triple and quadruple rates; but all letters weigh-

ing one ounce, or more were charged single postage for each quarter ounce according to its weight.

Newspaper not carried out of state, or carried out, but not more than 100 miles equaled 1 cent. Further than that, the charge was 1.5 cents. Magazines published periodically and the distance not more than 100 miles was 1.5 cents per sheet. More than 100 miles, the cost was 2.5 cents per sheet.

The first post road in Grosse Pointe was organized in 1801 and operating by Oct. 1, 1802.

The first post office in Grosse Pointe and Detroit came about in 1803.

The 1804, the Cincinnati route was discontinued, and one running from Cleveland to Detroit and Grosse Pointe was regulated. In 1811, mail was carried partly on horseback and partly by men on foot. The plan for a daily mail did not greatly shorten the time and as late as 1836, it took 14 days and nights to send a letter to New York City.

In 1837, mail arrangements were made possible. For example, mail was to be delivered

from Ann Arbor and Chicago every other day. In December 1837, 16 bags of mail were sent from Sandusky to Detroit and Grosse Pointe and were 22 days on the road. After 1843, Detroit and Grosse Pointe became a distributing office for the Northwest.

By law as of April 9, 1816, mail was carried 30 miles for six cents; from 30 to 80 miles for 10 cents; and from 80 to 150 miles, 12.5 cents.

The extreme cost of postage made it necessary for those who had much to say to use all possible space — many letters

had writing beneath the seal.

The first envelopes were used in 1839. An act passed March 3, 1851 made it possible for a letter to be carried less than 3,000 miles for 3 cents. A provision for stamps was made by law March 3, 1847.

The first postmaster of Grosse Pointe was Alexander Michie. The registry system went into operation March 3, 1885 and money orders were first issued Nov. 1, 1864. At this time, a large number of iron letter boxes were placed on lamp posts and in grocery and drug stores.

LETTERS: G.P. Woods' tolerance

Continued from page 8A

license is issued, Serenity will be in full compliance with the city ordinance. The residents will be able to remain; the state will make a final determination whether to issue a permanent license.

With the issuance of a permanent license, what Serenity believes to be a misinterpretation of the city ordinance will be rendered moot.

The documents needed for a temporary license were submitted to the state Nov. 10. The educational course was completed Nov. 18.

It is hoped Grosse Pointe Woods' history of tolerance and open-mindedness will allow Serenity's neighbors to welcome these elderly residents to continue to live among us with respect and dignity and minimal assistance until they truly no longer can.

PAUL T. GARVEY
St. Clair Shores

Many thanks

To the Editor:

Gloria Kitchen's 14th Annual "Made in Detroit" themed fundraiser to benefit the Cystic

Fibrosis Foundation was held Friday, Nov. 6 at the Hard Rock Cafe in downtown Detroit.

The event raised more than \$25,000 for research, education and patient care for cystic fibrosis, a deadly genetic disease that affects children and young adults.

I would like to thank the following sponsors for all their support this year:

Event sponsor: Grosse Pointe Lions Club; platinum sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dossin, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cracchiolo, Lardner Elevator Co. — Michael Lardner; gold sponsors: Duross Painting Co., Mr. and Mrs. Paul Alandt, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cracchiolo, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kerzic; silver sponsors: Dream Publishing Co., Drs. Scott and Christine Crader, Dr. J. Dale Petrosky, Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Grady, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson, J.E. Dewald & Associates, Mary Kramer, Community Central Bank & Wealth Management — Anne MacIntyre; bronze sponsors: David Gilboe & Associates, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sutherland, Patricia Alandt, Janet Graham, Metry's Crews Inn, Mr. and Mrs. John Kitchen, Dr. and Mrs. Alan Berger, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Coyle.

I would also like to thank the following businesses and people for their donations of auction items:

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A big thank you goes out to Double Exposure Inc. for providing the entertainment and to Wanda Sudduth, Kathleen Smith and LeVonne King for performing as Donna Summer, Aretha Franklin and Diana Ross and the Supremes.

Also much thanks to David Stoyka for all the wonderful public relations he did for this event.

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tact Grosse Pointe Park police, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Finger lickin' good

A hit-and-run accident between two cars at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28, led police to a parking lot where they found the car and suspected driver involved. The car had hit a parking block and struck a brick wall. The driver, whom police suspected of drinking, was sitting in the front seat eating chicken. She admitted to having "two cups of wine" that morning, and a Breathalyzer test revealed a .22 blood alcohol level. She was arrested for operating under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident.

Drug paraphernalia

A report of a car fire in the parking lot of Grosse Pointe North High school at noon Monday, Nov. 16, turned out to be a smoke bomb. While investigating, police found drug paraphernalia in plain view in the front seat of a 2006 Jeep Cherokee.

When the 17-year-old driver approached her car, police questioned her, and she voluntarily turned over a container of marijuana that she had put under the front seat. The pot and paraphernalia were turned over to police, and the student was turned over to school authorities.

Workout wallop

A bicyclist who had been in a verbal altercation with two joggers on Mack at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, was surprised by one of the joggers who apparently followed him into a store and grabbed him from behind. The cyclist was not seriously injured, but did sustain scratches in his neck area. Police continue to investigate.

—Kathy Ryan
If you have information on these or any other crimes, contact Grosse Pointe Woods police, (313) 343-2400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

In the way

At 10:44 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 19, police who had been alerted to a possible drunken driver on northbound Lakeshore found the suspect in a silver 2002 Ford four-door parked at the North Edgemere median. Part of the car blocked southbound lanes of Lakeshore.

The driver, a 33-year-old Detroit woman, was arrested for drunken driving.

"(Her) eyes were bloodshot and glassy," said the arresting officer. "(She) stated she had 'a lot to drink.'"

Way over limit

A male motorist was pulled over at 12:18 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, for running a red light on northbound Lakeshore at Vernier.

The 33-year-old Detroit suspect had a blood alcohol level of .32 percent, four times the state's legal limit, according to police. He was arrested for drunken driving.

Jewelry gone

On Monday, Nov. 16, at least \$3,400 worth of jewelry was reported missing and presumed stolen from a house on North Deeplands.

The homeowner last saw the jewelry in September. She gave police a list of people who have had access to the house since that time.

Missing items included a \$1,900 gold diamond earrings, a \$1,500 gold pendant with five diamonds and a tennis bracelet with six diamonds of undetermined value.

—Brad Lindberg
If you have any information about these or other crimes, call the Grosse Pointe Shores public safety department at (313) 881-5500.

juana.

The boy and three male companions, all South students ages 15 to 16, had been reported smoking marijuana on Edgemere.

A public safety officer found a glass pipe on the ground near where the boys were standing. The 14-year-old admitted smoking the drug and having some in his pocket, police said.

"It did not appear that the other three juveniles had smoked the suspected marijuana," said the officer. "They were sent back to class. (The) assistant principal stated the other three juveniles would receive discipline through the school."

—Brad Lindberg

If you have any information about these or other crimes, call the Grosse Pointe Farms public safety department at (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Park

Grinch arrested

A 55-year-old man was arrested for allegedly stealing Christmas decorations from a church on Mack at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Auto thefts

Two 2007 Chevrolet Tahoes were taken from Pemberton overnight Tuesday, Nov. 17. Both were recovered, though one was partially stripped.

Theft from garage

A lawnmower, trimmer and rake were taken from a garage on Wayburn sometime during the afternoon Saturday, Nov. 21.

—Kathy Ryan
If you have information on these or any other crimes, con-

purse.

Silverware gone

Nearly \$5,000 worth of silverware, china and jewelry were reported missing last week from a house in the 400 block of Madison. There were no signs of forced entry.

Missing items included Easterling silverware valued at \$4,500, five china tea cups worth \$125, three Waterford glass crystals worth \$200 and a \$75 pearl bracelet.

Purse picked

Security video didn't reveal who stole a woman's wallet out of her purse while she shopped shortly before 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 16, at a grocery store in the 18300 block of Mack.

The victim, a 78-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods resident, suspects the theft occurred during the short time she left her purse unattended in a shopping cart.

"She is positive she had the wallet because she removed money out of it to give to the Salvation Army bell ringer in front of the store on her way in," said a public safety officer.

A store manager was shadowing a suspected shoplifter at the time.

Bike stolen

A woman's purple Trek mountain bike was stolen last weekend out of a garage in the 300 block of Kerby. A toddler seat is attached to the bike's front frame.

Busted

A 14-year-old Farms boy was a short distance off campus of Grosse Pointe "South" High School when arrested last week for possession of mari-

Vandals

Four Farms boys ages 12 to 14 have been accused of vandalism in the 400 block of Calvin during the late afternoon or early evening of Thursday, Nov. 19.

One resident's front door window was broken. A second found dog waste on her front porch. A third found oatmeal cookies scattered on a porch.

At least one of the youths has been made to apologize.

30 suspensions

A 29-year-old Detroit man with 30 driving suspensions since 2001 was arrested at 10:43 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, for operating a 1992 Honda Accord in the Mack alley near Moross.

The Honda carried a license plate registered to a 1990 Buick.

Fake prescriptions

A pharmacist at Rite Aid on the Hill recognized last week that three prescriptions presented by a 55-year-old Detroit man were fake.

Public safety officers arrested the man shortly after 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Officers also arrested a 24-year-old Detroit man who drove the older man to the pharmacy. The driver, parked on Kercheval a block away from the store, was arrested for violating his suspended license. He denied involvement in the other man's alleged prescription scam.

Hot pink purse

A 2010 Ford Taurus parked from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, in an open garage in the 400 block of Moran was an easy mark for whomever entered the vehicle and stole its female owner's hot pink floral

City of Grosse Pointe

Not lost

Police thought they had a stolen car case on their hands during the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 16, when a 73-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods man reported his car missing.

The vehicle was located in a parking lot on Fisher.

"(The) owner must have forgotten where he parked," said an officer.

—Brad Lindberg

If you have any information about these or other crimes, call the City of Grosse Pointe public safety department at (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Tough guy

The new owner of a tavern on the Hill told police last week that he and his family were threatened by a representative of a liquor supplier. The tavern's previous owner allegedly owed the supplier money for alcohol purchased with bounced checks.

The incident occurred in the tavern at 5:15 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21.

An unknown man saying he represented the liquor supplier asked to speak with the previous owner, who wasn't there.

The stranger reportedly told the new owner, a Farms man, "If you do not pay, I will come to your bar and cause trouble while it is open."

The messenger handed the Farms man a cell phone on which a caller identifying himself as the aggrieved liquor supplier threatened the tavern owner's family, according to police.

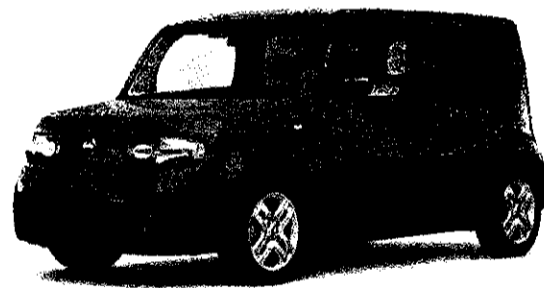
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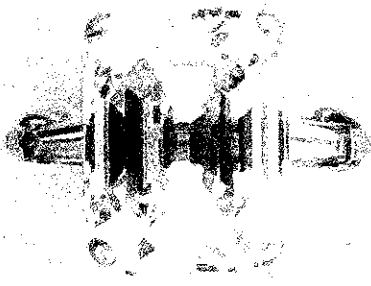
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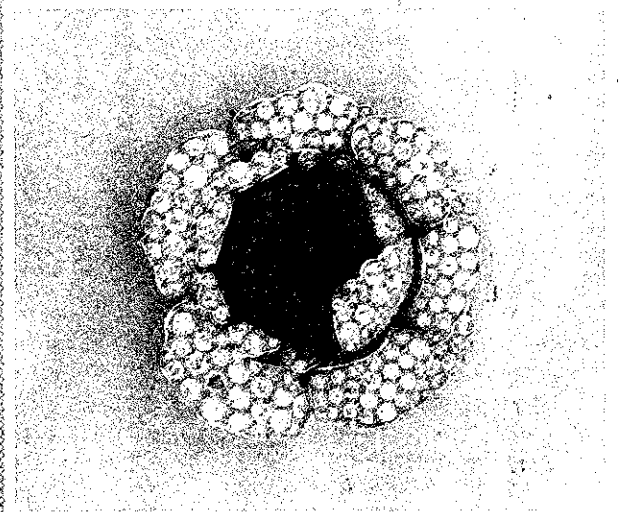
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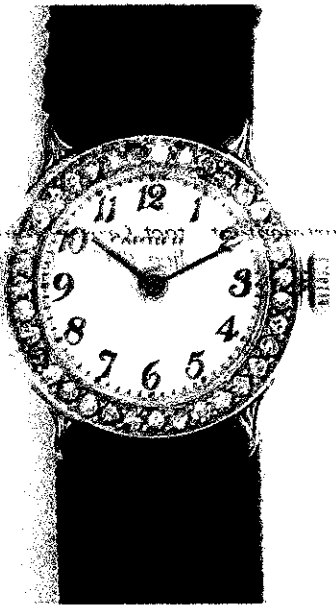
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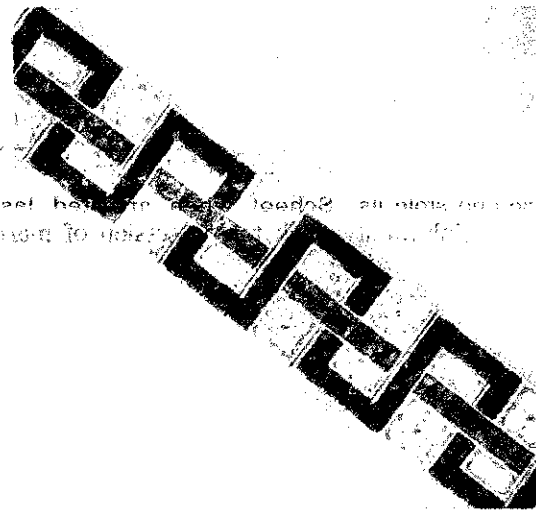
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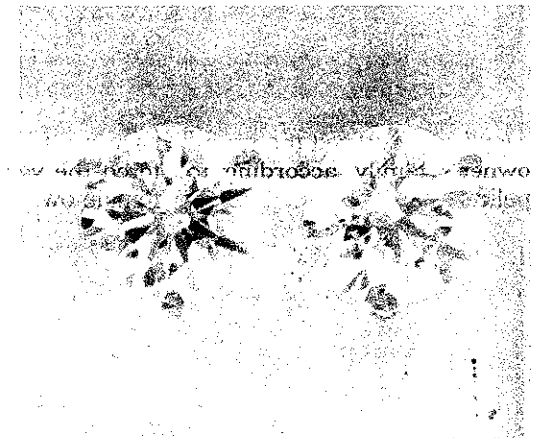
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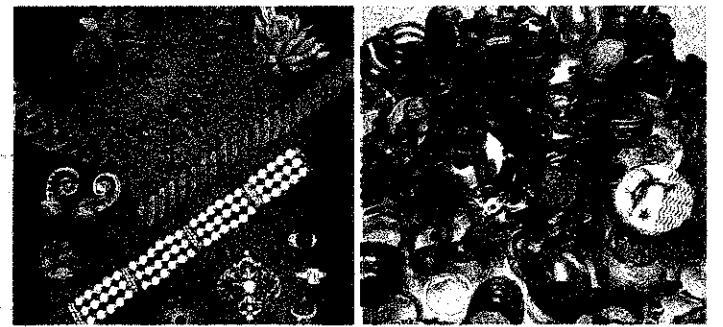
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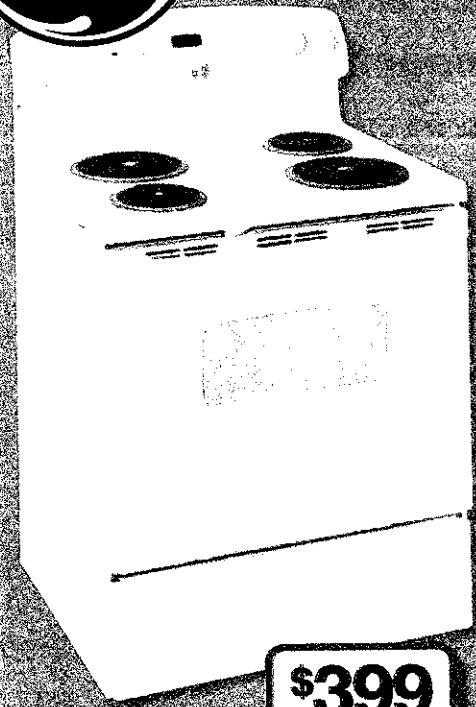
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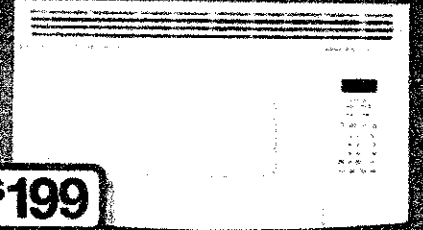
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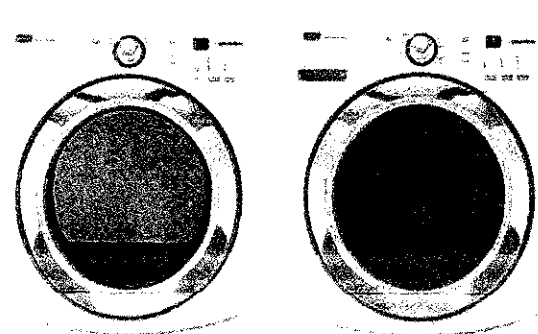
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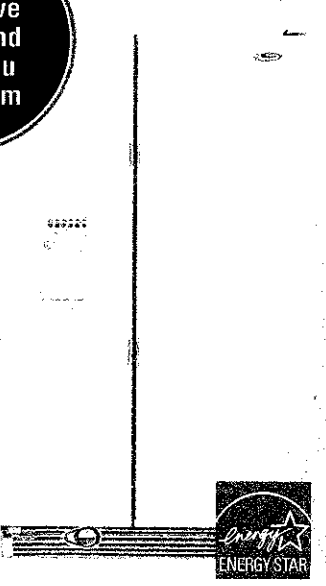


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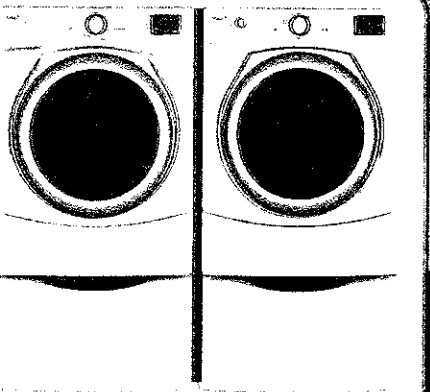


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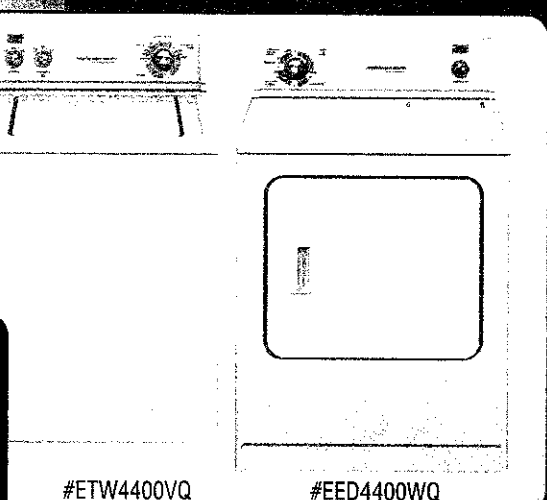
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Like student, like teacher

By Amy Salvagno
 Staff Writer

As a coach of any kind, you wait for that one phone call, hailing your star student's big break — a scholarship to a university music program; recognition on the sport's field; an award for a portrait or painting.

For voice and acting coach Waymen Ezell, the call that came a few months back was both exciting and a little surprising.

Grosse Pointe South High School graduate Jon Manganello, who has taken direction from Ezell over the last few years, rang his coach about being cast in a film shooting primarily in Ann Arbor.

And as they both quickly learned, not just any film — the same one in which Ezell also landed a role.

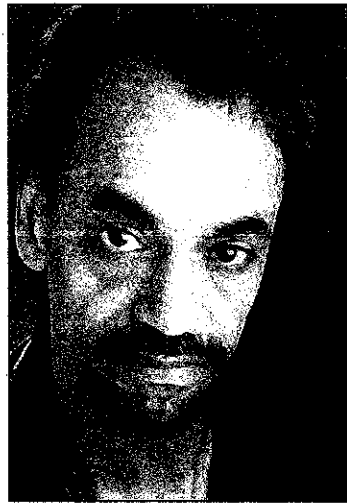
"It was incredulous because he didn't know at that point I was in there," said Ezell. "I said, 'Have a seat, you're not going to believe this.' It was very, very neat. The most exciting part about this film for me is being in his movie debut."

Manganello, who is enrolled in the University of Michigan School of Music Theatre and Dance, attended an open casting call for "Mooz-Lum" on a whim.

"I thought it would be funny to get an audition experience," he said, noting the casting called for Middle Eastern actors. "I thought, 'Well, I'm 50



Jon Manganello



Wayman Ezell

percent Lebanese, why don't we give this a try."

The Grosse Pointe Park native says after two weeks, he had all but forgotten about the audition.

Then came the first call, inviting him back for a second audition. The following day, another call came, this time awarding him a role.

"I thought they were kidding. It's just cool," Manganello, a 2009 South alumnus, said. "You hear these horror stories of people going to school for theater ... they tell us it could be months before you get an audition, and you don't always get auditions or roles for that matter. I think just so much of it is luck. If the part is right for you — I just got very lucky. I was in the right place at the right time."

"Mooz-Lum," featuring

Danny Glover, is the story of a black family that is part of the first generation of Muslims born and raised in the U.S.

Manganello plays Matthew, a university student whose sister dies in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"He's got a good heart, but he's led in the wrong direction by a gang of racist friends who exploit the situation, so he engages in hate crimes of Muslim people in the area," Manganello described.

Ezell was cast as Brother Dawoud, a bad-tempered Pakistani man who teaches at an Islamic middle school.

"He's a detestable man ... his character is very, very different from me, so it was a challenge of trying to embody this man who doesn't seem to have any redeeming qualities," he said. Not that getting into charac-

ter is anything new to the long-time actor, who commutes between a house in Detroit and New York City.

He's achieved roles in everything from theater productions, such as "The Tempest," "Pippin" and "Cabaret," to Warner Brothers' flicks, including "Joe's Apartment."

Ezell locally works with 13 Grosse Pointe students.

"It's revelatory to work with these incredibly talented kids and watch and nurture their development as artists. It is in some ways, more gratifying than performing myself," he said. "The advantage of being a performing arts professional rather than an academic professional is being very familiar with the workings and nuts and bolts of the performing arts industry. I coach them in acting, how to do a resume, how to work with an agent, preparing materials — I try to make it comprehensive."

For Manganello, having Ezell nearby on set is also helpful.

"It's really nice, sort of in the midst of this overwhelming and exhausting new experience, to have someone I know and who I can talk to and ask questions about the behind the scenes stuff," he said. "He sort of clears things up. He's been helping me make a smooth transition into this whole new world of film."

And that world wasn't as it

See MOVIE, page 4A II

Take holiday walk



One of the houses featured on the Mothers' Club walk.

Kick off the holidays in style with a tour of six Grosse Pointe houses, decked out in holiday splendor, through the Mother's Club of Grosse Pointe South High School Holiday Walk, from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6.

This year's tour includes:

◆ A 4,000 square foot brick colonial, seasonally decorated with a Christmas tree in every room.

◆ A French eclectic house, originally a farmhouse on the Ford estate, moved and remodeled.

◆ An interior decorator's redesigned 1953 ranch house, now a transformed fieldstone and brick cape cod, filled with old world ambience.

◆ A 1927 family-oriented Tudor, recently remodeled with two new additions.

◆ A 1941 brick and stone colonial filled with family heirlooms and decorated for the holiday season in traditional Williamsburg style.

◆ A 1936 Tudor with a winding staircase and library,

decorated for the holidays.

Area merchants have donated several items for a raffle, including two autographed Detroit Pistons' jerseys; a pearl and silver necklace from George Koueiter and Sons Jewelers; dance show tickets at Music Hall Center; a Nora Fleming cake platter from the League Shop; and treats from the Chocolate Bar Cafe. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 the day of the show or by calling Chrystal Johnson at (313) 942-6602.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$15 for seniors and \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Chocolate Bar Cafe, 20737 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods; Maier Werner Salon, 17904 Mack Ave., City of Grosse Pointe; the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms; Posterity: A Gallery, 17005 Kercheval in the Village of Grosse Pointe; Gelato, 375 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe; and at the South school store.

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WRAP UP

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<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 JEEP LIBERTY 4X4</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.7 V6, 4 Speed, Auto Trans Stk.# AW103887</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$25,610</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">36 Month Lease</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$220**</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 DODGE JOURNEY SXT</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.5 HO V6, Flex Seating Stk.# AT115463</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$25,685</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">36 Month Lease</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$240**</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT 4X4</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.8, V6, 3 Piece Hard Top, Stk# AL120164</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$24,370</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">BUY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$268*</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">PER MONTH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY TOURING</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.8 V6, Stain Repel Seats Stk# AR162635</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$29,245</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">36 Month Lease</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$258**</p>
GET MORE FOR YOUR VOUCHER AT THE NEW MEADE			
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">2.7 V6, DOHC, 4 Speed Auto VLP Trans, Stk.#AH143127</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$28,110</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">BUY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$300*</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">PER MONTH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.7 V6, 5 Speed Auto Trans Stk# AC115351</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$33,460</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">BUY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$345**</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">PER MONTH</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2010 DODGE CHALLENGER</p>  <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">3.5 HO V6, RallyE Group Stk# AH103189</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">MSRP \$26,975</p> <p style="font-weight: bold;">BUY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">\$334**</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">PER MONTH</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">\$19.99 SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; text-align: center;">Oil Change & Complimentary 23 Point Inspection</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; text-align: center;">**Up to 5 quarts of oil. ***Hemi SRT, Diesel, V8 extra. Coupon not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon at time of purchase. Does not apply to prior purchases.</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY* FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE* FREE BREAKFAST*</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em; text-align: center;">*By appointment</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">ASK ABOUT OUR MEADE REWARDS!</p>

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Teacher of the Week

They play a key role in every child's development and inspire excellence in and out of the classroom.

Here, students celebrate their favorite teacher.

This week, it's **Our Lady Star of the Sea first- and second-grade teacher Lisa Leszczynski.**

Leszczynski was nominated by her children, Evan and Sophie, both students at the school:

"We know how hard she works to bring fun and creative lessons to her classroom. We also know how hard she works to help kids who are having trouble feel good about themselves and learn things the best way they can.

She is always bringing in cool stuff to help teach lessons, like an old-fashioned toaster that really worked when they studied American life and all kinds of apples and apple crafts when her children studied fall ... she dressed up in costumes for the Plymouth Plantation Thanksgiving celebration.

She reads books to her class with funny voices, acting out all of the parts and is always making up games. She goes to soccer games to cheer her kids on and even drops things off at their house when they have left something at school.

We have never been in her class, but wish we had been. When she is done teaching her students at Star, she comes home every night and does our homework with us. She reads to us and helps us with our own work and then late into the night we see her checking papers and getting projects ready for the next day. We can hear her laughter down the hallway as she greets her students each morning and says goodbye to them every day after school.

We really think that all of the kids who have been in her

class over the last 23 years have been lucky, but we think we are her luckiest students of all because we get to bring her home with us each night."

Years at the Grosse Pointe Woods school: 23; she left for a year in 1989 when her husband's job was transferred to Japan. During that time, she taught Japanese children who had studied English and wanted to continue to use the language.

Why did you become a teacher?

I became a teacher for a lot of reasons, but I guess the main one was that I saw all of the work that my Aunt Cindy did as a teacher and I wanted to be like her. My favorite days of school were actually the times after school where I went to her school and helped take down bulletin boards, make games, find pieces to puzzles and read with her. I began teaching my dolls in my basement when I was just 6 years old and I guess I never stopped teaching.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

There are so many parts of my day at school that I absolutely love. I love saying good morning to everyone and then telling them about our day. My new phrase is, "Who is ready to learn?"

I love when my class gets excited about a lesson whether it be two-digit addition or taking an imaginary trip to Central Park in New York.

I love when I get little pictures and notes. I think I have saved every one. I have huge plastic bins in the basement with every card, letter, note and picture that I have been given over the years. I love taking students on field trips and having people come to our class as guest readers or

experts. I always start the year by telling the children we will be sharing an amazing journey during our year together. The best part is, for me, the journey is never the same.

How do you feel about being nominated?

I am incredibly honored and humbled to think that my own children nominated me. I never thought they saw me as a teacher, just their mom. To think that they would take the time to come up with the idea ... teaching is truly an amazing job. You don't really care about how long you work or how tired you are when you have a day where you have helped a child discover something new or learn something for the first time.

I guess if I wasn't teaching, I would be performing somewhere.

Maybe that is why I am always acting out books and stories or planning to "step back in time to Plymouth Plantation for the first Thanksgiving," complete with costumes for me and my entire class. I love to bring learning off of the pages of a book and into our classroom.

Favorite book to share with students?

Wow, there are so many books that I love and that I love reading to the children. Each month I put out baskets of books that we read and that I read to them each day.

I have favorite authors, like Tomie dePaola, Jan Brett and Patricia Polacco. I always begin each year by reading the Dr. Seuss book, "The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins," and I end the year by giving each of the children a copy of one of the books that we have written together as a class.

I think I have a favorite book, then another one comes along and I love it even more.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Star of the Sea teacher Lisa Leszczynski was nominated by her daughter, Sophie, pictured, and son, Evan

But I think if I had to choose a favorite book, it would be "The Korean Cinderella." All three of my children are adopted and born in Korea. On the day before my daughter,

Sophie, arrived from Korea, my husband gave me this book to hold on to and read to her when she grew a bit. Over the years, the book has been misplaced and

found. Even though it is a bit worn and tattered from reading, it remains the book closest to my heart.

—Amy Salvagno



A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY THE GROSSE POINTE LIONS CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS IT'S 12TH ANNUAL HAPPY HOLIDAY JINGLE BELL WALK/RUN

2 1/2 Mile Fun Walk/Run for The Grosse Pointe Lions Club

All Proceeds go to charities.

When: Friday, November 27, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.

