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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 72, NO. 47, 34 PAGES
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NOVEMBER 24, 2011
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

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 edition

Week ahead

20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30 1 2 3

THURSDAY, NOV. 24

Thanksgiving
 ♦ Grosse Pointe News office is closed.
 ♦ Federal, state, county and city offices are closed.
 ♦ All banks are closed.

FRIDAY, NOV. 25

♦ Grosse Pointe News office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 ♦ Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade begins at 10 a.m. traveling down Kercheval from the Hill to the Village.
 ♦ Services for Older Citizens is closed.

SATURDAY, NOV. 26

Small Business Saturday. Shop locally.

SUNDAY, NOV. 27

♦ Lighting of the Village begins at 6 p.m. in Grosse Pointe Shores municipal building.

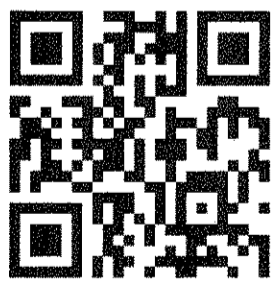
MONDAY, NOV. 28

♦ Grosse Pointe Park council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 15115 E. Jefferson.
 ♦ The Grosse Pointe Library Board meets at 7 p.m. at the Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29

♦ Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce holds a business after hours event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Wild Birds Unlimited, 20485 Mack, Grosse Pointe

See WEEK AHEAD, page 3A



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 Obituaries4A II
 Autos6A II
 Entertainment6B
 Health7B
 Classified ads4C



Club claims \$1 million overcharge

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club is accusing the city of overcharging it \$1 million for water purchases during most of the last decade.

Grosse Pointe Shores City Manager Brian Vick asserts the statute of limitations reduces the claim to \$504,521.

And he disputes that amount. "I remind you that the assumption of an overcharge of any kind is based en-

tirely on circumstantial evidence," Vick wrote club general manager Thomas Trainor on July 22, 2011.

The figures are contained in documents and data the Grosse Pointe News obtained from the Shores under the Freedom of Information Act.

Documents consist of water bills, meter readings, letters and e-mails between Shores and club officials, internal municipal communications and spreadsheets, club reports marked confidential, plus updates and advice Vick gave the city council.

In a July 20, 2010, memo to council, Vick reveals he entered into a tolling agreement with the club.

The original tolling agreement, which the News obtained from a prior FOIA request, is signed March 15, 2010, by Vick and Trainor.

The agreement stops "further running of the statute of limitations so we could review," Vick wrote Trainor.

Tolling agreements temporarily suspend the statute of limitations. The suspension allows parties more time to resolve differences without the pressure

of deadline.

Vick and Trainor were unavailable for comment.

Keeping it quiet

In the same memo, Vick also told the council he'd met twice that month regarding the matter with the city's engineering consultants, Hubbell, Roth & Clark. One of the meetings was an apparent strategy session attended by City Attorney Mark McInerney, Vick

See OVERCHARGE, page 2A

Water tolling agreement obtained

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — A written agreement to put on ice potential litigation over the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club's disputed municipal water bills has been obtained by the Grosse Pointe News through the Freedom of Information Act.

The document, called a tolling agreement, was requested from the Grosse Pointe Shores administration prior to the Nov. 8 municipal election.

The agreement, signed March 15, 2010, by managers of the Shores and club, wasn't released until after the election despite it not being something the city can withhold.

"The tolling agreement is not privileged," said Mark McInerney, Shores city attorney.

The agreement, signed by Shores City Manager Brian Vick and club general manager Thomas Trainor, alludes to the "Yacht Club billing history" and "alleged claims against Grosse Pointe Shores," but doesn't include the dispute's dates or dollar amounts.

At the Tuesday, Nov. 15, city council meeting, Vick revealed a three-ring binder containing about

See AGREEMENT, page 2A

Parade streams live on grossepointenews.com

Thanksgiving marks a new look for the website, grossepointenews.com.

The site is open to subscribers and nonsubscribers for two weeks. Beginning Dec. 8, subscribers have full access, including a digital version of the entire paper, complete archives of past web material, stories and video.

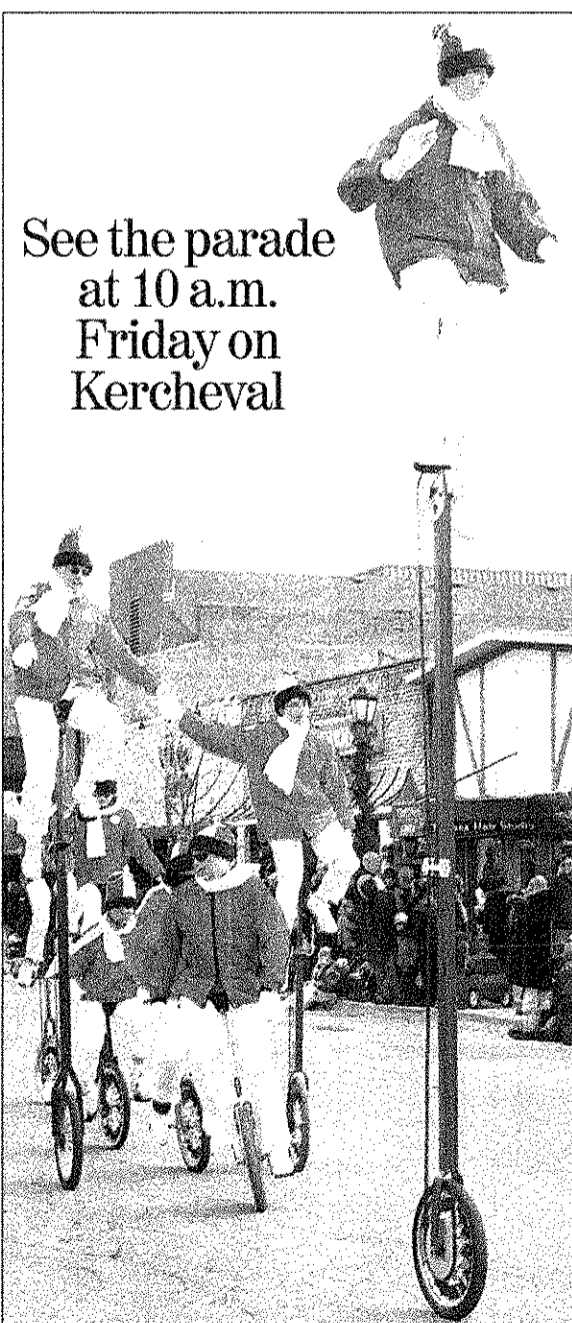
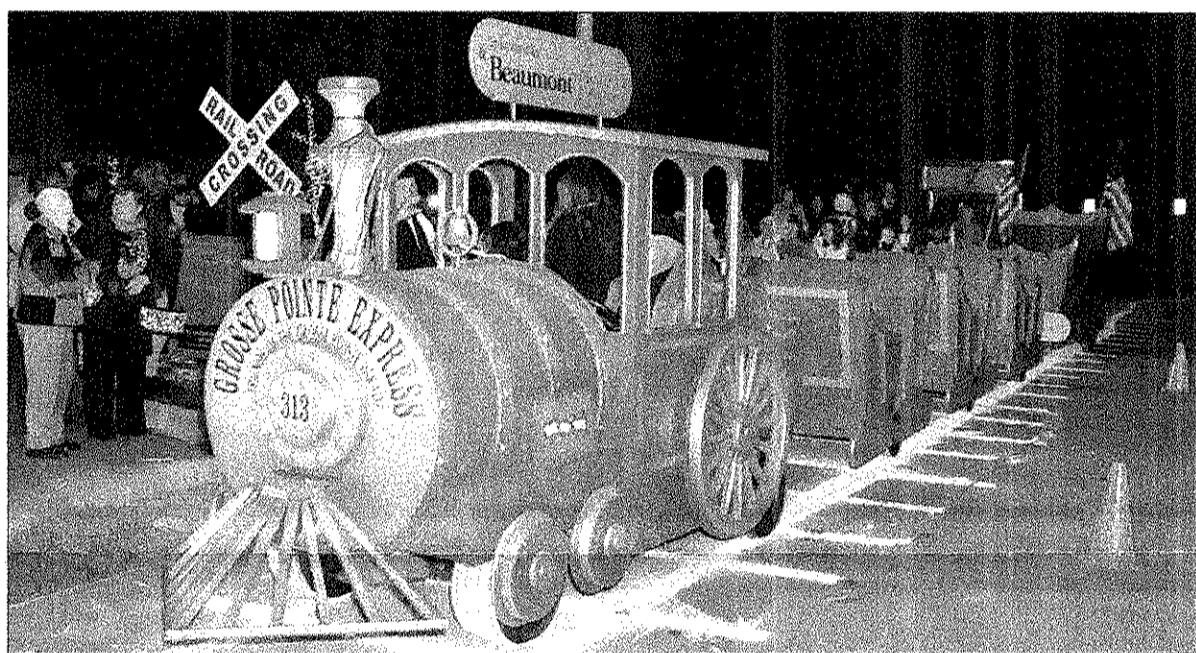
As subscriptions are renewed, readers can choose just the paper, just the online edition or both, for a fee. Nonsubscribers can still access a sampling of stories and photos, along with obituaries and classified ads.

"We're excited about the changes to the site," said general manager Joe Warner. "There will certainly be more for our readers and advertisers. The story and video updates during the week will complement the newspaper. Plus travelers will enjoy the availability of the entire newspaper online with their subscription."

One feature of the new website kicks off Friday, Nov. 25.

Grossepointenews.com streams the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade live at 9:45 a.m. Streammichigan.com provides the feed.

"It's a great parade and it really kicks off the spirit of the holiday season in the Grosse Pointes," Warner said.



Top, The Wellness Express arrives on time to its unveiling the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the Tompkins Center in Grosse Pointe Park. See related story, page 3A.
 Above, unicyclists are always a crowd pleaser.

HOT DOG! Santa's comin' to town

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

Hot dog, it's parade time. Literally. New to this year's Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade are the Coney Island Dancing Hot Dogs.

Crowds lining Kercheval will eat 'em up, according to Terri Berschback, parade director.

"Dancing hot dogs. That's wild," she said. They join 10 marching bands, including the Grosse Pointe North High School Pep Band and Harper Woods High School Band.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 25. Marchers step off on Kercheval at Lewiston in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The route heads down Kercheval through the Hill, ending in the Village shopping district of downtown City of Grosse Pointe.

The parade, in its 36th year, is sponsored by Pentastar Aviation. It is produced by the Grosse Pointe Village Association in cooperation with the Hill Association.

See SANTA, page 2A

Parking enforcement eases

Parking fee enforcement is curbed in parts of the Pointes for the holiday season.

In the City of Grosse Pointe, the Kercheval Company and the Edward P. Frohlich Trust cover parking lot charges in the Village Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Dec. 24.

Curbside parking meters and the parking garage are

See PARKING, page 9A

PHONE: (313) 882-6900 ♦ FAX: (313) 882-1585 ♦ MAIL: 96 Kercheval 48236 ♦ ON THE WEB: grossepointenews.com ♦ E-MAIL: editor@grossepointenews.com

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OVERCHARGE: Secrets, bills and payback

Continued from page 1A

said. "Our plan is to continue our internal review, continue general discussions with the GPYC, and then bring our conclusions and recommendations to council," Vick wrote.

He "probably" would instruct McNerney to present the findings to council "in an opinion letter that can be discussed in closed session," Vick wrote.

Closed-door sessions are allowed for matters of litigation under the Open Meetings Act.

In his correspondence, Vick seemed eager for ways to keep discussions from the public.

"If GPYC chooses to begin suit, the case would then be able to be discussed in closed session on that basis," he wrote. "I do not believe it is prudent to discuss this matter at the city council meeting, at this time."

There was no litigation at the time. Nor is there now, according to Shores officials.

Further efforts to keep the matter quiet appear in Vick's

written council update of Nov. 16, 2010.

Under the heading, "GPYC water billing inquiry," he proposes that city representatives defer questions from club officials to him.

"I would suggest that if you are approached by incoming board members that you direct all inquiries to me to ensure that the proper channels of communications are maintained," Vick wrote.

Secret gets out

Rumors that the city faced a major financial liability became public during the mayoral election campaign.

An audience member at a League of Womens Voters of Grosse Pointe candidate forum asked then-Mayor James Cooper if the club accused the city of overbilling.

Cooper acknowledged the

rumor.

At the forum and a subsequent council meeting, he characterized the claim as a discussion, not a dispute.

Cooper wouldn't reveal the city's potential financial liability, citing McNerney's advice and privacy concerns of the Shores' largest water customer.

Bills skyrocket

Club representatives began reporting puzzling water bills starting in the third quarter of

2000.

A bill for the period was \$25,936 compared with \$11,924 for the same time the year before, according to a chronology Vick compiled Jan. 18, 2010.

The widest gap occurred in 2006, when the city charged \$180,000 for water the club said was worth less than \$40,000.

Shores officials responded with a series of investigations and tests of meter reading equipment, club plumbing and city infrastructure.

"Despite concerns by GPYC regarding the validity of these excessive water charges, the Village assured the GPYC the meters were accurate and the GPYC paid the bills," Vick wrote.

A meter that in January 2007 recorded no water usage was among equipment reinitialized

11 months later.

In February 2008, the club's water bill "decreased to \$3,912 compared with \$35,583 for the same period in the prior year," according to city documents.

In November 2008, the club began an internal investigation to determine "actual water usage," Vick wrote.

Results of the investigation convinced club officials they'd been overcharged \$1 million.

Payback

A possible method of reimbursement is hinted at in a July 7, 2011, memo from the club to the city.

The memo accompanies a map of the municipal harbor at Osius Park. The harbor is adjacent to the club's marina, shares portions of docks, fairways and an entrance.

Three sections of the map are highlighted and numbered.

Numbers corresponding with notes in the memo:

◆ A triangular section of park land in the southeast corner of the harbor corresponds with the note, "Green space to GPYC either 3/25-yr leases or convey."

◆ The municipal harbor's north wall corresponds with, "North wall: Obligation to maintain and insure reverts to GPS."

◆ Boat wells Nos. 1 through 18 on the tee dock and wells 15 through 18 on the east wall are noted, "Bottom land and wells T1-18 and East Wall 15-18; Take over state lease."

◆ Another note reads, "\$250,000 credit over 10 years for GPYC water bills."

Meanwhile, the tolling agreement has been extended four times.

The current extension expires Jan. 7, 2012.

An overcharge of any kind is based entirely on circumstantial evidence.

BRIAN VICK,
Shores City Manager

AGREEMENT: Billing issue

Continued from page 1A

four inches of documents pertaining to the dispute.

"This has information about the yacht club water billing issue," he told the council. "It's available to council members in the reading room (at city hall). Some of the information is protected by attorney client privilege. That information is available to you."

Tolling agreements put on hold the statute of limitations. The timeout gives parties an opportunity to achieve resolution without feeling pressured to file suit simply because the statute of limitations is about to expire.

"(Tolling agreements) don't extend the statute, they stop it from running, which is kind of semantics," McNerney said.

The club's statute of limitations on claims against the city is "either three or six years," he said.

The club approached the Shores for an agreement, according to Vick.

The agreement originally was set to expire March 15, 2011. It was extended to Nov. 8, Election Day, then extended again to Jan. 7, 2012.

The club is the Shores' biggest water customer.

Club officials won't discuss the matter. Nor will they reveal

the amount of money the Shores allegedly overcharged for water purchases during most of last decade.

As a private entity, the club doesn't have to make public such information. The onus falls on the Shores.

"That's an agreement between us and the yacht club, so that's not privileged," McNerney said.

At least two other applicants filed FOIA requests, according to Vick.

"Staff's been working 14-15 hours compiling this information," he said.

At least one Shores resident thinks city officials ought to comply with requests for pub-

lic documents.

"A new policy (should) be put into place that when residents and the local press request public documents, that no legal expense be spent to fight or delay those requests," resident John Booth told the newly-elected mayor and council.

"In whose best interest was it to get a tolling agreement?" Councilman Alexander Ajlouni asked Vick.

"We met with them in January 2010, when they first brought this issue up," Vick said. "It doesn't hurt us to sign a tolling agreement. It just affords us the opportunity to do due diligence."

SANTA: Parading down Kercheval

Continued from page 1A

Santa

Mounted police and fire engines lead the way.

Santa Claus brings up the rear in his custom sleigh. He flies over the Grosse Pointe landscape with a team of reindeer led by Grosse Pointe Rudolph and his flashing red nose.

"There's a pride in the civic hearts that we have our own float, Santa flying over Grosse Pointe," said Berschback, of Grosse Pointe Park. "It's pretty cool. I don't know of any other town with their own Santa Claus float."

Santa exits his sleigh in the Village to greet children and receive a key to the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

Hillbillies

Bands are coming from as far away as Flint, home to the Scottish pipers, marching behind the fire trucks.

New this year is a Shriner group called the Hillbilly Clan.

They appear halfway through the 10-section parade in the same section as members of the Fishflies Running

Club and Grosse Pointe Hunt Club.

The Hillbilly Clan is akin to the Beverly Hillbillies.

"They told me, if you're not a hillbilly, you will be by the time they get through the parade," Berschback said.