Where: Grosse Pointe South High Athletic Field
Fisher Rd. & Kercheval - G.P. Farms

ENTRY FEES (no refunds)

\$20.00	Postmarked before November 23rd
\$25.00	In person day of race/parade
\$10.00	Children 12 and under • Postmarked before November 23rd
\$15.00	Children 12 and under • In person day of race/parade
Patron	\$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$500.00 \$1,000.00
Dogs	\$10.00 • Dogs not allowed inside school building

Mail entries & checks to: Grosse Pointe Lions Club
P.O. Box 36160 • Grosse Pointe, MI 48236

Starting Times Registration: 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. in John & Marlene Boll Athletic Center

Race Starts: 9:00 a.m. Parade Starts: 10:00 a.m.

Race Route: Exit from the GP South High athletic field thru Kercheval gate, turn rt. or north to Muir Rd., turn 180 degrees, proceed to Cadieux on Kercheval and return to same gate on athletic field.

- In keeping with the Holiday spirit, all participants are asked to wear jingle bells! The walker or runner who wears the most bells will win a prize and will be in the parade!
- Other prizes will be given out in the Boys Gym based on a random drawing of entry numbers at 10:00 a.m. You must be present to win!
- The Grosse Pointe Village Santa Claus Parade begins at 10:00 a.m. at Kercheval and Lewiston.

Please cut off bottom portion of this entry form and mail with your check made payable to: Grosse Pointe Lions Club, P.O. Box 36160, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Parking is available at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial only 2 blocks away, plus streets adjacent to Grosse Pointe South High School

Entry form: You are welcome to make copies of this form. Please circle T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Event:(Check One) _____ Run _____ Walk _____ Patron

Last Name: _____ First: _____ Male: _____ Female: _____ Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Waiver and Release: To be signed by all entrants or by the parent/guardian if participant is under 18. I (we) acknowledge and agree that participating in the above referenced event may expose me to hazards or risks that may result in serious injury or illness to myself, including death and/or damage or destruction to my property ("Injuries"). I understand the nature and I hereby accept and assume all such hazards and risks. I further agree, on behalf of myself and my successors and heirs, to waive, release and hold harmless Wayne County, the Cities of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe South High School, the Grosse Pointe Lions Club, Grosse Pointe Village Association and all other sponsors (and each of their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, members and volunteers, successors and assigns) from any liability for Injuries I may incur from participating in this event, irrespective of whether such Injuries are caused by the negligence of the above referenced released parties. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use any photographs, video tapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any legitimate purposes.
Rev.12 Aug 2009

Signature of participant: _____

If participant is a minor-under 18:
Name of parent/guardians-please print: _____
Relationship to minor: _____ Signature of parents or guardians: _____

A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM IS REQUIRED FOR EACH PARTICIPANT Revised October 16, 2008

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Dean of Upper School Admission
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lnewton@cranbrook.edu

Cranbrook Upper School will be awarding merit-based scholarships to outstanding new boarding students from Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, and Grosse Pointe Shores.

Learn more at an upcoming Admission Information Reception.

DATE: Monday, November 30, 2009
TIME: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Grosse Pointe War Memorial (Dining Room)
32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms

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Sunday	11/29	11 a.m.-6 p.m.
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A few minutes with ...

By Amy Salvagno
Staff Writer

• **Hometown:** Eastpointe, Mich.

• **Background:** Bur's father was a firefighter for the East Detroit Fire Department and her mother, a receptionist and dental assistant at a nearby dental office. Bur is the youngest of six siblings — three sisters and two brothers.

• **Family:** Married to Jim Bur; stepmother to 18-year-old Krista and 15-year-old Matthew. The family also includes Reo, a greyhound rescued four years ago.

• **Education:** Bachelor's degree in education with a minor in biology and chemistry, Wayne State University; Master's in educational leadership, Saginaw Valley State University.

• **Jobs up to this point:** During her college summers, Bur worked for the East Detroit Parks and Recreation Department and spent most of her time coaching T-ball for 3- and a-half-year-olds to 5-year-olds, and high school softball and volleyball. She was also an

umpire for 5- to 7-year-olds and for a senior citizens' Wednesday morning softball league.

From 1992-97, Bur taught science at Regina High School, and in fall of 1997, came to Brownell Middle School to teach science to seventh- and eighth-graders. She remained at the middle school until 2003 when she was hired as Kerby's principal.

• **Why did you decide to become an educator?**

I think I always knew ... I always loved being around kids. Being active in sports, I had some great coaches who were really the best teachers I ever had. I was impressed to see how much more they would get out of me and create those personal relationships.

As I started taking education classes, I would see that I not only wanted to connect with kids, I wanted to be part of their lives. I thought, how interesting would it be if I pushed 'Job well done,' and built that foundation so when they left they thought, 'Hey, I'm pretty good at science or problem-

solving.'

When I was at Brownell, I started work on my master's and I thought, 'I don't know, I'm really enjoying being in the classroom.' The principal at the time did a capstone (culminating project) and I had so many hours in administration with him. I started seeing the different side of the coin — but I still wasn't convinced.

Then Michael Dib became principal and I worked on more hours with him. I was really shocked to see with administration, you get a global view of the building. In my classes, I got to know 140 or 150 students, but as principal, you get to know 500 kids and impact each of them. You could still be involved, still have those conversations and still build those relationships.

• **What is your favorite food?**

See BUR, page 4A II

... Kerby Elementary School Principal Maureen Bur



PHOTO BY AMY SALVAGNO

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

NOTICE OF PROPOSED HEARING AND PROPOSED STATEMENT OF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OBJECTIVES AND REPROGRAMMING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. by the City Council at the City Municipal Office, 15115 East Jefferson Ave, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, for review of Community Development Block Grant.

The following activities are proposed for programming of 2010 funding and reprogramming of 2008 and 2009 funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program. Final reprogramming amounts are subject to the approval of Wayne County CDBG Program and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

2008 PROPOSED REPROGRAMED PROJECTS	AMOUNT
Sewer Repairs	\$34,120
2008 Total:	\$34,120
2009 PROPOSED REPROGRAMED PROJECTS	AMOUNT
Sewer Repairs	\$35,500
2009 Total:	\$35,500
2010 PROPOSED PROGRAMED PROJECTS	AMOUNT
Sewer Repairs	\$41,900
Senior Services (SOC)	\$19,000
Joint Grosse Pointe Senior Housing Rehabilitation - SOC	\$30,000
Administration	\$10,100
2010 Total:	\$101,000

The City invites all citizens as well as individuals or representatives of neighborhood groups to submit ideas and comments concerning this application.

Jane M. Blahut
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 11/26/2009

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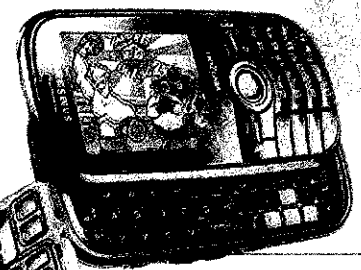
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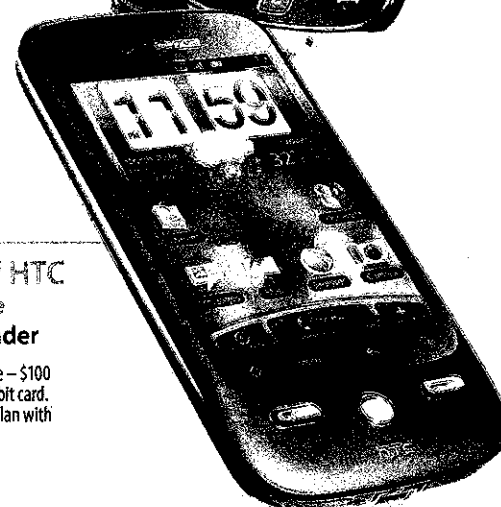
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CONGRATULATIONS

University Liggett Seniors Laura Stanley & Ai Yamasaki

for a stellar solo performance of Bach's Concerto for two violins with the Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra on November 8th at University Liggett School. Both students are high achievers in academics, competitive sports and the performing arts.

Happy Holidays

Monday:
Lobster Fest Dinner
 1 1/4 lb. Lobster, Vegetable & Potato
\$16.00*

Tuesday:
2 For Tuesday
 (2) 1 1/4 lb. Lobster Dinner, Vegetable & Potato
\$25.00*

Wednesday:
Crab Fest
 1 1/2 lb. Alaskan King Crab Legs Dinner, Vegetable & Potato
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Sunday:
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*Offers limited while supplies last

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VALET PARKING

Tea, cookies and a concert

The Mothers' Club of Grosse Pointe South High School and the Parents' Club of Grosse Pointe North High School host the annual Holiday Concert and Tea at 1 p.m. Wednesday,

Dec. 2, at the Performing Arts Center, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The event features the choirs of both schools, as well as coffee, tea, punch and cookies fol-

lowing the concert. Holiday cookies are also available for purchase.

The event is free. For more information, call Carmen Dusina at (313) 882-3461.

MOVIE: Teacher, student star

Continued from page 1A II

seemed for the budding actor, who was a familiar face in both musical productions and dramatic theater performances at South, most recently, "The Laramie Project" and "Les Miserables."

"The strangest thing so far is just how different it is from live theater. I figured there'd be a lot of rehearsals and character studies, and the acting is sort of the final touch," said Manganello. "It's a business and we just go in and do it. It's not a bad thing, it just creates a perspective you don't get in the theater."

Often, it's shooting late into the night and losing sleep.

"There's a lot of waiting. I didn't realize how long I'd just be sitting, waiting to go on," he

said. "Everything is so detailed and they have to get everything perfect. They are long days."

But long days to finish homework and catch up on phone calls.

"I'm just excited to put what I've been learning in school to use. It's definitely a learning experience because I've never done anything like this before," he said. "I'm more sure than ever that this is what I want to do. Fortunately, I've gotten my foot in the door and who knows what will happen."

BUR: Days differ as principal

Continued from page 3A II

The 2-year-old in me says ice cream, Superman flavor. I love pizza, I love Japanese food, especially sushi, and Thai food.

• What are your hobbies?
 Anything sports-related, anything active. I like volleyball and softball in the summer. I run for pleasure now. I have a lot of nieces and nephews and they are a huge part of my life. We play touch football in the yard, I go to their soccer games, their baseball games ... anything to do with family.

• Where is your favorite vacation spot?
 We don't have one particular place ... I love going to New

York, catching a play and a Yankees game. Chicago is a fun spot, California ... I've been scuba diving in the Cayman Islands. This year, we're going to the Florida Keys.

• If you could go any place, where would it be?

Ireland. My dad still has relatives. A few years ago, my parents got to go see the childhood farm his grandmother was raised on. I have a sister who lives in Switzerland and I've been there three or four times. We try to use it as a home base and meet up every other year. I'd like to see Italy and France when I'm there again.

• If you could try anything, what would it be?

I would love to sky dive, that always looked like something I'd want to do. Or even windsurf.

• What are your days like as principal?

Every day is different. I try to get here an hour before the kids and get some of the day-to-day preparations done. One of the things that is consistent is I try to visit every classroom at least once a day. I try to make that a priority. I never want to be an administrator that they only see when something is going on. I want them to know my name and I know theirs..

• What do you enjoy about your job?

The relationships. The kids make you laugh. You walk into a kindergarten, first-, second- or third-grade room and the kids have such a clear lens in the way they look at things and keep in perspective what's important. They think they can conquer the world and with that knowledge and ability, you teach them that they're able to have so many experiences. I couldn't be in a job where I wasn't around kids all day.

Holiday Coloring Contest

The Playhouse at Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is all decked out for the holidays and waiting for you to come for a visit! Kids can visit with Santa during the Nutcracker Teas, hear a Christmas story by the grand tree in the Gallery or make a Gingerbread house for the contest and display. For information on holiday Events and Tours visit www.fordhouse.org or call 313.884.4222.

Deliver your drawing by Dec. 5th to: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Grosse Pointe News 1100 Lake Shore Rd., Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236



NAME: _____ AGE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

*Address & phone number not part of display, but for submission purposes only.

3 AGE GROUPS

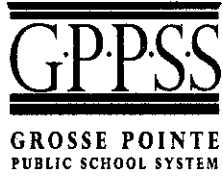
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Help Santa Decorate The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Playhouse



NAME _____

AGE _____



Wayne County Community College District

Holiday Family Traditions Essay Contest Winners Look for these Contest Winners in the Santa Claus Parade

Tyrone Elementary

BRITANY HOWARD

4th Grade
Mr. Hopkins - Teacher
Mrs. VanDerlinden - Principal

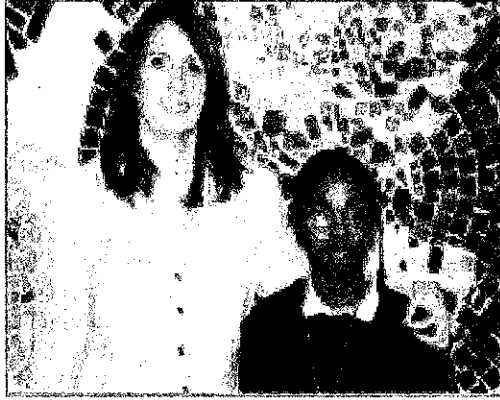
My Family Tradition
"We change the house around when Christmas is near. And we guess what are our presents, but we guess wrong and we play a lot of games. ... I forgot one thing, my grandfather dresses up like Santa every year. How silly is that, I'm going to have fun again this Christmas."



BREANNA HOWARD

4th Grade
Mr. Champine - Teacher
Mrs. VanDerlinden - Principal

My Family Tradition
"On Christmas Eve we have a Christmas party. My auntie always throws it. We always leave cookies and milk out for Santa on Christmas eve night... before we go to bed we open one present..."



HARMONY SKERITT

4th Grade
Mrs. Dennis - Teacher
Mrs. VanDerlinden - Principal

My Family Traditions for the Holiday
"The first day of December we fill a tray with candy. We also start planning what we want and what to give to family. We also give toys to Toys for Tots and give money to the needy."



Defer Elementary

HANNAH LYNCH

5th Grade
Mrs. Westdagh/Cross - Teacher
Mr. Wardie - Principal

A Christmas Story
"On Thanksgiving my family and I pick out Secret Santa's. I have over twenty cousins so it is fun... my aunt usually writes it down on a piece of paper and that is how she keeps track. On Christmas we sit in a circle and start with the oldest for our Secret Santa's."



CAITLIN MILLER

4th Grade
Mr. Palmer - Teacher
Mr. Wardie - Principal

My Family Holiday Traditions
"My favorite traditions begin on Christmas Eve. In the morning while we are wrapping gifts we always hear a knock at the door. When we open the door we find a wrapped package with a note delivered by Santa's elves from Santa. It always has new pajamas for my brothers and I to wear to bed that night."



ALYAH HAYES

3rd Grade
Mrs. Gout - Teacher
Mr. Wardie - Principal

My Christmas Holiday
"...we go around the Christmas tree and open up gifts, then we look at a special gift for the whole family last so everyone can see it. Then we go to our church and sit at different tables and we eat a nice cooked breakfast..."



Mason Elementary

VERONICA ALBO

5th Grade
Mrs. Frakes - Teacher
Dr. Middlekauf - Principal

My Christmas Holiday
"In the morning, we all get up and open presents. My older brother usually uses what he got instantly. After breakfast, we go play in the snow."



RACHEL KOSTRZEWA

2nd Grade
Mrs. McCulloch & Mrs. Ferri
Teacher (s)
Dr. Middlekauf - Principal

My Favorite Holiday Tradition is...
"With my family, I like to watch Christmas movies with my Mom, Jeannie, my Dad, Michael, and my brother, Jacob. We watch Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, Grandma got run over by a Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and more!"



SANA HAMDAN

2nd Grade
Mrs. McCulloch & Mrs. Ferri
Teacher (s)
Dr. Middlekauf - Principal

Happy Eid
"When the Eid starts at the end of Ramadan I feel excited because I get lots of money and gifts. We also give money to the poor because the Eid is about joy, happiness and love. On the Eid, I go to the mosque to do prayers. It's very nice to pray because God is very giving and thankful."



CHERYL KNORP

4th Grade
Mrs. Golus - Teacher
Dr. Middlekauf - Principal

Christmas Holiday at Aunt Kathy's House
"...we drive to Aunt Kathy's house and give her a big hug and say Merry Christmas!! Then, we go downstairs and play pool. I always go first because I do horrible in pool. Then we go upstairs to eat turkey, stuffing, cranberries and much more tasty food."



Poupart School

JOY RIDEOUT

Kindergarten
Mrs. Kraft - Teacher
Mrs. Stocks - Principal

My Family Tradition
"Our family Holiday tradition is to be a blessing to others on Christmas at church by giving toys, and food. After we have shared with other families my family religion is that we pray and thank God for life, health and a beautiful home."



OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Panagiota "Pauline" Elanges

Longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident Panagiota "Pauline" Elanges died Friday, Nov. 6, 2009, at her daughter's house in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Mrs. Elanges was born Panagiota Maheras in a small village near Sparta, Greece. After graduating high school, she earned a degree in clothing design with honors. She was known for the beautiful dresses she designed and sewed herself.

She immigrated to Grosse Pointe after marrying Aristotle "Tony" Elanges and devoted herself to her husband, children and Christ. A member of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church for more than 47 years, Mrs. Elanges was well-known for the fabulous spinach pies and apple cakes she made for friends, family and all her doc-

tors. She also volunteered countless hours as a seamstress for the church, refurbishing, tailoring and embroidering garments for the priests and altar.

Her family said Mrs. Elanges will be remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother who put Christ at the forefront of her life. Those who met her will remember her for her beauty, charm, generosity and sweetness.

Mrs. Elanges is survived by her daughters, Sophia (Kevin) Treppa, Tina (Matthew) Seely and Mary Ann Kashef; grandchildren, Melissa, Allie, Anthony, Aristotle and Cameron and her siblings, Mary, Elias, Kiki and Koulis.

She was predeceased by her husband.

Services were held Nov. 8, at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Memorial donations may be made to the church at

21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

Barbara Patricia Schriever

Former Grosse Pointe resident Barbara Patricia Schriever, 55, died Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009, at Port Huron Hospital. She had been living in Port Sanilac.

She was born March 17, 1954, in Detroit to Frederick and Patricia Schriever, who predeceased her.

Miss Schriever is survived by her brothers, Fred (Suzanne) Schriever Jr. and Stephen (Sheila) Schriever; nephews, Frederick (Natalia Cermeno Villanueva) Schriever III, Robert (Traci) Schriever and Stephen Schriever Jr.; nieces, Kimberly (David) Edsenga and Kathryn Schriever and great niece, Brianna Schriever.

A funeral service was held Nov. 16 at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Park with interment in Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial donations may be made to Special Olympics, 1133 19th Street N.W., 12th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Norman L. Stocking

Former longtime Grosse Pointe Woods resident Norman L. Stocking, 97, died Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009. He had been living with his daughter, Judith Andreosky in Santa Ana, Calif. the past six years.

Mr. Stocking was married to Ethel Marie Haslip for almost 60 years before her death in

2000. He is survived by his three children, Judith Andreosky of Santa Ana, Calif., Frederick Stocking of Elyria, Ohio, and Marie Pigeon of Harrisburg, N.C., as well as four grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Mr. Stocking was raised sailing on the Great Lakes. He built many of his boats and designed one of them. He and his wife also sailed along the inter-coastal waterway to Florida. He was instrumental in organizing and establishing Crescent Sail Yacht Club where he was a charter member.

Mr. Stocking worked 43 years with Parke Davis & Co. While there, he created the lubrication department. He also developed a planned maintenance program and was asked by General Motors to consult on a similar program. He and his wife also assisted in establishing the Parde Credit Union.

Mr. Stocking served in the



Panagiota "Pauline" Elanges



Norman L. Stocking

Civil Defense Corps during World War II. He constructed a model of a bomb that could easily be put together and taken apart. This model traveled throughout the country to aid in selling war bonds.

His principal work during the war was part of a special team to make equipment for processing blood for the armed

services. The records show that not one piece of equipment was found to be defective.

A celebration of Mr. Stocking's life was held Oct. 11 at the home of Judy and Gene Andreosky. He will be remembered by his family and many friends for his gentle spirit and ever-present smile.

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Car chase called off; suspects caught next day

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Farms police last week broke off a car chase of three men who, it is suspected, were using a stolen red Dodge Ram extended cap pickup truck to steal an SUV on McKinley.

The men are believed to be the same ones caught the next day in the pickup truck near Seven Mile and Gratiot in Detroit. They were in the same pickup when chased down by Detroit police.

Speeds exceeded 70 mph before the fleeing driver crashed into a McDonald's drive-through sign and came to a stop.

Detroit police, with help from a Grosse Pointe Park sergeant assigned to the county's stolen car task force, arrested and interrogated the

three men. All are Detroit residents; two are 18 years old, one is 21.

"We've identified all three suspects and are attempting to identify them in our incident," said Mike McCarthy, Farms detective.

In the Farms incident shortly after 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, the prospect of either the offenders or officers losing control of their vehicles and endangering the public prompted Farms patrolmen to end pursuit in the area of Fisher and Ridge.

"Several children were walking home from school," said Mike McCarthy, Farms detective. "For safety reasons, our officers backed off."

Farms police were in the neighborhood responding to a report of a car being stolen.

The vehicle, a black 1999 GMC Envoy, belonged to a res-

ident of the 200 block of McKinley.

"(I saw) one adult (male) exiting the driver's door of the SUV and enter the pickup, which sped away," said an officer. "In their attempt to flee, the red truck struck the black Ford 500 and pushed it up over the curb."

The Ram had been reported stolen in Roseville 90 minutes before the Farms theft occurred.

The Ram's owner said his 9 mm pistol was in the pickup when stolen. No gun was recovered during a search of the vehicle in Detroit. However, police found in its bed a set of four tires mounted on chrome wheels.

"We have evidence at the Michigan state lab we hope to use to identify the persons involved in our incident," McCarthy said.



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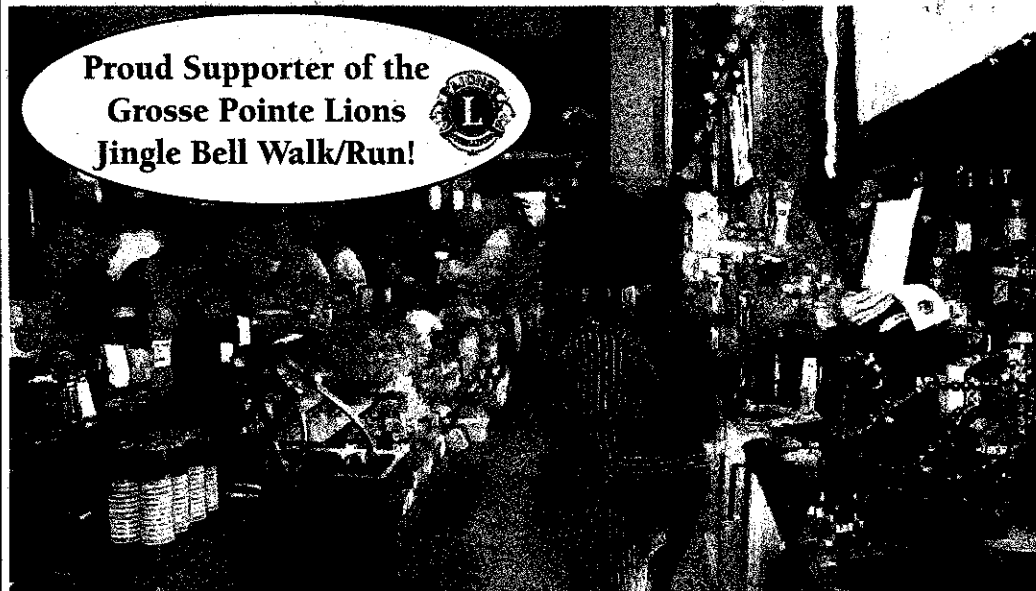
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GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Whole council facing finances

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Because so many members of the city council have been in the audience of finance committee meetings, the committee has been replaced by another body consisting of every member of the council.

The finance committee was supplanted last week by a committee of the whole. The committee of the whole is comprised of city council members serving, essentially, as advisors to the city council.

Such arrangements are used in Grosse Pointe Woods and by the Grosse Pointe Board of Education.

The new committee will meet at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month starting Dec. 8. Council meetings will continue being held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month.

The finance committee had been comprised of three members of the city council. Councilman Dr. Brian Hunt chaired the committee and reported to the city council each month highlights of the most recent finance committee meeting.

As the Shores deals with the recession, budget considerations are playing a bigger role in almost every decision by the city council.

"At the last finance committee meeting, we had six or seven council members in attendance," said Brian Vick, city manager. "That puts the individual council member who isn't there at a huge disadvantage."

He suggested creation of a committee of the whole.

"Historically," he told the council last week, "most committees are set up where each

of you is responsible for a particular (committee). Then, you come back and make your recommendation to the rest of the body and rely on each other to do the respective homework. Then, the collective body can vote with confidence and move forward."

Hunt made the motion to replace the finance committee with the committee of the whole.

Vick said committees of the whole deal with fewer topics per meeting but at a more intense level.

"The goal is to accomplish more by having that meeting solely for whatever that topic is going to be," he said. "Agendas would come up specifically with financially-related topics."

Meetings will be announced in advance to the public, with time on agendas for public comment "just like council meetings," Vick said.

GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Harbor wall study delayed

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Only one company submitted a bid to assess the concrete north wall of Osius Park harbor.

"The bid was for almost \$10,000 and included sampling of concrete at six locations for a number of factors of condition, content and quality," according to a status report this month by Brian Geraghty, head of the Grosse Pointe Shores harbor committee.

The bid was rejected and sampling put on hold because the work isn't needed at this time.

"Even if we find out the concrete isn't good, there's not much we can do in winter," said Councilman Dan Schulte, liaison to the committee. "For the short run, we're going to do some testing of our own to save \$9,000 and see what happens over winter."

Railing mounts will be photographed. Some cracks will be filled with various sealers.

"The pictures will be used for a comparison of crack conditions and effectiveness of the different sealers after the winter season," Geraghty said in his report.

The wall, rebuilt two years ago during a harbor renovation, has been in the committee's sights since Councilman Dan Schulte, committee liaison to the council, a few months ago reported cracks. A number of small cracks were discovered where metal handrails are anchored to the wall.

AUTOS By Jenny King

Hudsons rule in Indiana museum



the Pacific Ocean, greeting guests at the renowned Pebble Beach Concours. The Indiana museum also features a 1935 Hudson Custom Brougham Series 54. The unrestored Hudson featured an electric hand shift that allowed the driver to shift gears without taking a hand from the steering wheel. Hostetler says as a teenager he first drove a 1936 Terraplane with this no-hands

shifting and eventually bought a used 1938 "automatic" Hudson with a loan from his grandfather.

One of the remarkable restorations in the Shipshewana collection is the 1942 wood-bodied Hudson station wagon Series 21. Beside the better-than-new wagon is a rotting shell of a less-fortunate 1942 woodie.

See AUTOS, page 8A II

In Amish country, Shipshewana, Ind., with its delightful horse-drawn black buggies and abundant local tourist attractions, Eldon and Esta Hostetler have assembled and displayed one of the great collections of Hudson, Essex and Terraplane vehicles and automobilia.

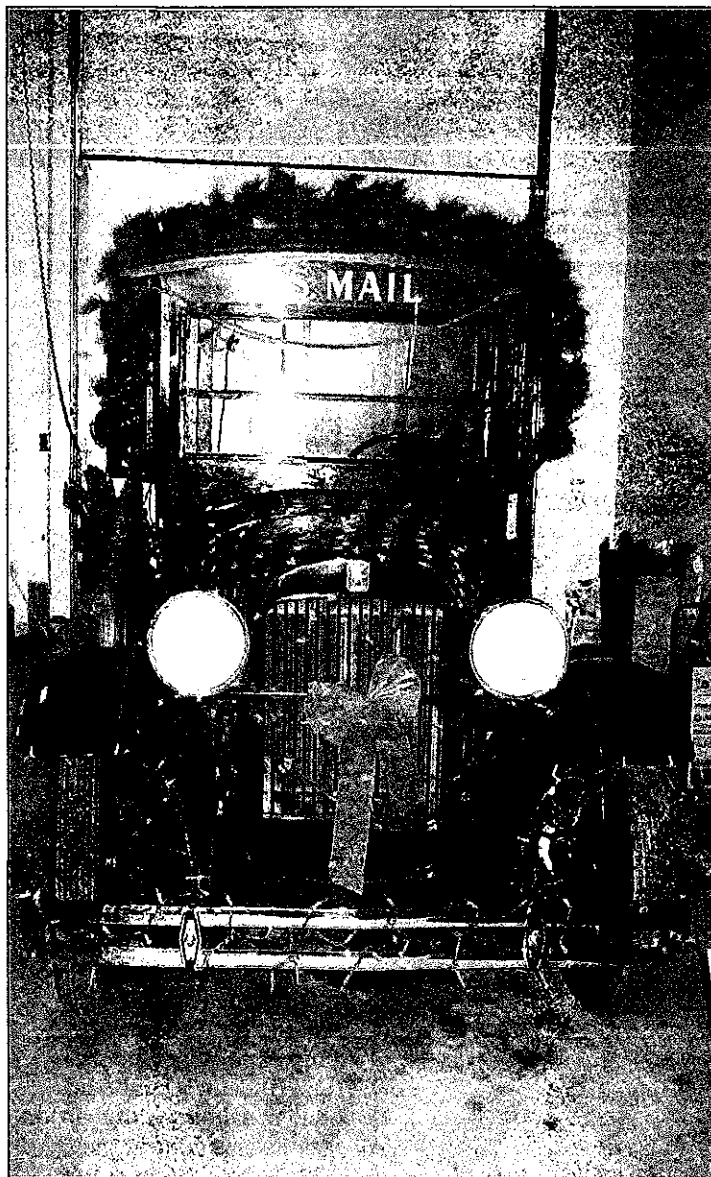
Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum opened in the Shipshewana Town Center shopping plaza a few years ago.

The carefully chosen and restored cars and trucks are identified with plaques detailing everything from engine sizes and sticker prices to what was going on in the world when they were introduced to the public.

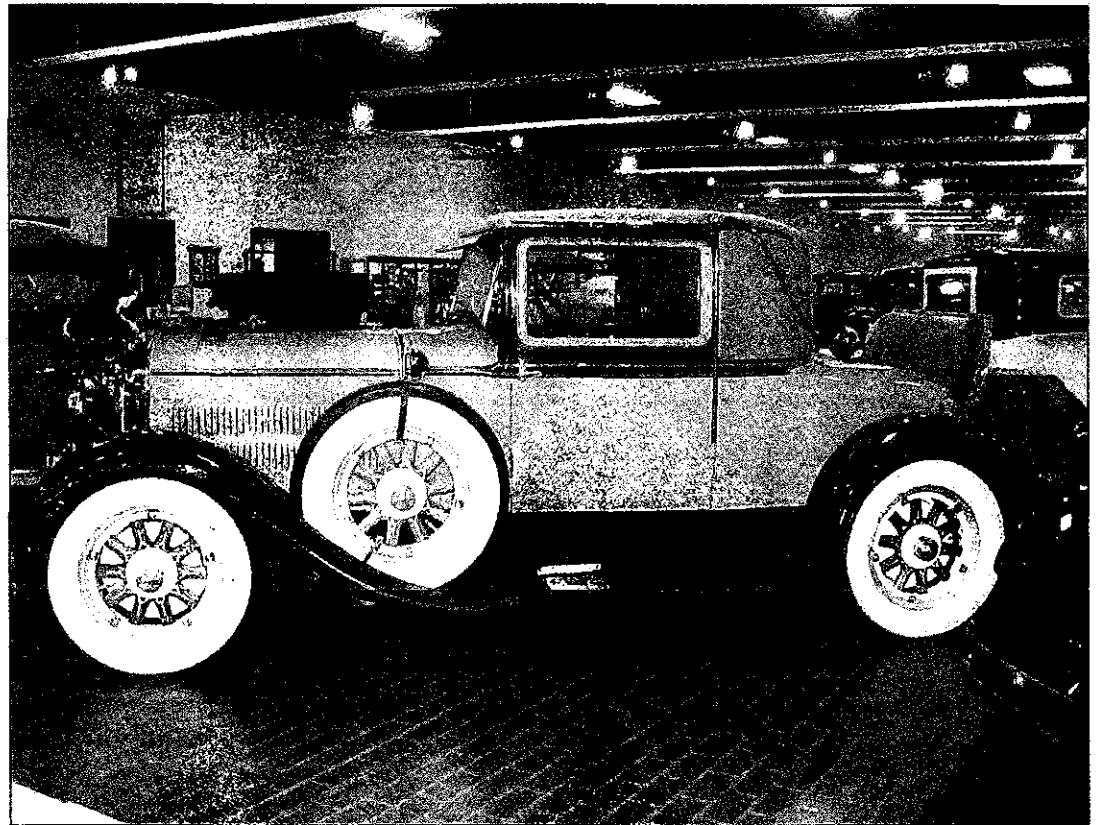
The Hostetlers are well-known in automotive collector circles. They had their unique 1937 Hudson with its British-built Railton aluminum body at the Concours d'Elegance at Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester Hills this past August.

British body maker Rippon Brothers created this very upscale car with its two fold-down tea trays for rear-seat passengers, two "sunroofs," a power rear window, special luggage and onboard kit with tools painted to match the car. Those tea trays had little boxes for sweets, smokes and vessels for a quick nip, presumably to offset the effects of the tea.

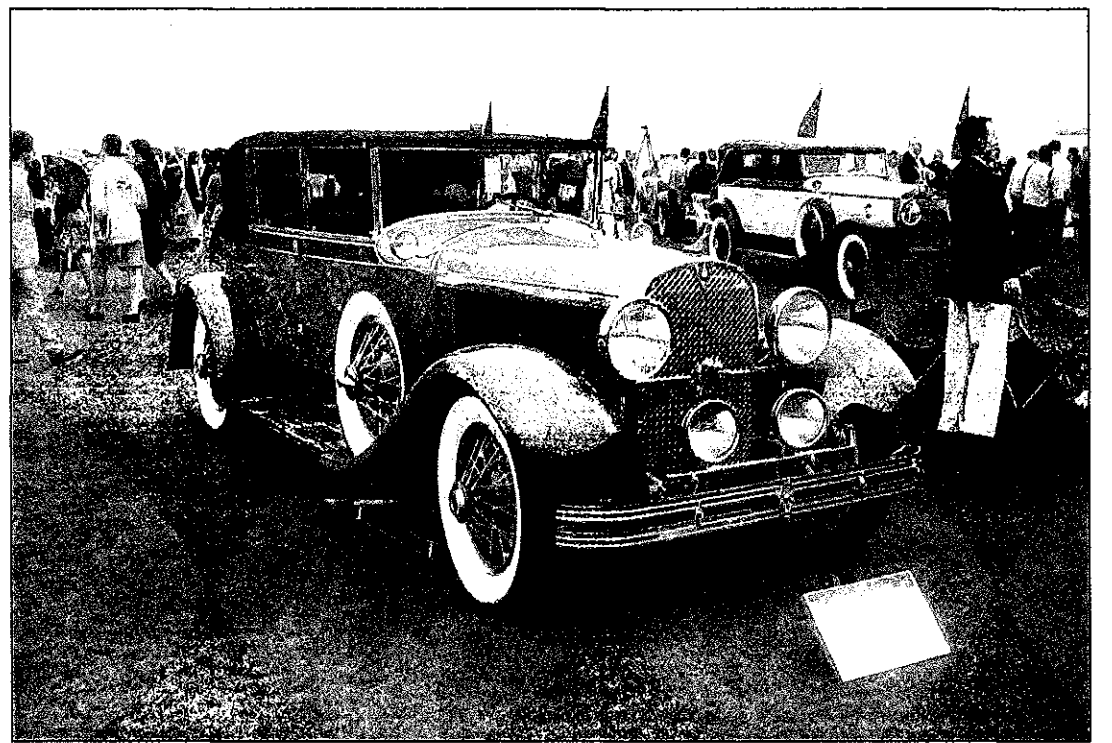
Two weeks later, the Middlebury, Ind., couple were seated beside their 1928 Hudson Super 6 at the edge of



Ready for a holiday parade, a 1929 Essex Dover mail truck is powered by a 92 horsepower six. Some 500 were produced at a suggested price of \$895.



Salmon with maroon were not unusual colors for trendy cars such as this 1929 Hudson R coupe.



Eldon and Esta Hostetler showed their 1928 Hudson Super 6 at the 2009 Pebble Beach Concours in California.

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SALE PRICE	SALE PRICE
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GENERAL PUBLIC \$337** \$371** \$24,758*	GENERAL PUBLIC \$369** \$403** \$25,984*

2010 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT Premium Cloth Bucket Seats, 4-Speed Automatic Transmission, 3.7-Liter V6 Engine. Customer Preferred Package 28B.	2010 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT Stone White Clear Coat Paint, Stain Repel Prem Cloth Bucket Seats, Continuously Variable Transaxle IT 2.4L 4-Cyl DOHC 16V Dual VVT Engine, 50 State Emissions. Customer Preferred Package 28E.
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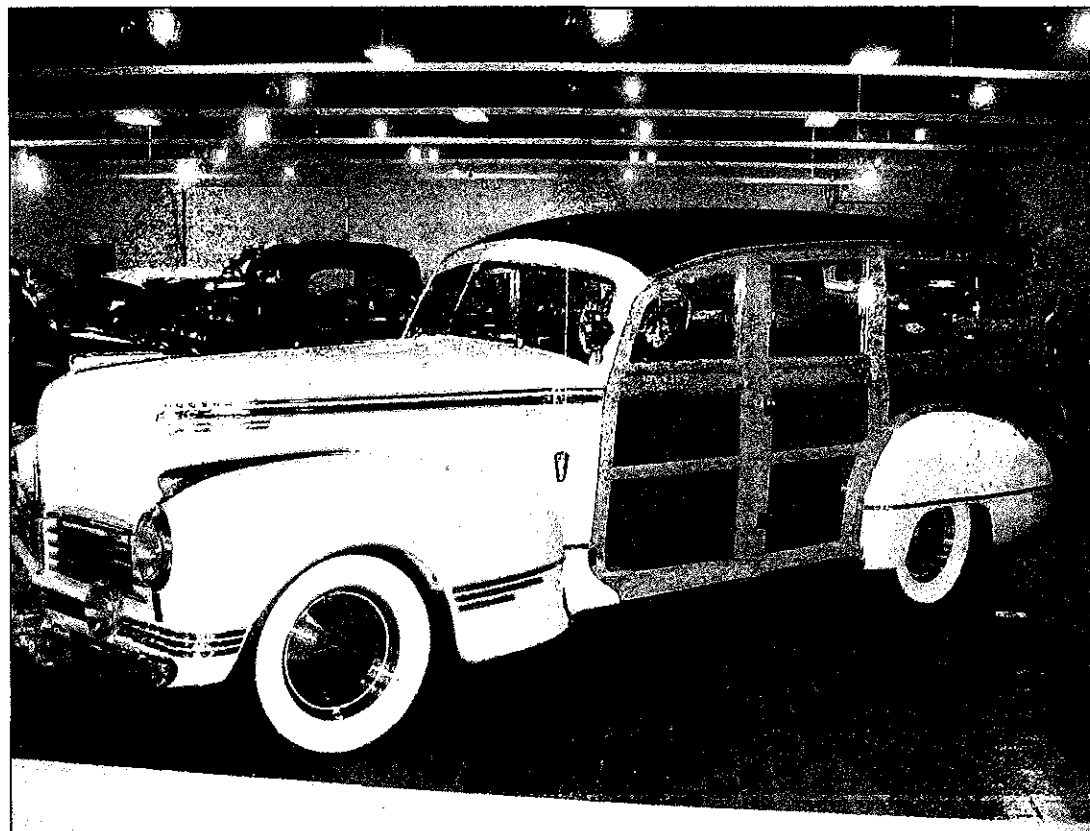
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PHOTOS BY JENNY KING



This 1942 wood-bodied Hudson Series 21 station wagon, above right, was rescued from a perch above Death Valley and restored over several years. The original price was \$1,486. Another 1942 Hudson station wagon, above left, shows the sad fate of many wood-bodied cars and trucks.

City of **Grosse Pointe**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROPOSED STATEMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECTS PROGRAM YEAR 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7:00pm by the City of Grosse Pointe City Council in the Council Chambers, 17145 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230 (telephone 313.885-5800) for review of Community Development Block Grant 2010 Programming Request.

The following activities are proposed and their funding estimated under the Community Development Block Grant Program. Final funding amounts are subject to the approval of Wayne County CDBG Program and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

2010 PROPOSED PROJECTS (estimated funding)	AMOUNT
ADA Ramp Improvements	\$41,890
SOC (Public Service)	\$11,210
Administration	\$5,900
SUB TOTAL	\$59,000
SOC (Countywide Housing Rehabilitation)	\$30,000
GRAND TOTAL:	\$89,000

The City invites all citizens as well as individuals or representatives of neighborhood groups to submit ideas and comments concerning this application.

GPN: 11/19/2009

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PROPOSED HEARING AND PROPOSED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OBJECTIVES AND REPROGRAMMING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. by the City Administration at the Municipal Office, 90 Kerby road, for review of Community Development and Coordinations.

The following activities are proposed for funding under the Community Development Block Grant Program for Program Year 2010-2011 (subject to full funding by HUD).

PROJECT	AMOUNT	PROJECT AREA
ADA sidewalk ramps	\$42,600	City Wide
Services for Older Citizens (SOC)	\$11,400	City Wide
Administration	\$ 6,000	
SOC Housing Rehab	\$30,000	
TOTAL	\$90,000	

The hearing is public. Property owners and residents of the City are invited to attend.

Matthew J. Tepper
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

GPN: 11/26/2009

AUTOS: Hudson museum

Continued from page 7A II

Hostetler reports the restored wagon was spotted at 7,000 feet above Death Valley. A bulldozer was used to clear a path to bring the car down. Fabricating the extensive wood on the Hudson took five years. A replacement chassis and drivetrain were purchased at an auction. The wagon was completed in 1999.

While Hudson used special body makers such as Briggs and Murphy for some of its more expensive models, a 1929 Hudson R coupe finished in salmon with maroon accents was done at the Detroit factory. That year, Hudsons boasted 64 improvements. This one had a

retail price of \$1,195.

A 1929 dual-cowl four-door Sport Phaeton, one of 17 built on the Hudson Great Eight Model T chassis, was originally priced at \$1,300. That was trimmed to \$965 as the Great Depression began to take its toll on the market.

In a far corner of the museum, a 1929 Essex Dover mail truck built on a Hudson-Essex chassis was decorated for the approaching holidays. Its plaque said some 500 were produced. Each \$895 truck was powered by a 92 horsepower six.

Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum is open year-round. It is part of the Town Center shopping complex, somewhat hidden by a large parking area out front.

More museum information is available at hostetlershudsons.com.

Jenny King is an automotive writer who lives in the City of Grosse Pointe.

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2009 VW EOS Auto Trans 17" Rims Leather NOW \$27,999* Loaded Stock #7549-09 *Plus tax, title, plate, doc fee. Offer ends 11-30-09	2010 VW JETTA SE Moonroof Alloy Rims Bluetooth Heated Seats Loaded 30 Month Lease \$259** /mo. *10K Per year, no security, plus tax, title, doc fee, plate with approved credit. Offer ends 11-30-09.
2009 VW JETTA AUTO Moonroof Heated Seats Alloy Rims NOW \$20,799* V-Text Leather Stock #7549-09 *Plus tax, title, plate, doc fee. Offer ends 11-30-09	2010 VW PASSAT WAGON WAS \$29,098* NOW \$27,995* WOW! *Plus tax, title, plate, doc fee. Offer ends 11-30-09

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GROSSE POINTE SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Parade line-up

The 34th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade begins at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 27.

The 1.5-mile route begins at Kercheval and Lewiston in the Farms and goes down Kercheval to the Village, downtown City of Grosse Pointe.

The lineup is:

Section A

Detroit Police Mounted Division
A-1 Grosse Pointe-Harper Woods Honor Guard
A-2 City of Grosse Pointe public safety car
A-3 City of Grosse Pointe fire truck
A-4 Grosse Pointe Farms fire truck
A-5 Grosse Pointe Park fire truck
Banners: Village Association — Hill Association
Banner: Pentastar Aviation
A-6 Grosse Pointe Highlanders
Banner: Grosse Pointe News
A-8 Monteith Daisy Troop No. 427

Banner: WMTV-5 Grosse Pointe War Memorial
A-9 Grosse Pointe Co-op Preschool
A-10 Detroit Fire Department Band
A-11 Maire Pack No. 19
A-12 Detroit Fire Department Clowns

Section B

Banners: CVS Pharmacy Store No. 8081 — Aitken Ormond Shores
B-1 Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods
B-2 Ferry Pack No. 34
Banner: Beaumont Hospital
Grosse Pointe
B-3 Anchor Bay High School Marching Band
Banner: The Berschback Family — C & G Newspapers
B-4 St. Joan of Arc Backpack Brigade
Banner: Bob and Vicki Liggett
B-5 Monteith Pack No. 85
B-6 Grosse Pointe South Pep Band
Banners: Crest Volvo — Smith Barney Morgan Stanley

Section C

B-7 Monteith Troop No. 742
B-8 Monteith Troop No. 696
C-1 United States Coast Guard
C-2 Defer Troop No. 71307
Banner: Tassels
C-4 Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan
C-5 Richard Pack No. 74
Banner: Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe
C-6 Cousino High School "Patriot" Marching Band
C-7 Richard Troop No. 2366
C-8 Relay for Life
C-9 Grosse Pointe Hockey Association
C-10 Grosse Pointe Women's Hockey Club

Section D

D-1 1932 Hupmobile and 1920 Tin Lizzie Model T — Mushro Family
D-2 Highland Park High School Marching Band
D-3 Grosse Pointe Park Little League
D-5 Grosse Pointe North/South high school Gear Heads

Banners: Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation — Grosse Pointe Florists
D-6 Detroit Boat Club Crew
D-7 St. Paul Pack No. 61
D-8 Bresser Sleigh with Maire Troop No. 44011 led by Joann Muller

Section E

Banners: Grosse Pointe Coach — Sanders Candy & Dessert Shop
E-1 Eastside Fury Percussion Ensemble
E-2 Grosse Pointe Academy students
E-3 Taylor Shrine Tin Lizzies
Banner: Grosse Pointe Lions Club
E-4 Grosse Pointe Lions float
Banner: Henry Ford Cottage Hospital
E-5 St. Clare of Montefalco scouts and float
E-6 Grosse Pointe Hunt Club
Banner: Robert Loomis & Associates — UBS Financial Services, Inc.
E-7 Red Baron cheerleaders and football players

Section F

F-2 Farms-City Little League Majors State Champs
F-3 Maire Troop No. 70564

Banner: Eastside Tennis & Fitness
F-4 Eastside Float
F-5 Our Lady Star of the Sea Students
F-6 Detroit School of Arts Marching Band
Banners: Russell Development — Kloka Design Group
F-7 Kerby Troop No. 881

Section G

G-1 Grosse Pointe Sail Club
G-2 Defer Cub Pack No. 147
G-3 DeLaSalle Pilots Marching Band
Banner: State Farm — Ed Lazar
G-3a State Farm car and bear
Banner: Wayne County Community College District
G-4 WCCCD Holiday Family Traditions Essay Contest Winners on fire engine
G-5 WCCCD Michigan Institute for Public Safety Education — fire engine
G-6 Grosse Pointe Soccer Association
Banner: Eastern Michigan University "Education First"
G-7 Grosse Pointe North High School Pep Band
G-8 Kerby Pack No. 481

Section H

H-1 Redford Township Unicycle Club
Banners: LaLonde Jewelers — The Private Bank
H-2 Poupard Scouts Nos. 71606, 70246, 42118, 42078 and 70428
H-3 Harper Woods High School Band
Banner: Flagstar Bank
H-4 Regina Clown Ministers
H-5 Gift of Life float
H-6 Ecorse Community High School Marching Band
H-7 Mason Pack No. 290
H-8 Lakeshore Longhouse

Section I

J-1 City mayors in Model T's & Antique Fire Engine
J-2 Centerline High School Marching Band
Banner: Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Clown Corp
J-3 Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Clown Corps
Banner: Connell Building Co. — Adlloch & Associates
J 3a Papier mache Big Heads
Banner: Pentastar Aviation
Banners: Village and Hill Association
J-4 Ferry Troops Nos. 41180 and 42911 Christmas trees
J-5 Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Float and Santa Claus



Santa's helpers met last week to get the Santa float ready for Friday's parade. Standing are, from left, Bruce Burton of Grosse Pointe Farms, John Stevens of the City, Celia Wade of the Farms, Dick Ruzzin of Grosse Pointe Park and Stephen Sholy and Chris Walsh of the City. Kneeling are, from left, Mark Lorkowski of Grosse Pointe Woods and Rob Ermanni of the Farms.

More sponsors

An updated list of sponsors of the 34th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade Friday, Nov. 27, includes:

Grosse Pointe Coach
Robert Loomis & Associates
UBS
LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists

Presenting Sponsor

Pentastar Aviation
Leading sponsors
The Hill Association
Beaumont Hospital of Grosse Pointe
Henry Ford Cottage Hospital
Wayne County Community College District
Grosse Pointe Woods
Grosse Pointe Park
Grosse Pointe Farms
City of Grosse Pointe
Grosse Pointe News
Grosse Pointe War Memorial
WMTV-5
Dirty Dog Jazz Café

Russell Development
Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce
The Private Bank
Crest Volvo
Flagstar Bank
The Berschback Family
CVS Pharmacy Store No. 8081
Kloka Design Group
Eastside Tennis & Fitness Club
Connell Building Company
Adlloch & Associates
Janet and Bob Ridder

Contributing sponsors

Mr. and Mrs. William Rands
Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation
Aitken Ormond Shores
Grosse Pointe Lions Club
Ed Lazar — State Farm
Sanders Candy Shop
Smith Barney Morgan Stanley
Grosse Pointe Florist, Inc.

General sponsors

Village ACE
Community Central Bank
Pointe Electronics
Ralph Wilson Enterprises
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TCBY
Alex McLuckie
The parade runs from Kercheval and Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms down Kercheval on the Hill to the Village in the City of Grosse Pointe.

G. P. Shores meetings now on the air

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Taped meetings of the Grosse Pointe Shores city council have started airing three times per week on Cable Channel 12.

Scheduled days and times are:

- ◆ noon Tuesdays
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Thursdays and
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Sundays.

Broadcasts will continue for a sixth-month trial period. When time is up, broadcasts will either be continued or canceled depending on public response.

The premier broadcast of November's council meeting, held Tuesday, Nov. 17, got off a few minutes late last Thursday.

Video and sound quality were on the level of a security video.

"This is on the cheap," said

Brian Vick, city manager. "We're trying to make it happen for as little as possible without bringing in additional employees."

To keep total costs at about \$200 to \$300, each broadcast will be activated by a public

safety dispatcher. Starting times are subject to delay if the dispatcher is involved with an emergency.

"This is the least expensive alternative," Vick said.

"This is a work in progress," said Mayor James Cooper. "We

can tweak this." Agendas and meeting lengths are listed on the city website and may be listed on the cable channel.

The idea to air meetings came from Councilman Dan Schulte, elected this year.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Letters to Santa

Letters to Santa will be collected during the 34th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

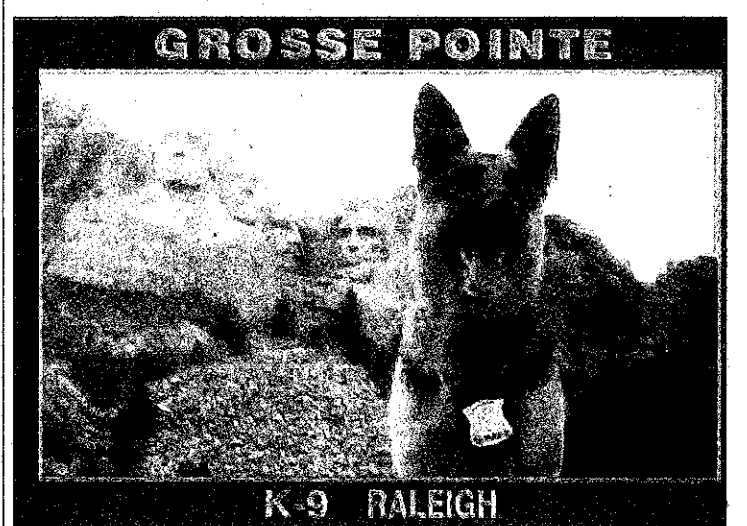
Santa's helpers walking with his float will collect letters from parade-watchers and deliver them to Santa in his sleigh.

Letters will be forwarded to the Grosse Pointe News.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 27, on Kercheval and Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Sponsors planning for next year

A soiree for sleigh sponsors last Thursday at the Hill Seafood & Chop House drew more people than organizers expected. "The idea of having it came up late, but we decided to do it anyway," said Dick Ruzzin, a founding member of Friends of Grosse Pointe Parade and a resident of Grosse Pointe Park. "Considering the amount of advance notice it had, (we) were pleased with turnout." The Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It raises money for the Santa Claus float used in the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade. A number of established supporters were joined at last week's party by new ones. "It speaks well for what we might want to do next year," Ruzzin said. "Next year, we might do something a week or so earlier as a kick-off to the holiday season."



On the back of Raleigh's new trading card, he says, "Stay in school and keep your paws off drugs."

Police dog marches in Friday's event

Raleigh the police dog gets around.

At 10 a.m. this Friday, he'll be in the 34th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

Last summer, he was out West on vacation with the family of his handler, Sgt. Mike Almeranti of the City of Grosse Pointe public safety department.

Sites included Mount Rushmore National Monument in South Dakota. Dogs normally aren't allowed.

"I talked to park security and they said I could bring in a police dog," Almeranti said.

The visit turned into a show of Raleigh's skills.

"Everybody wanted to see what he could do," said Almeranti, who gives demonstrations in Grosse Pointe schools. "Kids wanted to have their pictures taken with him. We stayed an extra half hour."

Raleigh's photo in front of the monument is on his new trading card.

He'll wear his badge in the parade.

"If it's cold enough, I'll put his bullet-proof vest on," said Almeranti.

— Brad Lindberg



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FEATURES

HEALTH
Snoring solved
 There are ways to ease the volume **PAGE 7B**

4-5B ENTERTAINMENT | 6B CHURCHES | 7B HEALTH | 8B ENGAGEMENTS

Keeping it simple

By Lisa Hook
 Special Writer

Cast aside any preconceived notions that artists are eccentric, egotistical and enigmatic.

Meet Kevin Martin, graphics designer by day, fine artist always. Martin, who resides in Grosse Pointe Woods with his wife, Michelle, and beagle, Jack, is about as unpretentious as they come — yet his art — which he proclaims “simple,” is rich with texture, ideology and perception.

Martin’s work is on display at the Grosse Pointe Art Center and the Detroit Artists Market, both hosting juried holiday shows featuring

Michigan-based artisans. The collections at each venue include mixed media, wood cut prints, oil pastels and pencil and oils — which he describes as abstract expressionism.

“One of the most inspiring things is to see how other people tell their stories,” said Martin, who said he draws inspiration from fellow artists and through travel with his wife.

He recalls a trip they took to Key West where they encountered a local legend who has since died. “He did these simple paintings on wood,” Martin said. “They translated very basic stories — like folk art — about what his life was like, themes from neighborhood stores, to people he knew when he was a kid ... when you

see something and identify with it, you may not understand fully what that person’s saying, but it seems real and that is what inspires me.”

Martin said he is influenced by artistic honesty. “Even if I don’t agree with the person’s point of view and don’t even like technique, but it seems they’re being sincere, it inspires me,” he said.

This from-the-heart approach translates through his simple use of imagery, though his work is far from simplistic. Martin explains he sketches his thoughts and ideas on paper to keep his creative juices flowing and eventually his work transcends con-

See SIMPLE, page 2B



PAINTING PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN MARTIN




PHOTO BY LISA HOOK



At right, Grosse Pointe Woods resident Kevin Martin, surrounded by his artwork on display at the Detroit Artists Market and the Grosse Pointe Art Center.

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12/02 - 12/05 Sean Dobbin's Modern Jazz Messengers

12/09 - 12/12 LARRY CORYELL TRIO


12/16 - 12/19 Hot Club of Detroit

12/23 - 12/26 Closed for the week of Christmas


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Shopping Reviews

Puts you in the know...
for where to go for this weeks
hottest specials, products & service.

by Sally



La Belle Antiques Etc.

It's time to ring in the holidays at LaBelle Antiques, Etc.! It's what we've been waiting for - the celebration has begun! Dawn and her vendors have been keeping an exciting selection of antique and collectible holiday items under wraps just for this special season. It's like opening your presents on Christmas morning! You're going to want to come early and shop often, as new items are unwrapped each week. Watch the store transform week by week into a winter wonderland of antique lovers holiday delights - right up until the Christmas culmination with carolers, holiday treats and a beautiful live tree. Open 11am-6pm Tuesday through Friday and 10am until 3pm on Saturday. Located at 24861 Harper Road, south of 10 Mile in St. Clair Shores. Call 586-445-3144 or visit the website at www.labelantiques.com. Come to La Belle's and be a kid again!

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SAMIRA'S Fashion & Furs of Grosse Pointe

Wow! Look what's new and exciting at Samira's!! They have just received a HUGE collection of designer label clothing, shoes, bags and accessories along with an amazing selection of gently used furs at affordable prices!! You will find designers like Chanel, Gucci, St. John Knits, Celine and Dolce & Gabbana, to drop just a few names. The selection is fabulous right now so don't delay. And here's the latest scoop.... Samira's has a website coming very soon!! Yes, you'll be able to view your favorite designer fashions online and shopping will be just a phone call away. Watch this column for the date the website is ready. This is just one more reason that Samira's is the store to shop for like-new and new upscale women's designer wear. Samira's accepts all major credit cards for your convenience. Call 313-886-5043 for more information. Samira's is located at 21027 Mack Avenue in the Woods.

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Grosse Pointe News

This one is for you, our valued and future advertisers. I wanted to take the opportunity to draw your attention to this unique form of effective budget-conscious advertising...

- SHOPPING REVIEWS BY SALLY
- This column is unique because it is a personal review of your business, product, or service.
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 - Shopping Reviews are a great way for small businesses to begin advertising, or as an effective "add on" for a regular advertiser to highlight a special product, service or promotion on a given week.

So how about you? Ready to give it a try? I would love to receive your call and tell you more about this wonderful opportunity. Contact Sally Schuman at (313)343-5586 or sschuman@grossepointenews.com Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.

To advertise your specials, products or services in Shopping Reviews call Sally Schuman @ 313-343-5586 • sschuman@grossepointenews.com



This Kevin Martin piece is on display at the Grosse Pointe Art Center.

SIMPLE: Artist looks beyond the obvious

Continued from page 1B

cept to reality. "I just try to not over-think things and do what comes natural," he said. His artists' statement is "to learn and inspire through the arts, using personal experience, history, chance and those around me as a guide." This is evident in an untitled piece at the Detroit Artists Market depicting a homeless man with unexpected hues of cheer and good fortune. Martin looks beyond the obvious and evokes beauty from the mundane. He often incorporates numbers and music into his themes, but most of his work, though abstract, reveals he is indeed a student of the

school of real life. Martin recalls his relentless daydreaming in class resulted in hours of doodling that evolved into his expressionistic medium. "I was a bad student in grade school who liked to draw - that's what got me started in the visual arts." He credits one of his art teachers from Adams Junior High in Westland for encouraging him. "We did a lot of design-oriented projects that were very structured," he said. "The thing I remember most is that I was a horrible student ... and in this art class I had to write out the steps of the projects and I totally got into that ... it was a good way to make me focus better as a student and helped bring the left and right brain activities together." Martin said it was that structure that really helped him "cut loose and be creative." After high school, Martin attended the College for Creative Studies and began a career in publishing as a graphics designer. He says he genuinely

enjoys his vocation and intends to keep fine art a prominent hobby and creative force in his life. "When I'm freed from the idea of making money or doing anything constructive in a way, I'm open to doing something more sincere and real and to the point," he said. It's that humility and candor that makes Martin appealing and accessible, both in his professional and private life. He keeps things simple and in harmony, enjoying other hobbies such as cooking, reading, music and travel. "My advice to other artists starting out is what I still practice today - and that's to look, learn and don't take advice too seriously." Martin's artwork has been exhibited locally at the Ann Arbor Art Center, CPOP Gallery and The Scarab Club. Currently, his work is for sale at the Grosse Pointe Art Center Holiday Shop and the Detroit Artists Market-Art for the Holidays.

"The GP holiday show is cool because I had a one of my first shows at the old gallery years ago and have good memories of the people and that show and to be a part of it again is great," he shares. "Being in the Detroit Artists Market holiday show is fun because you can sell or buy something right on the spot and they have a great variety of work." The Grosse Pointe Art Center, 16900 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe, is open from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit grossepointeartcenter.org or call (313) 821-1848. The Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays in December. Visit detroitartistsmarket.org or call (313) 832-8543 for more information.