'D' is for Detroit

The parade's theme this year is, "D is for Detroit."

A Detroit Jazz Festival float riffs off that motif. The float is complements of Gretchen Valade, owner of the Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe on the Hill.

"It's very cool," Berschback said. "It has animated musicians about two or three times the size of a normal person."

A City of Detroit float, sponsored in collaboration with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, depicts the downtown skyline. Landmarks include the Renaissance Center, Joe Louis Arena and People Mover.

There's also America on Wheels, a group of pushcart floats representing various automobiles, such as Pontiac GTO, '57 Chevy and Malibu

hybrid. Each cart is about six feet long. They'll be pushed by members of Cub Scout Pack No. 19 from Maire School.

"I figured I'd put them to work," Berschback said.

Additional highlights are:
◆ Redford Township Unicycle Club.

"I can't have a parade without those guys," Berschback said.

"Maybe their appeal is like waiting for a car crash. You don't know if people are waiting to see if someone's going to fall off."

◆ Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan.

◆ A dozen Big Heads.

◆ Walsh College Yellow Suits and rickshaw.

"Walsh College is a new sponsor," Berschback said. "The Yellow Suits play off one of the college's TV ads. I don't know if we've ever had a rickshaw in the parade before."

◆ Scores of Boy Scouts, Brownies and Daisies.

◆ The St. Joan of Arc Backpack Brigade.

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Jim is a Grosse Pointe resident, a graduate of Wayne State, and has over 30 years of independent agency experience.

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Grosse Pointe News

USPS 230-400

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Grosse Pointe Santa Claus parade lineup

The lineup for the 36th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade is:

Section A

Grosse Pointe -- Harper Woods Honor Guard
 Mounted Police Unit
 City of Grosse Pointe police car
 City of Grosse Pointe fire truck
 Grosse Pointe Farms fire truck
 Grosse Pointe Park fire truck
 Banners: Village Association -- Hill Association
 Banner: Pentastar Aviation
 A-1 Flint Scottish Pipe Band
 Banner: Grosse Pointe News
 Banner: Ray Laethem Motor Village
 A-2 Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods mayors
 Banner: Ray Laethem Motor

Village
 A-3 Defer Brownies No. 71307 and Daisy No. 75296
 A-4 Detroit Fire Department Band
 A-5 Ferry Cub Pack No. 34
 A-6 Detroit Fire Department clowns

Section B

Banner: National Coney Island
 B-1 Dancing Hot Dogs
 B-2 Richard Cub Pack No. 4
 B-3 Grosse Pointe Women's Hockey Club
 B-4 Anchor Bay High School Marching Band
 Banner: Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe
 B-5 St. Joan of Arc Backpack Brigade
 Banner: Crest Volvo Hyundai with a car

B-6 Monteith Cub Pack No. 85
 B-7 Taylor Shrine Club Tin Lizzies
 Banner: the Fikany family
 Banner: Eastside Tennis & Fitness
 B-8 Eastside float
 B-9 Monteith Brownies No. 70427

Section C

C-1 Detroit Boat Club crew
 C-2 Red Baron cheerleaders
 C-3 Kerby Girl Scouts No. 40881
 C-4 Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan
 C-5 Grosse Pointe Relay for Life
 C-6 Detroit School of Arts Marching Band
 C-7 Maire Daisy Troop No. 75314

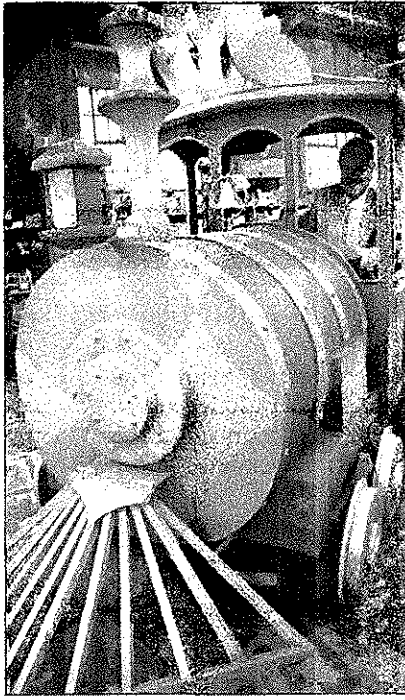
C-8 Grosse Pointe Hockey Association
 Banner: Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe
 C-9 Jazz Festival Float
 C-10 St. Paul Cub Pack No. 61
 Banner: Vicki and Bob Liggett
 C-11 The ARC of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods

Section D

D-1 1932 Hupmobile and 1920 Tin Lizzie Model T -- Mushro family
 D-2 Grosse Pointe North Pep Band
 D-3 Marty Bufalini antique fire truck
 D-4 Trombley Cub Pack No. 86
 D-5 Star of the Sea
 D-6 Bresser sleigh and Richard Daisy No. 43266
 Banner: Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation -- Grosse Pointe Florists
 D-7 Cousino High School "Patriot" Marching Band
 D-8 Grosse Pointe Historical Society
 D-9 Ferry Daisy Troop No. 70285 and Brownie Troop No. 74770
 D-10 Grosse Pointe Theatre

Section E

Banner: Don Gooley Cadillac
 Sanders Candy Shop
 E-1 Grosse Pointe Academy students
 Banner: Grosse Pointe Lions Club
 E-2 Grosse Pointe Lions float
 E-3 Shriner Hillbilly Clan 21
 Banner: Grosse Pointe News
 E-4 Fishflies Running Club
 Banner: Robert Loomis & Associates -- UBS Financial Services, Inc.
 E-5 Grosse Pointe Hunt Club
 Banner: CVS and Aitken



FILE PHOTO
 Engineer John Stevens in the cab of the Santa train.

G-3 WCCCD -- fire engine
 Banner: Walsh College
 G-4 Walsh Yellow Suits and rickshaw
 G-5 Kerby Cub Pack No. 481
 G-6 St. Paul Laker Cheer/Dance Team
 G-7 Grosse Pointe Power Squadron

Section H

H-1 Redford Township Unicycle Club
 Banner: LaLonde Jewelers
 H-2 Harper Woods High School Band
 H-3 Harper Woods homecoming floats
 Banner: Flagstar Bank
 H-4 Maire Troop No. 19 with cars
 H-5 Ecorse Community High School Marching Band
 H-6 Mason Pack No. 290
 H-7 Lakeshore Longhouse

Section I

Banner: Grosse Pointe War Memorial WMTV 5
 I-1 Grosse Pointe Sail Club
 I-2 Defer Pack No. 147
 Banner: Grosse Pointe Park Little League
 I-3 Grosse Pointe Park fire engine
 Grosse Pointe Park Little League
 I-4 Jack Harvey Elementary Troop No. 30322
 Banners: Connell Building Co. -- Adhloch
 I-5 Big Heads

Section J

J-1 Cass Tech Marching Band
 J-2 Regina Clown Ministers
 J-3 Bill Heller Hub Mobile
 J-4 Casali Holiday Dancers
 J-5 Northern Trust -- Wellness Express Train
 Banner: Pentastar Aviation
 Banner: Hill Association and Village Association
 J-6 Santa

Grosse Pointe Real Estate Update

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PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

City of Grosse Pointe

Hit and run

Police investigating an alleged hit and run at 5:51 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, on the northern end of the Village arrested a 60-year-old City woman for drunken driving.

A witness reportedly saw the woman lose control of a black 2002 Cadillac DeVille and hit a Ford Ranger pickup parked on St. Clair near Waterloo.

"(The) Cadillac had run up the curb and crashed into the construction fence at the Neighborhood Club," said an officer. "The (woman) said she had been in an accident and just wanted to go home."

She seemed too intoxicated to take a Breathalyzer test, police said, so they obtained a search warrant for a blood test.

Car entered

Two Samsung Galaxy cell phones, each worth \$500, were reportedly stolen out of a disabled red, 1999 Buick parked at about 1:30 p.m. on St. Clair near Waterloo.

"The windows had been left open a few inches," said a public safety officer.

The phones belong to residents of Harper Woods and St. Clair Shores.

—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

58 suspensions

At 2:50 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, police arrested a 27-year-old Detroit man for operating a motor vehicle illegally.

His license had been suspended 58 times, police said.

A patrolman investigated the man on westbound Mack near Moross for driving a tan 1997 Geo Prism with an illegible registration plate.

Knocks over pole

A reportedly drunken, 41-year-old woman from Newport was arrested shortly before 11 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, in the 100 block of westbound Lakeshore.

She'd driven off the road and knocked over a light pole near Cherryhurst Lane, a cul de sac off of Warner, police said.

An officer investigating the scene found the pole blocking a driveway, an abandoned 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and the suspect leaving the area.

"(I) observed (her) stumbling on the sidewalk about 20 yards from the accident," said the officer. "(She) denied it was her vehicle in the roadway."

She had a .16 percent blood alcohol level, police said.

Dashes

A skinny skintint is accused of skipping out on a \$11.25 bill at Irish Coffee, 18666 Mack, shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16.

The unknown female sus-

pect, described as a thin, 5-foot-5, 60-year-old blonde, left the business, stating she had to move her parked pickup truck.

An employee last saw her driving eastbound on Mack in a silver or tan 2004 Dodge Ram.

Taken away

At 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, multiple officers were needed to drag off a drugged-out, 20-year-old Farms man causing a ruckus in the 400 block of Cloverly, officers said.

The suspect was in a "rage," officers added, and maintained threatening behavior even when forced to the ground and restrained.

"(He) stated he took three Xanax pills and smoked marijuana this date," said an officer. "He also stated he used cocaine on Friday, Nov. 11."

The man's mother agreed to petition for him to receive hospital care.

Cat's fancy

A feral cat in the 300 block of Hillcrest rejected a man's breakfast invitation the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 15.

An officer patrolling the block was flagged down at 9:59 a.m. regarding a 58-year-old male resident in a backyard bleeding from a laceration.

"(He) stated he was feeding his cat and the cat attacked him," said an officer. "(The man) was extremely intoxicated and bleeding profusely from the cut."

Medics took the man to a hospital.

—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 Shores

Gets his kicks

A Shores man was sent to the Wayne County Jail last week on \$7,500 bond to await sentencing for resisting and obstructing a public safety officer. The crime is a misdemeanor.

Emil Tito, 28, pleaded no

contest to the charge Wednesday, Nov. 16, in Shores Municipal Court, according to police.

Officers arrested Tito about 9:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, at his residence in the 1000 block of Lakeshore. A family member had reported him drinking and being physically abusive.

"I am going to make some of you bleed," Tito reportedly threatened police.

Officers restrained his hands and sat him in a chair.

"(He) stood up out of the chair and kicked (a sergeant) in the left thigh," said an officer.

—Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Leaf them alone

At 7:15 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, police responded to a complaint of leaves piled up in the middle of Cook Road near Holiday.

Police attempted to use the department's leaf blower, but it was not operational. A rake was found to do the job.

An officer also used his foot to kick away the leaves.

While residents applauded, officers declined a resident's request to remove her leaves as well.

UDAA

A business owner on Mack discovered his car was missing as he left work at 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17.

A review of the business surveillance camera video showed a suspect entering the 1997 Plymouth Voyager at 5:45 a.m.

and driving away through the alley behind the business.

—Kathy Ryan

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

large amount of change. Police said several cars in the previous week had been entered and large amounts of change taken.

The juvenile was released to a parent. Police continue to investigate.

Grosse Pointe Park

Suspect arrested

Officers responding to a larceny from auto report at 5 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 20, found a juvenile walking in the area against curfew.

He was detained on a curfew violation and possessed a

UDAA

A 2003 Chrysler Voyager was taken from a driveway in the 1100 block of Balfour overnight Thursday, Nov. 17.

—Kathy Ryan

If you have information on these or any other crimes, call Grosse Pointe Park police, (313) 822-7400.

Elderly couple conned

By Kathy Ryan

Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Three men are being sought in the invasion of an elderly couple's house on Elford Court Friday, Nov. 18. No one was hurt and jewelry valued at more than \$15,000 was reported missing.

According to police, the men confronted the husband in his driveway at 4:30 p.m. as he was returning from running errands. The suspects said they were there to investigate a "root problem." Because the homeowner recently had root removal work done, he allowed one suspect into the backyard.

A second suspect went to the house and told the wife he was there to inspect the water pressure. He had no identification. Police said since she saw her husband speaking with another man, she allowed him into the house.

The man said he was going to work in the kitchen and the woman went into the living room. A short time later, another man entered the house, saying he was going to check the pressure in the bathroom. After spotting two of the men in her bedroom, they left the house. Along with the man who was talking to the husband, the trio entered a light-colored van and left.

It was shortly thereafter the homeowners noticed the missing items.

The three men are described as dark-skinned, possibly Albanian, wearing dark clothes. Police said the incident may not be random, as the couple had work done at the house in September.

Woods detectives are investigating.

Police remind residents not to allow people into their houses without proper identification.

"Employees from Grosse Pointe Woods always drive vehicles with the city logo and always carry identification," said Woods public safety director Andrew Pazuchowski. "If residents ever have concerns about someone wanting entry into their homes or who say they are investigating utility problems, they are urged to call police. We will be happy to help them in identifying anyone at their door."

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Repeat offender guilty of home invasion

By Kathy Ryan

Staff Writer

GROSSE PONTÉ PARK — Almost two years to the day of the incident, Terry Anthony Brown, 35, was found guilty of assaulting a Grosse Pointe Park couple during a home invasion.

After a three-day trial in Wayne County Circuit Court, jurors found Brown guilty of first-degree home invasion, assault with intent to rob and aggravated assault. Sentencing is Dec. 9.

A second suspect is believed to have been killed in Detroit several months ago, Park police chief David Hiller said.

During the 2009 Thanksgiving weekend,

Brown and an accomplice attacked Gerald Abel in the backyard of his Grayton house before entering the house and confronting Dorothy Abel. A neighbor heard the scuffle and intervened, causing the suspects to flee.

"This case was a very complicated and difficult case from the beginning," said Hiller in a written statement. "It involved heroic actions by neighbors, good basic police work by responding officers, good investigative work by the detective bureau, led by Det. David Loch, the Michigan State Police Crime Lab and last, but certainly not least, two very strong complainants."

The Abels both testified at the trial and said they plan to attend the sentencing.

According to Hiller, Brown faces up to life in prison, as he was charged as a habitual offender, a fact not lost on the Abels.

"Rehab is not working," Dorothy Abel said. "It has been a round-robin system where the police pick someone up, they serve short sentences if they serve any time at all, then they are back out on the street doing the exact same thing."

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OUR VIEW

Information should be shared with residents

In what now appears to be an attempt to keep things quiet, Grosse Pointe Shores has some explaining to do. Words like "transparency" mean absolutely nothing when those who run a municipality work hard to keep information away from taxpayers and voters.

This newspaper and a couple city residents spent pre-election time trying to track down information about water bills charged to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. The club maintains the city overcharged it during the past decade. While it was discussed along the way and new equipment was installed, the numbers don't make sense to the club — or us after reviewing the documentation. We asked for the water records and any other documents pertaining to the alleged over-charging. We paid for and received approximately 180 pages of material via the Freedom of Information Act. Part of the information was a tolling agreement, extended four times, that the Shores and club entered to investigate in lieu of litigation at this point.

After reviewing the documents, where the City Manager Brian Vick advises council members it would not be wise to talk about this situation during a meeting, there are now more questions than answers.

We aren't saying the city knew all along there was a problem. But for more than a year-and-a-half, leaders did know there could be an issue — a very expensive issue. Discussions between Vick and the yacht club have focused on the number. The statute of limitations keeps the number less than \$1 million. The club maintains it's still in the neighborhood of \$500,000.

The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club is private. They have the right to keep their side of the negotiations out of the public eye. Grosse Pointe Shores doesn't have that right, but you wouldn't know it by the discussions and deals now coming out.

The tolling agreement and the water bills are all public information. While the information was kept from us after we asked, we did receive it through the FOIA request.

Right after the election.

There's a new mayor and some new council members. The first order of business should be providing transparency. The residents of Grosse Pointe Shores deserve to know what's going on in their village, a Michigan city.

Parade streaming

The Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade is featured live at 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 26, at grossepointenews.com.

Thankful for her time

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth Cain's family this week. Ruth, 87, who did so much more than write a column for this newspaper, died Saturday, Nov. 19.

Her career included the Blue Cross Blue Shield media relations department, Associated Press, the Detroit Free Press, Business Week, The Macomb Daily and The Oakland Press.

Her senior column in this newspaper had many faithful readers. We're thankful we knew her and she'll be missed.