Tis' the season to support local artists

By Lisa Hook
Special Writer

At a loss for what to get your

eclectic aunt this year? Want to give your boss something that lets your originality and creativity shine through?

Wonder how you'll ever fall into good grace with that oh-so-challenging mother-in-law? Local galleries have just the solution to ho-hum holiday gifts. Whether it's a delicate hand-blown glass ornament, a decorative ceramic tile, a unique piece of jewelry or a captivating photograph, art expresses heartfelt sentiments that are unlikely to be returned after the lights stop twinkling on the tree.

Close to Home -
Grosse Pointe Art Center

The Grosse Pointe Art Center, 16900 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe, is once again hosting its annual Holiday Shop where patrons can find an array of items in all mediums. This juried show boasts some of Michigan's most quality artists, offering ceramics, painting, photography, jewelry, note cards, encaustic sculpture, photography and more in price points ranging from \$5 to \$500. "We have a plethora of mixed mediums," said Grosse Pointe Art Center Director Amy DeBrunner. This year, DeBrunner said the center is partnering with the City of Grosse Pointe and

the Grosse Pointe Village Association to support local merchants. The center has been designated as the official gift wrap destination. "Anything purchased in the village with a receipt will be beautifully wrapped at the center, free of charge," she said. Gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, visit grossepointeartcenter.org or call (313) 821-1848. The Holiday Shop is open through Jan. 9.

Urban Outing -
Detroit Artists Market gallery art for the holidays

Now through Dec. 23, the Detroit Artists Market deviates from its traditional exhibition format to a gift shop featuring jewelry, glass, metal, ceramic, photography, accessories, paintings, drawings, sculpture, books, cards, framed prints and more. "This year, we have a lot of returning artists and it seems they are pricing their work a little lower - likely due to the economy - there is a wide range of selection in all mediums," said gallery manager Sarah Balmer. "You'll definitely find something for everyone on your list." "I hope people will want to buy locally to support the city and the local artists." Among the unique work are quirky metal sculptures, decorative skateboards, fiber sculpture and other funky finds. The Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Avenue, Detroit is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays in December. Visit detroitartistsmarket.org or call (313) 832-8543 for more information.

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AREA ACTIVITIES

Blood pressure

"What You Can Do to Control Your Blood Pressure," a presentation by Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, is from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, in the Connelly Auditorium, 468 Cadieux, City of Grosse Pointe.

Hypertension specialist Dr. Susan P. Steigerwalt shares tips on controlling blood pressure with home monitoring and an easy-to-follow diet and exercise tips.

To register, call Beaumont Physician Referral at (800) 633-7377.

Old Newsboys

Members of the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit take to the streets at 5:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 30, for the group's 95th Annual Sales Day & Parade.

With the help of Detroit police officers, the organization is selling a "Goodfellow edition" of the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News in various locations throughout Detroit. Newspapers are sold for any donation and all money raised goes toward the Detroit Goodfellows 2009 fundraising goal of \$1.4 million to provide holiday gift packages to 36,000 needy Detroit area children aged 4-13.

At 7:30 a.m., Detroit Tigers' mascot PAWS joins the group selling papers at the Old Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph Street.

Other sales locations are:

- ◆ Ren Cen — inside the building
- ◆ Detroit Fire Department — Washington Blvd.
- ◆ Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
- ◆ Old Wayne County Building - 600 Randolph
- ◆ Penobscot Building
- ◆ Detroit News (lobby)
- ◆ Eastern Market — Russell and Market streets
- ◆ Detroit Post Office — 1401 W. Fort Street
- ◆ One Detroit Center — Woodward and Larned

At 10 a.m., the Detroit Goodfellows, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing and several dignitaries break from selling newspapers to participate in a parade starting at the Old Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph, featuring the Detroit Academy of Arts & Sciences band. A traditional highlight of the Detroit Goodfellows parade is a stop at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center to serenade office workers.

Gift packages purchased through donations are delivered by Detroit Police precincts to needy children in Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park and include teddy bears, dolls, books, clothes, toys and candy.

Tax-deductible donations can be sent to: The Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, P.O. Box 44444, Detroit, MI 48244-0444. Donations may also be made online at detroitgoodfellows.org.

Meet & Greet

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods, Community Assessment Referral & Education and Grosse Pointe Congregational Church host a Meet & Greet open house for professionals from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

All mental health practitioners, therapists, educators, physicians, dentists, attorneys and clergy interested in learning about The Family Center and its Association of Professionals and CARE are invited.

The event is part of The Family Center's online initiative.

For more information or to RSVP, call (313) 432-3832 or e-mail info@familycenterweb.org.

The Jazz Forum

The Charles Boles Quartet performs at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, City of Grosse Pointe.

Featured musicians are Deborah Nero, tenor saxophonist James Hughes, bass player John Dana and drummer Wendell Robinson.

Advanced tickets cost \$13 or \$15 at the door. For more information, call (313) 961-1714 or (313) 885-0232.

La Leche League

The La Leche League, a mother-to-mother breast feeding information and support group, meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the Ewald Branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, 15175 Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

For more information, call Maria at (313) 885-3709 or Elizabeth at (313) 640-9438.

Family Center

The seventh annual Holly Fest Benefit Dinner and Auction begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at The Little Club, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cocktails are served at 6 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m., a silent auction is from 6 to 8 p.m. and a

live auction from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$80. For more information about the event hosted by The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods, call (313) 432-3832.

Shores Garden Club

The Grosse Pointe Shores Garden Club meets at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 4, for a Christmas lunch at the Country Club of Detroit.

The cost is \$26. Make a check out to Grosse Pointe Garden Club and send it to Delores Serra, 1260 Bishop, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48236 before Monday, Nov. 30.

Windmill Pointe Garden Club

The Windmill Pointe Garden Club meets at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the Detroit Athletic Club for a subscription lunch.

The program is "Tour of the Botanicals at the Detroit Athletic Club."

Women's Council of Realtors

The Women's Council of Realtors Lake Pointe chapter sponsors its 16th annual Holiday Luncheon and Auction from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The auction's proceeds benefit Southwest Solutions and WCR Education Programs.

Attendees are asked to bring hats, mittens, gloves, warm socks and toiletries for Southwest Solutions tenants. Non-perishable food will also be collected and donated to the facility's food pantry.

To donate an auction or raffle item, call Robbin Barnes at (586) 262-5163. Admission is \$35.

"The Nutcracker"

"The Nutcracker" is performed at the Detroit Opera House at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3, 4 and 5 and at 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6.

Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$76 and can be purchased by calling (313) 237-7464.

Ski Hi Club meeting

Current and potential members of the Ski Hi Club and their parents meet at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.



PHOTO COURTESY LOUISA ST. CLAIR CHAPTER OF DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Help for the veterans

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution of Grosse Pointe donated funds to the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans' Medical Center in Saginaw's Nursing Home Division toward the purchase of a juke box and DVDs. DAR members also provided comfort items and a wheelchair to nursing home patients. DAR member Gail LeClair gave the check to Carrie Seward of the medical center.

The meeting is mandatory for new members and optional for current members. New members are asked to bring insurance information and a 2-inch size photograph.

The Ski Hi Club is open to students in grades 6-12 who reside in Grosse Pointe or attend Grosse Pointe schools. Trips to Pine Knob are planned Friday nights from Jan. 8 through March 5, with the exception of Feb. 19.

The club plans a Mid-Winter

Break Day Trip to Mt. Holly Wednesday, Feb. 17, and members are encouraged to bring a non-club member.

Ski Hi Club trips are facilitated by the Ski Hi coordinator and chaperoned by parents. For more information, call (313) 881-7511.

Bedtime stories

Children, 4 years and older, can listen to Santa Claus read stories from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 10, Monday, Dec. 14 or Wednesday, Dec. 16, in the Alger House Reception Room of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Children can wear pajamas. Bring a blanket to sit on and a stuffed animal.

Tickets are \$8 for children. Tickets must be picked up prior to the event and presented at the door.

Reservations must be made by Sunday, Nov. 29, by calling (313) 881-7511.

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November 30 to December 6

8:30 am Vitality Plus (Aerobics)
9:00 am Musical Storytime
9:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
10:00 am Who's In The Kitchen?
10:30 am Things to Do at the War Memorial
11:00 am Out of the Ordinary
11:30 am Senior Men's Club

12:00 pm Economic Club of Detroit
1:00 pm The SOC Show
1:30 pm Great Lakes Log
2:00 pm The John Prost Show
2:30 pm Legal Insider
3:00 pm Things to Do at the War Memorial
3:30 pm Art & Design
4:00 pm Vitality Plus (Tone)
4:30 pm Musical Storytime
5:00 pm In a Heartbeat
5:30 pm The SOC Show
6:00 pm Legal Insider
6:30 pm Who's In The Kitchen?
7:00 pm Vitality Plus (Step/Kick Boxing)
7:30 pm Things to Do at the War Memorial
8:00 pm In a Heartbeat
8:30 pm Senior Men's Club
9:00 pm Art & Design
9:30 pm Pointes of Horticulture
10:00 pm The John Prost Show
10:30 pm Great Lakes Log
11:00 pm Out of the Ordinary
11:30 pm Senior Men's Club

Midnight Economic Club of Detroit
1:00 am The SOC Show
1:30 am Great Lakes Log
2:00 am The John Prost Show
2:30 am Senior Men's Club
3:00 am Art & Design
3:30 am Pointes of Horticulture
4:00 am The John Prost Show
4:30 am Great Lakes Log
5:00 am Out of the Ordinary
5:30 am Legal Insider
6:00 am Things to Do at the War Memorial
6:30 am Art & Design
7:00 am Vitality Plus (Tone)
7:30 am Musical Storytime
8:00 am In a Heartbeat

Featured Guests & Topics

Who's In The Kitchen?

Christmas Cookies

Things to Do at the War Memorial

Christmas Wine, Dance, War Memorial Tours and Iyengar Yoga

Out of the Ordinary

Dr. Jennifer Shell, D.C. & Tim Clark
Muscle Testing & Musicaian

The SOC Show

Thomas Davis, M.C.
PAD

Economic Club of Detroit

The Honorable Andy Dillon and
The Honorable Michael Bishop

Senior Men's Club

John Kozak
Through the Eyes of Rose

Great Lakes Log

Chuck Brockman
SOS Channel Lights

The John Prost Show

Pete Waldmeir & Debbie Michelson
Goodfellows

Legal Insider

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Art & Design

Leslie Blackburn
Artist

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program can be obtained for \$20

Schedule subject to change without notice.
For further information call, 313-881-7511

Calendar highlights Detroit's history

The Detroit Historical Society offers a 2010 calendar documenting the city's history.

Each day of the wall calendar "Days of Detroit 2010" features an event in Detroit's history, along with seldom-seen historical photos from the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University collection.

The calendar costs \$12.95 or \$10.95 for Detroit Historical Society members and is available at the following locations:

- ◆ Detroit Historical Museum Store
- ◆ Dossin Great Lakes Museum store
- ◆ Online at detroithistorical.org
- ◆ Detroit Historical Society by phone or mail order at Detroit Historical Society Attn: Museum Store, 5401 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48202. Add \$3 for phone or mail orders to cover sales tax, postage and handling.

- ◆ Borders Books & Music
- ◆ Borders Express
- ◆ WaldenBooks
- ◆ Barnes & Noble
- ◆ John K. King Used and Rare Books
- ◆ Edsel & Eleanor Ford House's The Galley Shop
- ◆ The League Shop in Grosse Pointe Farms
- ◆ The Dtours Visitor and Welcome Center in the Compuware Building
- ◆ Inside Detroit Welcome Center
- ◆ Marwil Bookstore
- ◆ Leopold's

"I think people will find it a fun way to learn more about our rich history," said Bob Bury, Detroit Historical Society executive director. "In addition, the calendar makes a great gift and benefits the work of the Detroit Historical Society."



ENTERTAINMENT

A LA ANNIE By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

One potato, two potato



Today is Thanksgiving. After the turkey is gone there's still a long weekend to enjoy. I've prepared two takes on

hash browns certain to make a holiday weekend breakfast special. The first, "Whimpy" Fries, are just like I had them at the bar they were named for on East Warren. These shredded hash browns are smothered with sautéed onions and topped with American cheese. The second recipe takes me back to my days at Eastern Michigan University when I waited tables at the Tower Inn. Patrons often asked for "those" potatoes; cubed potatoes

sautéed with sweet peppers, scallions and fresh parsley. Yummy.

"Whimpy" Fries

- 1 20-oz. package Simply Potatoes (shredded hash browns)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 large onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 5 to 6 slices American



PHOTO BY VIRGINIA O. MCCOY

Gingerbread house instructions

Enter Edsel & Eleanor Ford House's second annual "Homes for the Holidays" gingerbread house contest. A required registration is due by Nov. 30 and houses delivered Dec. 4 or Dec. 5.

The construction of a gingerbread house closely follows the building concepts of a real house. Proper planning is essential.

Here are a few simple tips:

- ◆ Cut the basic structure templates from poster board and test first by taping the pieces together. If it stands, most likely it is structurally safe.
- ◆ Any shape, from igloo to Victorian to farmhouse, can be used. A loaf mold in the shape of a house eliminates the construction steps.
- ◆ Prepare a base by using a piece of plywood covered with foil, a large heavy platter or baking tray. A sheet of gingerbread on top of the base can be used, but is not necessary.
- ◆ The dimensions of the gingerbread house are restricted to the size of a 12-by-15 inch baking sheet; cut templates accordingly.
- ◆ Maximum thickness for dough should be 3/8-inch. For houses larger than 6 inches square, use 1/4-inch thickness and for smaller houses, use 1/8-inch. Weight-bearing walls should be

just slightly thicker.

- ◆ To cover walls with icing, thin it with a few drops of water and spread gently. Let dry before assembling.
- ◆ When assembling, apply the "glue" icing using a pastry bag and let sit for 30 minutes before assembling. This helps pieces adhere better, resulting in a more stable structure.
- ◆ When assembling, apply a generous (but not dripping) amount of icing glue to one side of the joint. Press un-iced piece to the iced edge and hold briefly until the icing sets. For more stability, ice the walls to the base.
- ◆ For the icing decoration, use a pastry bag with various decorating tips or a knife. Fill in gaps and smooth construction errors with icing and candy decorations. Wipe off smudges or drips with a clean, damp paper towel.
- ◆ To apply candy decorations, dab a small amount of icing to the underside of the candy and hold in place until set.
- ◆ Use dough scraps to roll out added decorative cut-outs to be applied with icing glue. These cutouts can be impressed with designs before baking.

Call (313) 884-4222 for more information.

The Thanksgiving weekend can include lingering breakfasts with family and friends. Add a simple side dish of "Whimpy" Fries or "Those Potatoes" to complete the meal.

cheese

Heat a 10 inch no-stick skillet over medium heat. Toss the shredded potatoes with 2 tablespoons olive oil and salt and pepper. Turn potatoes into the hot skillet and press down. Cover and cook for 10 to 15 minutes, allowing the bottom of the potatoes to become dark brown and crisp. Flip the potatoes over into another skillet, slide back to the hot skillet, and cook for another 10 to 15 minutes, covered.

Meanwhile, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a small skillet; add the onion and cook over medium heat until soft and translucent, about 10 minutes. Scatter the sautéed onion over potatoes and top with

slices of American cheese. Cover and continue to cook for a few more minutes, until the cheese is melted but not browned. Transfer to a serving platter, cut into wedges and serve.

"Those" Potatoes

- 1 20-oz. package Simply Potatoes (cubed)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup chopped sweet pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped scallions
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh parsley

Place the potatoes in a medium bowl, toss with olive oil and season to taste with salt and

pepper. Toss in the peppers and scallions.

Heat medium no-stick skillet over medium heat; add the potato mixture and cook, covered, for about 15 minutes, tossing the potatoes occasionally. (The potatoes should become crispy brown.) Remove from heat, toss in the parsley and serve.

Try "Whimpy" Fries or "Those" Potatoes with eggs at breakfast or with a steak at dinner. These choices have different flavors and textures and each has great flavor (and wonderful memories!)

Kitchen veterans can start with whole potatoes, however, the Simply Potatoes certainly make either of my recipes super simple.

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Gem Theatre holiday performances

The line-up at the Gem Theatre offers holiday favorites and a step back in time.

Now through Dec. 31, based on the "Forbidden Broadway" production, "Forbidden Christmas" includes spoofs of Broadway's greatest shows and performers.

From "The Phantom of the Opera" to "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," no show is immune from the comedic parody of the Forbidden company. For the holidays, spoofs of celebrities and holiday favorites such as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Cher and Britney Spears singing holiday numbers.

Tickets are \$39.50 and can be

purchased by calling the Gem Theatre Box Office at (313) 963-9800; Ticketmaster charge by phone at (248) 645-6666; all Ticketmaster Ticketcenters; and online at ticketmaster.com.

Up next is "The Marvelous Wonderettes" running Feb. 3 through March 21.

This musical blast from the past, featuring songs from the 50s and 60s, takes viewers back to the 1958 Springfield High School prom where they meet the Wonderettes - Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy and Suzy as they pursue their dreams.

Featured songs include "Lollipop," "Dream Lover," "Lipstick on Your Collar," "Hold

Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" and "It's In His Kiss (The Shoop Shoop Song)."

Tickets for the preview performances Feb. 3-7 are \$28. Regular performances are \$39.50 Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings and \$42.50 for Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees. Order before Dec. 31 and save \$5 on regular full price tickets.

For more information, call (313) 963-9800.

Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village

Greenfield Village becomes an iconic holiday scene from the 19th and 20th centuries when Holiday Nights returns Dec. 4.

Visitors and period-clothed presenters ice skate side-by-side and lanterns light the paths toward historic houses with evergreen-filled parlors and the smell of holiday treats when the annual event returns from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-23 and 26-27.

Tickets are \$14.50 for adult members and \$12.75 for youth members, \$17 for adult non-members and \$15 for youth non-members. Children four and under are admitted free.

New this year is Supper with Santa, a family

dining package that begins with a horse-drawn wagon ride to A Taste of History restaurant inside Greenfield Village.

Casual dining consists of a turkey meal, arts and crafts and storytelling.

Before heading into Holiday Nights, Santa makes a tableside visit.

Tickets are \$37 for adult members and \$28.25 for youth members ages 5-12, \$39.50 for adult non-members and \$30.50 for youth non-members and \$12 for children ages four and under.

To purchase tickets for Holiday Nights, Supper with Santa, call (313) 982-6001 or visit thehenryford.org.

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Friday, December 4, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 5, at 2:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Family matinees feature the following:

- Professional face painting, \$5 donation
- Santa and Nutcracker available for photos
- Live reindeer
- Sugar Plum Parade on stage following the performance
- Buffet lunch, \$10, Call 313.237.SING for details

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Call 313.237.SING or visit michiganopera.org

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CHURCHES

PASTOR'S CORNER By Matthew McCroskery

Christ never left Christmas

As we move past Thanksgiving, we slide once again into that endless and tiresome debate of how — and whether — we can “put Christ back into Christmas.”

Well, my friends I have news for you: Christ never left Christmas. We did. It was not Christ who turned the celebration of his birth into the glittering carnival of frivolity that we call “the Holiday Season.” That was us.

The Christian faith is often mistaken for a list of rules, a system of beliefs or a catalog of theological or philosophical propositions. Despite what anyone might mistake it for, ultimately, Christianity is simply a continuous living out of our answer to Christ's question, “Who do you say that I am?” It is this question on which the whole of human existence rests. Everything we do and say and believe, how we worship and behave and treat others, even how we eat and dress, is all part of our answer to this one question.

Indeed, how we approach the celebration of Christ's birth reflects our answer to this very question. If it is simply about a baby in a manger, than it really makes little difference how we approach Christmas, even if we do believe the baby will one day die and rise again. But if we truly believe the infant in swaddling clothes was the very God by whom all things were made, that on that first Christmas the eternal God became incarnate in human flesh, that the virgin's womb contained the uncontainable God of the universe: if we can begin to grasp the magnitude of this reality and its implications — for this life and the next — how can we approach the feast of the Nativity with anything other than humility and awe?

Sadly, for many Christians in this age of do-it-yourself, cafeteria-style Christianity, humility and awe are simply not part of the Christmas experience. Rather, the celebration of the nativity has become one of indulgence and excess and rampant materialism. We have forgotten — or perhaps never knew — how to pray and fast and worship; we have left Christmas behind.

But we can come back. Christ, through his church, provides a way back to humility and awe. There's nothing wrong with holly and

eggnog and all the other charming elements of the “Holiday Season.” Enjoy them, but please do not let them determine or interfere with how you answer Christ's ultimate question: “Who do you say that I am?”

Matthew McCroskery is director of Christian Outreach at St. Sabbas Orthodox Monastery in Harper Woods.

Pasta for a cause



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

More than 300 tickets were sold and 450 plates of pasta served at Ambrose Catholic Church's eighth annual spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the St. Ambrose Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In addition to money, the parish collected new and gently used bedding and blankets to assist families in need. Above, mom Janette High goes through the pasta line with her Marie and Elizabeth. Below, Nicholas Kramer and Nicholas Kurta had two helping of pasta but that didn't stop them from heading to the dessert table.

“Dinner was good,” Kurta said. “My favorite part was eating, but I liked that it helped raise money for the poor. It feels good to help.”



CHURCH ACTIVITIES

St. Sabbas

St. Sabbas Orthodox Monastery, 18745 Old Homestead, Harper Woods, sponsors The Royal Eagle Fine Dining restaurant from 5 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, with a full menu of food from around the world.

The Russian Tea House is open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1. Donation is \$20. For reservations, call (313) 521-1894.

Cookie walk

St. Margaret's Catholic Church, 21201 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores, hosts its 10th annual Christmas Cookie Walk from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Buy homemade cookies for \$6 per pound.

Brunch with Santa

St. Joan of Arc Catholic School and Church, 22415 Overlake, St. Clair Shores, hosts Brunch with Santa Saturday, Dec. 5. Two seatings are available: 9 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2 p.m.

Adult tickets cost \$7 and children's

tickets cost \$5.50. Tickets can be purchased at the school office during school hours. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call the school office at (586) 775-8370.

Fort Street Chorale

Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra performs Handel's “Messiah” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort, Detroit.

Tickets cost \$18. Group rates and patron seating is available. For more information, call (313) 961-4533 or visit fortstreet.org.

Revival Church

Revival Church hosts revivalist Jeff Garvin at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in the First United Methodist Church, 24036 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

The Revival Church meets at 6 p.m. every Sunday at First United Methodist Church.

WORSHIP SERVICE



Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church
A place of grace, a place of welcome, a place for you.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Christian Education for all ages 9:15 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. "Nursery Available"
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19950 Mack at Torrey
313 886-4301 • www.gppres.org

Christ the King Lutheran Church
Mack at Lochmoor
884-5090
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School & Bible Classes
Supervised Nursery Provided
www.christthekinglp.org
Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Matthew T. Dent, Assistant Pastor

Bethel Baptist Church
24600 Little Mack Ave., St. Clair Shores (586) 772-2520
Ministering to Detroit's eastside since 1864
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday AWANA Clubs 6:30 p.m. and adult Bible Study 7 p.m.
Dr. J. Robert Cosand, Pastor
Scott Beaman, Youth Pastor
www.bethelbaptistscs.org

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
November 29, 2009
10:30 a.m. Service
Judgement Day: How to Make an Ethical Decision
Reverend Mitra Rahnema
Childcare will be provided
17150 MAUMEE 881-0420
Visit us at www.gpuc.us

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
240 CHALFONTE AT LOTHROP 884-3075
10:00 a.m. FAMILY WORSHIP
10:15 a.m. Church School
Come and See
www.gpccong.org

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10:15 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL
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Grosse Pointe Woods (Mack and Vernier)
(313) 884-4820
www.stmichaelsgpw.org
office@stmichaelsgpw.org

SAINT JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
170 McMillan Road
Grosse Pointe Farms
313-884-0511
www.stjamesgp.org
Holy Eucharist
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

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Helping people make Christ the center of their lives
Sunday Worship - 11:00 am
Sunday School - 9:30 am for Age 2 - Adult
Check out our complete list of ministries at www.gpbc.org
21336 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe Woods
Phone: (313) 881-3343

Grosse Pointe UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Friendly Church for All Ages
211 Moross Rd.
Grosse Pointe Farms
886-2363
SUNDAY WORSHIP
9:30 a.m. Worship
CHURCH SCHOOL
9:45 am. Church School - 4 yrs. - 5th Grade
10:45 am Church School - Middle School
11:00 am Adult Church School
Nursery & Toddler Care Provided
Rev. Judith A. May

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8:15 am - Traditional Worship
9:30 am - Contemporary Worship
9:30 am - Sunday School - All Ages
11:00 am - Traditional Worship
Nursery Available
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Rev. Gerald Elsholz, Associate Pastor
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ADVENT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
8:30 a.m. - Holy Communion
11:00 a.m. - The Festival Service of Lessons and Music for Advent, with Holy Communion
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
12:10 p.m. - The Holy Communion
2:35 p.m. - Recital of Classical Music
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Underground Garage with entrance in the median strip of Jefferson at Woodward
(313)-259-2206
marinerschurchofdetroit.org

Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church
Serving Christ in Detroit for over 155 years
Sunday, November 29, 2009
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Meditation: Louis J. Prues, Preaching
Church School: Crib - 8th Grade
Save the Date
Music Series
Sunday, December 13, at 4pm
"A Homegrown Holiday"
JAPC Chancel Choir/Carol Sing-a-long
Free Admission
8625 E. Jefferson at Burns, Detroit
Visit our website: www.japc.org. 313-822-3456

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313-882-5330
www.gpmchurch.org

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Crib & Toddler Care 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
"Young Children and Worship"
Program for Preschool through 2nd grade at 9:00 a.m. Service
Nov. 29- Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
Brunch/Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 6- Communion Sunday, 9 & 11 a.m.
Dec. 20- Children and Youth Christmas program
Dec. 24- 11:30 a.m., 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship Services

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Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. (Latin - Choir)
12:00 p.m.
Daily Mass:
Monday - Saturday at 12:15 p.m.
Confessions 20 minutes before every Mass

FOR YOUR HEALTH By Robert Fishman, M.D., ENT

Much can be done to solve snoring problem

Some snicker, make jokes, or tease about snoring. For some, a snoring spouse leads to significant relationship stress.

But there's much that can be done to potentially ease the volume of and sleep disruptions associated with severe snoring.

While there are several cutting-edge treatments for snoring, it's important to have a full evaluation and consider options that may be covered by insurance or treated through lifestyle changes.

Among adults, the most

common cause of snoring is being overweight. Sometimes, even relatively thin people snore and a 10 to 20 pound weight loss can fix the problem. Others may require a more significant weight loss to see results.

Some patients who snore may actually have sleep apnea. Patients may be chronically tired despite eight hours of sleep and a family member may witness the apnea (periods when breathing stops while sleeping). As the patient goes into a deep sleep, muscles relax in their throat and their airway closes. The body no-

tices oxygen levels going down, and brings itself to a lighter sleep. Some people may have numerous moments of apnea an hour.

A Continuous Positive Airway Pressure machine helps keep the airway open, allowing the patient to remain in a restful state. The CPAP is 100 percent effective, with no risks, and no pain. It is unanimously considered the gold standard for apnea treatment.

In addition to excess weight or sleep apnea, snoring also can be caused by sinus issues, nasal deformities, or simple colds/congestion.

Surgical options for moderate or severe apnea include removing the patient's tonsils or performing an operation that's basically a facelift for the inside of the mouth. The procedure tightens the looseness causing the loud vibrations when the person sleeps. Unfortunately, the success rates aren't great, especially considering the pain of the procedure. For severe apnea, the success is 20 percent; moderate, 50 percent, and mild, 80 percent.

For those patients without other underlying issues (sinus, apnea, excess weight) but a

continued snoring problem, an injection snoreplasty may be an option. This procedure is generally not covered by insurance and although moderate in price, still represents an out-of-pocket expense.

I choose patients for injection carefully. Because they pay out-of-pocket for the procedure, I want them to have the best possible chance for success. Snoreplasty is a simple injection using a sclerosing (scarring) agent that causes scar tissue to form on the palate (roof of mouth), tightening the loose tissue causing the vibratory snoring.

I like this procedure compared to lasers, implants, or radiofrequency procedures. It's one of the least expensive, can be repeated if necessary, is not very painful, and has a good success rate.

Patients receive a topical numbing agent and most don't even feel the injection. They take a simple pain reliever afterward, and have some minor swelling that causes their voice to sound "funny" for a few days. Full results are seen within six to eight weeks.

If you snore, consider all options. Some simple tips to try right now include:

- ◆ Avoiding alcohol for four hours before going to bed
- ◆ Avoiding tranquilizer and sleeping pills
- ◆ Consider a "snore ball," a tennis ball sewn into pajamas tops to keep those that snore while on their back from sleeping in that position.
- ◆ Lose weight if needed.

Robert Fishman, M.D., is a SJH&MC-affiliated Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist at Lakeshore ENT.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Carla Whitton

Socialization opportunities



Q. It's already fall and the weather makes it difficult to get my little ones outside. Do you have any advice how to survive the fall and winter with them?

A. Young children certainly have limitless amounts of energy. Many parents begin to feel cooped up when the weather gets cooler. There are lots of great indoor options for poor-weather playtime, but why not try something new?

Play Central is a drop-in open play group run by The Family Center, a local non-profit organization. The pro-

gram begins in November, when it's too cold most days for playgrounds.

On Tuesdays, we meet in the upstairs gym at The Neighborhood Club. On Wednesdays, we meet in the gym at Barnes Early Childhood Center. Both groups run from 9 to 11 a.m. and the cost is \$3 for each visit.

The format is open, so you can let your child's interests direct you. You will both enjoy having a large selection of toys new to you. It's a great opportunity for young children to run around and practice their large motor skills, and, of course, run off or crawl off some of that energy. Your child may even make a great new friend.

Children can practice their social skills and you can chat with other adults. All care-

givers are welcome; we have moms, dads, grandparents and nannies. Some participants come once a month, some come every Play Central session, and some even invite friends or mom's group.

New, this year, we are offering Play Central Plus! on Wednesdays.

When you come to Barnes, you can join a structured Play Group lead by Barnes preschool teachers. They offer circle time and various activities based on that week's theme. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to get a taste of preschool while maintaining the comfort of their caregiver's support. If your child isn't in the mood for structure, just go back to the gym.

Play Central is a fun, flexible and affordable program de-

signed for young children and their caregivers. Be sure and check it out with your little ones this winter.

Whitton, Play Central coordinator for The Family Center, is a certified elementary school teacher with an endorsement in early childhood education. She can be reached at (313) 432-3832.

The Family Center, a 501(c) 3, non-profit organization, serves as the community's centralized hub for information, resources and referral for families and professionals.

To view more Ask The Experts articles, visit familycenterweb.org.

E-mail questions to info@familycenterweb.org. To volunteer or contribute, visit familycenterweb.org or call (313) 432-3832.

Grant funds children's bedside art program

Pewabic Pottery's bedside art program for patients at Children's Hospital of Detroit, and the organizations High School Apprenticeship program received a \$5,000 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Ronald McDonald House was established to provide grants to organizations helping children live healthier, happier, and more productive lives.

The weekly bedside ceramic arts program, Fun with Clay, provides creative activity and an outlet for expression to pa-

tients ages 7-18 at Children's Hospital.

Pewabic's High School Apprenticeship is a work-study program where students gain experience in major aspects of pottery and ceramic fine art production. Students learn interpersonal skills to interact with others in a professional job setting, while being exposed to the art making, production, and marketing processes.

For 22 consecutive years, the program has served to supplement high school curriculum in Detroit Public Schools, which lacks the resources to provide a compre-

hensive ceramic arts program

Pewabic Pottery is a non-profit arts and cultural organization dedicated to ceramic education and advancing contemporary ceramic arts while honoring Arts & Crafts ideals.

Open to the public year round, Pewabic offers classes, workshops, lectures and tours to children and adults. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday - Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call (313) 822-0954 or visit pewabic.org.

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 Nov. 29 - 1st Sunday in Advent
 Dec. 5 - Family movie night! 7:00 pm. - Bring a can of food to benefit Crossroads
 Dec. 6 - Mariner's Cookie Walk after Service
 Dec. 9 - Refresh Advent Service, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM
Christian Education at 9:15 AM
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ENGAGEMENTS

Weed - Debski

Jacqueline Weed of Harper Woods and Duane Weed of Harrison Township have announced the engagement of their daughter, Katherine Anne Weed, to Matthew Bernard Debski, son of Bernard and Carol Debski of St. Clair. A November wedding is planned.

Weed graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1995. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature and Hispanic language and culture from the University of Michigan. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the U of M Law School.

Debski graduated from South in 1995. He earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. He is a technical director at PanoLogic Inc. in Menlo Park, Calif.

Barbier - Marsden

Douglas and Diana Barbier of Grosse Pointe Woods have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jessica Barbier, to Craig Marsden, son of David and Rona Marsden of Gosport, England. A May wedding is planned.

Barbier graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1999 and from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 2003. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Scottish ethnology and Celtic; a Master of Science degree from Napier University, Edinburgh in 2004.

Marsden is an anti-tank weapons specialist with the 4th Battalion of The Highlanders, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Cahill - Johnson

Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Cahill of Grosse Pointe Park have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ashley Cahill, of Washington, D.C., to Bradley Johnson, of Washington, D.C., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Johnson of Marietta, Ga., formerly of Grosse Pointe Park. A summer wedding is planned.

Cahill earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Miami University of Ohio and a Master of Arts degree in speech and language pathology from Wayne State University. She is a speech and language pathologist.

Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Administration degree in public policy from Georgetown University. He is a policy analyst for the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Druschke - Hill

Hana Kassab of Waterford has announced the engagement of her daughter, Nicole Jean Druschke, to Andrew Hill, son of Cindy and Russell Hill of Grosse Pointe Farms. She is the daughter of the late Mark Druschke. A May wedding is planned.

Druschke graduated from West Bloomfield High School and earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Michigan State University. She is an advertising executive with Organic in Bloomfield Hills.

Hill graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2000 and earned a bachelor's degree in media and telecommunications from MSU in 2004. He is pursuing a degree at the University of Michigan - Dearborn. He is project manager for MVP Collaborative in Madison Heights.



Matthew Bernard Debski and Katherine Anne Weed



Andrew Hill and Nicole Jean Druschke

Gavan - McGrann

Philip and Benita Gavan of Shelby Township, formerly of Grosse Pointe Woods, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Gavan, to David McGrann, son of Susan McGrann of Redford. He is the son of the late David McGrann Sr. An October wedding is planned.

Gavan graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1999 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College for Creative Studies, Detroit. She is a professional photographer.

McGrann earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Michigan - Dearborn and a Master of Arts degree from WSU. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in history at Wayne State. McGrann is a project manager in WSU's industrial and manufacturing engineering department.



Craig Marsden and Jessica Barbier



David McGrann and Lisa Gavan



Elizabeth Laciura and Peter Emiley

Laciura - Emiley

Ann and Philip Laciura of Grosse Pointe Farms have announced the engagement of their daughter, Elizabeth Laciura, to Peter Emiley, son of Linda and Dr. Terrence Emiley of Rockford. A May wedding is planned.

Laciura graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2002 and earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in communications and psychology from the University of Michigan in 2006. She is an



Ashley Cahill and Bradley Johnson



Maureen Margaret Loy and Neal Ennis Brenner



Jeff Caldwell and Lauren Saelens

advertising account planner with BBDO Detroit.

Emiley graduated from Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School in 2001. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology-zoology in 2005 from the University of Michigan. He attends U of M Medical School and is to graduate in 2010.

Loy - Brenner

Dennis and Anne Loy of Grosse Pointe Farms have announced the engagement of their daughter, Maureen Margaret Loy, to Neal Ennis Brenner, son of Irwin and Laura Brenner of Cresskill, N.J. A fall wedding is planned.

Loy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering in 2004 and a Master of Science degree in manufacturing engineering in 2006 from the University of Michigan. She is a third-year student at the University of Chicago Law School and is to join the law firm of Fish and Richardson in Boston, Mass., after graduation.

Brenner earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and computer science in 2003 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was the captain of MIT's basketball team. He is pursuing his Master of Business Administration at Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago.

Saelens - Caldwell

Ray and Joy Saelens of Chesterfield Township have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Saelens, to Jeff Caldwell, son of Doug and Carolyn Caldwell of Grosse Pointe Woods. A 2010 wedding is planned.

Saelens graduated from Anchor Bay High School in 2002 and earned a degree in nutritional sciences from Michigan State University in 2007. She is to graduate from University Detroit Mercy in December with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Caldwell graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 2002. He earned a degree in psychology in 2006 from MSU and a master's degree in 2008 in industrial/organizational psychology from the University of Detroit Mercy. He is a research analyst with Morpace in Farmington Hills.

WEDDINGS

Auty - Birnbaum

Elizabeth Jane Auty, daughter of Michael and Dianne Auty of Grosse Pointe Farms, married David Seth Birnbaum, son of Dr. Gary and Andrea Birnbaum of Pepper Pike, Ohio, on Aug. 1, 2009, at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Robert Amor officiated at the ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the athletic club.

The bride wore a Melissa Sweet ivory silk gown and a Vera Wang cathedral length veil with ivory silk piping. She carried a bouquet of white and light pink roses and peonies, gray berries and dusty miller leaves.

Kristin Mann of Chicago served as her friend's matron of honor.

Bridesmaids were Erica Bjork, a friend of Chicago; and the groom's sister, Jessica Birnbaum of Washington, D.C.

Attendants' sea glass colored dresses were by Priscilla of Boston. They carried bouquets of ivory peonies with gray berries and dusty miller leaves.

The groom's brothers, Adam Birnbaum of Philadelphia and Daniel Birnbaum of Cleveland, Ohio, were the best men.

Groomsman and usher was

the bride's brother, Christian Auty of Chicago.

Annie Reinholz of Grosse Pointe Farms sang "One Hand One Heart" with the accompaniment of a string quartet and trumpet.

Guests danced to the 10-piece band, Noveaute, during the reception.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in psychology from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass. She is a supervisor of contract administration with BlueStar Energy Services in Chicago.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Science Business in finance from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a juris doctorate degree from the University of Michigan. He is a management-side labor and employment attorney with Jones Day of Chicago.

The couple honeymooned at the Tides Resort in Zihuatenejo, Mexico. They live in Chicago.

Cahill - Casby

Allison Lindsey Cahill, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Cahill of Grosse Pointe Park, married Scott



Mr. and Mrs. David Seth Birnbaum

Walsh Casby of Rochester Hills, son of Dr. Michael and Elizabeth Casby of Haslett, Sept. 5, 2009, at St. Paul's on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Monsignor Patrick Halfpenny officiated at the 2:30 p.m. ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club at which Michigan State University's mascot, Sparty, appeared.

The bride wore a satin strapless Lazaro gown and her mother's cathedral length veil.

Sisters of the bride, Ashley Cahill of Washington, D.C. and Whitney Cahill of Philadelphia, Pa., were maids of honor.

Bridesmaids were the bride's friends, Katie McMillan of Phoenix, Ariz., Katina Malis of Chicago, Ill., Shannon O'Donnell of Grosse Pointe Park, and Michelle Wasielewski of Northville.

Molly Laird of Lake Mary, Fla. was the junior bridesmaid



Mr. and Mrs. Scott Walsh Casby

for her cousin.

Attendants and junior bridesmaid wore celery colored silk shantung floor length strapless gowns, accented with raspberry sashes.

Flower girls were the bride's cousins, MacKenzie Edwards of Glen Cove, N.Y. and Keelan Laird of Lake Mary. They wore white shantung dresses with raspberry sashes.

The groom's brothers, Michael Casby of Haslett and Matthew Casby of Chicago, served as best men.

Ushers and groomsmen were the bride's brothers, Colden Cahill of Mount Clemens and Christopher Cahill of Grosse Pointe Park; and friends of the groom, Andy Chien of Fountain Valley, Calif. and Christopher Yarbrough of Howell.

The bride's mother wore a raspberry floor length Tadashi dress.

The groom's mother wore a plum floor length beaded



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Clark Durant II

gown.

The bride earned a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science from MSU and is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in physical therapy at Wayne State University.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in finance from MSU. He is operations project manager with Flagstar Bank.

The couple honeymooned in Jamaica. They live in Rochester Hills.

Williams - Durant

Taylor Kincaid Williams, daughter of Chip and MaryAnn Williams of Gainesville, Fla., married Thomas Clark Durant II, son of Clark and Susan Durant of Grosse Pointe Farms, June 6, 2009, at the United Church of Gainesville, Fla.

The Revs. Larry and Sandy

Reimer officiated at the ceremony.

Bailey Williams, the bride's sister, served as maid of honor.

Bridesmaids were Kristina Arvesu, Kimsey Carpenter, Kelly Costello, Amy Flanagan, Mary Kate Flynn and Maria Prado; and the groom's sisters, Hope Durant Redmond and Maggie Durant.

Flower girls were the groom's nieces, Susan and Caroline Redmond.

The groom's brother, John Durant, served as best man.

Groomsmen were Grosse Pointe friends, Henry Ford, K.C. Crain and Walter Belenky; Ilya Beylin, Liam Brady, Arik Goodman, Lyle Morton and Michael Weintraub.

The bride graduated from Gainesville High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business, a Master of Education and Education Specialist degrees in mental health counseling from the University of Florida. She is with Wilhelmina and Paradigm Talent Agencies in New York and T.H.E. Artist Agency in Washington, D.C.

The groom graduated from University Liggett School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sanford University and a Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University. He teaches in the economics department of New York University.

The couple honeymooned on the West Coast. They live in Brooklyn, N.Y.



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BOYS HOCKEY

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LIGGETT

Zukas was epitome of 'super' dad

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Joe Zukas was a fixture at Liggett, helping out whenever he could.

During the several years I have covered Liggett sports, one person I could count on to deliver perfect stats before I interviewed the coach was Grosse Pointe Shores resident Joe Zukas.

He was a fixture at Liggett, pulling double duty of watching his sons play sports and helping out whenever and wherever he could.

In August, Zukas died suddenly, leaving a void felt throughout the Grosse Pointes.

In my personal words, he is a man who mirrored my own father, Joe. Kind, compassionate, always watching and supporting his son play sports and even to this day, my father is at my side, lending support and watching the games I cover.

Zukas was the identical iconic figure to myself, as well as others. He was a man I admired and used as a mentor.

"Joe Zukas was an athletic director's dream," said Liggett

Athletic Director Michelle Hicks. "He was tremendously generous with his time and talents in his support of the University Liggett School athletic programs."

"His support of the varsity hockey program was legendary to those who knew him, but because of his unassuming manner and humility, almost invisible to those outside the program."

"Joe and I were married for 30 years. He was a wonderful husband and father. He was never too busy for the boys," said Bridget Zukas, Joe's wife.

He was a typical proud fa-

ther to his sons, Michael, a college junior, and Dan, a senior at Liggett.

His sons recall their favorite memory of spending time with their dad.

"Getting away from my mom with my dad at camp on Harson's Island's Ute Day was something I will never forget," Michael Zukas said. "No moms were allowed. We did whatever we wanted with our dads and that was great."

"My dad always said to me, 'Remember, this is the most important game and play every game like it was your last,'" said Dan Zukas.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Bufalino has solid resume for the job

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Jamie Bufalino takes over Grosse Pointe South's boys' hockey program, which has been one of the best in the state for years.

"The entire process has been a blessing with the strong program history and school support," Bufalino said. "Both the players and the parents have been welcoming, which has made the transition to the boys team as smooth as possible."

"Jamie has a wealth of hockey experience both playing and coaching," South athletic director and assistant principal Brandon Slone said. "We felt he brought the best attributes to the position because of his hockey pedigree and communication skills."

"Our support network should provide Jamie a smooth transition."

Bufalino, a Grosse Pointe North graduate, began playing hockey in the Grosse Pointe Hockey Association at the age

of three and continued with the GPHA until the age of 12.

His heightened skill level provided him an opportunity to play AAA hockey and then Junior A during his high school years.

After high school, Bufalino played college hockey before playing for Team USA and in Europe was one of the top goaltenders.

"I first became part of the USA Hockey organization at age 15, where I participated in numerous North American and International competitions, including nine World Championships, winning seven gold medals, one bronze medal and the gold medal at the 2003 Pan-Am Games.

The goaltender extraordinaire began coaching hockey clinics at age 15 and the past five seasons was an assistant coach under Bill Fox for the Grosse Pointe South girls' hockey team, which won back-to-back state titles.

In his five seasons as an assistant coach at South, the Blue Devils won three state championships.

During his tutelage, South's goalies have posted some of the best save percentage and shutouts in the Michigan Metro Girls High School

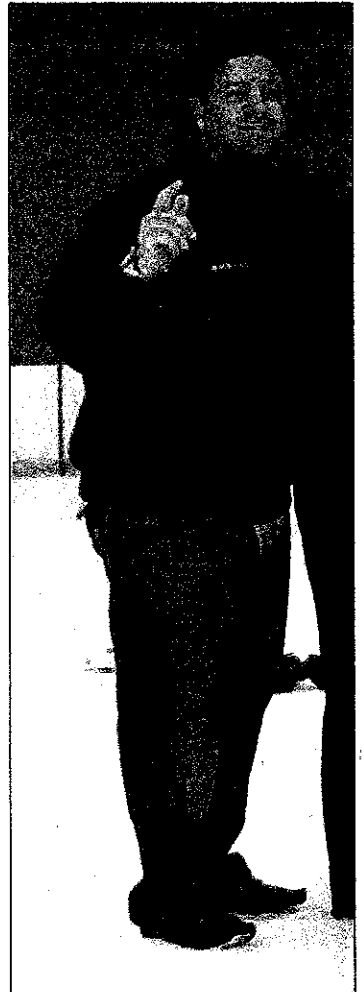
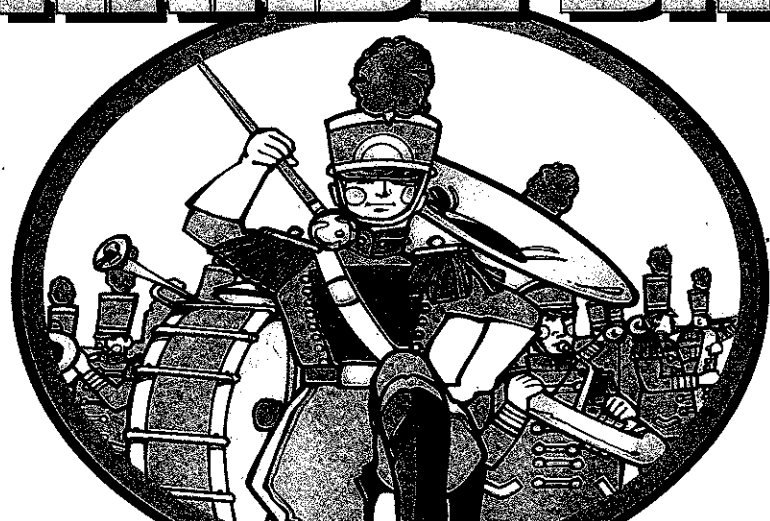


PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE


Jamie Bufalino is optimistic he can make South No. 1.

Hockey League.

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College signings

GROSSE POINTE NORTH



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The luck of the Irish

Grosse Pointe North senior Ariel Braker signed a letter-of-intent to play college basketball at the University of Notre Dame next year. Taking part in the festivities were, seated from left, her sisters, Amber and Christina, and her brother, Michael; standing from left, her father, Daniel; mother, Veronica; and brother, Daniel. Braker, ranked by various national recruiting services as one of the top 50 players in the country, will join head coach Muffet McGraw's Fightin' Irish in the fall of 2010. The Fightin' Irish won the 2001 National Championship with a 34-2 record and have been in the national spotlight for a decade.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Going to SVSU

Grosse Pointe North senior Kayla Womack, seated center, signed a letter-of-intent to play college basketball at Saginaw Valley State University next year. Celebrating the moment with Womack is, seated from left, her mother, Phyllis, and friend, Ali Dornbrock; standing from left, North girls varsity head coach Gary Bennett and Womack's father, Eddie Jr. The Cardinals play in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and finished last season 3-24 overall. They are 1-2 to start this season.



More sports

There is more sports coverage on page 11 of the Winter Sports Preview.

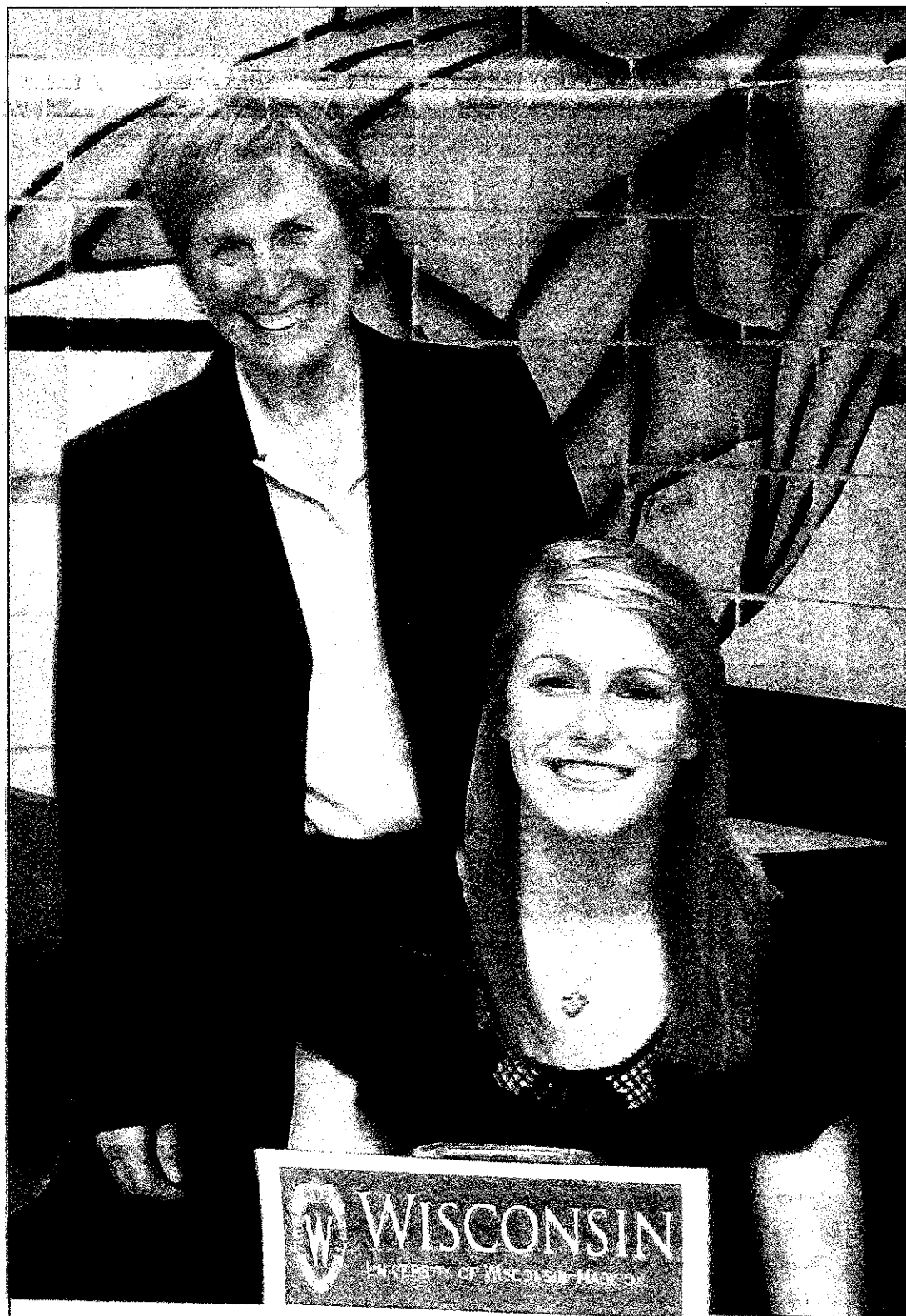


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Playing for No. 1

Grosse Pointe North senior Kelly Jaminski, seated, signed a letter-of-intent to play college hockey for national powerhouse University of Wisconsin next year. Celebrating the moment with Jaminski is Beth Case, a family friend. The Badgers' program is one of the best in the nation, winning three of the last four women's ice hockey national championships, including last year's with a 34-2-5 record. In 2006, the Badgers finished 36-4-1 and the following year they were 36-1-4.

Girls swimming

NORTH & SOUTH

South, North send swimmers to finals

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North took its best shots during last weekend's Division 2 girls swimming and diving state championship meet at Oakland University.

South finished 10th with 92 points and North did not earn a point. Farmington Hills Mercy won the state title with 282 points, just four ahead of runner-up Holland.

Hudsonville was third with 220 points, followed by Birmingham Seaholm with 208, Birmingham Groves with 192, Okemos with 161, Midland Dow with 135, Dexter with 134, Jenison with 94 and South with 92.

The Blue Devils had several girls earn all-state honors, including senior Molly DeWald who took home the silver medal in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:05.82.

In that same event, South senior Abby Constant earned all-state recognition with her sixth-place time of 1:08.58 and sophomore Megan Brooks

was 19th at 1:10.48.

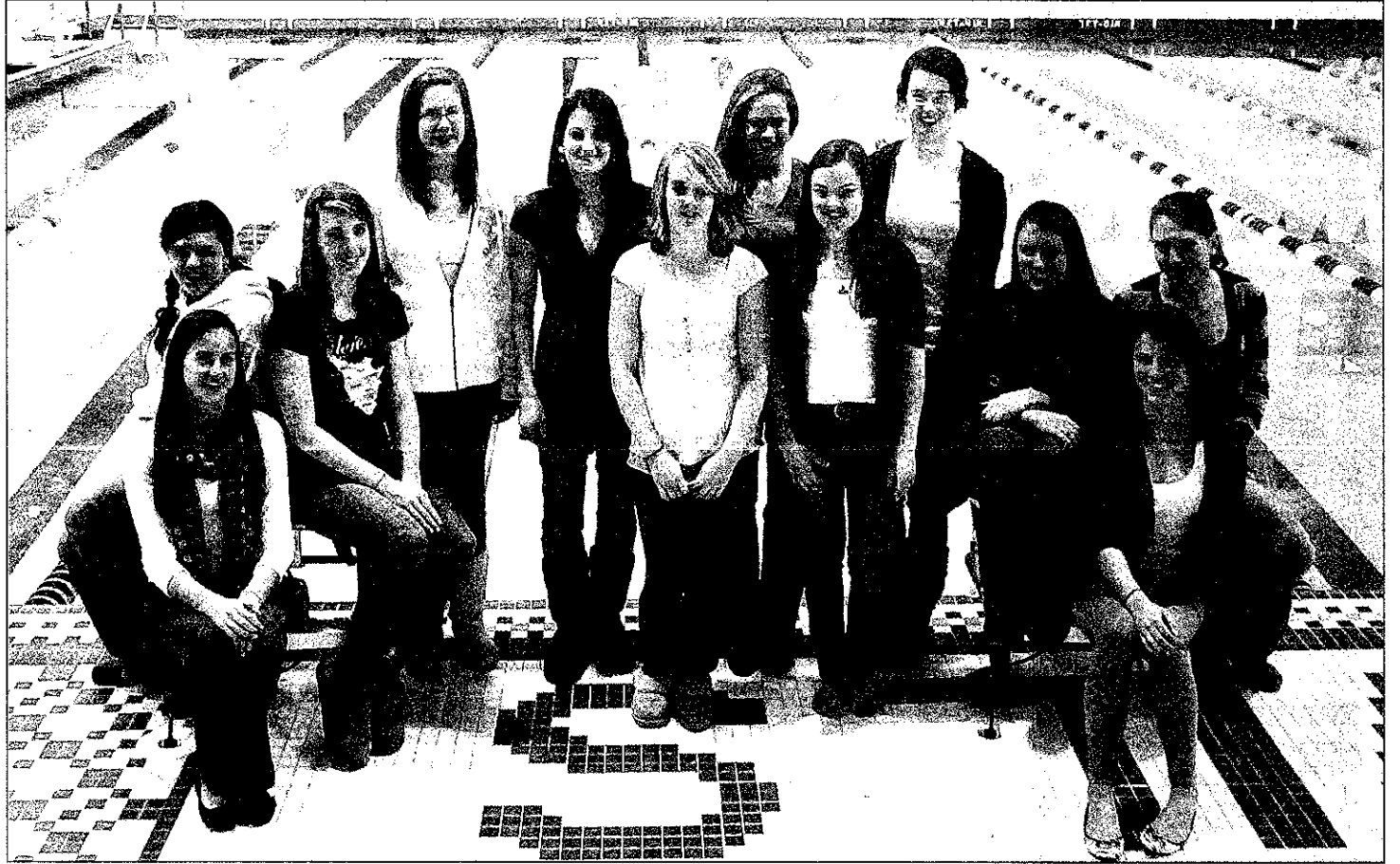
Sophomore Ali DeLoof added her name to the all-state honor list with a third-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke, posting a time of 57.58. Teammate Tori Bruce, a senior, was 20th with a time of 1:02.30.

DeLoof also captured all-state honors in the 100-yard butterfly, taking seventh with a time of 52.82 and junior Caroline Wilkinson was 24th in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:23.96.

The other all-state performance was turned in by the Blue Devils' 200-yard medley relay team of DeLoof, DeWald, sophomore Jessie Kaminski and senior Lindsey Phillips.

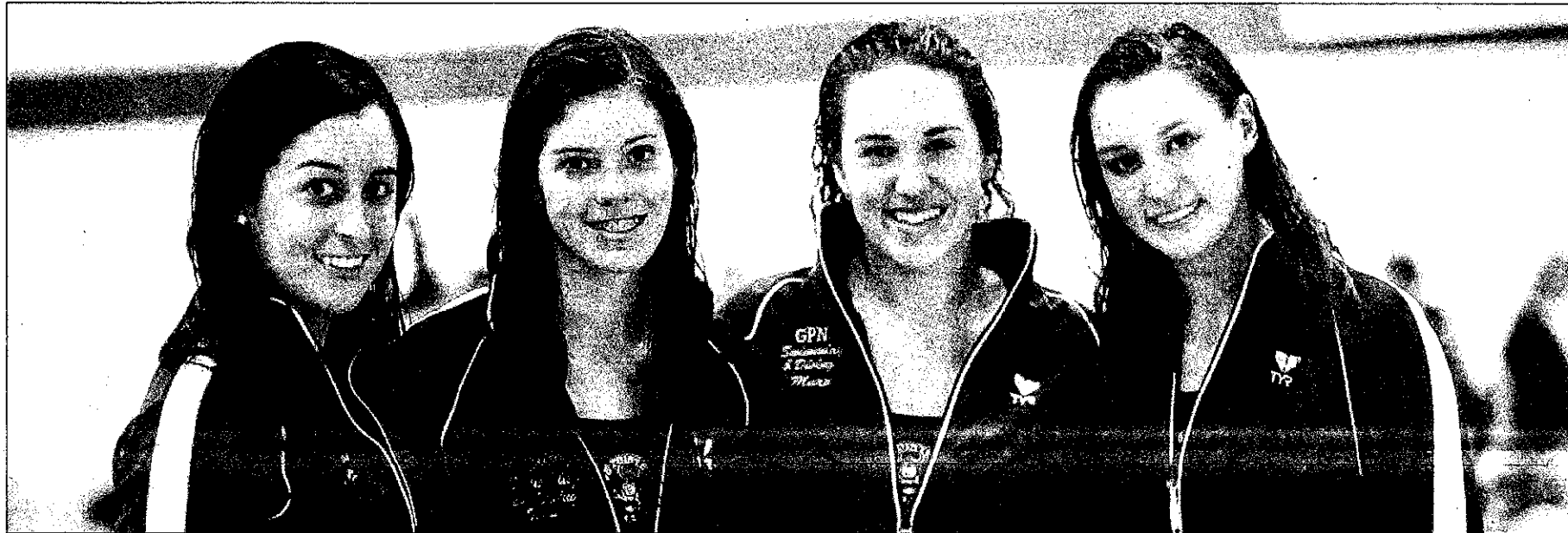
They finished seventh with a time of 1:51.58, while the Norsemen's squad of junior Emily Turnbull, senior Jackie Shea, senior Hannah Everett and freshman Emma Mathews was 20th in the same event with a season-best time of 1:56.77.

Other top performances were posted by DeWald, who was 18th in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.23;



PHOTOS BY DANA KAISER

Grosse Pointe South's state qualifiers are, from left, Jessie Kaminski, Ali DeLoof, Lindsey Phillips, Ellen Neveux, Molly DeWald, Lily Boggs, Caroline Wilkinson, Laurel Johnson, Ellen Henrichs, Kacey Murphy, Abigail Constant and Megan Brooks. Not pictured is Tori Bruce.



Norsemen swimmers who competed in last weekend's Division 2 state finals included freshman Emma Mathews, senior Gianna Marx, senior Maresa Leto and senior Jackie Shea, pictured above.

the Norsemen's 200-yard freestyle team of Mathews, senior Gianna Marx, senior Maresa Leto and Shea at 1:44.68 who finished 20th; and the Blue Devils' 400-yard freestyle relay foursome of Phillips, sophomore Laurel Johnson, Wilkinson and DeLoof, which was 12th with a time of 3:43.38.