GUEST OPINION By Bill Kalmar

Before you gobble, gobble give thanks

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. Unlike other holidays, there is no pretentiousness. One just arrives at the host's home dressed in an everyday wardrobe, unencumbered with loads of presents. But before we dive into that plump turkey or carve a slice of turducken, take a few moments to remember what you are

See THANKS, page 9A

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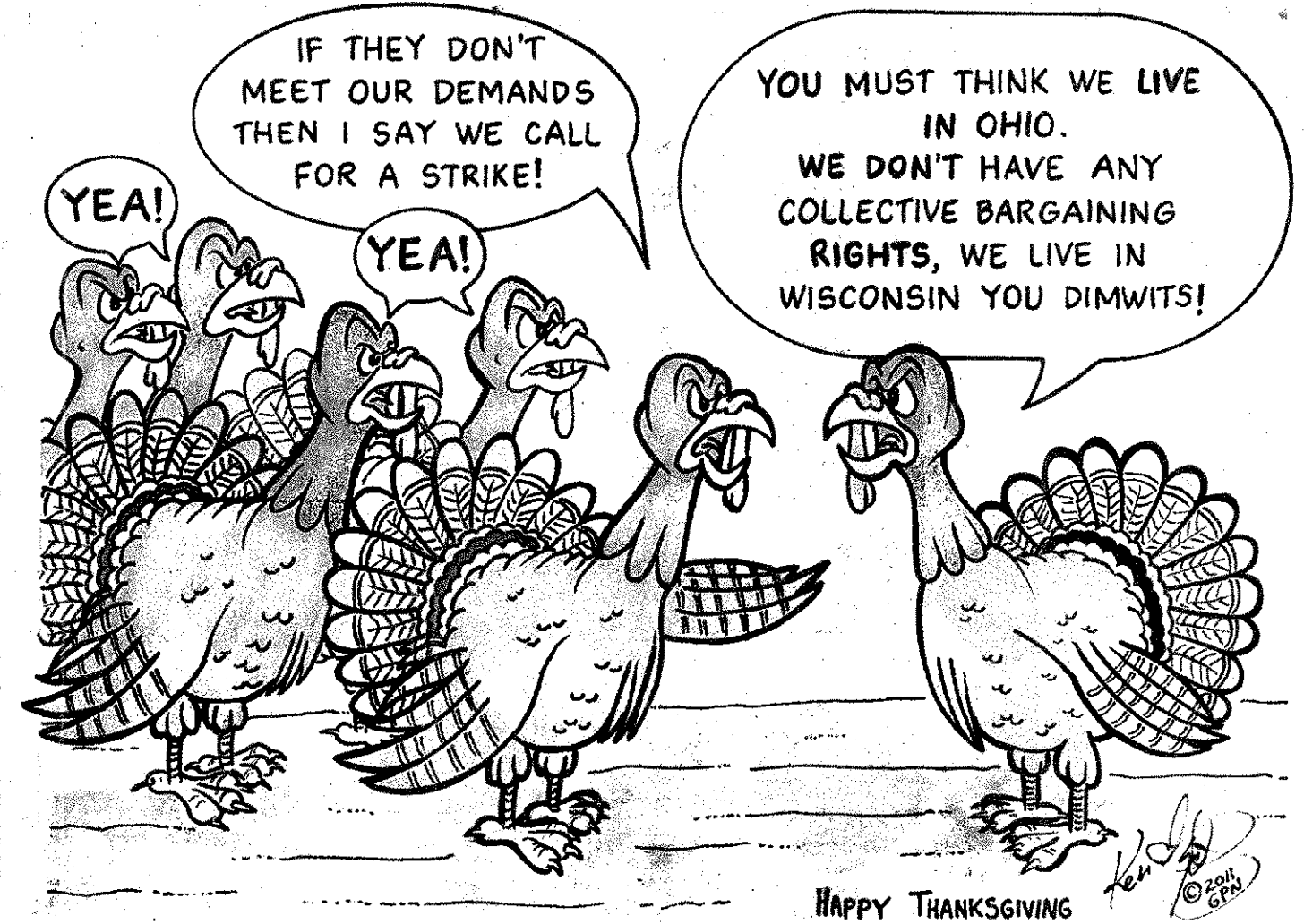
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LETTERS

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. Letters to the Editor can be e-mailed to jwarner@grossepointenews.com.

Shores new council

To the Editor:

If you look at the final tally in the recent Grosse Pointe Shores election, you will notice something very interesting: None of the appointed incumbents succeeded.

At the very beginning, James Cooper was appointed more than 10 years ago by past Grosse Pointe Shores Village President John Huetteman. The incumbents, David Galbenski and Brian Geraghty, were appointees by Cooper.

The funny thing about voters who are apathetic is they seldom are satisfied with election results. They don't take the time to vote, assuming the incumbents will win. Most of the time they don't know what the incumbents stand for, or stand against.

Never was the saying more powerful, "Vote and the choice is yours. Don't vote and the choice is theirs." The election outcome was sourced by good people who know facing an incumbency is an uphill battle, especially if voter turnout is low.

The candidates and their supporters who created the dialog in the community focused on the need for positive change. They walked the pavement and knocked on doors presenting a message to their

fellow residents of the need for a directional change.

The thrust of the people who challenged their neighbors, encouraging them to make their voice heard for better representation, was accomplished by people who understand the importance of a community voice. This typifies grassroots activism. The dialog was from neighbor to neighbor.

Dan Schulte, an incumbent not appointed, won the majority of votes for council. Time and again, he pleaded with the council for common sense solutions for the community. Televising council meetings to accommodate people who could not attend was just one of his battles he eventually won.

Another was his criticism of the corrections needed for the new marina before the warranty expired. Those two items were not unrealistic, yet he had to argue for months to get them.

His victory, as was Ted Kedziarski's for mayor, were won because their message was they do not represent "business as usual," but business efficiencies based on facts, good business policy and an understanding they represent the entire community.

The new council represented by Dan Schulte, Kay Felt, Robert Gessel, Bruce Bisbal,

Alex Ajlouni, and Bob Barrette, under the mayoral leadership of Ted Kedziarski is a team Grosse Pointe Shores residents can be proud.

If the message of these candidates is exercised as they have campaigned, I am confident the outlook for this community will once again return to solvency through good business practices. And the residents will feel not marginalized but represented by people who listen.

There is a revealing truth in the numbers.

MARY ANNE LAHOOD
Grosse Pointe Shores

Right Wing Machinations

To the Editor:

In the week before Thanksgiving, "conservative" Republican politicians put on quite a public spectacle:

◆ Presidential candidate Rep. Michelle Bachmann, R-Minn., told an interviewer torture, including water boarding, should be restored to the interrogation of suspected terrorists — a position opposed by six of the other candidates.

When asked why, she vacuously exclaimed, "because that is Dick Cheney's position." Good grief!

◆ Second ranking GOP Sen. John Kyl, R-Ariz., told a political talk show host the reason the Special Deficit Committee would fail is Democrats' refusal to consider reducing entitlements, in spite of his and his Republican colleagues' refusal to consider increasing tax rates — even the expiring Bush tax cuts for the wealthy.

Kyl, who happily, will not run for re-election in 2012, said the fact he and his GOP brethren on the Special Committee had taken the Grover Norquist anti-tax pledge, had no influence

on their deliberations.

Denial is not a river in Egypt, senator.

◆ Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, petulantly questioned Attorney General Eric Holder about his alleged failure to provide the senator with information about the Arizona/Mexico gun smuggling debacle. This is the same Sen. Grassley who turned a blind eye to extremist behavior by the Bush justice department, including outrages by Alberto Gonzalez.

Apparently, Grassley's pious sanctimony stops where the Republican brand begins. Why do — usually discerning — Hawkeyes put up with this ineffective hyper partisan.

◆ The worst behavior was manifested by House Republicans, who passed a national right to carry firearms bill over the objections of colleagues who said this would violate states' rights and invalidate protections legislated by their state lawmakers.

It was awesome — and disilusioning — to see how much influence the National Rifle Association wielded to steamroller another "gun nut" law over the objections of Congressmen who raised safety concerns. Lamentably, Congress is controlled by a Second Amendment faction who want to flood our communities with more lethal firearms.

As bad as things are in America, it is hard to imagine moderates and progressives won't be able to persuade independents to turn away from right wing extremism in the 2012 elections.

I'd hate to have to move to Canada to find moderation!

WILLIAM D. HODGMAN
Grosse Pointe Park

See LETTERS, page 9A

I SAY By Brad Lindberg

Ride the lakes' largest freighter



The average jogger could get a respectable workout by running seven laps around the main deck of the bulk freighter, Paul R. Tregurtha.

The boat is the largest on the Great Lakes. It's 1,013.5 feet long and 105 feet wide. A lap around the perimeter is 2,237 feet. A mile is 2.36 laps. Seven laps is three miles.

Designers had one thing in mind when planning the cargo carrier's construction: build the largest freighter possible to fit through the Soo Locks.

The Paul R. Tregurtha just sneaks through. It was the

longest ship on the lakes when launched in 1981 in Lorain, Ohio, and is likely to remain the largest until scrapped.

Most freighters include guest accommodations. But, new rules and liability worries prohibit selling passage.

The only way for a member of the public to book a cruise is as a guest of the owner or to win a raffle.

The International Shipmaster's Association Port Huron Lodge No. 2 is raffling a roughly one-week trip on the Tregurtha. Tickets cost \$10 each. The winner gets to treat three guests. A drawing is scheduled for March 3, 2012, at the Thomas Edison Inn, Port Huron. The winner needn't be present.

"The Hilton Hotel would equate to what we have on the Tregurtha," said Frank Frisk, a retired Great Lakes sailor and veteran of the boat.

Guest accommodations are

located one deck below the bridge and consist of five staterooms, a dining room, lounge and small galley.

"It's mahogany, oak and leather," said Frisk, a Grosse Pointe Park native, webmaster of boatnerd.com and freighterfrank.com.

He served on Tregurtha — not to be confused with the 826-foot Lee. A Tregurtha, also of the Interlake Steamship fleet — as a relief second cook.

Frisk knows what the raffle winner has in store.

"The chief steward will call ahead of time and ask what kind of food you like," Frisk said. "He'll ask what kind of wine and beer you'd like stocked for the trip."

Great Lakes freighters are renowned for their menu selections. Choice meats and seafood are typical.

"It's like a five-star restaurant," Frisk said.

Passengers are likely to have

smooth sailing.

"Certain times of the year are noted for bad weather," Frisk said. "They don't allow raffle trips during those times. Raffle trips are scheduled during times when it's calm. They'll schedule it between June and the end of August."

The itinerary takes five or six days from point A to B and back.

"It's a dedicated run from the St. Clair power plant, up the St. Clair River and Lake Huron, through the Soo, across Lake Superior to Duluth-Superior for a load of coal at the Detroit Edison coal dock and back again," Frisk said.

To buy tickets, download an order form from freightertrip.com (click under "current raffle," "ISMA Port Huron Lodge 2 freighter raffle 2012"), or mail payment (\$10 per ticket) to: ISMA — Lodge #2, P.O. Box 61134, Port Huron, MI, 48061-1634.

New City of Grosse Pointe chief takes oath

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — City leaders this month passed the public safety baton to a new director.

Stephen Poloni took the oath of office Monday, Nov. 14. He takes over for retired Chief James Fox, a 28-year veteran. Poloni's job in the City temporarily overlaps his ap-

proaching retirement as chief of Grosse Pointe Shores public safety. He coupled his retirement announcement last month with an offer to stay on the job in a limited capacity until a re-

placement is found. A selection process in the Shores is under way. Poloni was tops among 43 candidates for the City job. "I served Shores residents for 25 years and gave 100 per-

cent," he said. "I promise City residents I will give them the same hard effort." "He is warmly welcomed," said City Manager Peter Dame. Poloni's qualifications for the City go beyond professional accomplishments and reputation.

"I promise City who knows the community," said Councilman Chris Walsh. Poloni also is versed in current discussions about consolidating public safety services among the five Grosse Pointes. He helped Grosse Pointe Park Chief Dave Hiller draft a proposal a couple of years ago about sharing fire trucks and equipment. "We get a shot in the arm in terms of getting people moving in the right direction," Walsh said of hiring Poloni. "One of the things we talked about during the interview process was, are you on the page with us?"

LETTERS: G.P. parks and more

Continued from page 8A

Keep your shorts on

To the Editor:
The recent chain of disturbing events plaguing Penn State University has prompted me to address an obvious problem, though not nearly as weighty.

Here, at our own parks, I have used the showers after a swim with my son, and older men have come in completely naked and started showering.

My son and I left what we both felt was an awkward situation while the other kids just nervously laughed it off.

To me this is not only unnecessary; it's uncomfortable for kids and adults alike.

Would it be too much to ask to implement a policy against this?

LEON BLONDELL
City of Grosse Pointe

Retirement pension

To the Editor:
Open letter to citizens of Michigan and the Republican Party in Lansing:

I am disappointed to learn how little my service to the citizens of Michigan has meant to them for these last 25 years.

I am one of "those horrible state employees" who, upon retirement, will bill the taxpayers out of a hefty retirement pension. Allow me to share my "hefty" retirement pension.

A number of months ago, the state created an incentive package for employees to entice us to retire early; my en-

ticement was a retirement pension of \$17,000 a year. Needless to say, I decided to continue to serve the people of Michigan and remain working until I am 62 years old.

Now I learn the state house passed HB4701 and 4702 which will cut my pension. I wonder if the elected politicians along with their staff and appointees are also taking a cut in pension and/or benefits?

I am disheartened to learn with more than 25 years of service to the state, the Republican Party has found a \$17,000 annual pension is too high.

MARGARET POTTER
Grosse Pointe Woods

Alarmed

To the Editor:
A National Alert System Test was conducted during the daylight hours Nov. 9.

The Obama Administration planned to have it run three minutes, but rational advisors convinced the time be reduce to 30 seconds.

The test, ostensibly, was to gauge the effective parameter and sustainability over a protracted time.

In a perceived national emergency, the president should within 10 seconds inform the citizens the nature of the urgency.

For many years, thousands of communities have had suitable systems to herald actual or potential danger to their localities.

But the Obama Administration has instigated the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System to be commingled with all agencies engaged in communication: AM-FM radio, satellite and cable TV and phones.

An alarm emanating from the White House could trigger

a virtual shutdown of all communications nationwide.

It is the Joint Chiefs of the Armed Forces whose intelligence capabilities prepare those responsible for such momentous action to inform the president.

Their hand, and theirs alone should push the button; not the occupant of the White House on his or her own merit.

The White House must be off limits to the alarm buzzer. One never can be too sure.

RICHARD ROBERT ROYER, M.D.
Grosse Pointe Farms

Great service

To the Editor:
I have always dreaded getting an oil change on my car because I never knew how long it would take, and so on.

This fall, I went to Meade Dodge Chrysler Jeep, as usual, and what a treat. The waiting room has all been done over, instead of a cramped one. It is like a hotel lobby, very pleasing to be in.

The oil change went very quickly and I was thrilled to have it done in such a quick, efficient manner — I had to share this information.

JEAN HAWKINS
Grosse Pointe Woods

THANKS: Holiday ponderings

Continued from page 8A

thankful for?
I suspect the pilgrims did so when they arrived at Plymouth Rock. No doubt they were thankful the Transportation Security Administration did not submit them to a "pat down."

In any event, here are some things I am most thankful:

- ♦ To celebrate holidays and special events with family and friends. Having been out of town for high school and some college, I can tell you being absent from celebrations leaves a sad melancholy feeling in your heart.

As such, whatever we can do for our service men and women would certainly be appreciated.

- ♦ For my American Association for Retired Persons card which gives me discounts at hotels and restaurants. In fact, Denny's restaurant is offering a 20 percent discount to us oldsters between 4 and 10 p.m. every day through the end of the month.

- ♦ For the Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment increase of 3.6 percent set for January. And a thanks to all of you who are still working and supporting me.

- ♦ For the television program,

"Saturday Night Live," for poking fun at the Kardashians, anyone running for president and any other politician promoting party goals over the nation's citizens.

- ♦ For episodes of "Seinfeld" that parallel life experiences.

- ♦ For the ability to reverse live television programs so I have my own personal instant replay function. Just wish I could do the same with my car radio and maybe such a control for real life incidents.

- ♦ For our three children, two sons-in-law and daughter-in-law and 11 grandchildren, who bring us joy and excitement every day.

- ♦ For Mary, my wife of 47 years, who has supported, encouraged and loved me through every moment.

As you gather with family and friends this holiday season, be thankful for all your blessings.

And if you are a guest at someone's home, chew with your mouth closed, don't talk with food in your mouth and don't nap on the bed with all the coats.

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

during the holiday season and in Grosse Pointe Woods from Dec. 3-26.

Shop local

An incentive to shop local sponsored by American Express is Saturday, Nov. 26. Cardholders, after registering, receive a one-time \$25 statement credit for a purchase of \$25 or more at a small business.

For more information, visit grossepointechamber.com.

PARKING: Shop local

Continued from page 1A

not included and parking is always free on Sundays.

In Grosse Pointe Park, free parking in the Mack business district is offered Dec. 5 through Dec. 24.

In Grosse Pointe Farms, parking is free along Mack

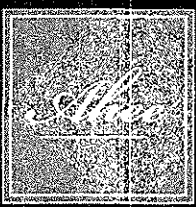
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Ready, set, trot

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT
Pierce Middle School held its 39th annual Turkey Trot last week, with 248 students and four teachers participating in the half-mile run. This was the first year teachers ran alongside students. First- and second-place finishers from each grade, as well as the top two teachers, received a turkey. Above, Pierce sixth-grade boys start the race. Right, seventh-graders Cameron Francis, left, and Jack Flynn race toward the finish line. Flynn won and Francis finished second.