"The 400-free relay team dropped lots of time in both prelims and finals," South head coach Eric Gunderson said. "It was an amazing performance."

North head coach Mike O'Connor also said Aly Delaney finished 18th in the regional No. 4 diving competition at Birmingham Groves Nov. 17.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Good coaching needed to develop fundamentals

With the high school football season in the midst of highly contested playoff games and the boys and girls basketball seasons in practice mode, it's time to look at how student-athletes in the elementary and middle schools can improve.

There are camps and clinics run by local coaches, in addition to AAU programs. Parcels Middle School girls eighth-grade basketball coach and Grosse Pointe Woods resident Steve Benard runs Midwest Athletics and Basketball City, located on Groesbeck between 12 Mile and Common in Roseville.

Attending the camps and joining an AAU team is a step in the right direction. Getting away from parents coaching their kids and their kids' friends is also another step in the right direction.

In my opinion, parents are the base for building successful student-athletes. But when your child gets to the later stages of elementary school and in middle school, it's time to allow them to become more independent and play for experienced coaches.

My daughter, Emma, plays travel softball for Team Michigan, coached by Cindy and Kory Hison out of Warren. Watching Emma grow into a fantastic student-athlete is a wonderful experience.

Watching the Hison's excellent coaching is another blessing. They have been fantastic with Emma and the rest of the girls, teaching them the finer aspects of softball, plus the mental approach to the game. They emphasize the impor-

ance of school work, as well as eating healthy foods and exercising beyond the diamond.

Their conditioning program is successful and I can already see a quicker, physically developing Emma. These learning experiences will be with Emma for the rest of her life.

My wife and I fully trust the Hisons to not only build Emma into a good student-athlete, but give us tips how to practice with her at home.

Doing a little homework goes a long way into finding your child or children the best possible coaching and/or team.

There are some great coaches and sports facilities out there. You just have to ask around and take a closer look at them. Make some phone calls. My wife did a lot of legwork when it came to selecting a team for Emma.

We thank our blessing each and every day for the Hisons.

Coaches shouldn't be glorified babysitters. Children who need babysitters should stay home and not waste the coaches and other children's time.

Playing sports is having fun and learning to be part of a team. These lessons will come in handy when the children play high school sports, maybe collegiate sports and when applying for a job.

It's amazing how many good student-athletes make great employees later in life. They know what it takes to win. I'm not saying playing sports will automatically make you a better person, but I believe it creates confidence, which in turn helps in other areas of life.

Coaches like Benard, who give 110 percent to players and his program, wants athletes to be ready to play at the high

school level and even beyond.

Benard, along with fellow coach Matt Lockhart, and Midwest Athletics, host the Norsemen Junior Basketball League and Training Camp for boys and girls in grades three to six.

This league runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Sundays Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24 and Jan. 31.

The \$119 per player includes an official game jersey. Participants learn how to dribble, play defense, shoot the ball, pass the ball, be a team player and a better student.

It's camps and leagues like this with qualified coaches that most benefit your children.

For more information about Benard's league, call (313) 580-0351 or e-mail at steve@mwabasketball.com.

SOCCER

Co-champs

The St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School girls fifth- and sixth-grade soccer team tied with St. Anne as the CYO Division B champions. It was the team's second straight division championship, as well as its second straight undefeated season. The team finished the season with a 6-0-2 overall record with both ties coming against St. Anne. Pictured above

are, front row sitting from left, Megan Fordon, Audrey Doherty, Sydney Stann, Mary Grace O'Shea and Mary Kate Bodien; middle row from left, Elizabeth Sullivan, Abby Reid, Erin Gormley, Jackie DeLoof, Margret Reilly and Emily Kanan; and back row from left, Head Coach Nick Bernbeck, Eryn Van Der Hoeven, Natalia Engel, Natalie Temrowski, Lilly Blake, Kathryn Williamson and Assistant Coach Angela Biske. Not pictured is Julia Fox.



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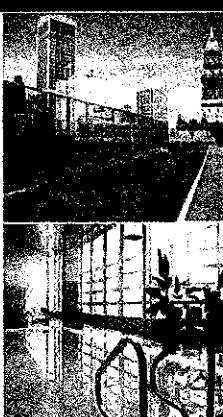
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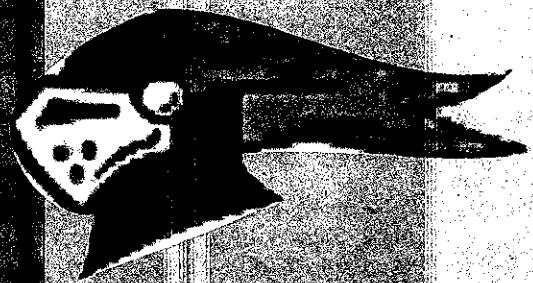
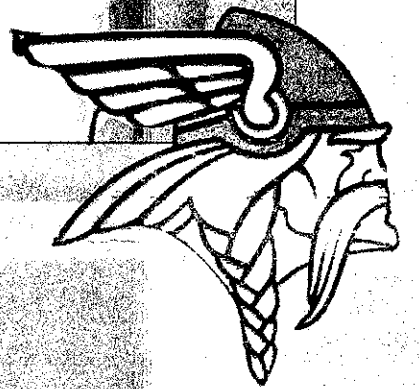
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Winter Sports Preview

2009/2010



Leaders of the pack

Pictured top, Grosse Pointe North veterans are seniors, back row from left, Christine Bedway, Ariel Braker and Kayla Womack, and front row from left, senior Kamille Hamzey, junior Micaela Liddane and senior Sarah Bigham.

Pictured middle left, University Liggett School's veterans are, from left, senior Hannah Baird, sophomore Madison Ristovski and junior Grace Edmonds.

Pictured right, Grosse Pointe South's veterans are, from left, senior Chloe Srebernak, sophomore Caitlin Moore, junior Aisha Rodney and senior Katie Hamm.

See the girls' basketball preview on page 3.



Boys basketball

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Can young Norsemen recapture magic?

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Everyone thinks because Grosse Pointe North's boys' basketball team lost 70 percent of its varsity players this is a rebuilding year.

Not so fast.

Head coach Matt Lockhart, entering his second year, is optimistic his 2009-10 Norsemen can surprise everyone.

"They competed against the seniors every day in practice last year, so they will be OK," Lockhart said. "It will take time for everyone to get on the same page, but once we do we will be a very competitive team."

The four returning players, seniors Troy Williams, Desmond Malone, Bryan Brown and Balazs Juhasz, have improved in the offseason. They're more muscular, taller and quicker.

Others on the varsity are seniors Dean Butts and Tederran Brundidge; juniors Chris Collins, Akiel Smith, George Greer, Alex Dutta, Nolan Rozich and Vadal Boyd; and sophomores Will Richie and Adam Andrzejczak.

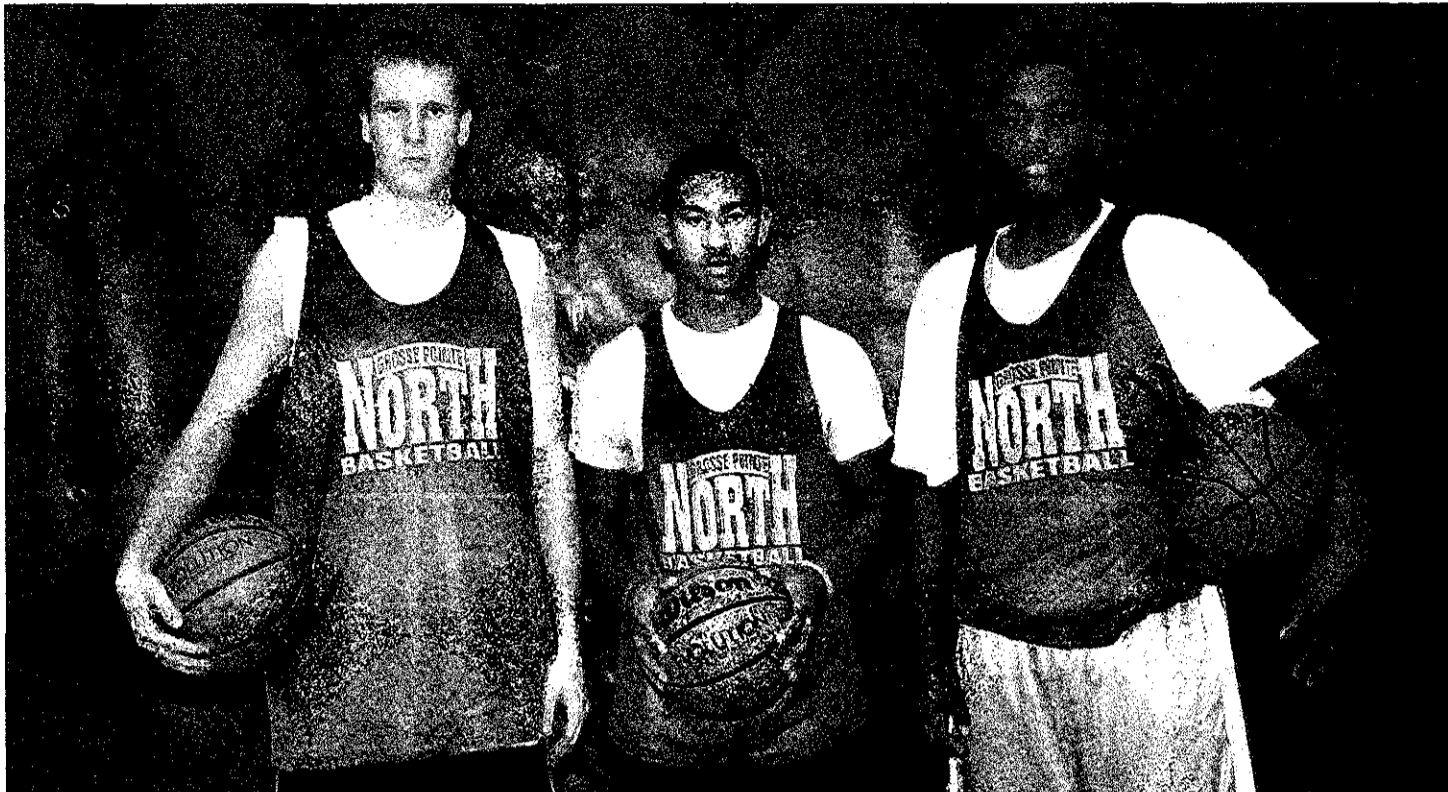


PHOTO BY DANA KAISER

Returning players, from left, Balazs Juhasz, Troy Williams and Desmond Malone, are anxious to show everyone the Norsemen are better than many believe.

"We have a nice group of players who will get after it this season," Lockhart said. "Toughness is our strength,

which will go a long way to help us improve week by week.

"The guys need game expe-

rience. Once we get that, we will be fine."

The Norsemen are the defending Macomb Area

Conference White Division champs, going undefeated with only two losses a year ago. They lost a regular season

game to U-D Jesuit and a regional championship game to Warren DeLaSalle.

Roseville is the team to beat in the division this season, but Lockhart said Grosse Pointe South will be right there and his Norsemen will give chase with an athletic Cousino squad, too.

Port Huron Northern, Utica and Sterling Heights Stevenson are also division opponents.

Their nonleague slate is just as challenging with DeLaSalle, L'Anse Creuse, Harper Woods, Chippewa Valley, Madison Heights Madison, Detroit Old Redford Prep, St. Clair Shores South Lake and a Detroit PSL team awaiting.

"We will get tested early and often before the holiday break," Lockhart said. "The good competition will help our guys get ready for the division schedule that starts right after the break."

Grosse Pointe North opens its season Tuesday, Dec. 8, against the team which knocked it out of the state playoffs last spring, DeLaSalle. It will be a packed gymnasium.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils have pieces to win division title

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Last year's rollercoaster ride was tough to endure for head coach Jim Twigg, but he knew it would make his players stronger mentally.

Injuries and inexperience played a big part in the Blue Devils' struggles last winter.

Most of the team returns with a year of maturity under their belt.

"We're excited about the season," Twigg said. "We have a lot of guys back who played in big games last year, winning a few and losing some tough ones along the way, including a couple of tough games to (Grosse Pointe) North.

"Playing through adversity has made the guys better basketball players. I can see already in practice. They're hungry for success and working hard."

The team is led by senior point guard Jarvis Wise, who missed most of last year with an injured knee. He is healthy and ready to turn on the jets, leaving the offense at point guard.



PHOTO BY DANA KAISER

Grosse Pointe South's returning players, from left, Ben Fry, Jarvis Wise, Farrell Mays, Corbet Conroy, Victor Mattison and Nick Hess, are hopeful they can lead the Blue Devils to the promised land.

Seniors Farrell Mays and Nick Hess join juniors Victor Mattison, Corbet Conroy, Ben Fry and Jonathan Roberts as the veterans on the squad.

"We will have good guard play and we will be quick with good outside shooters," Twigg said. "Jonathan gives us some

size in the paint and he should be ready to go in a few weeks."

Newcomers to the varsity are senior Adam Llorens and underclassmen Alex Bedan, Brandon Barclay, Cooper Hartman, Nick Diehl and Mike Oliver.

Most of Twigg's players

stand taller than 6-feet in height with long arms and solid athleticism.

"We are a deeper team that should be able to trap a lot more because I can play more guys," Twigg said. "We're going to be quick at the defensive end."

Twigg said Roseville is the team to beat in the Macomb Area Conference White Division. However, don't count out the Blue Devils.

"I like where we stand in our division," Twigg said. "Roseville has two solid players and Cousino should be

tough, too, but I think we can hang in there right to the end. We're a confident group heading into the season."

Defending division champ Grosse Pointe North, Utica, Port Huron Northern and Sterling Heights Stevenson will also give chase. Of the four, North has the most potential to sneak into the title chase.

The nonleague schedule is brutal with games in December against Birmingham Seaholm, Brighton, Chandler Park Academy and Macomb Dakota.

In other nonleague action, the Blue Devils host St. Clair Shores Lake Shore and Romeo and play road games against Rochester Adams and Warren Fitzgerald.

"We have a very tough non-conference schedule that includes Seaholm and it's Division 1 player who signed with Florida International University," Twigg said. "We will be ready for division play, that is for sure."

South opens its season at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, hosting Seaholm.

LIGGETT

Enthusiasm runs high as Liggett is very talented

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Things are looking up in year three of the Sidney Johnson era.

Liggett's boys' basketball team has a roster loaded with experience and talented newcomers.

Added to the mix is the Knights are competing in a new division.

All of these tangents have created a fevered pitch for Liggett hoops this season.

"We're a young team, but we have a lot of players who were on the team last season, which should help us implement more complex offensive and defensive schemes," Johnson said.

Senior captains Mark Ghafari and Joey Shannon are the leaders and the veterans. Other seniors are Matt Stanley and Jonathan Hamel.

The rest of the returning crew are juniors Dominic Jamett and Carl Ghafari, along with sophomores Eddie Thomas and Justin Shack.

Newcomers are freshmen Eric Ewing, Andrew Zinkel, KeVaughn Jackson and Drew

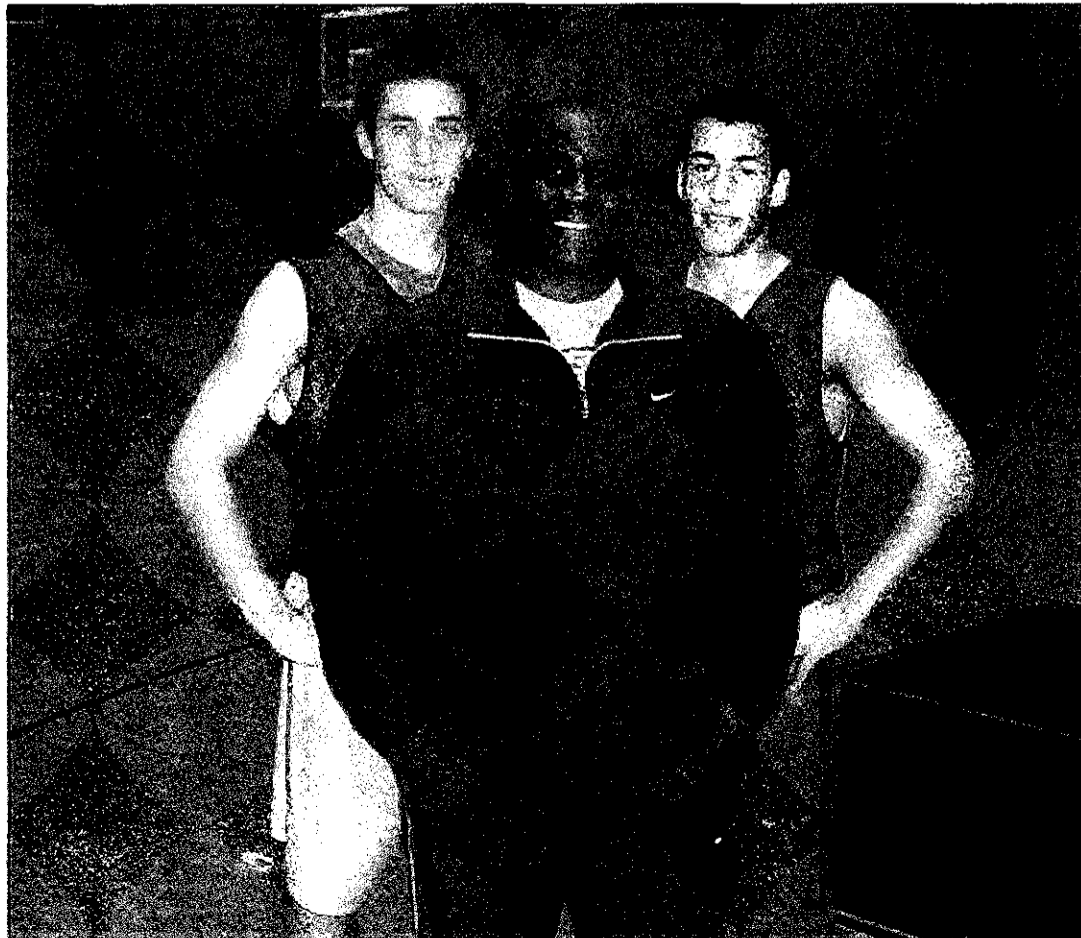


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett boys' basketball head coach Sidney Johnson, center, is leaning on seniors Joey Shannon, left, and Mark Ghafari to provide leadership needed to lift the Knights to new heights.

Jerome. Even though they're first-year varsity players, each brings a wealth of talent to the team.

"I like the versatility on this team," Johnson said. "We have scorers and a little more size than a year ago. We're excited to get the season started, but we all know it's going to take a lot of hard work to be successful."

The Knights left the Metro Conference and joined the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference.

The conference schedule is 16 games this season, which allows Johnson to collect only four nonleague games instead of 10 he had a year ago.

"I still scheduled Cranbrook, which is an old conference foe, and we had Old Redford Academy and added Bishop Foley," Johnson said. "I'm still looking for a fourth nonconference game to round out our schedule."

The Knights have the talent to contend for a MIAC title. Last year's big guns were Sterling Heights Parkway Christian and Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, but both programs lost key seniors.

"I like the versatility on this team. We have scorers and a little more size than a year ago."

SIDNEY JOHNSON,
Liggett boys' basketball
head coach

"I don't know what they have coming back, but both programs are consistently strong," Johnson said.

"I would hope we will be right there in the end. We have a lot of division games and it will be a little different this season playing these new schools."

The Knights' division foes are Southfield Christian, Parkway Christian, Oakland Christian, Bloomfield Hills Roper, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Lutheran Westland, Allen Park Inter-City Baptist and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

Liggett opens its season with a 7 p.m. road game Monday, Dec. 7, against Southfield Christian.

Girls basketball

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils strive to earn multiple titles

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

For years, Grosse Pointe South's girls' basketball program seemed to be an afterthought.

A couple of years ago, Kevin Richards took over as head coach and put the Blue Devils on the state's basketball map.

His dedication to making the program better and creating a family atmosphere should come full circle this season when he fields his best team.

"We will get after people, that is for sure," Richards said. "We had a good summer in our leagues and expectations are high."

Expectations are the highest than they have been in a decade, thanks to a core of good returning players.

Richards is counting on returning veterans Chloe Srebernak and Katie Hamm, both seniors, and junior Aisha Rodney and sophomore Caitlin Moore to lead the Blue Devils.

"The girls are the team leaders and they were here last year when we played some good basketball," Richards



PHOTO BY DANA KAISER

Grosse Pointe South's 2009-10 captains are, from left, seniors Katie Hamm and Chloe Srebernak.

said.

Newcomers are seniors Taru Madezeki, a 5-foot, 11-inch guard; Theresa Zettner; and Katie Raymond, who will be eligible in mid-January after transferring schools; sophomores Carmen Engel and

Cathy Palazzolo; and freshmen Christie Flom and Claire DeBoer, a 6-foot, 1-inch low post player who can run the floor, as well as block shots.

"We have a lot of size and quickness, which will make us a tough matchup for some

teams," Richards said. "I'm comfortable putting any of my 11 players on the court because they all played a lot of basketball during the off-season."

"Our schedule is much tougher than last season, but

it's designed to make us a better team come state playoff time."

The Blue Devils face tough competition, including Detroit Northwestern, Detroit Renaissance, Grosse Pointe North and Birmingham Detroit Country Day a week before the districts begin.

Helping Richards is Dave Grauzer, who has been an assistant on St. Clair Shores Lake Shore's boys' state championship team, as well as with Warren DeLaSalle during its runs through the rugged Catholic League.

"Dave is a huge asset to the program," Richards said. "The girls listen to his coaching and he allows me to assess more and watch closer than I could before. He will help our team grow."

Grauzer played on back-to-back Central Michigan University men's basketball teams that won MAC titles in the late 1970s.

The Blue Devils are the favorite to win a Macomb Area Conference Blue Division title.

L'Anse Creuse has a low post player heading to Findlay

University next year and Warren Cousino has a very quick point guard.

"Our division will be competitive," Richards said. "I like our chances, but it will not be easy because L'Anse Creuse and Cousino have solid players and Lakeview always plays us tough."

Anchor Bay and Mount Clemens are also in the Blue Division.

One of the biggest games of the season is Friday, Jan. 29, when South hosts city rival Grosse Pointe North.

The Blue Devils haven't had any luck beating their rivals, but last year they gave the Norsemen two tough games but lost each one.

"We have our work cut out for us, but the girls are excited to start the season and they're excited about our potential," Richards said. "We're going to get after teams and we learned a lot from last season, so I will factor those things into our game plans."

Grosse Pointe South's season opener is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, against visiting Detroit Northwestern.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Ready to mix vets & youth

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's girls basketball team is led by seniors Ariel Braker and Kayla Womack.

Each will be playing college basketball a year from now with Braker headed to the University of Notre Dame and Womack to Saginaw Valley State University.

However, they have some unfinished business to attend to this winter — helping the young and inexperienced Norsemen try to reach another state Final Four.

"We're pretty young and we haven't had much practice as a complete team during the first week of practice," head coach Gary Bennett said. "We're an unknown right now until we can get the newcomers on the court playing with our veterans."

"I think we will be a better team in the second half of the season after everyone gets to play some games together."

Braker, Womack, Christine Bedway, Sarah Bigham, Kamille Hamzey and junior Micaela Liddane, are the only returning players from last year's team that reached the state quarterfinals against Detroit Renaissance.

Bennett will be doing a lot of teaching this preseason to get his players to grasp the complexity of the offensive and defensive schemes that have made the Norsemen one of the top teams in the area year after year.

The Norsemen's schedule is one of the toughest around, thanks to nonleague games against Birmingham Marian, Okemos, Romeo, Detroit Northwestern, Utica, Saginaw Arthur Hill, Grosse Pointe South, St. Clair and Detroit Allen Academy.

The road to winning another Macomb Area Conference Red Division will still have to go through North this season, but that road is paved with other teams, as well.

Perennial state power Fraser under Dave Kuppe might be the team to beat, according to Bennett, but from head to toe the Red Division will be a battle.

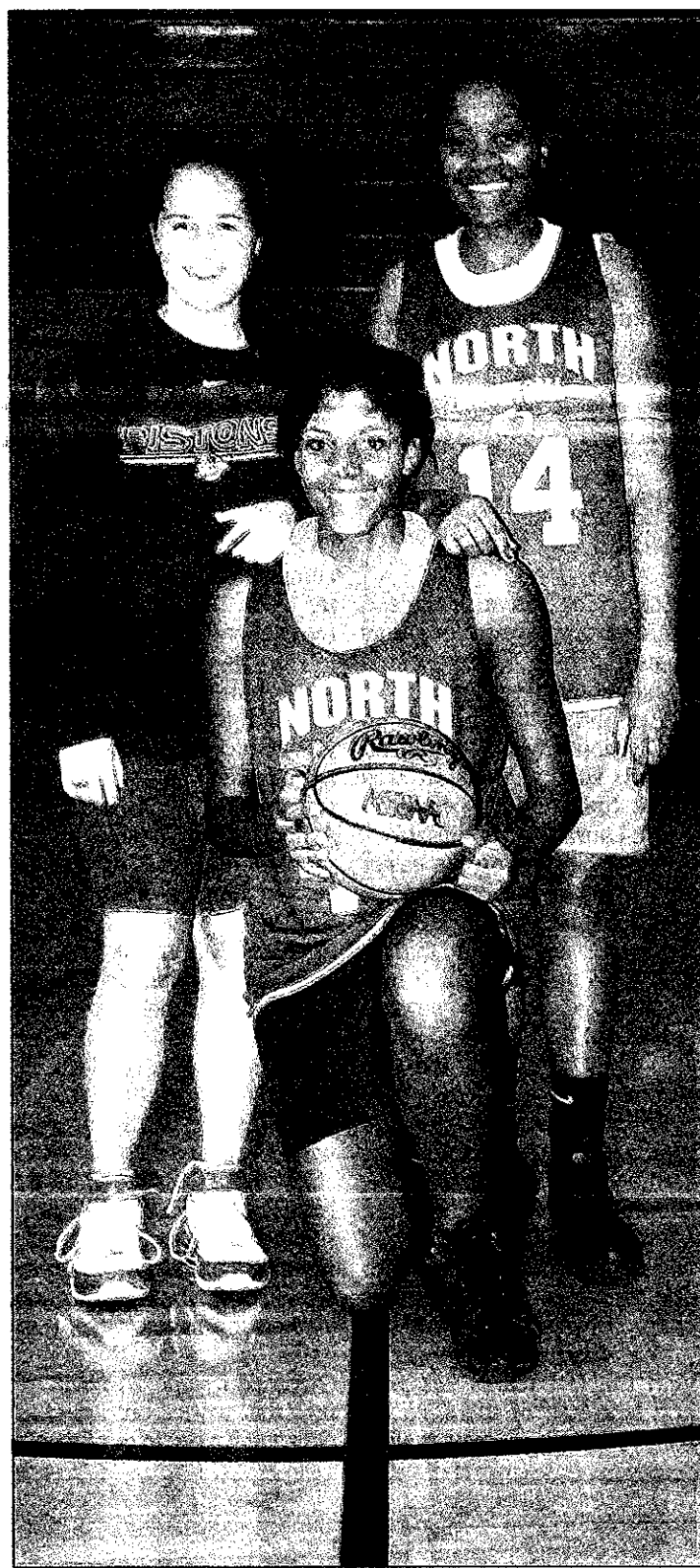


PHOTO BY DANA KAISER

Grosse Pointe North veterans, from left, Sarah Bigham, Ariel Braker and Kayla Womack, are back for their last shot to win a state title.

Utica Ford and Sterling Heights Stevenson have improved squads, while Chippewa Valley and Utica Eisenhower will test the Norsemen, too.

"It should be a wide open race this season, but I think Fraser might be the team to beat," Bennett said. "We will give it our best shot."

In the Norsemen's favor is the division slate doesn't start until after the holiday break, so the newcomers will have six nonconference games and several weeks of practice to get on the same page.

Their first division game is Thursday, Jan. 7, at Chippewa Valley.

However, it's not all doom and gloom as Braker and Womack will get plenty of opportunities to put the ball in the basket. Braker is one of the

best players in the state and recently signed her letter-of-intent to play college basketball at the University of Notre Dame.

Womack is one of the MAC's top guards and should garner some all-state votes. She also signed a letter-of-intent to play college basketball at Saginaw Valley State University.

Both players should be able to concentrate on the season as they will not have to worry about the rigors of recruiting.

Bedway played a lot of minutes last season, so her role will not change much. However, Hamzey and Liddane will get a lot of playing time and be counted on to add some punch to the offense.

North opens its season Thursday, Dec. 3, at home against Marian.

LIGGETT

Young squad greets coach

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

New head coach Wayne Gigante takes over a Liggett girls' basketball program with a ton of potential.

"We have only two girls back from the entire basketball program, but we have a lot of newcomers who are enthusiastic to play basketball," Gigante said. "I want to build this program into a consistent winner and I think we have started on the right foot."

The Knights finished near the .500 mark a year ago, which is a far cry from the previous season when the team had only one victory.

This season the Knights begin with two veterans, senior Hannah Baird and sophomore Madison Ristovski, one of the state's top scorers. Junior Grace Edmonds is another returning player.

Added to the mix is freshman Haleigh Ristovski, who will play every position on the court, according to Gigante.

"Madison is a talent and now she has two very good players

to compliment her talents, her younger sister, Haleigh, and Hannah, who is a nice player," Gigante said.

It will take the remaining roster of freshmen time to get used to Gigante's up-tempo system.

"We're set for the future, but this season the girls are going to learn a lot," Gigante said. "We will have some fun this season and we will work hard in every game and every practice. This team will be fun to watch."

Gigante will run an in-your-face defense and an offense that won't stop until the final buzzer sounds.

He has three very good players to build the team around with the Ristovski sisters and Baird, who should watch her career scoring average go through the roof this winter.

The Knights compete in the Michigan Independent Athletic Conference after years of membership in the Metro Conference.

Their new division foes are Southfield Christian, Lutheran Westland, Bloomfield Hills

Roepel, Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Plymouth Christian and Auburn Hills Oakland Christian, which is always one of the top ranked teams in the lower classes.

"The MIAC has some nice teams, so this should be fun to watch," Gigante said. "The games with Oakland Christian will be a nice test for us to see where we stand."

In nonleague competition, the Knights face St. Clair Shores Lake Shore, Detroit Community, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart and Highland Park.

"The girls worked hard on their game throughout the summer, so even though they're freshmen, they have had time on the court in camps and leagues," Gigante said. "It's going to be different for the younger kids to play varsity basketball, but they will get used to it in a hurry."

Gigante makes his Liggett debut at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, against Lake Shore.

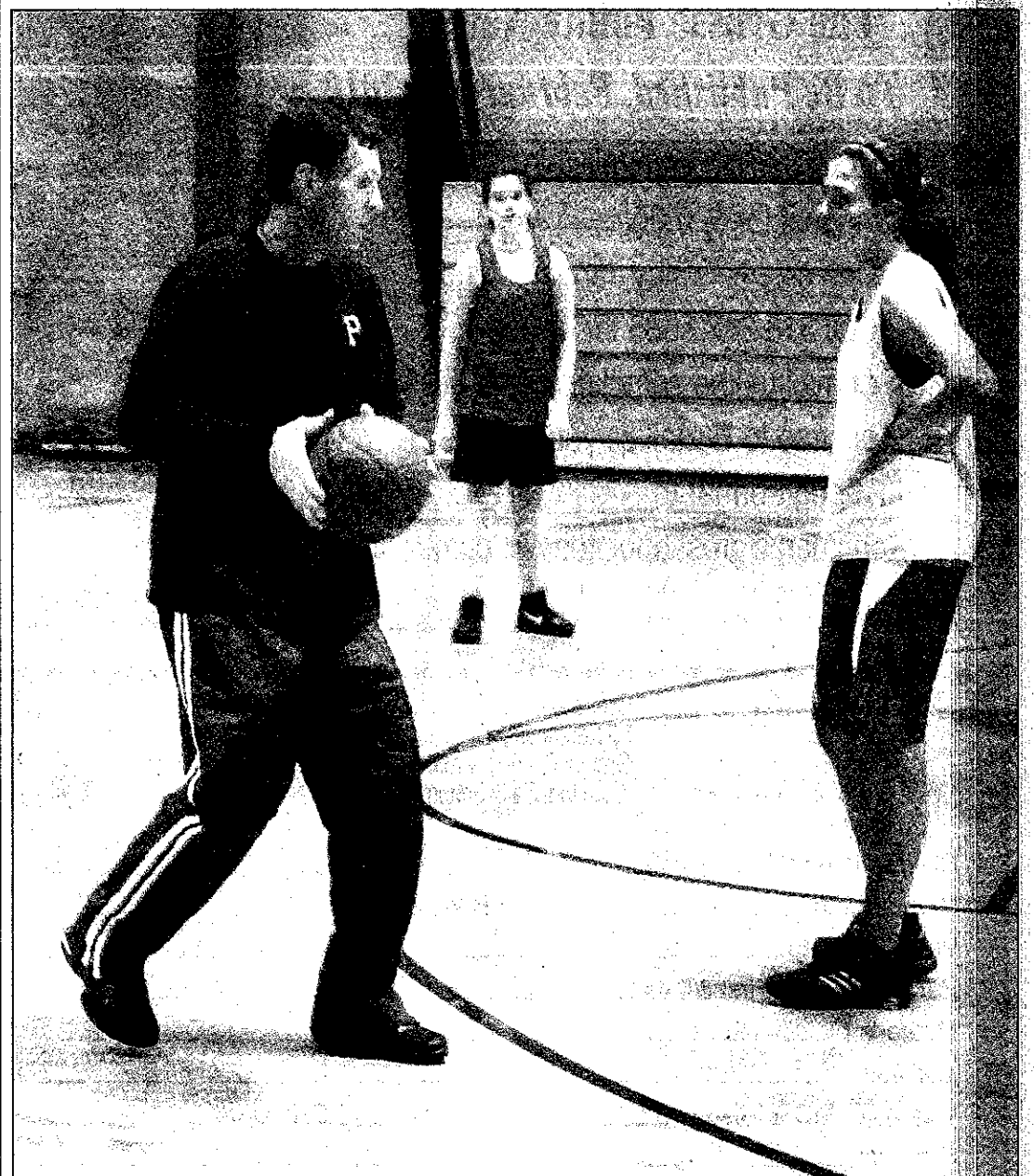


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETTI

New head coach Wayne Gigante, with ball, brings a wealth of coaching experience to help lead Liggett's girls basketball program.

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Girls hockey

LIGGETT



PHOTOS BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett's girls' hockey team, under the direction of head coach Laura Owczarski, left, is ready to contend for a division and state title this season, thanks to seniors, from left, Paige Counsman, Morgan Ellis and Liz Smith.

Knights jump to Division 1

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Returning players made a decision that goes a long way in establishing Liggett's girls hockey 2009-10 season.

"The girls voted to move up to Division 1 when the season ended, so my decision was made then and there," head coach Laura Owczarski said.

The Knights drop the easier sledding of the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 2 slate that includes Bloomfield, which hasn't won a game in several years, and Birmingham Detroit Country Day, which is in its second year.

The team's new division foes, which they play twice, are Livonia Ladywood, Northville, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, Ann Arbor and city rivals Grosse Pointe North and two-time defending state champ Grosse Pointe South.

"We were very competitive with the D-1 teams last year and beat half of them, so we feel we will compete with all of

them again this season," Owczarski said. "The better competition will make us a better team. Our girls are up for the challenge."

The Knights field the league's most potent scorer, senior Paige Counsman, who was in the running for the prestigious Miss Hockey honor last year, but instead it went to Ann Arbor's Angie Chronis.

Other returning players are seniors Morgan Ellis and Liz Smith; juniors Medea Shanidze, Mariah Passalacqua, Natalie Peracchio and Keegin Fisher; and super sophomore Haleigh Bolton, who is also one of the league's best players.

Owczarski has the luxury of putting Bolton on the same line with Counsman, but instead she will put Counsman on line No. 1 and Bolton on line No. 2.

"This way, we have a good scorer playing against a team's second line, which isn't as good as their top line, which I think gives us an advantage," Owczarski said. "We will see how that works, but I'm confident it will work in our favor."

Passalacqua takes over as the No. 1 goalie. She played in a handful of games last season, but only gave up one goal in a recent scrimmage.

"Mariah had a good off-season and worked hard in net," Owczarski said. "It's a big test, but we're confident she will play well."

Another help is newcomer, freshman Aria Ganz-Waple.

The Knights' schedule is front loaded with Division 2 teams, such as Warren Regina, Bloomfield, Plymouth-Canton-Salem and Country Day, giving Passalacqua and the other newcomers a chance to get their feet wet playing varsity hockey.

"We're excited to start the season because we believe we can be one of the teams to beat," Owczarski said.

Grosse Pointe South is the team to beat, but Liggett, which won the Division 2 playoff tournament last season and finished with one of the best records in program history, should be right there at the end if everything falls into place.



Junior Mariah Passalacqua is now the Knights' No. 1 goalie and has all the pressure squarely on her shoulders. She is ready for the challenge.

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The Babies of 2009

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Boys hockey

LIGGETT

Liggett's skill should yield solid season

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Liggett's boys' hockey team is ready to turn the corner in Robb McIntyre's second season behind the bench.

The Knights struggled to find consistency a year ago, finishing below the break even mark.

That will not be the case this season as McIntyre has several talented seniors.

Returning is the team's leading scorer, senior Dan Zukas, who had 67 points a year ago. Other returning seniors are Rory Deane, James Palmer, Mac Decker, Patrick Gushee, Tripp Damman, Chris Ralstrom and David McIntyre, the starting goalie.

"Dan's not going to have to do it all this season because he will have other players who will put the puck in the net, which will be a nice commodity," McIntyre said. "I think everyone on our roster will score a goal."

"I'm a firm believer in playing three lines and our fourth line will get some shifts. Everyone will contribute."

Everything about the Knights will be for the better this season, including practices which will be more strict.

Scoring goals was not a problem last season and will not be a problem this year.

A leaky defense was a major culprit in last year's poor record.

McIntyre looks very polished in net. It will be his first full season with the Knights after he sat out the first half of last season due to the state's transfer rule.

"David is much more comfortable now than last year," McIntyre said. "Everything was new to him, but now it's a year later and he is really in a groove. He can be a very good goalie."

Other returning players are sophomores Jeff Mott, Jake Hodges, David Gushee, Boris Canzano and Joseph Davenport.

New to the team is senior Jake Goldberg, who will be on the Knights' No. 1 defensive pair. His ability to shut down opposing forwards and carry the puck up the ice will not on-

ly help the Knights limit scoring opportunities, but help the offense flow smoothly from the defensive zone to the offensive zone.

"Jake is a good hockey player who solidifies our defense," McIntyre said. "We also have several highly skilled freshman and a good sophomore who will make us a deep team."

Sophomore Connor Wiggins transferred to Liggett and will be eligible to play in the second semester, which is in January.

If the freshmen gel with the veterans, this can be one of Liggett's best seasons.

The Knights do not reside in a league, so they play an independent school schedule that includes Romeo, Troy Athens, Port Huron, Madison Heights Lamphere, St. Clair, Dexter, Mattawan, Portage Northern, Dearborn Heights Crestwood, Auburn Hills Avondale, Fraser, L'Anse Creuse, Madison Heights Bishop Foley and West Bloomfield.

McIntyre also scheduled home-and-away games against Birmingham Detroit Country Day, Lincoln Park, Ann Arbor

Gabriel Richard and Royal Oak Shrine.

The team hosts a tournament the first weekend in December, filling out its 24-game slate.

"We're very optimistic about the upcoming season," McIntyre said. "We're light years ahead of where we were this time a year ago."

Liggett opened its season last weekend, beating Romeo 5-1 and tying Troy Athens 3-3.

Zukas had a hat trick and two assists against Romeo, while freshman Manny Counsman and Patrick Gushee had a goal apiece.

Freshman Mark Auk scored to tie the Troy game late in the opening period, but by the end of the second stanza, the Knights were behind 3-1.

They had two power play goals in the third period, one by Goldberg and the other by Deane, to help the Knights get one point from the tie.

"Both teams had good opportunities to win the game down the stretch," McIntyre said. "I'm glad we were able to get at least a tie."

Liggett is 1-0-1 overall.

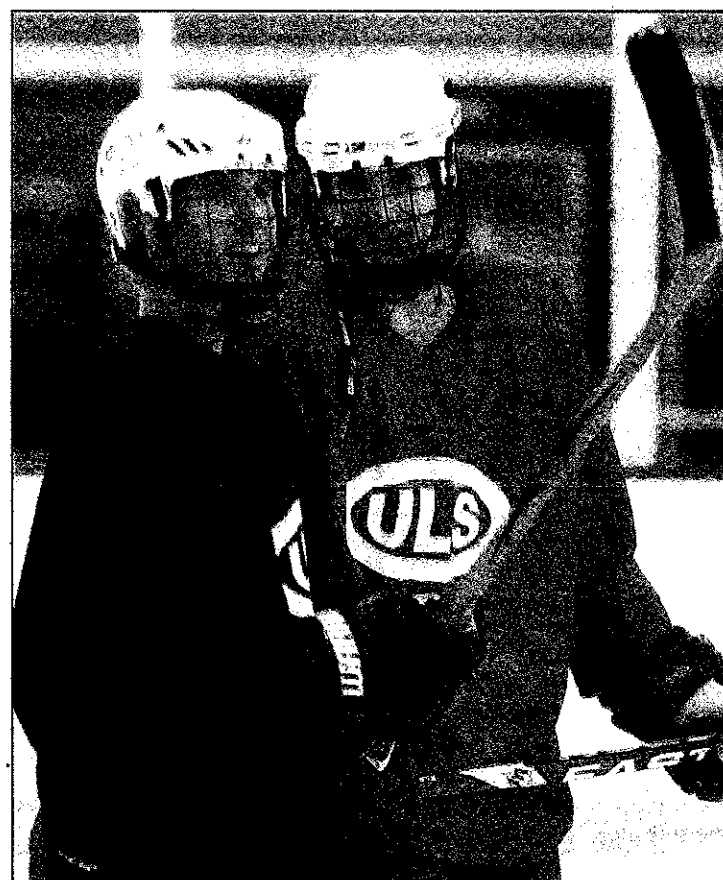


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett's boys hockey team is ready to take flight this season, thanks to youngsters such as Jacob Soyka, left, and senior Rory Deane.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL Basketball - Boys Varsity

12/07/09	Southfield Christian	A	7:00pm
12/11/09	Parkway Christian	A	7:00pm
01/05/10	Oakland Christian	H	6:00pm
01/08/10	Roeper	H	7:30pm
01/12/10	Greenhills	A	7:00pm
01/15/10	Lutheran Westland	H	7:00pm
01/19/10	Inter-City Baptist	H	7:00pm
01/22/10	Lutheran Northwest	H	6:00pm
01/26/10	Southfield Christian	H	7:00pm
01/29/10	Parkway Christian	H	7:00pm
02/02/10	Oakland Christian School	A	7:00pm
02/05/10	Old Redford Acad. Prep	A	7:00pm
02/09/10	Roeper	A	7:00pm
02/12/10	Greenhills	H	6:00pm
02/16/10	Lutheran Westland	A	7:00pm
02/19/10	Lutheran Northwest	A	7:00pm
02/23/10	Inter-City Baptist	A	7:00pm
03/02/10	Bishop Foley Catholic	H	7:00pm
03/05/10	Cranbrook Kingswood	A	7:00pm
03/08/10	District Week	A	TBA
03/15/10	Regional Week	A	TBA

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL Ice Hockey - Boys Varsity

11/20/09	Romeo	A	8:45pm
11/21/09	Athens	A	6:15pm
11/24/09	Port Huron	H	6:00pm
12/04/09	ULS Tournament	H	5:30pm
12/05/09	ULS Tournament	H	3:30pm
12/09/09	Detroit Country Day	H	5:45pm
01/06/10	Lincoln Park	H	5:45pm
01/08/10	Gabriel Richard Ann Arbor	A	7:30pm
01/13/10	Lamphere	H	5:45pm
01/14/10	St. Clair	A	6:00pm
01/20/10	Dexter	H	6:30pm
01/22/10	Mattawan	A	7:30pm
01/23/10	Portage Northern	A	4:00pm
01/27/10	Crestwood	H	5:45pm
01/28/10	Shrine Catholic	A	6:00pm
02/03/10	Avondale	H	5:45pm
02/05/10	Fraser	A	8:45pm
02/06/10	Detroit Country Day	A	1:45pm
02/10/10	L'Anse Creuse	H	5:45pm
02/11/10	Bishop Foley Catholic	H	5:45pm
02/17/10	Gabriel Richard Ann Arbor	H	5:45pm
02/24/10	Shrine Catholic	H	5:45pm
02/26/10	West Bloomfield	A	8:30pm
02/27/10	Lincoln Park	A	7:00pm
03/01/10	Regional Week	A	TBA

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL Ice Hockey - Girls Varsity

11/24/09	Regina	H	4:00pm
12/01/09	Andover	H	5:45pm
12/03/09	ULS Tournament	H	5:15pm
12/05/09	ULS Tournament	H	9:50am
12/08/09	Canton	A	6:30pm
12/12/09	Grosse Pointe North	A	4:00pm
01/05/10	Detroit Country Day	H	5:45pm
01/12/10	Northville	H	5:45pm
01/14/10	Grosse Pointe South	A	7:30pm
01/19/10	Ladywood	A	6:30pm
01/22/10	Walled Lake Western	H	4:45pm
01/26/10	Ladywood	H	5:45pm
01/27/10	Cranbrook Kingswood	A	7:30pm
01/30/10	Pioneer	A	7:00pm
02/02/10	Grosse Pointe North	H	5:45pm
02/04/10	Port Huron	A	4:00pm
02/10/10	Mercy	A	8:00pm
02/19/10	Cranbrook Kingswood	H	4:45pm
02/23/10	Grosse Pointe South	H	5:45pm
02/26/10	Northville	A	8:00pm
03/01/10	Playoffs Begin	A	TBA

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL Basketball - Girls Varsity

12/02/09	Lake Shore	H	6:00pm
12/08/09	Detroit Community	A	6:00pm
12/11/09	Southfield Christian	H	6:00pm
12/18/09	Lutheran Westland	H	6:00pm
01/05/10	Cranbrook Kingswood	H	7:30pm
01/08/10	Roeper	H	6:00pm
01/12/10	Lutheran Northwest	A	7:00pm
01/15/10	Oakland Christian	A	7:30pm
01/19/10	Greenhills	A	7:00pm
01/22/10	Plymouth Christian Acad.	H	7:30pm
01/26/10	Academy of Sacred Heart	A	6:00pm
01/28/10	Southfield Christian	A	7:30pm
02/02/10	Lutheran Westland	A	7:00pm
02/05/10	Roeper	A	7:30pm
02/09/10	Lutheran Northwest	H	6:00pm
02/11/10	Oakland Christian	H	6:00pm
02/16/10	Bethany Christian	H	5:30pm
02/19/10	Plymouth Christian Acad.	A	7:00pm
02/23/10	Highland Park Community	H	6:00pm
02/25/10	Greenhills	H	6:00pm
03/01/10	District Week	A	TBA
03/09/10	Regional Week	A	TBA

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL Swimming - Coed Varsity

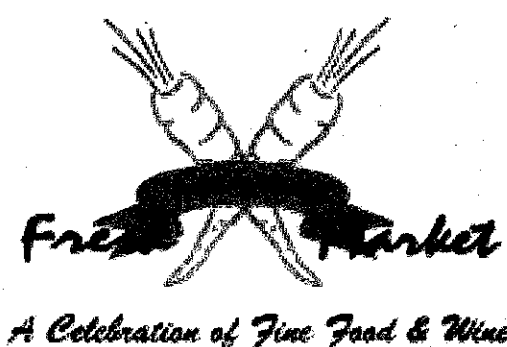
12/05/09	Clawson	H	2:30pm
01/05/10	Willow Run	H	7:00pm
01/08/10	Lake Shore	H	6:00pm
01/12/10	Hazel Park	A	6:30pm
01/16/10	Hazel Park	A	12:00pm
01/28/10	Clawson	H	5:30pm
02/02/10	Hazel Park	H	5:30pm
02/11/10	Fitzgerald	H	5:30pm
02/18/10	Cranbrook Kingswood	A	5:30pm
02/23/10	Greenhills	H	5:30pm
02/27/10	League Meet	A	11:00am

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Boys hockey

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Young team to learn through ups and downs

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North boys hockey team has made it a rite of passage to play in the state semifinals.

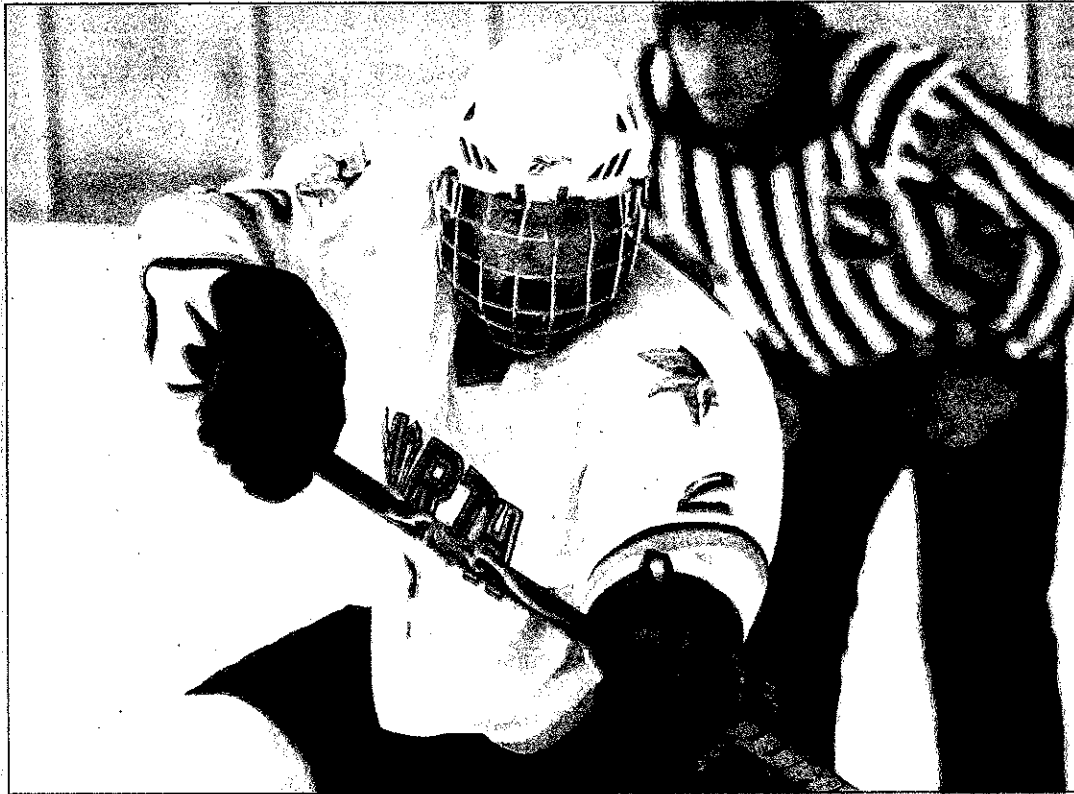
The Norsemen, under long-time head coach Scott Lock, have been in the Division 1 Final Four three years running, losing twice to Marquette and last spring to Howell.

This season might be different as the Norsemen field a roster loaded with underclassmen and now play in the more difficult Division 2 state playoff districts.

"We're a young team with a lot of freshmen and sophomores," Lock said. "They have talent and they're working hard and learning a lot in practice."

"They're going to have to learn a lot because our schedule is tough from start to finish."

The Norsemen finished 19-9-1 overall last year. Winning as many games as possible is always the goal of a Lock-coached hockey team — and



Sophomore Scott Dornbrock brings his tough defense to the forefront to help Grosse Pointe North's boys' hockey team compete this winter.

FILE PHOTO

this year is no different. "We will battle in every game and see what happens," Lock

said. "We have some big kids who will battle in the corners and kids who can skate. We

will be good, but it might take some time for everyone to get on the same page."

Leading the offensive charge are seniors Matt Lucchese, Mitchell Capp and Steve Herron.

Defensive leaders are sophomore Scott Dornbrock and seniors Alex Tomofski and Dylan Welke.

The Norsemen lost both goalies to graduation, so the netminders this season are senior Mike Held and sophomore Chip Wujek.

"Mike and Chip have experience in net and they will be fine," Lock said. "We have to play well in front of them to make their job easier."

Newcomers expected to make an impact are senior defenseman Shane Johnston and sophomore forwards Joe Aliau and Brad Rowinski.

Another big help coming in the second semester is sophomore J.P. Lucchese.

Last season the Norsemen were in fifth place in the seven-team Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League. They finished only two points from making it a five-team tie atop the standings with U-D Jesuit, Novi Detroit Catholic Central,

Birmingham Brother Rice and Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

Catholic Central and Cranbrook Kingswood won state titles a year ago and are title contenders again this season.

Brother Rice fields a sound squad, as does DeLaSalle, Port Huron Northern and U-D Jesuit.

In nonleague action, the Norsemen face state powers Muskegon Mona Shores the opening weekend of the season, along with Trenton, Marquette and Howell.

In addition, they compete in the MIHL Showcase the second weekend in February. Their other nonleague games are against Farmington Unified, Livonia Stevenson and city rival Grosse Pointe South.

The first game is set for Saturday, Dec. 5, at City Ice Arena, and the second is Saturday, Feb. 6, on home ice at Great Lakes Sports Arena.

North opens its season Saturday, Nov. 28, at Mona Shores.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Basketball - Boys Varsity

12/08/09	De La Salle	A	7:30pm
12/09/09	Harper Woods	H	7:30pm
12/11/09	L'anse Creuse	H	7:30pm
12/15/09	Chippewa Valley	H	7:30pm
12/17/09	Madison	A	7:30pm
12/28/09	Psi Renaissance	A	TBA
01/05/10	Port Huron Northern	A	7:00pm
01/08/10	Stevenson	H	7:30pm
01/12/10	Roseville	A	7:00pm
01/20/10	Utica	H	7:30pm
01/22/10	Grosse Pointe South	A	7:00pm
01/26/10	Cousino	H	7:30pm
01/29/10	Old Redford Prep - Detroit	H	7:30pm
02/05/10	Port Huron Northern	H	7:30pm
02/09/10	Stevenson	A	7:00pm
02/11/10	Roseville	H	7:30pm
02/19/10	Utica	A	7:00pm
02/23/10	Grosse Pointe South	H	7:30pm
02/25/10	Cousino	A	7:00pm
03/02/10	Southlake	A	7:30pm

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Basketball - Girls Varsity

12/03/09	Marian	H	7:00pm
12/08/09	Okemos	H	7:00pm
12/11/09	Romeo	A	7:00pm
12/14/09	Northwestern	H	7:00pm
12/16/09	Utica	H	7:00pm
01/05/10	Dakota	A	5:30pm
01/07/10	Chippewa Valley	A	7:00pm
01/13/10	Eisenhower	A	7:00pm
01/15/10	Ford II	H	7:00pm
01/19/10	Stevenson	A	7:00pm
01/21/10	Fraser	A	7:30pm
01/25/10	Saginaw Arthur Hill	A	7:00pm
01/29/10	Grosse Pointe South	A	7:00pm
02/02/10	St. Clair	A	7:30pm
02/10/10	Chippewa Valley	H	7:00pm
02/12/10	Eisenhower	H	7:00pm
02/16/10	Ford II	A	7:00pm
02/18/10	Stevenson	H	7:00pm
02/22/10	Detroit Allen Academy	H	7:00pm
02/24/10	Fraser	H	7:00pm

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Ice Hockey - Boys Varsity

11/28/09	Mona Shores	A	6:00pm
12/02/09	Trenton	A	7:30pm
12/05/09	Grosse Pointe South	A	7:00pm
12/09/09	Brother Rice	H	8:15pm
12/12/09	De La Salle	A	5:30pm
12/18/09	Marquette	A	6:00pm
12/19/09	Marquette	A	1:00pm
12/22/09	University of Detroit Jesuit	H	7:45pm
01/06/10	St. Clair Shores	A	7:30pm
01/09/10	University of Detroit Jesuit	A	4:30pm
01/15/10	Howell	A	7:00pm
01/16/10	Farmington Unified-Harrison	H	7:25pm
01/20/10	Port Huron Northern	H	6:00pm
01/23/10	Livonia Stevenson	A	8:00pm
01/27/10	Catholic Central	H	7:45pm
01/29/10	Cranbrook Schools	A	7:00pm
02/04/10	Port Huron Northern	A	6:00pm
02/06/10	Grosse Pointe South	H	7:45pm
02/12/10	MIHL Showcase in Trenton	A	TBA
02/13/10	MIHL Showcase in Trenton	A	TBA
02/17/10	De La Salle Collegiate	H	7:45pm
02/20/10	Cranbrook Schools	H	4:15pm
02/23/10	Brother Rice	A	7:00pm
02/27/10	Catholic Central	A	7:00pm
03/01/10	State Tournament Begins	A	TBA

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Ice Hockey - Girls Varsity

11/18/09	Grosse Pointe South	H	7:00pm
11/21/09	Northville	H	4:00pm
12/03/09	ULS Holiday Tournament	A	TBA
12/05/09	ULS Holiday Tournament	A	TBA
12/09/09	Bloomfield United	H	7:00pm
12/12/09	University Liggett School	H	4:00pm
12/16/09	Plymouth Canton Salem Unified	H	7:00pm
01/09/10	Mercy	H	4:00pm
01/13/10	Ladywood	H	7:00pm
01/16/10	Cranbrook Schools	A	12:00pm
01/19/10	Walled Lake Central	A	7:30pm
01/20/10	Port Huron	H	7:00pm
01/23/10	Ladywood	A	6:30pm
01/29/10	Northville	A	8:00pm
02/02/10	University Liggett	A	5:45pm
02/06/10	Grosse Pointe South	A	5:00pm
02/10/10	Detroit Country Day	A	5:00pm
02/13/10	Ann Arbor Huron	H	4:00pm
02/24/10	Cranbrook Schools	H	7:00pm
02/27/10	Regina	A	8:00pm

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Gymnastics - Girls Varsity

12/10/09	Groves	H	7:00pm
01/06/10	Troy Quad	A	6:30pm
01/09/10	Fraser Invitational	A	TBA
01/11/10	Fraser	A	7:00pm
01/16/10	Farmington Gymnastics Invitational	A	9:00am
01/18/10	Tecumseh	H	6:00pm
01/27/10	Edsel Ford	H	7:00pm
01/30/10	Troy Athens Invitational	A	TBA
02/01/10	Fraser	H	7:00pm
02/08/10	Groves	A	7:00pm
02/10/10	Edsel Ford	A	7:00pm
02/25/10	League Meet	H	TBA
03/06/10	Regionals	A	TBA

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Wrestling - Boys Varsity

12/05/09	L'anse Creuse Duals Team Tourney	A	9:30am
12/10/09	Roseville & Lamphere at Roseville	A	TBA
12/12/09	Hartland Invitational	A	10:00am
12/18/09	Macomb County Tourney	H	4:00pm
12/19/09	Macomb County Tournament	H	9:00am
01/07/10	Port Huron	A	5:00pm
01/09/10	PHN Individual Tourney	A	8:00am
01/14/10	Sterling Heights	H	5:30pm
01/16/10	Norsemen Classic	H	9:00am
01/19/10	East Detroit	A	5:00pm
01/23/10	Wayne County Tournament	A	9:30am
01/28/10	Warren Woods Tower	A	5:00pm
01/30/10	Goodrich Tournament	A	9:30am
02/03/10	Romeo & Davison At Fitzgerald	A	5:00pm
02/06/10	Sterling Heights	A	10:00am
02/10/10	Team Districts 2/10 or 2/11	A	TBA
02/13/10	Individual Districts	A	TBA
02/17/10	Team Regional	A	TBA
02/20/10	Individual Regional	A	TBA
03/04/10	Individual States 3/4-3/6	A	TBA
03/05/10	Individual States 3/4-3/6	A	TBA
03/06/10	Individual States 3/4-3/6	A	TBA

GROSSE POINTE NORTH Swimming - Boys Varsity

12/15/09	Anchor Bay	H	6:30pm
01/05/10	Romeo	A	6:00pm
01/12/10	Grosse Pointe South	H	6:00pm
01/15/10	Romeo Bulldog Relay	A	6:00pm
01/19/10	Dakota	A	6:00pm
01/26/10	Eisenhower	H	7:00pm
02/04/10	Catholic Central	H	6:30pm
02/05/10	Pioneer	A	6:00pm
02/09/10	Chippewa Valley	A	6:30pm
02/12/10	MISCA (Diving) at EMU	A	TBA
02/13/10	MISCA (Swimming) at EMU	A	TBA
02/25/10	Division Meet - Diving Only	A	TBA
02/26/10	Division Meet - Swim Prelim	A	5:00pm
02/27/10	Division Meet - Finals	A	12:00pm
03/09/10	Regionals - Diving	A	TBA
03/12/10	State Meet - Prelims at Oakland	A	12:00pm
03/13/10	State Meet - Finals at Oakland	A	12:00pm

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Boys hockey

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

New coach has attitude to lead winning team

By Bob St. John Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's boys hockey team is under the tutelage of a new head coach this season, James Bufalino.