Dogs help students improve literacy skills



PHOTOS BY A.J. HAKIM

Third-grader Tanea Jones shares a picture with Shadow.

By A.J. Hakim
Staff Writer

They sniff and they lick. They lay and they snuggle. They wag and they paw. And most important of all, they listen.

Once a week throughout the year, Labrador retrievers, Bo and Shadow, play companion to struggling and shy readers at Poupard Elementary School. Adopted from the Grosse Pointe Public Library's "Dog Day Afternoons," the canines — certified through Therapy Dogs International, which trains therapy dogs and their handlers to offer educational services and comfort — act as nonjudgmental spectators, helping kindergarten to fifth-graders conquer their fears and improve literacy.

David Richards is the dogs' handler and volunteer Simone Smith assists students.

"A lot of times (students) don't like reading in front of

teachers," said Lori Woznicki, Poupard's reading specialist. She started the program in October, hoping to inspire reluctant readers. "They're aware of their lack of decoding skills. They're getting help in the classrooms, but this is a practice time and that's what they need."

"Because so many other kids wanted to be included in this,

we're doing it at lunchtime and kids give up their recess time. I have fifth-grade boys who are just dying to do this. It's amazing."

In three week increments, 20 minutes a session, individual students read aloud to Bo and Shadow. They choose from books befitting their reading levels, working to build confidence and improve literacy, all the while, enjoying the company of their furry companions.

"Parents, some of them from Poupard and some from other places, have said, 'this is such a great program,'" Woznicki said.

"In three weeks, four weeks, a month at the library, it made a huge difference in (students') lives."

"I have had some of the teachers say confidence has improved, they've been reading a little more. Hopefully, we're going to bring up those reading scores as much as we can."



Nearing the end of her session, Poupard Elementary School third-grader Jayia Harlan receives a kiss from Bo, a six-year-old Labrador retriever.

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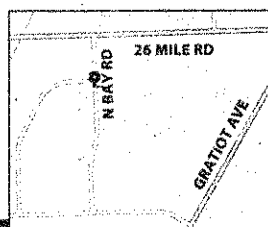
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It's Parade Day in The Village!

Come to The Village on Friday, November 25th and experience the magic of the 36th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade and Village Aglow Tree-Lighting Ceremony. A Hometown Holiday Tradition!



9:00 a.m. — 14th Annual Happy Holidays 5k Jingle Bell Walk / Run
Presented by Grosse Pointe Lions

10:00 a.m. — 36th Annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade
Bring your family, bring your friends and revel in the sights and sounds of Grosse Pointe's own Santa Claus Parade!

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4:30 p.m. — Authentic Dickens Carolers in concert at the corner of Kercheval & St. Clair

5:00 p.m. — The Village Aglow Tree Lighting Ceremony

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For more information about Parade Day, call 313.886.7474 or visit www.thevillagegp.com

South alum returns for library's guest speaker series



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Cinematographer and Sundance Film Festival Grand Jury Prize-winner, John Guleserian, right, who graduated from Grosse Pointe South in 1994, returned to his former school for a question and answer event hosted by Steve Geresy, left.

By A.J. Hakim
Staff Writer

Ever since his days making experimental films and documentaries in television production class at Grosse Pointe South High School, John Guleserian wanted to attend the American Film Institute and build a career in filmmaking.

"It definitely was something that interested me, and I was always into cameras and I also enjoyed telling stories," said Guleserian of the class taught by Julie Corbett. "It's truly amazing to have gone through this program with Dr. Corbett. It's such a unique program, and I think a lot of people can attest to, it really set our lives in a particular direction, and

without it we may have never found that."

That direction led to a bachelor of arts degree in film and video from Columbia College Chicago and a master of fine arts degree in cinematography from the American Film Institute. This year, Guleserian claimed the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival for his role as director of photography in Drake Doremus' "Like Crazy," thus far, his greatest professional accomplishment. An achievement Guleserian's father, John Guleserian, shared instantly with his son's former teacher.

"I was driving down Lakeshore one day last winter," recalled Corbett, who retired from teaching in 2001. "He called me and this guy

was just yelling at the top of his lungs, 'Dr. Corbett, you won't believe what happened. Johnny won the grand prize at Sundance.' And he just kept talking and talking and talking. I drove the whole length of Lakeshore talking to him.

"It's just great. We've been cheering about this for a while."

The 35-year-old cinematographer and former Grosse Pointe Park resident shared his thoughts on winning Sundance's top prize, his time at South, the importance of education and other lessons learned during an intimate question and answer event hosted by South's current TV production instructor Steve Geresy. The event was co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and Grosse Pointe Public Library.

The foundation also presented Guleserian with its Pillars of Excellence Award, formerly the Distinguished Alumni Award, celebrating and honoring his achievements in cinematography.

To date, Guleserian's resumé includes three feature films — and a fourth currently in production — four music videos, five television shows, seven web productions and 12 commercials and promotional advertisements. He's worked as director of photography for the Walt Disney Company, Comedy Central, Cartoon Network and alongside music artists Aimee Mann, Ben Folds and Maroon 5.

And while he continually strives to maintain variety in his work, carefully selecting opportunities to avoid typecasting or pigeonholing, the road through Hollywood is rife with mystery and uncertainty.

"Who knows where things can take you, and that's what's exciting about this career path, is that you never know," Guleserian said. "It's something different every time."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTI THEROS

Donating food for the holidays

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School hosted its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive last week. Students donated and prepared food for shipment to food pantries at St. Jude, St. Veronica and St. Angela churches and the Light House Outreach Center.

From left, eighth-graders Egan Boll, Ashley Brieden, Megan Gall, Sophia Amato, Rebecca Adams, Olivia Frederickson, Natasha Boelstler and Claire Young pack food and prepare it for shipment.

Student places first in contest



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEACON BILL JAMIESON

Our Lady Star of the Sea fourth-grader Michael Marshall won first-prize in the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions art and essay contest and received \$50 for his accomplishment. The school was awarded \$500.

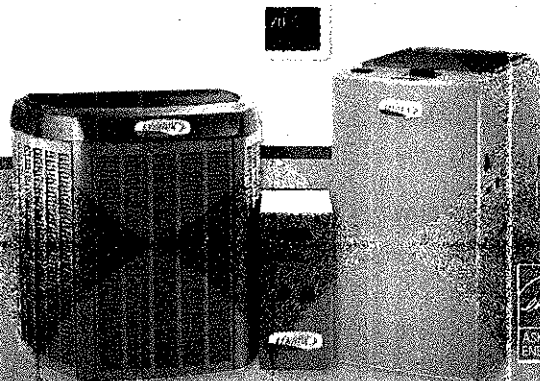
The contest honored Clement Vismara, whose recent beatification brings him closer to sainthood. Participating students submitted either a drawing of Vismara or essay. Pictured, Marshall displays his drawing, along with the Reverend Giorgio Ferrara, Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions director of outreach, and art teacher Ann Tignanelli.

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Local business owners give back to Ferry school

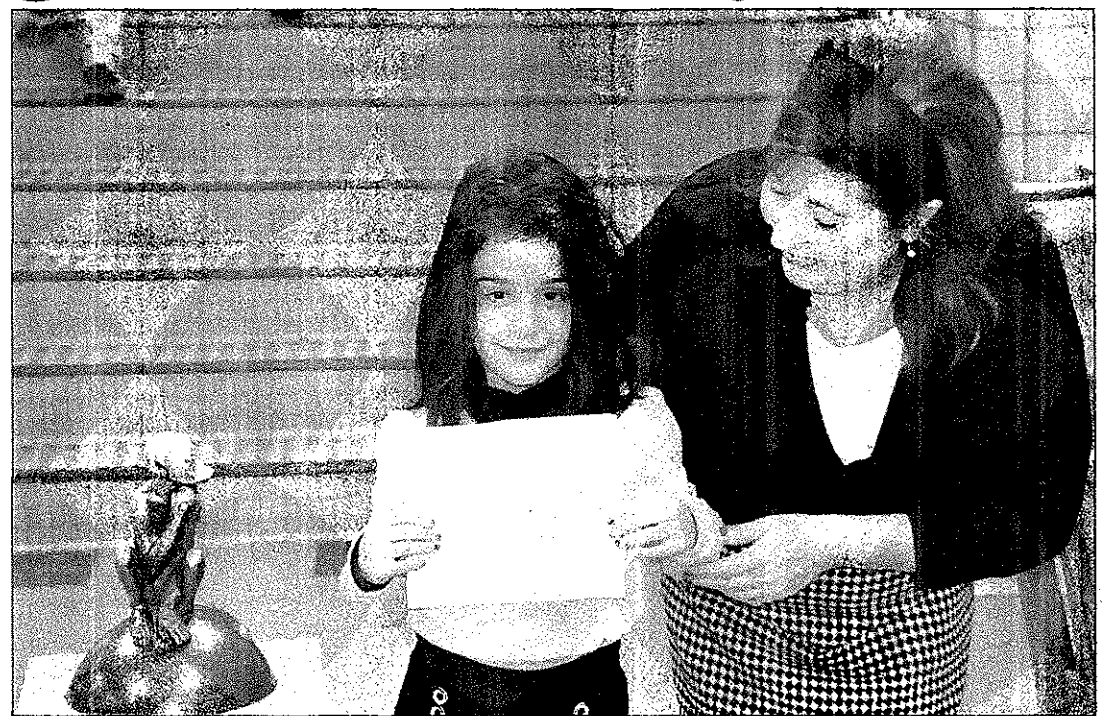


PHOTO BY A.J. HAKIM

Ferry Elementary School student Fatima Jawad gives principal Gloria Hinz a \$500 check from her parents, Eddie and Kay, through ExxonMobil's Education Alliance Grant. The Jawad family run a local service station.

Through ExxonMobil's Educational Alliance Grant program, local service station owners Eddie and Kay Jawad gave Ferry Elementary School a \$500 check to support the school's curriculum.

"(Last Thursday), we, the Jawad family, supported our Ferry school by participating in the Educational Alliance

Grant," said Kay Jawad, Grosse Pointe Shores resident and mother of four children, all of whom currently attend or graduated from Grosse Pointe schools.

ExxonMobil's program provides company retailers and distributors an opportunity to invest in the educational future of their community and

neighborhood schools. This year, the company awarded 4,000 \$500 grants to schools across the country.

"We're very appreciative of what they were able to do for us, and I hope that we'll be able to use this toward our reading workshop initiative," said Ferry principal Gloria Hinz.

St. Paul hosts wine tasting event

Signifying the school's official kick-off of its online auction, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School is hosting a wine tasting party at the Country Club of Detroit.

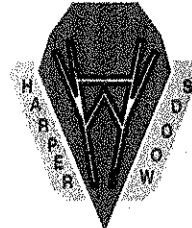
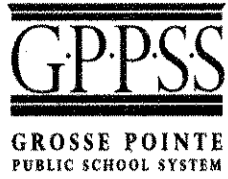
The party is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 1.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include wine and hors d'oeuvres.

The school's auction runs from Dec. 1 through Dec. 11, with all proceeds used to purchase textbooks, technology, instructional materials and

classroom supplies. Proceeds also help fund field trips, professional development and enrichment programs.

For more information or to make a reservation, call (313) 885-3430.



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Heming Chen

Carlo Ciaravine
Maggie deReyna
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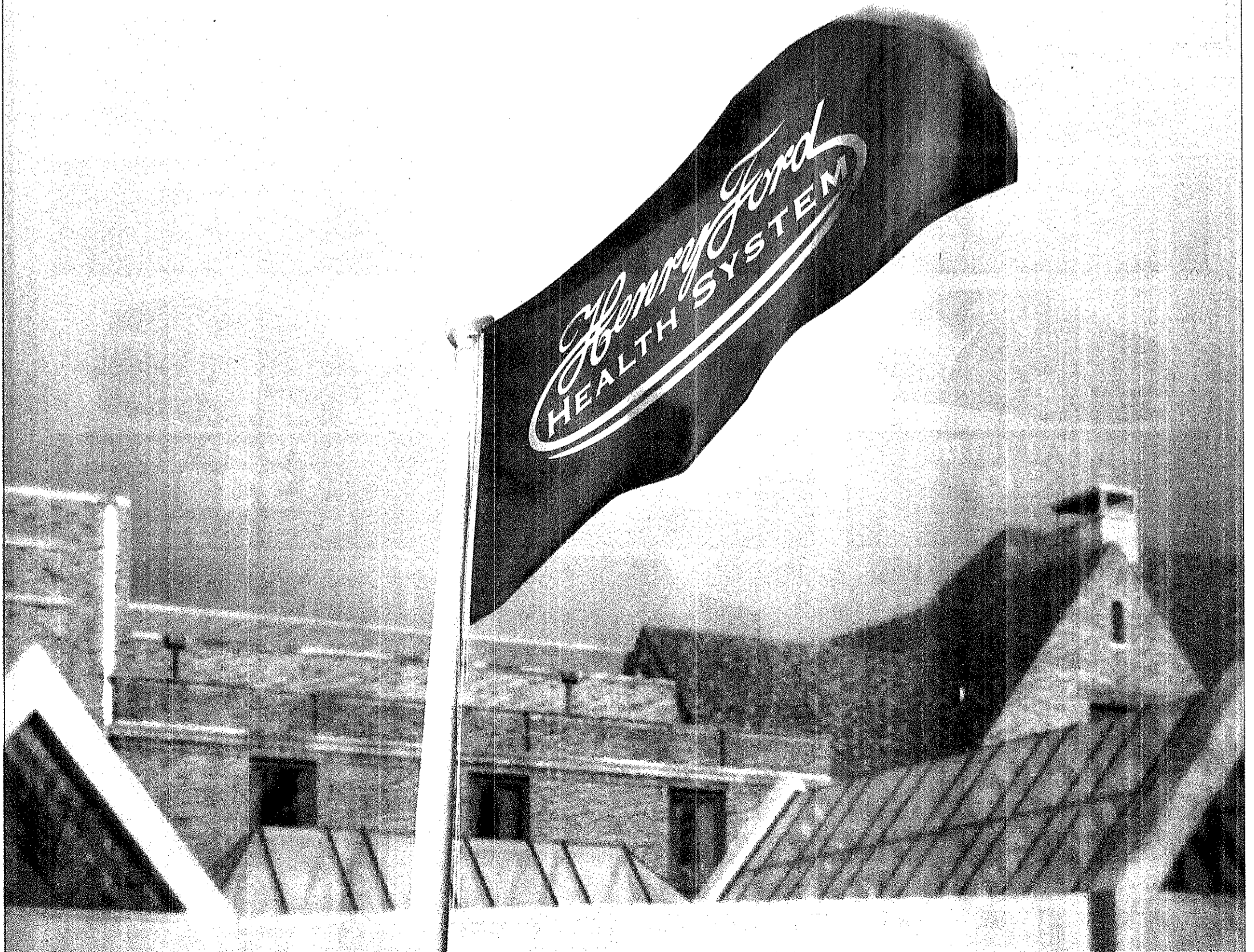




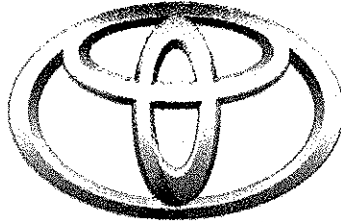
PHOTO COURTESY OF WIECK MEDIA

2013 Honda Fit EV debut

The all-new 2013 Honda Fit EV made its world debut Nov. 16 at the 2011 Los Angeles Auto Show. As Honda's first mass-production battery electric vehicle, the Fit EV goes on sale in the United States the summer of 2012.

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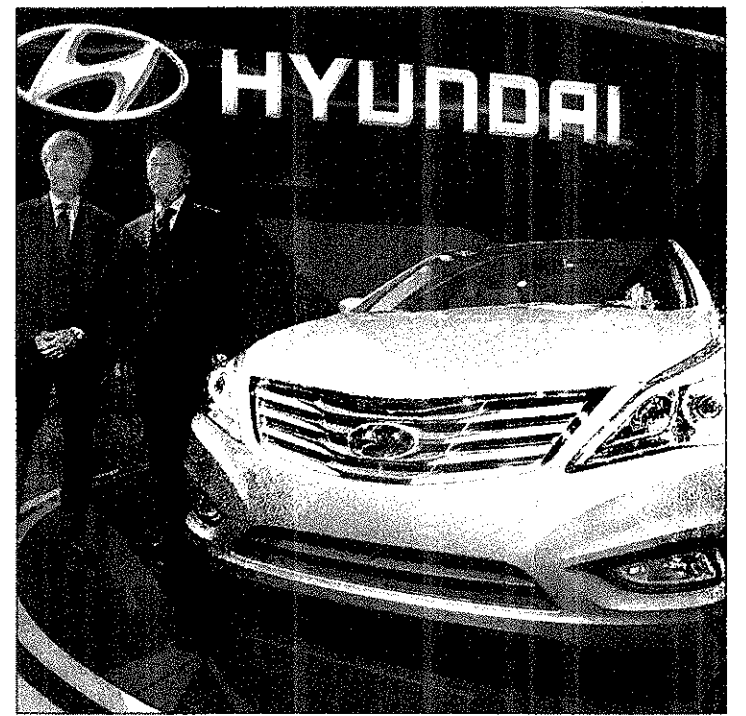


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIECK MEDIA

Hyundai modernizes the large sedan

John Krafcik, president and CEO, Hyundai Motor America; and E.S. Chung, vice chairman, Hyundai Motor Company, introduced the all-new 2012 Azera at the 2011 Los Angeles Auto Show. Azera sports a modern, sleek, sophisticated style, creating the perception of constant motion. Azera features a more powerful Lambda II 3.3-liter direct-injected engine, six-speed transmission, best-in-class combined fuel economy of 23 miles per gallon and a wide range of advanced safety equipment. Azera goes on sale in February 2012.