He inherits a roster that finished near the .500 mark last season and lost the majority of its scoring punch.

However, Bufalino brings a wealth of playing and coaching experience he hopes rubs off on the historically strong program he guides.

"The entire process has been a blessing with the strong program history and school support," Bufalino said. "Both the players and the parents have been welcoming, which has made the transition to the boys team as smooth as possible."

"I have been affiliated with some great teams and organizations over my hockey years, which I hope to implement the best of my experiences with the program's rich traditions."

Bufalino spent the past five

seasons as the Grosse Pointe South's girls hockey team's assistant coach under Bill Fox. He helped coach the Blue Devils to three state championships during those five seasons.

"As a coach, I will strive to provide our players with the best possible leadership and instruction on a daily basis," he said. "Our team goal is to leave 100 percent effort out on the ice every practice and game."

"As our season progresses, we will bond as one and learn each individual responsibility. Our strength will be in our unity, which will lead to success."

The 2009-10 Blue Devils are led by senior tri-captains Nick Monforton, Miles Knights and Jimmy Morris.

Other returning players are juniors John Wendizinski, Jess Martinelli, Ross Muniga, Sean Milavec and Eric Marshall, and sophomores Nolan Monforton, Max Corbett and Sam Hartman.

Bufalino will work 14 newcomers into his lineup, includ-

ing sophomore forward Wes Cimmarusti and sophomore goalie C.J. Schebil, who come from competitive hockey programs.

Bufalino said he is counting on the sophomore duo to make an immediate impact.

The other goalie is senior Matt Hughes, who is new to the high school game, but has been working hard and is ready to step in and contribute.

The Blue Devils will be road warriors this season with 15 of their 24 games away from City Arena.

Their home games are Southgate Anderson, Ann Arbor Huron, Dearborn, Trenton, Warren DeLaSalle, Plymouth Unified, Birmingham Brother Rice, Grosse Pointe North and Macomb Dakota.

Awary opponents include Grosse Pointe North, St. Clair Shores Lakeview, South Lyon, Allen Park, Dearborn Divine Child, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Wyandotte Roosevelt,



Grosse Pointe South's 2009-10 captains are, from left, Nick Monforton, Miles Knight and Jim Morris.

and Brownstown Woodhaven.

South is a member of the Michigan Metro High School Hockey League.

"I'm looking forward to new beginnings with the Grosse Pointe South boys varsity program that is rich with success and tradition," Bufalino said. "This year's team has a good mix of talent and speed."

"We will be looking for leadership from our upper classmen and will be depending on our new players to quickly adapt to the high school level."

South opened its season last weekend, losing 5-2 to visiting Southgate Anderson.

The visitors came out flying and scored two unanswered goals that prompted Bufalino

to make a goalie change, inserting Schebil.

Morris tallied with a power play goal off a slapshot from the point and he added another goal to tie it 2-2.

Anderson scored the game-winner late in the second period and added two power play goals in the final period to round out the scoring.

PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Basketball - Boys Varsity

Table of boys basketball schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Ice Hockey - Boys Varsity

Table of boys ice hockey schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Gymnastics - Girls Varsity

Table of girls gymnastics schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Wrestling - Boys Varsity

Table of boys wrestling schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Basketball - Girls Varsity

Table of girls basketball schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Ice Hockey - Girls Varsity

Table of girls ice hockey schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Swimming - Boys Varsity

Table of boys swimming schedule with columns for date, opponent, location, and time.

Advertisement for Pointe Family Dentistry listing dentists Patrick G. Latcham, Paul S. VanWalleghem, James W. Cox, and Ruth Mannschreck with services like whitening and TMJ treatment.

Advertisement for Pointe Orthodontics listing Jennifer K. Mertz, a graduate of Grosse Pointe South, with services like braces and Invisalign.

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Girls hockey

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Ladies expect to win games

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Growing pains might be the best way to describe the 2009-10 Grosse Pointe North girls hockey team.

Head coach Scott Dockett and assistant coach Joe Lucchese will be the ultimate teachers this winter as they mold a group of young, inexperienced and energetic underclassmen into a winning high school hockey team.

"I like the group and we will definitely be a better second-half team this season," Dockett said. "Despite the lack of upperclassmen, this group is ready to play hard and learn. It should be a fun season."

The Norsemen lost several seniors from last year's 13-6 squad that finished third in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 standings.

In addition, another potential returning standout decided to concentrate on her soccer career expected to yield a college

scholarship.

"We lose most of our scoring from a year ago, so we really are looking for someone who will put the puck in the net," Dockett said.

Juniors Taylor Moody and Kailey Sickmiller are the Norsemen's captains. Other returning veterans are junior Megan Bergeron, sophomore Emma Huellmantel, sophomore Melissa Mermiges, junior Meghan Williams, junior Rachel Neveux and sophomore Ellen Brown.

Dockett does have the luxury of gaining experienced newcomers with sophomore Jennifer Cusmano and freshmen Bryn Moody, Natalie Skroupski and Catherine McCarthy.

The Norsemen might struggle out of the gate as the 12 newcomers gel with the veterans.

They open with two-time defending state champ and city rival Grosse Pointe South before hosting Northville. The team has an opportunity to hit



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

Grosse Pointe North's captains this season are, from left, Megan Bergeron, Taylor Moody, Kailey Sickmiller and Emma Huellmantel.

the break-even mark before games against Plymouth- Canton-Salem and Bloomfield. The Norsemen also compete in the annual ULS Holiday Tournament the first weekend in December.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

South drives hard for three straight titles

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's drive for three straight state girls hockey championships begins with head coach Bill Fox.

He is the only head coach the program has had and he still has the fire burning, which translates into domination among the 14-team Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

Last season, the Blue Devils made it back-to-back state titles after edging Ann Arbor 3-2 in double-overtime on Shannon Gianino's tally.

The two teams also met in the 2007 state title game won by the Blue Devils, 4-2.

"I have a good mix of girls in each of the four classes and a

lot of talent coming back from last year's team," Fox said. "I like our team and our ultimate goal is always to win a division title and a state championship."

The Blue Devils finished 20-1 last season and 19-0-2 the year before, bringing their record to an amazing 39-1-2 (.952 winning percentage) during the title runs.

The Blue Devils have dominated the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League during their championship runs, posting an overall record of 39-1-2.

Seniors Jessica Snella, Emma Hull, Shannon Gianino — last year's hero after scoring the winning goal in the title game — Rae Sklarski and Maggie Miller lead the Blue

Devils.

Other returners are sophomore Marissa Monforton, sophomore Carly Verkuilen, junior Andrea Marshall, junior Christine Daudlin, sophomore Cara Monforton, junior Elizabeth Clem, junior Dana Davenport, junior Chantal Chuba, junior Lorna Burns and sophomore Claire Boyle.

"We lost a couple of players who I thought would be contributors, but gained a few players I didn't think would come out, which is great," Fox said. "We have a good backup goalie and a new assistant coach, Matt Elich, who played in the NHL, so I think we have the making for another strong season."

Seniors Julia Solecki and Ana Harris join freshman

Anastasia Diamond as the Blue Devils' top newcomers.

Elich was selected by the Tampa Bay Lightning in the third round of the 1997 NHL Entry Draft. He played for the Lightning, along with several minor league clubs in the United States, Canada and Europe.

His most prolific offensive season was 1998-99 when he scored 44 goals and had 30 assists for 74 points in 67 games playing for the Kingston Frontenacs of the OHL.

"Matt's a nice addition to our program, taking over for James (Bufalino), who we will miss, but happy that he got the boys' head coaching job," Fox said. "We have had some nice practices and we will see where we stand after our scrimmages."

The Blue Devils face division foes twice. They are Livonia Ladywood, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, Northville, Ann Arbor and city rivals Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School.

The Blue Devils are the favorite to win a third straight division title and league crown, but Fox knows everyone gets pumped up to face his squad.



Newcomer Ana Harris, No. 21, has tons of talent to help the Blue Devils try to win a third straight state title.

"Everyone gives us their best ready for the season and we game because they want to hope it is another banner season," Fox said. "We will be beat us," Fox said. "We will be son."

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PHOTOS BY BOB BRUCE

Sophomore Claire Boyle is one of the forwards head coach Bill Fox expects to put the puck in the net on a regular basis for the South girls hockey team.

Wrestling

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils' experience key to success



Grosse Pointe South's Sergio Rodriguez, left, and Reggie Lewis each earned a spot in last year's regionals. Big things are expected of them this season.

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Slowly, but surely, head coach Pat O'Donnell is leading his Grosse Pointe South wrestling program to the land of good and plenty.

He is entering his third year at the helm and this could be his best team.

"We lost a few key contributors who were seniors a year ago, but I think we have some solid returning wrestlers who are ready to step up and lead us this season," O'Donnell said.

The Blue Devils are led by juniors Sergio Rodriguez and Reggie Lewis, both regional qualifiers last year in the 103-pound and heavyweight divisions, respectively.

Junior Nolan Goodall is another top returning veteran and O'Donnell has four seniors with the potential to be solid grapplers.

"I want us to have a full roster, which we have, which is led by a big junior class," O'Donnell said. "It's their turn to take the leadership role. They have to 'want' the success.

"We, as coaches, can get them prepared to the best of our ability, but it's the guys who wrestle on the mat — not the coaches."

Last season the Blue Devils won the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division dual meet and tournament titles before capturing a Division 1 district crown with a win over Highland Park.

"It's a clean slate. All of our division teams are starting a new season, so who knows what will happen," O'Donnell said. "It was great to win the division dual meet and tournament titles last season, but it's a new ball game this winter."

The Blue Devils' division foes are Madison Heights Madison, Center Line, St. Clair Shores Lake Shore, Warren Lincoln, St. Clair, New Haven and Mount Clemens.

"We have a good coaching staff and that is something which helps our program get better," O'Donnell said. "We're going to do the best we can this season."

The Blue Devils also compete in a dozen other events, traveling to L'Anse Creuse, Warren Woods-Tower, Troy Athens, Sterling Heights Stevenson and Grosse Pointe North.

The prestigious Macomb County Tournament is Dec. 18 and 19, while the MAC Gold Tournament is Feb. 6, at Center Line.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen eager to display talent

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's wrestling team took a big step forward last season under head coach Bryan Lorenzo.

The young Norsemen endured a tough slate of opponents early in the season before settling into a groove in the second half.

In the end, the Norsemen beat Eastpointe East Detroit 46-20 to win a Division I district title, while Patrick Salazar, Evan Lock, Nate Strickland and Josh Franklin earned trips to the individual regionals after earning district medals.

Strickland and Franklin, both graduates, made it to the state finals, too, and their willingness to be leaders to the wealth of underclassmen should pan out this winter.

"This should be another interesting season," Lorenzo said.

The Norsemen are led by seniors Alex Doetsch, Leyoun Harbin and Tom Muivihill.

"I am expecting a lot of good things from my underclassmen," Lorenzo said.

Returning regional qualifiers Evan Lock and Patrick Salazar are ready to be main cogs in

the lineup.

Other top returning underclassmen are Jake Brazil, Stu Haigh, John Johnson, John Testori and Shawn Miller.

"We are going to have a lot of freshmen in the lineup," Lorenzo said. "How they perform is going to determine how well we do as a team."

Lorenzo loaded up the schedule again with division foes East Detroit, Macomb Dakota, Warren Woods-Tower, St. Clair Shores Lakeview, Port Huron, Utica, Utica Eisenhower and Sterling Heights joining nonconference foes Roseville, Madison Heights Lamphere, Romeo, Davison and Warren Fitzgerald.

The grapplers will also compete in the L'Anse Creuse Team Tournament, Hartland Invitational, Macomb County Tournament, Port Huron Northern Individual Tournament, Wayne County Tournament and Goodrich Tournament before the MAC White Division Tournament Saturday, Feb. 6, at Sterling Heights.

North begins its season competing in the L'Anse Creuse Team Tournament Saturday, Dec. 5.



Grosse Pointe North head coach Bryan Lorenzo is counting on his veterans, from left, Alex Doetsch, Thomas Muivihill, Evan Sudomier and Leyoun Harbin, to lead the Norsemen this season.



Head coach Bryan Lorenzo, left, has several freshmen he expects to contribute right away for his Grosse Pointe North wrestling team.

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Girls gymnastics

GROSSE POINTE UNIFIED

Grosse Pointe ready to win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Last year's Grosse Pointe Unified gymnastics team took great strides toward gaining respect throughout the state.

Head coach Cathy Hubmeier, entering her sixth season at the helm, has a wealth of talent returning, including captains Lauren Krieger, Lydia Fuller, Heather Koresky and Fran Kay.

"All of these girls are great leaders for the team in different ways," Hubmeier said. "We have many girls on our team this season who really step up and act as leaders beyond just our captains."

Grosse Pointe is the defending division champ, which is down to three teams with Trenton's departure. Grosse Pointe will now battle only Dearborn Edsel Ford and



PHOTO BY DANA KAISER

The Grosse Pointe Unified gymnastics team is led by, from left, Grosse Pointe North senior Heather Koresky; Grosse Pointe North senior Lauren Krieger; Grosse Pointe South sophomore Fran Kay; and Grosse Pointe North senior Lydia Fuller.

Fraser in division meets.

In other matches, the team faces Birmingham Groves in a home and an away meet, in addition to the Troy Quad, Fraser Invitational, Farmington Invitational, Troy Athens Invitational and hosts Tecumseh in the middle of

January.

"We have an extremely deep team this year, so we will do very well," Hubmeier said. "There is a lot of competition in our region."

Three girls made it to the state finals, Krieger, Koresky and Sarah Fentin, and that

number should increase with a roster of talented gymnasts.

Besides Fentin, Madi Kaiser is ready to step up and deliver high-flying routines this winter.

The Grosse Pointe gymnastics team opens its season Thursday, Dec. 10, hosting Groves.

Boys swimming

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils ranked No. 3

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's boys' swimming and diving team enters the season third in the Division 2 pre-season rankings behind Birmingham Groves and Holland.

Seniors Joe Hessburg, Matt Handel and Mike Shook are the captains. They lead a list of 14 returning swimmers who made it to the state championship meet last spring.

Other returning state qualifiers are junior Roby Boggs, senior Wayne Brackett, junior Craig Campbell, senior Mac Day, sophomore Luke Hessburg, junior Cam Johnson, sophomore Cam Laney, senior Matt Schmidt, sophomore Joe Zampardo

and senior diver Kyle Eschenburg.

The Blue Devils are the overwhelming favorite to win another Macomb Area Conference Red Division dual meet and league meet title.

However, the Blue Devils' toughest competition comes from some of the top-ranked teams in the state in each division, Groves, Midland Dow, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Ann Arbor Huron, Saline, Livonia Stevenson, Northville, Birmingham Brother Rice, U-D Jesuit and Novi Detroit Catholic Central.

Pioneer, Saline, Huron, Stevenson, Northville, C.C. and Brother Rice are ranked in Division 1, while Groves, Dow and U-D are ranked in Division 2.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen look for strong year

The 2009 Grosse Pointe North Boys swimming and diving team looks to stay as strong as last year's record of 9-2 and 3-1 in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division.

The Norsemen will depend on strong performances from seniors Matthew Peyser and Robert Tripp and sophomores Justin Rakowicz and Christian Mellos.

Tripp will be a force in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard medley relay this year, while Peyser, a freestyle sprinter, will be looking to help out on state qualifying relays.

Both Mellos and Rakowicz will be in contention for state honors this year. Mellos will be a leader in the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard breaststroke and Rakowicz in the 200- and the 500-yard freestyles.

Seniors Tommy Milne (breaststroke) and Ryan and Michael Seago (both freestyle sprints) will provide depth to the senior class. Additional senior help will come from Andrew Kopacka (sprints) and Steve Schoenith (breaststroke and sprints).

Contributions from the junior class will be needed to maintain the solid North dual meet record from a year ago.

Junior help will come from Scott Adelson (distance free), Peter Cherry (butterfly and sprints), Alex Fly (breaststroke), Chad Tech (sprints) and John Kohler (sprints).

Eric Reardon (sprints), Elliot Rentenbach (backstroke and sprints), Gordon Russell (sprints) and Louie Saravolatz (backstroke and 200 IM).

The backbone of the junior class is Zach Hanna, who, if trains hard this season, will have a shot at state qualifying times in the 200IM and 100 fly.

Divers who are expected to perform at the state meet this year are junior Mitchell Gross and sophomores James McNellis and Connor Holm.

Major improvement is expected from the sophomore class. Counted on to improve this year are Paul Hanna (sprints), Dan Santalucia (sprints), Matt Toenjes (sprints), Evan Williams (diving and sprints) and Conner Yaeger (sprints). Sound sophomore swimmers include Peter Shea (distance freestyle), Justin Rackowicz (distance freestyle), and Christian Mellos (200 IM and 100 breaststroke).

One freshmen expected to contribute is Matthew Leone in the individual medley, butterfly and sprint events.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Proud

Grosse Pointe North Principal Tim Bearden and Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Carmen Kennedy were more than happy to take a moment to stand with seniors, from left, Kelly Jaminski, Ariel Braker and Kayla Womack, as they signed letters-of-intent to play collegiate sports next year. Jaminski plays hockey for one of the nation's elite girls travel teams, while Braker and Womack are standouts on the Norsemen's girls' basketball team that opens its season Thursday, Dec. 3, hosting Birmingham Marian.

LIGGETT

New coach to lead Knights

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Another new face around Liggett is co-ed swim coach Mike Mullinger.

The Grosse Pointe South graduate was a team captain for the Blue Devils' swim team his senior year.

He has coached the City of Grosse Pointe summer program for several years and the DeWitt USA team while in college.

"I have been a competitive swimmer since the age of 5," Mullinger said. "I have a nice number to work with (27) and some good swimmers who will work hard. This is a nice opportunity."

Mullinger's assistant, Ryan Gunderson, swam at Albion College and put together an outstanding collegiate career. The duo should help Liggett's swim program build strength this year and for seasons beyond.

Team leaders are seniors Jake Osborn, Spencer Klene

and Ben Gellman.

The Knights' lone three upperclassmen are the captains and Mullinger has several other returners among his 25 on the roster.

The team has several club swimmers, who will add depth and talent to the roster. Included in the incoming class of talented freshmen are Connor Barrego and Mallory Jamett.

The Knights have mostly away meets, including the first six against Clawson, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Willow Run, St. Clair Shores Lake Shore and Hazel Park, twice.

Their home meets are at St. Clair Shores Lakeview and are against Clawson, Hazel Park, Warren Fitzgerald and Greenhills.

The other meet they have is in mid February against one of the top teams in Division 3, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

Mullinger makes his head coaching debut Saturday, Dec. 5, at Clawson.

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Girls hockey

RIVALS

South's 1st period burst buries North

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South used a five-goal first period to win its season opener last week, 6-1, over city rival Grosse Pointe North.

The veteran-laden Blue Devils had a spring in their skates in that opening period as the rookie-laden and host Norsemen were a step slow.

"The girls were nervous before the game and you could tell it took some time for all of our freshmen to get their legs

under them," North head coach Scott Dockett said. "Falling behind by five goals wasn't exactly what we had in mind, but the girls didn't quit and they played South even during the final two periods."

"I thought we had the jitters, even though we scored those five first-period goals," South head coach Bill Fox said. "We have some work to do, but a win is a win."

The Norsemen actually had the chance to draw first blood after consecutive Blue Devils penalties left the visitors two

players short for a minute.

Claire Boyle spoiled the Norsemen's power play after scoring a shorthanded goal with Shannon Gianino drawing the assist at the 11-minute mark.

Nearly four minutes later, South newcomer Julia Solecki scored with Rae Sklarski and Anna Harris getting the assists.

Meghan Polack also lit the lamp for the first time in a Blue Devils uniform, tallying a power play goal at the 3:24 mark. Solecki had the lone assist as the visitors built a 3-0 lead.



Grosse Pointe South's Rae Sklarski, No. 23, is defended by Grosse Pointe North's Catherine McCarthy during the Blue Devils' 6-1 win last week.

PHOTOS BY BOB BRUCE



Grosse Pointe North's Kailey Sickmiller, No. 13, battles Grosse Pointe South's Cara Monforton for the puck during the season opener for both teams last week.

Marissa Monforton scored with 1:10 left in the opening period with Lorna Burns and Allison Daudlin getting assists, and with only seven seconds left in the period, Sklarski tallied with Solecki and Harris netting assists.

The Norsemen scored in the second period when Kailey Sickmiller tallied with Natalie Skroupski getting the assist.

The Blue Devils capped the scoring in the third period when Sam Taylor tallied. Gianino and Monforton had assists.

The Blue Devils outshot the Norsemen 25-10. They had a 10-3 first-period advantage, 6-5 in the second and 9-2 in the third.

Anastasia Diamond and Maggie Miller shared goaltending duties for the Blue

Devils, while Emma Huellmantel suffered the defeat for the Norsemen.

Last weekend, host North went to overtime to beat Northville, 5-4, on a goal by Megan Bergeron with only 31 seconds left. It was her third point of the game.

"We really needed this win to get some confidence," Dockett said. "We got our offense going, but we still need to tighten up defensively because we didn't give Emma (Huellmantel) a lot of help today."

The Mustangs led 1-0 after the opening period and it was 3-3 after the second stanza.

Sickmiller scored at the 10:17 mark to tie it 1-1 and Jennifer Cusmano tallied almost three minutes later to give the home team a 2-1 lead. Northville scored a power

play goal at the 4:44 mark to tie it 2-2 and its second extra-player tally made it a 3-2 game with 3:45 left in the second.

Bergeron scored with only 21 seconds left to help the Norsemen regain some momentum heading into the intermission.

Julia Henderson scored 17 seconds into the third period to give the Norsemen a 4-3 lead, but the Mustangs tied it with another power play goal at the 9:44 mark.

Huellmantel made the save of the game late in the third period to preserve the tie and made another one early in the overtime.

North is 1-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 standings and overall, while South is 1-0 in Division 1.

LIGGETT

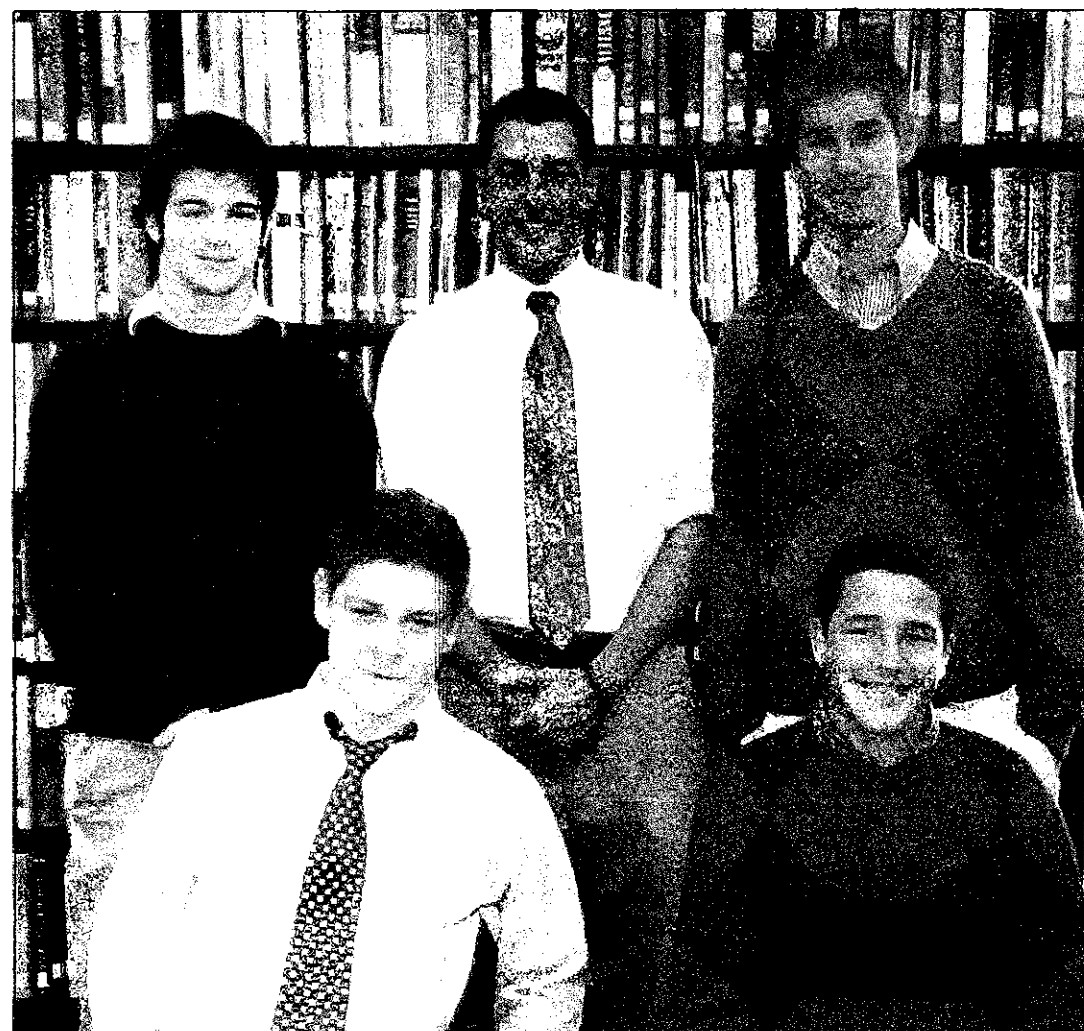


PHOTO BY RONALD BERNAS

All-state

Liggett announced its all-state soccer players for the 2009 season. Standing from left, senior Dan Zukas, first team forward who had 17 goals and nine assists and team co-MVP; senior Mark Ghafari, third team goalie who had a 1.29 goals against average and nine shutouts; and senior Rory Deane, second team sweeper and team co-MVP; and sitting from left, senior Noah Saganski, honorable mention with five goals and three assists in the first four games; and junior Carl Ghafari, defender who rarely came off the field for head coach David Backhurst and the Knights, which finished the season 14-8-1 and district, as well as regional champions.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH



All smiles

Grosse Pointe Shores resident Joe Youngblood is all smiles after shooting this five-point buck on opening day of the fire arm deer hunting season with friend, Karlye Pickelhaupt. They were hunting in the Port Huron area before Youngblood leaves for a military career.

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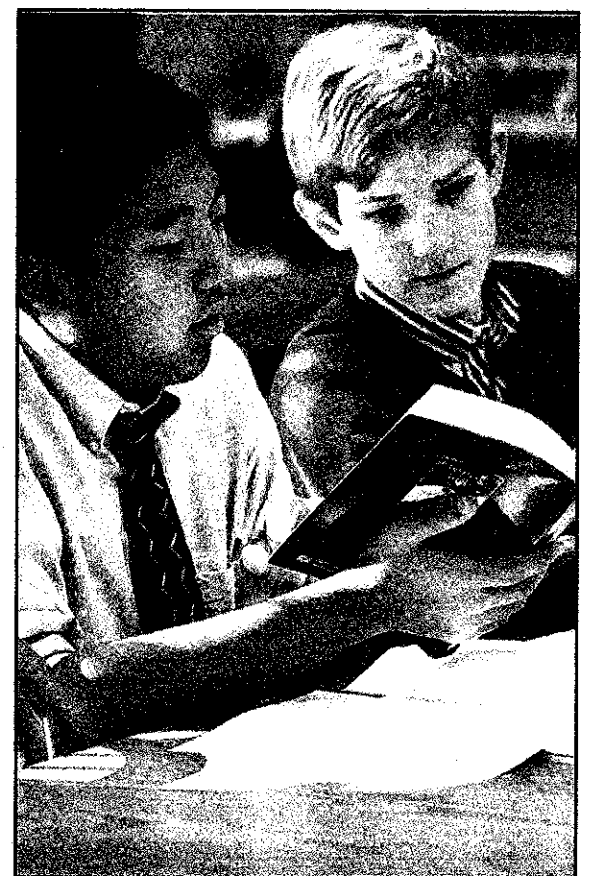
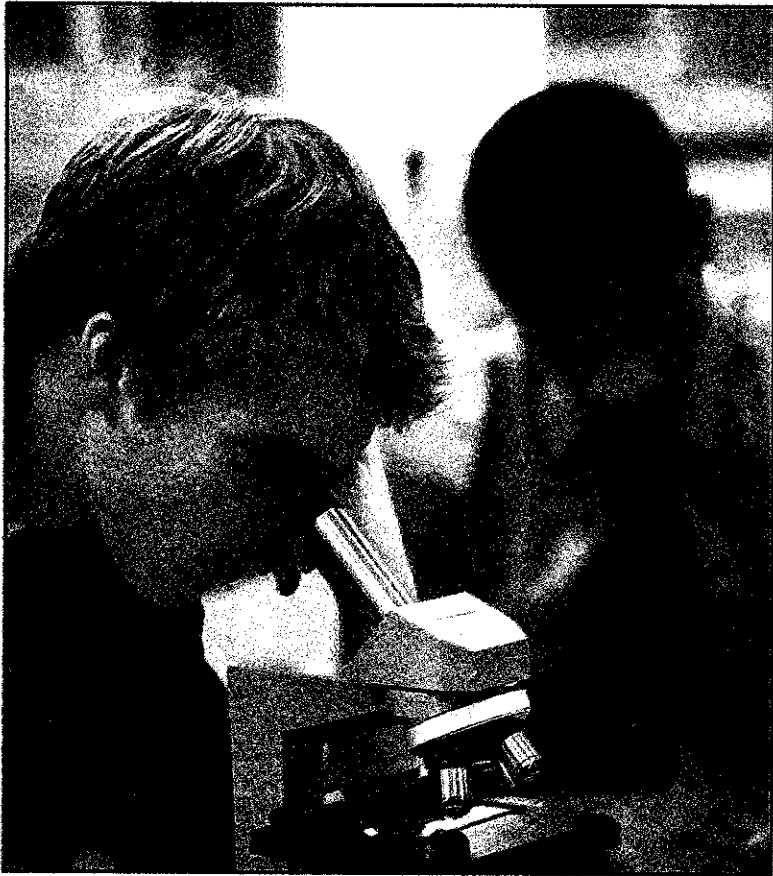
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