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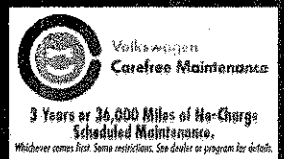
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AUTOS By Jenny King

Buick Enclave defines luxury crossover



Buick's Enclave raises the bar for the crossover utility vehicle market segment.

The elegant Enclave seats up to eight, offers all-wheel drive, is powered by General Motor's 288 horsepower 3.6-liter V-6 mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

Outfitted with leather seating, woodgrain-and-brushed-metal instrument panel trim, a navigation system, upgraded sound system, rear-seat DVD screen, satellite-based traffic information, power sunroof with second-row skylight and monster 20-inch wheels and power liftgate, it was a showstopper.

A front-drive Enclave starts at around \$37,000; all-wheel drive adds \$2,000 to the base price. The vehicle tested ran up a considerable tab, finishing at \$50,360.

Buick discarded its CX and CXL model designations in favor of four groups. The test Enclave was in the Premium Group with a base price of \$45,080 before the nav system, sunroof, second row skylight, crystal red tintcoat and 20-inch wheels.

A power sunroof is available on all Enclave models. All also feature two front seats and a three-person third row seat. Buyers may opt for second-row armchairs or a three-person bench with 60/40 split back.

Buick said the Enclave with front-wheel drive averages up to 24 miles per gallon in highway driving. Our Enclave was equipped with the heavier all-



PHOTOS BY JENNY KING

Buick combines solid with sweeping in the lines and stance of its 2012 Enclave luxury crossover utility vehicle. The Enclave is available in four "groups," with all-wheel drive available in each and a standard third-row seat.

wheel drive system and disappointed us with its 19 mpg in mostly highway travel.

The test vehicle had an EPA rating of 16 mpg city and 22 highway. The 3.6-liter six in all Enclaves runs on regular fuel.

Styling and safety

We thought the Enclave's styling is rather bulbous and heavy-looking. Sporty it's not; solid and sleek it is. The 20-inch tires on the test model added to its huge feeling; 18-inch wheels are standard and 19-inchers come in the Premium Group.

With front drive, the Enclave weighs in at 4,780 pounds; add another 200 pounds for an all-wheel-drive system.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports the Enclave earned five stars for driver safety in frontal crash situations; the front passenger rating was four.

In a side crash, both front and rear seat earned five stars. Enclave had four stars in the risk of rollover in a single vehicle crash test.

GM's OnStar provides crash response assistance and the Enclave comes with six months free OnStar.

Standard safety features include front and side air bags and air curtains for all outboard passengers. StabiliTrak with traction control and anti-lock brakes are also standard.

Options packages

Remote start, rear park assist and rear vision camera are part of the driver confidence package. A leather package includes leather seats, front heated seats and seat adjuster upgrades for driver and front pas-

senger.

A premium package adds cooled seats, articulating headlights, power folding outside mirrors, 19-inch chrome wheels and a Bose premium audio system. It also includes a power tilt and telescoping steering wheel. A trailering package is available on all models.

Assembled in Lansing, Enclave comes with a four-year, 50,000-mile bumper-to-bumper warranty and five-year/100,000 powertrain coverage.

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

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\$795 Acquisition fee
\$4,603 Total cash due at signing

2012 C300 4MATIC advertised 30 month lease payment based on MSRP of \$41,395. Excludes title, taxes, registration, license fees, insurance, dealer prep and additional options. Total payments equal \$15,030. Cash due at signing includes \$2,865 capitalized cost reduction, \$795 acquisition fee and first month's lease payment of \$379. No security deposit required. Total lease payments equal \$11,370. At lease end lessee pays for excess wear and tear plus \$0.25/mile over 25,000 miles, and \$395 vehicle turn-in fee. Subject to Tier 1 credit approval. This offer is available only to qualified customers through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services. Offer expires November 30, 2011.

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Video system upgrades

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — The new city council approved buying video equipment to broadcast monthly meetings with better resolution.

A low-bid contract of \$3,710 was \$1,200 greater than when submitted by the supplier last spring, according to Grosse Pointe Shores Councilman Dan Schulte.

"Their original quote from April 15 has to change because the price they have to pay for software has gone up," Schulte said.

The supplier also wanted compensation for time spent last summer trying to install video components and related software at city hall.

"They had problems with our equipment," Schulte said. "We had a lightning strike that damaged our computer and had compatibility issues. But, that's been ironed out."

The purchase consists of a \$397 camera and \$3,310 worth of automatic playback software.

Council meetings are broad-

cast at noon and 6:30 p.m. daily on community access Cable Channel 12.

"The video quality of the broadcasts will not improve until after the Dec. 20 council meeting because all meetings to date have been recorded on a low-resolution camera," Schulte said.

"A new camera will be in place for the Dec. 20 meeting. Thereon, the video quality should be significantly better."

Until the new software is installed, broadcasts are activated by public safety dispatchers or other employees. When the full-time dispatch center closed due to the job being contracted to Grosse Pointe Farms, an automated playback system became necessary.

"I'm hopeful it will be installed by the December meeting," Schulte said.

The council voted unanimously Tuesday, Nov. 15, to

buy the new system at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.

Competing bids were in the "tens of thousands of dollars," Schulte said. "This (winning) company is still way lower than anybody else."

The next step could be streaming council meetings on the municipal website. "That's quite a big additional cost,"

Schulte said. "We'll have to see."

Schulte, the only incumbent council member to retain a seat in the Nov. 8 election, was frustrated during most of his first, two-year term by an inability to resolve the video purchase.

"It's been a long time, two years," he said.

He praised the new council, which he said "is strongly in favor of televising meetings. It's not what we had in the past."

Their original quote from April 15 has to change because the price they have to pay for software has gone up.

DAN SCHULTE
Shores councilman

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Chief search starts

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — About 25 people applied for the job of Grosse Pointe Shores public safety director.

The deadline was Tuesday, Nov. 15.

"One (applicant) is internal, the rest are from outside," said Brian Vick, city manager.

The "vast majority" of applicants are retired and receiving pensions, Vick added.

Hiring a retiree would save the Shores from spending additional legacy costs.

"You want to explore those options," Vick told the city council last week.

He intends to establish a committee to review the candidates.

"Time is of the essence," he said.

The Shores current chief, Stephen Poloni, announced his retirement in October, plus acceptance of another job. He was sworn in last week as public safety director of the City of Grosse Pointe.

A 25-year veteran of the Shores, Poloni is doing double duty in both communities until Shores officials hire a successor.

"We are very fortunate the chief is available to us during this transition," Vick said.

Prospective chiefs are likely to be discussed at the 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, meeting of the committee of the whole, Vick said.

—Brad Lindberg

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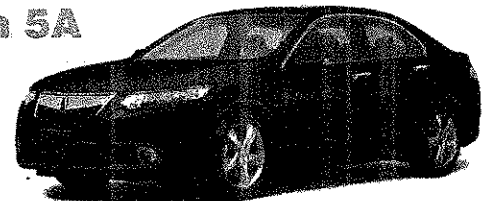
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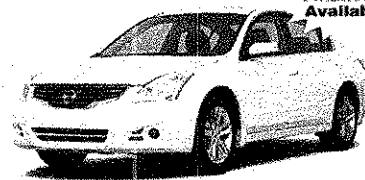
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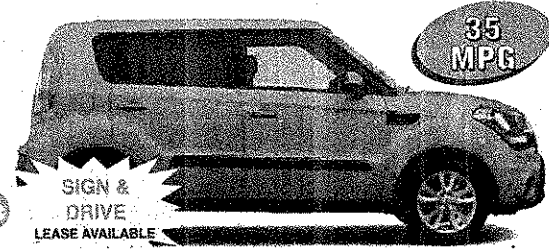
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22 FACES & PLACES | 33 CHURCHES | 44 ENTERTAINMENT | 73 HEALTH

Many area families are not in a position to load their tables during this feasting time. They rely on what can be given at **The Emergency Food Assistance Program** but those shelves are barely covered.

Feeding the family

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

A family of four is supplied with two bags of dried plums, three cans of mixed vegetables, two containers of juice, three cans of beef stew, three cans of corn and nine juice-box-size containers of milk.

"It's our goal to feed a family for four days," said Anne Nearhood, CARE's community organizer specialist, who oversees The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a national program began in 1981 through the United States Department of Agriculture, in the basement of New Life Ministries in Harper Woods.

Like Old Mother Hubbard, the cupboards are bare and there's plenty of hungry mouths to feed, with the numbers increasing in a variety of situations.

"Some people come in crying when they enroll. Some are grateful for the help. Some need help to get them back on their feet. There are single parent families and large families.



Nine containers of milk, in juice-box-size, is available.

There is a mother with six children, ranging in age from five weeks to 18 years. I'm seeing the under employed or those just getting laid off. Some need the supplement to bring the food bills down," she said.

People, 40 percent of whom have Grosse Pointe addresses and 60 percent Harper Woods addresses, coming to the food bank are sometimes hesitant to accept food. It is Nearhood's job to guide them through the process. She sometimes greets reluctant participants in the



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

DeVaughn Cone, 12, of Harper Woods, receives a can of beef stew from volunteer Linda Branch at The Emergency Food Assistance Program, housed in the New Life Ministries church in Harper Woods. Since losing its federal stimulus money, the food bank has little to hand out to Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods residents in need. On Nov. 12, 43 families came to collect a few cans of vegetables and beef stew to feed 115 people.

'Some people come in crying. Some people are grateful for the help.'

ANNE NEARHOOD,
CARE's community
organizer specialist

ents need to provide proof of income (food stamp card, W-2 form, Medicaid card or income tax return and proof of residency).

She said, those with a Bridge card or Medicaid are automatically eligible.

Recipients re-enroll every January.

Food donations and grocery store gift cards are accepted at 11 a.m. the second Thursday of the month at the church, 19678 Lochmoor. Monetary donations can also be used to buy food throughout the year.

"A lot of people donate now, at this time of year, but what happens in the spring?" she asked. "People are hungry throughout the year."



Paul Zuniga, of Grosse Pointe Park, gets two bottles of apple juice from the sparsely stocked food bank.



Paige Ruyé, a Grosse Pointe North junior, volunteers at the food bank.

parking lot and says, "It's OK to accept help."

Nearhood organized the food bank in May 2010 when federal assistance money provided a variety of surplus foods to be distributed to the unemployed and low income people. The program ended, stemming the food flow.

"The past three months the food quantity has gone down. The federal stimulus money ran out which had supplied frozen chicken, fruit, beef, ham, potatoes, cheese and cereal," she said. "I am working to partner with Gleaners to have supplemental food."

She would also like to partner with local businesses that can supply a specific type of food, such as fresh produce, as well as find other sources of funding to help fill the shelves.

Until connections can be made, Nearhood feels for the nearly 100 families in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods who regularly come to the New Life Ministries Worldwide for a few bags of food.

Grosse Pointe South High School sophomore Bridget Maniere said after seeing what people are taking home, she couldn't exist on a few cans of food.

"It made me thankful for what I have," she said.

She and her mother, Teresa, volunteered at the November distribution. From that one experience, Teresa Maniere said she and her co-workers are coordinating a food drive.

Nearhood said she is happy to coordinate food drives with businesses and schools. Volunteers from St. John Hospital and Medical Center pick up the monthly allotment food from a central distribution point in Detroit, deliver and unload the boxes at 11 a.m. every Thursday. Volunteers from the church are on hand to help with the unloading and shelving of the food. More volunteers are needed on distribution day to check recipients in and carry bags full of food.

"Volunteers see a different perspective on life, it builds community awareness," she said.

The food bank is open 9 to 10 a.m. the second Saturday of every month. Potential recipi-

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Noon - 4 p.m.
 - Saturday, November 26th
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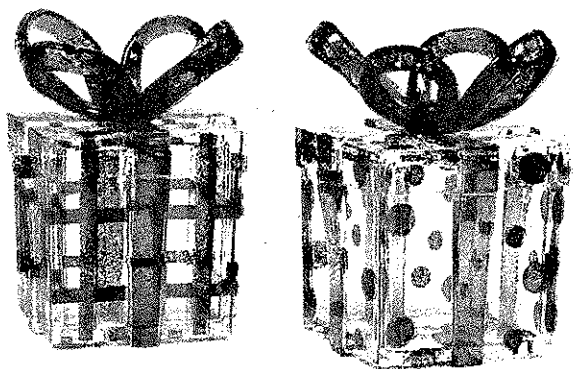


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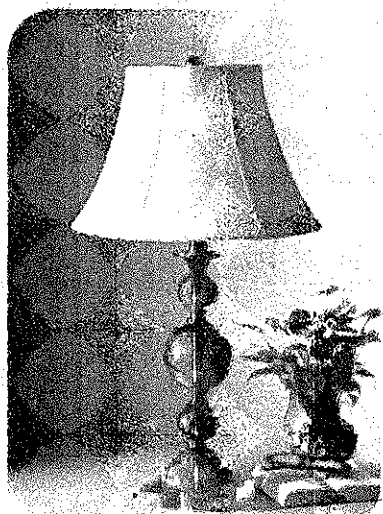


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AREA ACTIVITIES



Junior League of Detroit

The Junior League of Detroit 2011 - 2012 board of directors includes, from left, membership trustee, Dana Murphy; treasurer, Dana Zolynsky; communications director, Jennifer Tolle; president, Ann Turnbull; secretary, Katherine Kerwin; president-elect, Theresa M. Bellaimy; sustainer director, Leslie Martin; community director, Chinyere Crutcher; assistant treasurer, Kelli Carney; community trustee, Lisa Spinelli Partogian; sustainer trustee Diana Greenwood; and membership director, Michelle Tiderington. Not pictured is sustainer chairwoman Patti Schoolenberger. The group focuses on improving literacy in the 48215 ZIP code by working with school-age children and at local libraries. Fundraisers include The Festival of Wreaths and the annual Designer's Show House. For more information, visit jldetroit.org.

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Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
 Detroit Chapter

Jack and Jill of America, Inc., established in 1938, is a national organization committed to improving the lives of children in our community. This year, the Detroit Chapter has adopted **Christ Child House** as its principal charity. Christ Child House is a private non-profit organization which has been providing care for children since 1948. Its mission is to provide quality professional and comprehensive treatment programs for children and families at risk. An on-line auction, with items donated by businesses in our community, has been created to support Jack and Jill's fundraising efforts for Christ Child House. Please visit the on-line auction at:

jackandjilldetroit.maestroweb.com
 Silent On-Line Auction
 for the benefit of Christ Child House

For more information, please contact:
 Tracey Scott-Evans at tracey.evans@comcast.net

their cancer journeys.
 For more information, call (586) 777-7761.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods holds a meet and greet for professionals working with families from 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Registration is due by Tuesday, Nov. 29, by calling (313) 432-3832 or visiting familycenterweb.org.

Grannie Nannies

The Grannie Nannies meet from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at Services for Older Citizens, Henry Ford Medical Center - Cottage, 159 Kercheval, third floor, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Group members exchange babysitting ideas.

For more information, call (313) 882-9600.

Assumption Nursery

Assumption Nursery School hosts Family Art Day from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Assumption Nursery School and Toddler Center, 22150 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

For reservations, call (586) 772-4477.

The public can attend.

AAUW

The American Association of University Women, Grosse Pointe branch, holds its annual Christmas celebration from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9, at the Ardmore Cafe, 26717 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.

A full-course dinner, dessert, beverages, a cash bar and live entertainment are included.

Spouses, friends and prospective members can attend.

Reservations are due by Thursday, Dec. 1, and can be made by sending a check made payable to GP MI Branch of AAUW to Barbara Tecos, 1237 Balfour Road, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230. The cost is \$35.

Walk-ins are not accepted.

Rotary club

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe meets at noon Monday, Nov. 28, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Lunch costs \$13 and the public can attend.

For more information about the club, visit grossepointerotary.org.

Villagers Ballroom dance

The Villagers Ballroom dance group meets at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the Lochmoor Club, 1018 Sunningdale, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. and dancing is from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

The cost is \$90 for members and \$105 for non-members.

For more information, call membership chairwoman Nancy Velek at (313) 884-5693.

Lake House

The Lake House, 26701 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores, holds orientations at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28; 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30; and 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1.

The organization helps people live quality lives during

Deadline

Information to be included in the Dec. 8 issue must be submitted by noon Thursday, Dec. 1.

Information can be e-mailed to afouty@grossepointenews.com.

Musicale of Detroit celebrates birthday

Musicale of Detroit, started in 1885, celebrated 127 years of promoting music in the metropolitan Detroit area Sept. 18, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Musicians and singers perform regularly for the com-

munity. Along with its performing members, associate (non-performing) members make up its audiences at the regular Tuesday concerts.

It is the oldest music club in Michigan and one of the oldest in the United States and supports the musical community by contributing to the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, the DSO youth orchestra. It gives two scholarships annually to University of Michigan students and several annual awards to promising high school and college students.

More than 50 percent of the organizations members are from the Grosse Pointes.

Outstanding

Fundraiser

The Gloria and Thomas Kitchen Memorial Foundation's Sept. 23 TEAM GLORIA fundraiser for cystic fibrosis netted \$34,000. All money is donated to the cystic fibrosis research center to combat the chronic, hereditary disease.

Gloria Kitchen founded the Thomas R. Kitchen Memorial Foundation in 2010 in recognition of her brother, who died in 1996 of cystic fibrosis.

She died of the same disease in 2010.

CHURCHES

PASTOR'S CORNER By Carla Kalogeridis

Being grateful for what we have

I drive I-94 often and when I exit, I see an individual (or two) at the end of the ramp holding a sign indicating they are hungry and homeless. Caught at a red light and awkwardly trying not to meet eyes, our thoughts may include: "Thank you, God, for giving me a roof over my head and food on my table."

It's important to be grateful for what we have. But it is just as important to acknowledge with gratitude what the struggling hearts have as well, for God does not pick and choose whom he will love and care for. He loves and cares for all of us equally, every moment of every day.

This true story appeared in the Christian Science Sentinel magazine: As a woman walked to work every day, she saw another woman begging for money.

The working woman wanted to help, but didn't want to be scammed or contribute to a junkie's habit. She prayed to learn what help she should give.

Instead of giving money, when she passed by, she looked the needy woman directly in the eyes and loved her.

Each time their eyes met, the working woman would smile and pray silently: "You are God's beloved child. You are not poor. You are not worthless, and I am not going to give you money and further this idea that you are incapable of helping yourself. You have God-given gifts that support your every need. God is with you right now. Listen to his angel thoughts. He will tell you what to do."

One day, the woman was gone. At first, the working woman was worried, but then remembered to claim what she had been praying all those weeks as the truth.

Some months later, the working woman visited a salon. A friendly assistant washing her hair quietly asked, "You don't recognize me, do you?" It was the homeless woman. The working woman rejoiced as the assistant told her: "Even though you never gave me money, the moments

when you walked by and looked me in the eye and recognized me as a human being were the highlight of my day. One morning, the idea came to me to get up from the sidewalk. I wandered the streets and saw a sign in this salon looking for someone to wash hair and sweep the floor. I thought, 'I can do that.'"

The salon owner not only gave her the job, he washed and cut her hair, helped her get clothes from a second-hand shop and drove her to a shelter. Now she was living on her own.

There's a familiar Bible story about disciples Peter and John passing by a lame beggar outside their temple. "Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength."

The lame man really didn't need money; he needed to walk so he could take care of himself.

"In divine Science, man is the true image of God," writes Mary Baker Eddy in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures. "The divine nature was best expressed in Christ Jesus, who threw upon mortals the truer reflection of God and lifted their lives higher than their poor thought-models would allow—thoughts which presented man as fallen, sick, sinning, and dying."

The Christlike understanding of scientific being and divine healing includes a perfect principle and idea—perfect God and perfect man—as the basis of thought and demonstration."

This Thanksgiving, we can express gratitude for our many blessings—and claim these blessings equally for everyone we encounter. You don't need silver and gold to be someone's "angel." All you need is to see them as they truly are; sinless, perfect, intelligent and free to follow God's directions.

Kalogeridis is a member of the Christian Science Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.



The 100 voices of St. Paul on the Lake Festival Choir has a Christmas concert at 7 p.m. Dec. 3.

St. Paul's choirs sing for HART

St. Paul on the Lake Festival Choir presents a Christmas concert, "Merry Christmas Past" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3, in the church.

An afterglow in the Parish House follows the concert. The public can attend.

The choir joins The St. Paul Choir, Voices of Joy, Sacred Sounds and The Angels of the Lord (St. Paul Children's Choir) under the direction of organist and music director Lawrence R. Przybysz.

The 100-voice choir showcases many familiar Christmas tunes, such as music by Handel, Rutter, Irving Berlin, and Gian Carlo Menotti. Accompanists are Patricia Fletcher and Michelle LaBoe.

A guest choral group, the Mark Radeke Schola

Cantorum, joins the event.

Proceeds benefit the Haiti and Africa Relief Team, founded by former St. Paul on the Lake associate pastor, the Rev. Sama Muma. HART consists mostly of St. Paul on the Lake parishioners who travel to Haiti and Africa annually delivering medical supplies and other goods. HART is planning a February trip to Cameroon.

HART's goal is to expand its technical skills to include engineering in addition to medical skills, to provide clean water to reduce illnesses in Haiti and Africa.

Proceeds from the concert go toward purchasing medical supplies for the trip to Africa.

Concert tickets are available at the parish office, or by calling (313) 885-8855 or at the

door. The church is located at 175 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

CHURCH EVENTS

Mariners' Church

Mariners Church of Detroit hosts the Festival Service of Lessons and Music for Advent at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 27, at the church, 170 E. Jefferson.

Organ music for the season is by Bach, Brahms and Demessieux. The scriptures

See EVENTS, page 5B



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Rev. James Rizer, Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth Arakelian, Assoc. Pastor

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11:00 a.m. - The Festival Service of Lessons and Music for Advent, with Holy Communion

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
12:10 p.m. - The Holy Communion
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Meditation: "What Do You Want Most?"
Scripture: Mark 13:24-37
Peter C. Smith, Preaching

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Nov 27 - One Worship Services 10:00 a.m. First Sunday of Advent

Dec 4 - Worship Services, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion at both services Education for all ages, 10:10 a.m.

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WEDDINGS

Fox - Ford

Sarah Jane Fox married Calvin Robert Ford June 4, 2011, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. The Rev. Peter J. M. Henry officiated at the 5 p.m. ceremony, which was followed by a reception at The Edsel and Eleanor Ford House. Both bride and groom grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms, where their parents, Jane and Bill Fox and Cynthia and Edsel Ford reside.

The bride wore an Oscar de la Renta tiered white taffeta gown with a black sash. She carried a mass nosegay of white gardenias (her grandmother's favorite flower), white roses and white peonies. She also carried a blue flowered handkerchief from her grandmother's collection.

Abbey Fox, of Vail, Colo., served as her sister's matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Dr. Christina Bakalis, of Grosse Pointe Park; Meghan Byrne, of Honolulu; Nicole D'Hondt, of Nashville, Tenn.; Jen Fox, sister-in-law of the bride, of San Diego; Sarah Goodnow, of New York City; Olivia Leonard, of Washington, D.C.; Elizabeth Moran Lowe, of Jupiter, Fla.; Lisa Murray, of Los Angeles; Erin Noethen, of Aspen, Colo.; Dr. Meredith Saylor, of Iowa City, Iowa; Molly Weaver, of Denver; and Rush Zimmerman, of West Palm Beach, Fla.

The bride's nieces, Zella Gorsuch and Violet Fox Gorsuch, of Vail, served as flower girls. They wore dresses of white satin and tulle. Wreaths of green leaves and white flowers were worn in their hair. Each carried a silver French-style garden basket filled with lavender rose petals.

Attendants wore Priscilla of

Boston lavender taffeta strapless gowns featuring a sweetheart bodice. They carried bouquets of European style mass nosegays of lavender roses surrounded by white hydrangeas.

Henry Ford III, of Grosse Pointe Farms, was his brother's best man.

Groomsmen were brothers of the groom, Stewart and Albert Ford, of Grosse Pointe Farms; the bride's brothers, Dr. Chris Fox, of San Diego, and James Fox, of Grosse Pointe Farms; brother-in-law of the bride, Davy Gorsuch, of Vail; and friends of the groom, Anthony Bologna, of Royal Oak; Marshall Macon, Edward Testerman, Nick Meythaler, and Brock Saunders, all of New York City; Pierce Lancaster and Zachry Young, of Atlanta; and Michael Follis, of Chicago. Groomsmen had boutonnières of lavender petals wrapped in satin coordinating with the bridesmaids' dresses.

The groom had a boutonniere of stephanotis.

The bride's mother wore a tea-length, varied hemline black raw silk dress accented with a lavender flower pin at the waist tie. She carried a gardenia on her handbag. The groom's mother wore a navy blue silk dress with a jacket. A stephanotis, matching her son's boutonniere, was attached to her purse.

Scripture readers were the groom's mother and a long-time family friend of the bride, Frances Thompson, of Memphis, Tenn. During the lighting of the unity candle, the Memorial Ringers, of which the bride's mother is a member, played, "The Gift of Love."

The bride graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2000. She earned a

bachelor's degree in sociology from Princeton University in 2004 and is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health having received a master's degree in 2009. The bride is the development director for the Denver region of Operation Smile, a nonprofit focusing on cleft lip and palate surgeries worldwide.

The groom graduated from University Liggett School in 2002 and earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Virginia in 2006. He is pursuing a master's degree at the University of Denver in the liberal studies program.

The couple met during their elementary years while attending Sunday School at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, reconnecting in 2009. Ford proposed in Paris on Valentine's Day 2010.

The couple honeymooned at the Four Seasons Jimbaran Bay in Bali, followed by a trip to Florence and Venice.

They reside in Denver.

Mitchell - Fahlgren

Jessica Mitchell, of Grosse Pointe Park, daughter of the late Richard and Alita Mitchell, married Robert Fahlgren, of Chelsea, son of Gladys Baker, of Ann Arbor, and the late John Fahlgren, Sept. 4, 2011, at Chelsea First United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Joy Barnett officiated at the ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the church.

The bride is a program coordinator with Southwest Housing Solutions, a non-profit Detroit organization.

The groom is the owner of RJ Fahlgren Construction.

The bride is a member of Christ Church Grosse Pointe. The couple live in Chelsea.

Wemhoff - Foote

Stephanie Anne Wemhoff, of San Antonio, Texas, daughter of Mary Jo and Paul Wemhoff, of Grosse Pointe Farms, married Anderson Jay Foote, of San Antonio, son of Gary and Carolyn Foote, of Grand Rapids, Aug. 27, 2011, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

The Rev. Richard P. Shubik performed the ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Detroit Athletic Club.

The bride wore a Maggie Sottero strapless Chantilly lace gown with beaded embellishments. A satin band and single handmade flower created the empire waist accent. She carried an English garden hand-tied bouquet of white, cool water and ocean song roses with white freesia.

The bride's cousin, Meghan Mac Eachern, of St. Clair Shores, served as maid of honor.

Jessica Donat, of Royal Oak, was her friend's bridesmaid.

Attendants wore navy dupioni knee length dresses with natural waists and box pleated skirts. They carried bouquets of lavender roses with lavender freesia.

Nicholas Foote, of Sidney, Neb., served as his brother's bestman.

Groomsmen were Mackensie Foote, of Royal Oak, the groom's brother; the bride's brother, Michael Wemhoff, of Chicago; the groom's friend, Joseph Steenland IV, of St. Clair Shores; the bride's cousin, Thomas Mac Eachern, of Houston; and the groom's friend, Jason Szymkiewicz, of Hartford.

Scripture readers were Allison Sumerix, the groom's cousin; Monica Brinkman, the bride's friend; and Michael Wemhoff, the bride's friend.

Jennifer Pegouskey was the soloist. The trumpeter was Kenneth Robin and the organist was Lawrence Przbysz.

The bride earned a marketing degree from Michigan State University and is a human resources manager with Hyatt Hotels in San Antonio.

The groom graduated from Northwood University with a business degree and is a rooms executive with Hyatt Hotels in San Antonio.

The couple honeymooned on the island of Curacao in the Caribbean and reside in San Antonio.



Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Robert Ford



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fahlgren



Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Raymond Almer

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson Jay Foote

Worrell - Almer

Amy Ambrose Worrell, of Chicago, daughter of Patrick and Mary Alice Worrell, of Grosse Pointe Park, married Andrew Raymond Almer, of Chicago, son of Raymond and Mary Almer, of Chicago, July 1, 2011, at the Historic Mission Church, Mackinac Island.

The Rev. David Alfeld-Johnson, the groom's cousin, officiated at the ceremony, which was followed by a reception at the Inn at Stonecliffe on Mackinac Island.

The bride wore a strapless ivory satin gown with a tulle overlay. The soft sweetheart neckline and A-line silhouette dress was accented with beaded flower appliques and Swarovski crystals. She carried a bouquet of coral and orange, pink roses with pale yellow stock.

Allison and Meghan Worrell, of Chicago, served as their sister's maids of honor.

The bride's sister-in-law, Erin Hepler Worrell, of University Heights, Ohio, was the bridesmaid.

Zoe and Margo Durston, the groom's nieces of Evanston, Ill., were flower girls. They wore sleeveless yellow knee length cotton sateen dresses and had pomanders of coral, orange, pink and yellow tea

roses. Attendants wore persimmon knee length cotton sateen dresses with spaghetti straps and pleated waistlines. They carried rose bouquets matching the bride's.

Erick Almer, of Chicago, served as his brother's best man.

Groomsmen were Gus Anderson, of Chicago, the groom's cousin; and Patrick Worrell Jr., of University Heights, the bride's brother.

Ushers were the groom's nephews, Sam and Charlie Johnson, of Chicago.

Ring bearers were the groom's nephews, Freddie and Finn Durston, of Chicago.

Scripture readers were Virginia Ambrose Lazarus, of Ripton, Vt., the bride's aunt, and Gretchen Anderson, of Underhill, Vt., the groom's aunt.

The bride is a 2001 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University. She is pursuing a medical degree at Midwestern University, Downers Grove, Ill.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from North Park University in Chicago and a Master of Education degree from St. Xavier University, Chicago. He is a sixth grade math teacher for Chicago Public Schools.

The couple honeymooned in Europe and live in Chicago.

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Grosse Pointe News

PARADE time

Grosse Pointe News

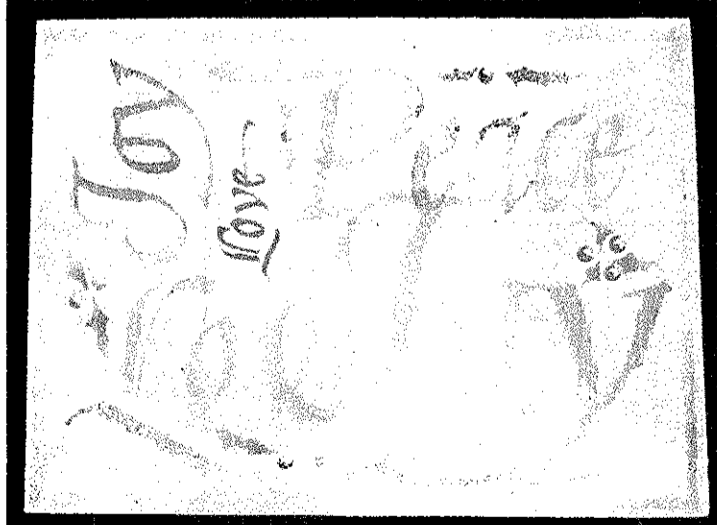
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Holiday cards

Left, Wigs 4 Kids holiday cards come in a package of 10 and can be purchased at Wigs 4 Kids Wellness Center, St. Clair Shores, by phone at (586) 772-6656 or online at wigs4kids.org. A package costs \$10 or two for \$15. The inside greeting says, "May joy fill your days, peace overflow in your heart and love surround you always."



Grosse Pointe South High School art students created hand-drawn holiday cards as a department promotional fundraiser. A set of eight 5 1/2-by-4 1/4-inch of the same design cost \$10 and a mixed set of nine sells for \$10. Proceeds allow for the purchase of supplies, upgrades and sponsorship to the school's Art Fest. Each package has different designs and can be purchased during South's Holiday Walk, Sunday, Dec. 4, in Cleminson Hall. This card was drawn by Abby Grobbel. For more information or to order the cards, call Karen Shepard at (313) 824-9637 or Amy Thele at (313) 492-9575.

PHOTO COURTESY AMY THELEN

ENGAGEMENTS

Bley - Sweeny

Donald and Candace Sweeny, of Grosse Pointe Farms, have announced the engagement to their son, Andrew Sweeny, to Jennifer Bley, daughter of Milton and Laura Bley, of Fort Worth, Texas. A May wedding is planned.

Sweeny is a 2002 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School. He graduated from The Citadel in 2006 and is pursuing his Master of Business Administration degree at Texas Christian University.

Bley is a graduate of Brown University and University of Texas School of Law. She is an associate attorney with Cantey Hanger, specializing in labor and employment law.

Bourgeois - Scott

Paul and Sherry Bourgeois, of Grosse Pointe Woods, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sara Bourgeois, to Thomas Scott, son of Gary and Sue Huvaere, of Grosse Pointe Farms. A July wedding is planned.

Bourgeois is a Grosse Pointe North High School 2001 graduate and is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Wayne State University.

Scott is a 1997 North graduate and the Eastern Stationary Division Director of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 324.

Bouscaren - Lapish

Anthony and Merriam Bouscaren, of New Cannan, Conn., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Caroline Starbuck Bouscaren, of Boston, to Matthew Lapish, son of Mary Lapish, of Grosse Pointe Farms, and the late Thomas Lapish. A January wedding is planned.

Bouscaren earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She earned a juris doctorate degree from Suffolk University and is a litigation attorney in Boston.

Lapish is a 1999 graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Babson College and is an investment banker in New York City.

Jeffries - Squindo

Dr. and Mrs. Edward S. Jeffries, of Grosse Pointe Park, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sunny Elise Jeffries, to Alain J. Squindo, son of Renato Squindo and Olga Osuna, of Florida. A June wedding is planned.

Jeffries earned a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from

Georgetown University and is a surgical I.C.U. nurse with Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. Squindo earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from GU and is with RM Auctions in the antique and collectible car industry.

McCallister - Cruz

Karen McCallister, of Grosse Pointe Park, and Philip McCallister, of Grosse Pointe Park, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Amanda McCallister, to Marques Cruz, son of Jose and Denise Cruz, of Bloomfield Hills. A September wedding is planned.

McCallister graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1999 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in marine biology from Michigan State University. She earned a master's degree in biology from Wayne State University and is an environmental biologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Cruz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan and a Master of Business Administration from U of M's Ross School of Business. He is an environmental engineer.

Mueller - Tymrak

Walt and Kathy Mueller, of Harper Woods, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Vanessa Karen Mueller, to Andrew Stephen Tymrak, son of Frank and Jenny Tymrak, of Clinton Township. A November 2012 wedding is planned.

Mueller graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School and is a hair stylist.

Tymrak, also a North graduate, is in sales with Rocky Peanut Company, Eastern Market, Detroit.

Pike - Hall

Dr. Theresa Pike, of Okemos, and James and Patricia Pike, of the City of Grosse Pointe, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer Pike,



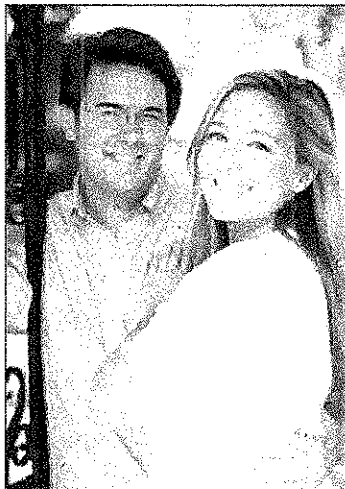
Jennifer Bley and Andrew Sweeny



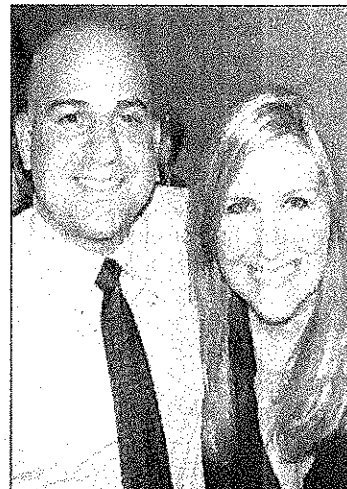
Sara Bourgeois and Thomas Scott



Caroline Starbuck Bouscaren and Matthew Lapish



Alain J. Squindo and Sunny Elise Jeffries



Marques Cruz and Amanda McCallister



Vanessa Karen Mueller and Andrew Stephen Tymrak



Jennifer Pike and David Hall



Christopher Lee Johnson and Emily Ann Wilson

Wilson - Johnson

Marcia and Mark Wilson, of Grosse Pointe Farms, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Emily Ann Wilson, to Christopher Lee Johnson, son of Judy and Dean Johnson, of Asheville, N.C. A June wedding is planned.

Wilson graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 2002. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminology from North Carolina State University in 2006. She is a human resources specialist with the Association of American Medical College in Washington, D.C.

Johnson graduated from Enka High School in Asheville. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from NCSU in 2006. He is a structural engineer with Keast & Hood Company in Washington, D.C.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

lessons beginning with Old Testament prophecies culminate with the annunciation of the Virgin Mary.

Organist Kenneth J. Sweetman plays music by Bohm, Bach and Couperin at 12:35 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. This follows the 12:10 p.m. service. The public can attend.

For more information, call the church office at (313) 259-2206.

Dig Deeper

Dig Deeper meets from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30, at First Christian Reform Church, 1444 Maryland, Grosse Pointe Park. Facilitator is the Rev. Ben VanArragon.

Deadline

Information to be included in the Dec. 8 issue must be submitted by noon Thursday, Dec. 1. Information can be e-mailed to afouty@grossepointenews.com.

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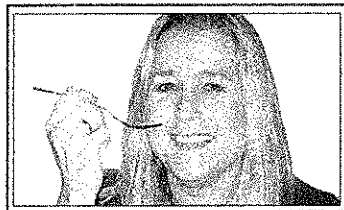
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I SAY By Brad Lindberg

Leftover turkey winds up in salad



- 1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 2/3 cup Michigan dried cherries
- salt and pepper to taste

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving. The day after that there will be leftovers; hopefully lots of turkey. One of my favorite things to enjoy is turkey salad. A mix of white and dark turkey meat tossed with celery, red onion, fresh parsley (must be fresh) and mayonnaise. I finish the salad with a bit of olive oil, red wine vinegar and Michigan dried cherries. Yummy.

"Day After" Turkey Salad

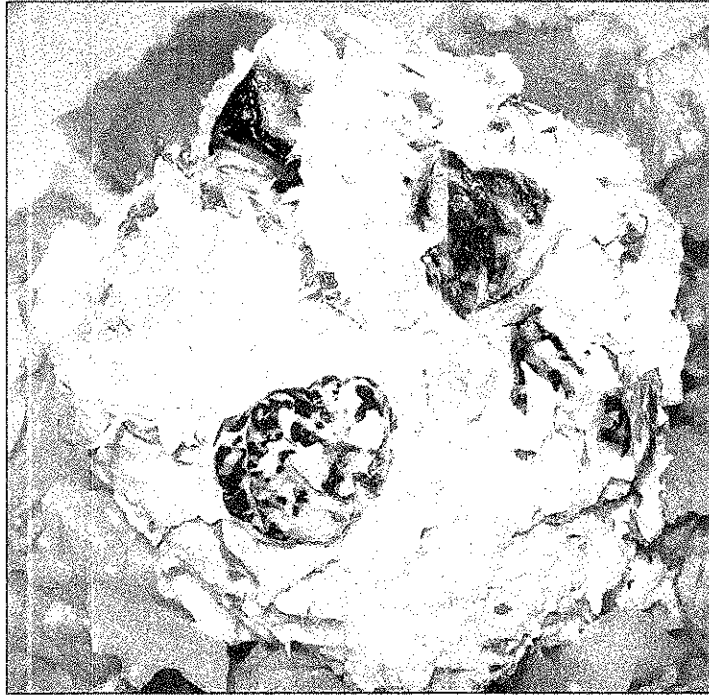
4 cups chopped rotisserie turkey, mix of white and dark meat
1 cup chopped celery

Place the chopped turkey in a large bowl and toss with the celery, red onion and fresh parsley. Add the mayonnaise, olive oil and red wine vinegar and mix well.

Taste and season with salt and pepper. Lastly, stir in dried cherries. Spread chicken salad over crackers or bread or scooped onto a mound of fresh greens.

The dark meat adds a richness to this tasty turkey salad while the cherries (that get even juicier in the salad) pack a hint of sweet.

If your turkey has been prop-



BY VIRGINIA O. MCCOY

Turn leftover turkey into the day after salad.

erly seasoned before cooking, you may not need to add salt. Try this recipe with rotisserie

chicken as well. I'd call that killing two birds with one stone.

Yesterday's Headlines



FROM THE NOV. 16, 1961 ISSUE OF THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS

1961: Halloween haul

Kerby teacher Warren Andrews pours another basket full of Halloween candy onto the large pile already on the table. Looking on are Hugh Haller, Lynn Altman, Ann McCubbin and Christine Brown, who, together with many other Kerby boys and girls, contributed their trick-or-treat hauls to others who might seldom have such sweets. Some 220 pounds of candy in all were donated by Kerby School to worthy institutions such as Casa Maria Settlement House, old folks homes and children's hospitals.

Editor's note: The following excerpts appear as they were printed in the Grosse Pointe News.

1961

50 years ago this week

◆ **PARKING LOT DECISION DUCKED:** For four hours, the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council listened to substantially the same arguments it has been hearing for 10 years, arguments on the pros and cons of allowing the Grosse Pointe Clinic to construct a parking lot on Lots 7 and 8 of Beaufait-Koch-Tessmar Subdivision. Council eventually reached the same decision it has been reaching for the past 10 years: to settle the case at a later date.

◆ **THUG TERRORIZES MAID AND MAID IN SHORES HOME:** A nervous gunman, armed with a gun and blackjack, invaded a Lakeshore Road home terrorizing the owner and her maid. Police said the intruder posed as a bank messenger to gain entrance into the house. He was neatly dressed and carried a brown leather briefcase, which apparently led the maid to believe him.

The maid was struck on the head by the thug with what she believed was a revolver. The homeowner was forced into an upstairs sitting room at gunpoint. She was struck a glancing blow on the side of the head with a blackjack, but was not injured.

The maid, dazed by the blow, got up off the floor and ran for help while the gunman was still upstairs.

◆ **EXCAVATION COMPLETED:** Grosse Pointe City

Manager reports that the new swimming pool in Neff Memorial Park is now under construction and excavation has been completed. Construction on the walls and floor is scheduled to begin soon.

1986

25 years ago this week

◆ **FARMS WORKERS SET TO TAKE STRIKE VOTE:** Threats of a strike by Grosse Pointe Farms Department of Public Works employees are still swirling about the city, but now workers say they will take a strike vote today.

◆ **SCHOOLS PONDER MEANING OF LOW SCIENCE SCORES:** School officials are still trying to sort out the meaning of the low state science test scores for fourth, seventh and 10th graders. The results of the Michigan Education Assessment Test in math, reading and science were received in the local districts two weeks ago.

No statewide results will be available until January, but individual district results so far seem to show that most students scored poorly on the science test given this year for the first time. School officials are trying to figure out why.

◆ **CITY TABLES CHARLES STREET ISSUE AGAIN:** Depending on which side of the street they live, residents say that Charles in the City is either a combat zone or a charming country road. Those who say the short unpaved stretch of roadway attracts high speed drivers and motorcyclists petitioned the city in September to close the portion between Roosevelt and Washington.

The matter was tabled at the time. It appeared on the agenda again Nov. 17 and was tabled again.

— Compiled by Karen Fontaine

Detroit's Original Holiday Tradition

OPERA HOUSE All New Production!

THE NUTCRACKER BALLETMET COLUMBUS

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PHOTO COURTESY FORD HOUSE

By-gone Christmas at the Ford House, complete with Santa Claus and snow.

Ford House offers holiday events

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House hosts its annual holiday tea and tour, candlelight stroll, nutcracker teas and Christmas storytime during December.

Candlelight Stroll — 5 to 8 p.m., Dec. 9, 10, 16, 17 and 23. The cost is \$15. Hear holiday music performed by local musicians, visit the Ford house decked for the holidays and learn about their family tradi-

tions.
Holiday Tea & Tour — 3 p.m. Dec. 11, 19 and 20. The cost is \$35. A light meal of tea, sandwiches and pastries follows the house tour. Each guest receives a Ford House gift.
Nutcracker Teas — 4 p.m., Dec. 3, 4, 8, 12-15 and 18; and 6 p.m. Dec. 3, 4, 8, 12, 15, 18 and 20. The cost is \$15. Young visitors and their adult companions can have warm drinks, treats and visits with Santa in Josephine Ford's playhouse.

Christmas Story Time — 6 p.m., Dec. 13 and 14. The cost is \$5. Two Christmas stories are read by the tree in the gallery, where the Fords opened gifts Christmas morning. Following the reading, families can have refreshments in the Ford House Activities Center.

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is located at 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

For more information, visit fordhouse.org or call (313) 884-4222.

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Out of the Ordinary
Nancy Bahlman
Astrologer

Senior Men's Club
Jack Lessenbery
Michigan and the 2012 Election

Veterans Day 2011
The United States Naval Academy
Men's Glee Club

Great Lakes Log
Bruce Benson
Icebreaker Mackinaw

The John Prost Show
Jeffrey Davis, Monte Jahnke and John McCandless
Langford Men's Chorus and Armed Forces Reception Center

Legal Insider
Tim Devine
Ally Financial

Art & Design
Ellen Bowen
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Susi Walter
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A DVD Copy of any WMTV program can be obtained for \$20

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

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CULTURAL EVENTS

MOT
The Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus presents its fifth annual "A Winter Fantasy" holiday concert and fundraiser at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 28, at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

Adult tickets cost \$28 and \$15 for those 16 years and under. To purchase tickets, call (248) 914-1966 or visit mwarzecha@motopera.org.

DIA
The Detroit Institute of Arts presents "Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus," through Feb. 12. The exhibit includes 64 works, including 52 small, intimate paintings, prints and drawings. For ticket information, call 866-342-8497.

Hospital is going to the dogs

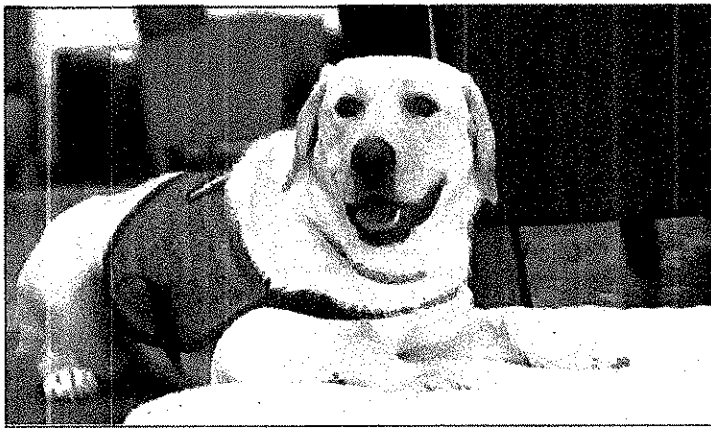
Dogs have joined the hospital staff at St. John, St. John Macomb-Oakland and St. John River District hospitals.

The hospital dogs come from Paradise Dog Training, which trains and provides service dogs for the physically disabled, sound-impaired, and/or cognitive/developmentally disabled. The dogs are owned and cared for by the hospitals to enhance the patient experience.

These highly socialized dogs serve as "warm and fuzzy" representatives of the hospital, providing emotional support and helping patients contend with separation from their own

pets. Several hospitals are now recruiting volunteer dog handlers. The dogs are scheduled in four-hour shifts Monday through Friday and live with host families as their family pet. When at the hospital, the dogs visit patients and visitors accompanied by a volunteer handler.

Volunteer dog handlers complete 12 hours of mandatory training and make a one-year commitment. Handlers need excellent interpersonal communication skills, be able to stand and walk for long periods of time, feel comfortable in



Highly trained dogs enhance John Hospital, St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital and St. John River District Hospital patients experiences.

a hospital setting and be reliable and conscientious. For more information, con-

tact Cindy Boeneman at (313) 343-3680.

Native Grosse Pointer added to Wayne State's physician group

Wayne State University Physician Group added a new urologist trained in minimally invasive robotic and endoscopic surgery at three locations in metropolitan Detroit.

Steven M. Lucas, M.D., a native of the City of Grosse Pointe, joins a specialized group of physicians who treat a full spectrum of urology issues in men and women.

His specialty and interest is genitourinary cancers. Lucas is board certified and

has completed education and training in health science, urology and clinical research at Kalamazoo College, Rush Medical College, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and the Indiana University School of Medicine.

Lucas' role, with the group, aids in providing minimally invasive surgery, which improves patient recovery after surgery for prostate, kidney and bladder cancer.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Kathy Rager

Community tolerance?



Q. "Grosse Pointers" seem to accept underage drinking and view it as a "rite of passage." I feel pressured to let my daughter participate by letting her attend teen parties and other activities where alcohol is served. I read in the newspaper these parties are visited by law enforcement on a regular basis and I don't want my daughter involved. What can I do?

A. Residents of most communities minimize alcohol and drug use by their underage children. I find Grosse Pointe is not unique. Of those children referred to CARE of Southeastern Michigan for substance abuse evaluation and recommended for counseling, 40 percent of the parents do not follow up on these recommendations.

Protect your daughter by be-

ing involved in her activities and share your values and family history. It is more difficult for youth to use alcohol and other drugs if mom and dad know where they are, what they are doing, take a firm stand and respect the law.

Since there is a genetic link to alcoholism and other drug addiction, teens need to know their medical history, including if grandma is/was an alcoholic. This is not about blame, it is about health.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System partnered with CARE of Southeastern Michigan to provide free help for students experiencing problems that affect their ability to succeed in school. These concerns include alcohol/drug experimentation or use; grief and loss issues, difficulty managing strong emotions and problem relationships.

CARE of SEM offers diversion programs for youth having a first encounter with public safety. Youth can avoid court involvement by participating in a free comprehensive, education-focused program.

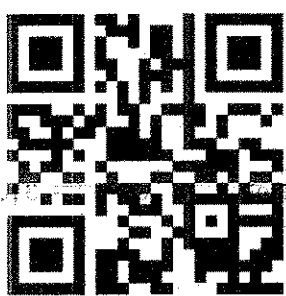
Rager is executive director of

Community Assessment Referral & Education (CARE). She can be reached at (586) 541-0033, krager@careofma.com. For more information on CARE, visit careofma.com or call (586) 541-0033.

The Family Center, a non-profit organization, is a source 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.

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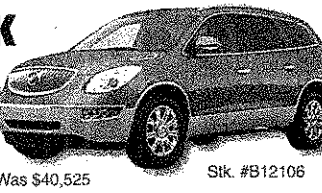
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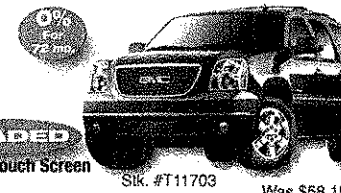
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SPORTS

FITNESS

Hackett's advice

Mike Hackett's column emphasises taking a break PAGE 2C

2C GIRLS HOCKEY | 2C BOYS HOCKEY | 3-5C CLASSIFIEDS

GIRLS SWIMMING

Blue Devils enjoy success at D-2 finals

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South freshman Catie DeLoof captured a state title in the 100-yard freestyle in last weekend's Division 2 girls' swimming and diving championship meet at the Holland Aquatic Center.

DeLoof won one of the best races of the finals, posting a time of 50.80, while Holland sophomore Holly Morren was second at 50.94 and South senior Ali DeLoof was a close third at 52.13.

Those All-State finishes

helped the Blue Devils and head coach Eric Gunderson place fourth in the team standings with 215 points.

Holland won the state championship with a whopping 419 points, followed by Birmingham Seaholm with 288, Birmingham Groves with 216 and South.

Rounding out the top 10 were Farmington Hills Harrison, fifth with 161; Portage Central, sixth with 134; Milan, seventh with 119; Rochester Adams, eighth with 103; Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, ninth with 92; and

Fenton, 10th with 80.

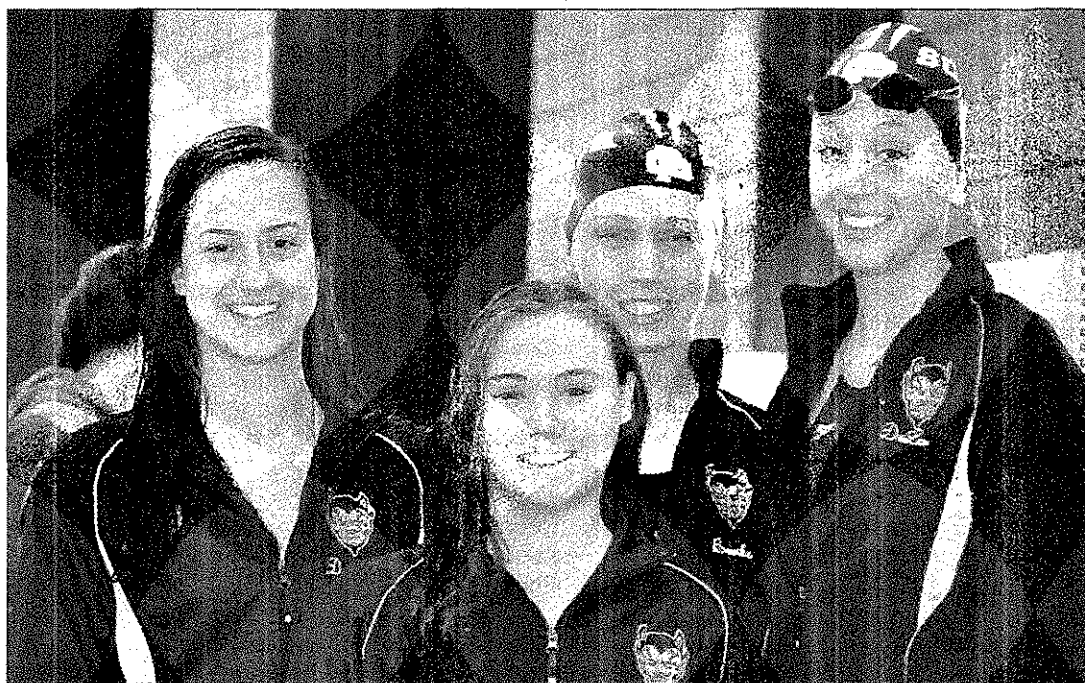
Grosse Pointe North had two entries compete in the finals, but neither earned a point. Head coach Mike O'Connor's 200-yard freestyle relay team of sophomore Carrie Rakowicz, junior Julia Ellis, senior Carly Mellos and junior Emma Mathews took 22nd with a time of 1:45.90 and the Norsemen's 400-yard freestyle relay squad of Rakowicz, sophomore Gabby Burchett, Mellos and Mathews placed 23rd with a time of 3:52.65.

The DeLoof sisters pulled off another All-State performance in the 100-yard backstroke with Ali taking second and sophomore Gabby DeLoof third with times of 54.68 and 56.99, respectively.

The Blue Devils' 400-yard freestyle relay team of Gabby DeLoof, sophomore Cassandra Morse, Ali DeLoof and Catie DeLoof also earned All-State honors with a second-place time of 3:28.63.

The 200-yard medley relay team of Ali DeLoof, senior Megan Brooks, Gabby DeLoof and Catie DeLoof garnered All-State honors with a third-place time of 1:45.47, and the duo of Gabby and Catie DeLoof had All-State performances in the 200-yard individual medley and 50-yard freestyle, placing third and fourth with times of 2:06.53 and 23.77, respectively.

In the 50-freestyle, the top four were within a hand's length of each other heading into the final few yards.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DELOOF FAMILY

South's 200-yard medley relay team of, from left, Ali DeLoof, Anne Crowley, Megan Brooks and Gabby DeLoof earned an All-State honor in last weekend's Division 2 state championship meet.



South freshman Catie DeLoof, the MVP of the MAC Red meet, is the Division 2 state champion in the 100-yard freestyle.

Holland freshman Taylor Garcia won with a time of 23.46, followed by Morren at 23.62, Milan senior Heather Kiger at 23.76 and Catie DeLoof at 23.77.

The Blue Devils' final All-State performance was turned by the all-underclassmen 200-yard freestyle relay foursome of Morse, sophomore Katie Graham, Crowley and freshman Amy Krausmann, which took fifth with a time of 1:39.91.

Competing in the B-Finals were Brooks, taking 10th in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:07.96; Crowley, 12th

in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 59.92; and Morse in the 200-freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, 14th and 11th with times of 1:57.09 and 53.74, respectively.

In the 50-yard freestyle, Krausmann was 18th with a time of 25.20, while Crowley was 21st and Graham 27th with times of 25.38 and 25.67. In the 100-freestyle, Krausmann was 27th and senior Laurel Johnson 35th with times of 55.86 and 56.82, respectively.

Senior Allyson O'Connell was 19th in the 500-yard freestyle and 23rd in the 200-

yard freestyle with times of 5:20.92 and 1:59.36, and senior Jessi Kaminski was 30th in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:03.30.

Other Blue Devils competing were junior Ellen Neveux, junior Scarlet Cockell and freshman Grace Perri, finishing 23rd, 25th and 31st in the 100-yard breaststroke with times of 1:11.40, 1:11.50 and 1:12.62, respectively.

In addition, junior Aubryn Samaroo was 22nd in diving with 136.80 points in the preliminary round and senior Madi Kaiser finished 28th with 129.75 points.

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FROM THE SPORTS DESK

Words of Wellness

If you think about it, life itself has clear examples of things working toward equilibrium. Whether it's found in physics, chemistry, biology, or economics, life is about balance. Where there's a Ying, you'll find a Yang.

This homeostasis is within your body, too, which means the path to your health and wellness is dependent on your ability to maintain balance.

Headly stuff I know, but it acknowledges an important point about exercise: You need a break from it. As counterintuitive as that might seem, and as unnatural as it feels for me to suggest it, rest and relaxation may be as crucial to your health as is exercise.

Honest.

The stresses that you place on your body, whether by exercise or physical activity, take their toll. You are not the Energizer Bunny with the ability to keep going without rest. Your body (and mind) needs time to recharge and reboot.

Take resistance training as an example. Gaining strength through weight lifting is essentially a tear-down-and-rebuild operation. When your muscles stretch and contract to lift weight, they actually create microscopic tears in your muscle fibers. (You might recognize this as soreness the morning following a robust workout.) Those muscle fibers then use nutrients from your diet — and adequate rest — to be rebuilt stronger.

Sleep, specifically, is of utmost importance, especially as you become more physically active.

What would happen if you were to neglect rest? We call this overtraining; short-term dangers include exhaustion and bodily injury. Habitual overtraining can lead to sleeplessness, unhealthy weight loss, anxiety, or even inability to fight illness and infection.

Many studies show that not enough sleep can also lead to unhealthy weight gain. It would seem that there comes a point where bringing on exercise or physical activity is counterproduc-

tive: You work your body too hard, it won't settle down when time comes to sleep and it won't get restoration needed for the day ahead, which then puts you in position to skip tomorrow's exercise because you're too wiped from the day before.

Yeah, it's exhausting to think about. This cyclical nature says you can't maintain an endless work state; when you are well-rested your body repairs itself and regenerates to take on another day.

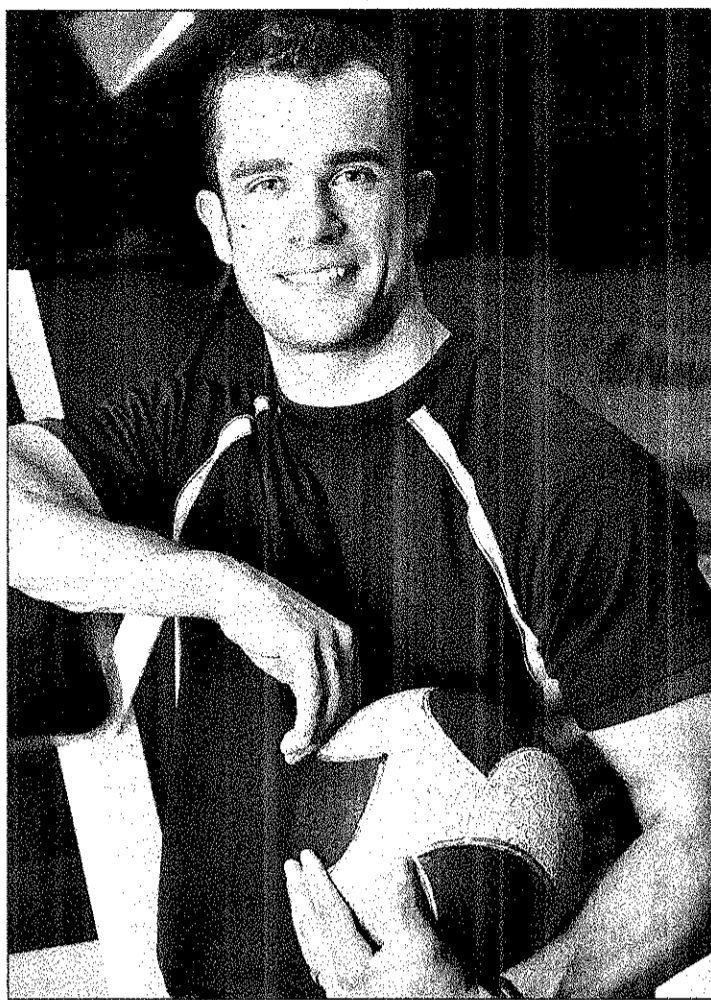
Repeat after me: The goal is balance. If you want your body to function properly you must give it rest that is in direct relation to your physical output.

To that point, increases or decreases in physical activity demand rest that must adjust exponentially. On any given day, if your only movements are from your bed, to your desk, to your couch, then you need another outlet for movement. Then again if you're on your feet all day and then add exercise to the mix, then your body needs a great deal of rest time if not only to recover physically, but to also have the oomph do it all over again tomorrow.

It's important to regularly scrutinize how you spend your days. Discern where it is that you need this balance in your life. Find symmetry between work and rest. Once you do, your wellness will be self-sustaining; you'll have found a lifestyle that compliments itself. You cannot work without rest and you cannot rest without having worked.

On this Thanksgiving, once you've had your workout, whether in the gym, or outside raking leaves, take a second to kick back. Your body will thank you. Live well.

Mike Hackett holds a Bachelor of Science degree in exercise science and is an American Council on Exercise's certified personal trainer. He is manager of Pointe Fitness and Training Center and proprietor of Mike Hackett and Syphus Training LLC. He can be reached at (313) 407-6656 or e-mail at Hack1913@hotmail.com. E-mail Hackett with health questions or topics for future articles.



Mike Hackett

Hockey

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH GIRLS

Blue Devils win 2-of-3

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's girls' hockey team opened its season last week with a grueling three-game-in-five-day stretch last week.

The Blue Devils alternated wins and losses and finished 2-1, beating Bloomfield United 8-0, losing 6-3 to Port Huron and defeating Ann Arbor 7-5.

Against Bloomfield, Claire Boyle had two goals and one assist to lead the visiting Blue Devils. Seven different players scored in the game that ended after two periods due to the mercy rule.

Megan Polack was in net for her first varsity start against a good Port Huron squad.

Boyle scored a goal, as did Tenley Shield and Melissa Klinger. These girls played on the same line.

"Port Huron has a very good goalie, but our girls were able to get three shots past her," head coach Joe Provenzano said. "It's a learning experi-

ence and I was happy to see the girls get shots on net and go after the rebounds. Each of our three goals came off rebounds."

Less than 24 hours later, the Blue Devils were on home ice for the first time for the victory over Ann Arbor, the team they beat in last year's state title game.

"The girls were very happy to see Megan earn the win in net," Provenzano said. "The girls came back strong a day after our first loss. It was a strong effort from everyone and I want to see the girls improve with each game."

"It's a long season and our goal is to play our best when the state playoffs arrive."

Boyle finished off a solid first week with a five-point effort, netting four goals and one assist. In the three games, she had seven goals.

Shield, Marissa Monforton and Allison Daudlin also tallied for the Blue Devils.

South is 2-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League and overall.



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

Grosse Pointe South's Eliza Bourke skates into Bloomfield's zone during the Blue Devils' season-opening 8-0 win.

LIGGETT GIRLS

Knights net win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Cassie Jaeckle won her regular season head coaching debut when Liggett's girls' hockey team beat Warren Regina 3-2 last weekend at Great Lakes Sports Arena in Fraser.

"It was a very good game and competitive for both teams," Jaeckle said. "Both goalies played well and I liked our intensity throughout the game."

Freshman Jenna Pleva stopped 16-of-18 shots to post her first varsity victory, and of-

fensively, senior Haleigh Bolton, junior Aria Ganz-Waple and sophomore Danielle Lorant scored goals.

"Our best period was the second when we out-shot them 12-3, but their goalie made some nice saves to keep it a close game," Jaeckle said.

The Knights' defense maintained its steady play, keeping the scoring lane clear in front of Pleva. She came up with the big saves when needed.

Liggett improved to 1-0 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League and overall.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH GIRLS

Norsemen fall, 4-2

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's girls' hockey team had a tough start to its season last week, losing 4-2 to visiting Northville.

"We had a very bad first period," head coach Joe Lucchese said. "It was one of those nights. We're still trying to find our rhythm. It's the first game of the season and we have a

long way to go, but on this night, the better team won in Northville."

Junior Sara Villani scored both goals for the Norsemen. Senior Melissa Mermiges assisted on the first one and freshman Karina Lucchese and junior Natalie Skorupski assisted on the second.

North dropped to 0-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH BOYS

Blue Devils split openers

Grosse Pointe South's boys' hockey team opened its season in style last week, beating league foe Saline, 5-2.

Senior Sam Hartman led by example, moving to defense to fill the void left by senior Marty Moesta, who missed the game with an injury.

Hartman helped the Blue Devils' defense hold Saline to only two tallies.

Offensively, Andrew Addy scored the lone goal of the first period with Austin Jones netting an assist.

In the second period, the Blue Devils were relentless. Shane Sparkman scored in the opening minute, with Max Corden and Nolan Monforton collecting assists.

Cam Gibson, scored his first of two goals for South on a terrific pass from Andrew Bigham. Geoffrey Welscher also assisted.

The final goal of the period

was scored by Corden with Monforton assisting once again.

In the third period, Saline scored two unanswered goals, but Gibson scored an open-netter in the final seconds, securing the victory. Corden assisted.

Sophomore netminder Andrew Wright had 15 saves for the Blue Devils.

Last weekend, South hosted state power Trenton and lost 2-1 in overtime, dropping to 1-1 overall. South is 1-0 in the Michigan Metro Hockey League.

Coming up for the Blue Devils are tournament games Friday, Nov. 25, and Saturday, Nov. 26, at Wallace Ice Arena, followed by an away game Wednesday, Nov. 30, against Ann Arbor Huron.

They also face Dearborn and Notre Dame Prep in league games.



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

South senior Sam Hartman had quite a night in the Blue Devils' season-opening win over league foe, Saline.

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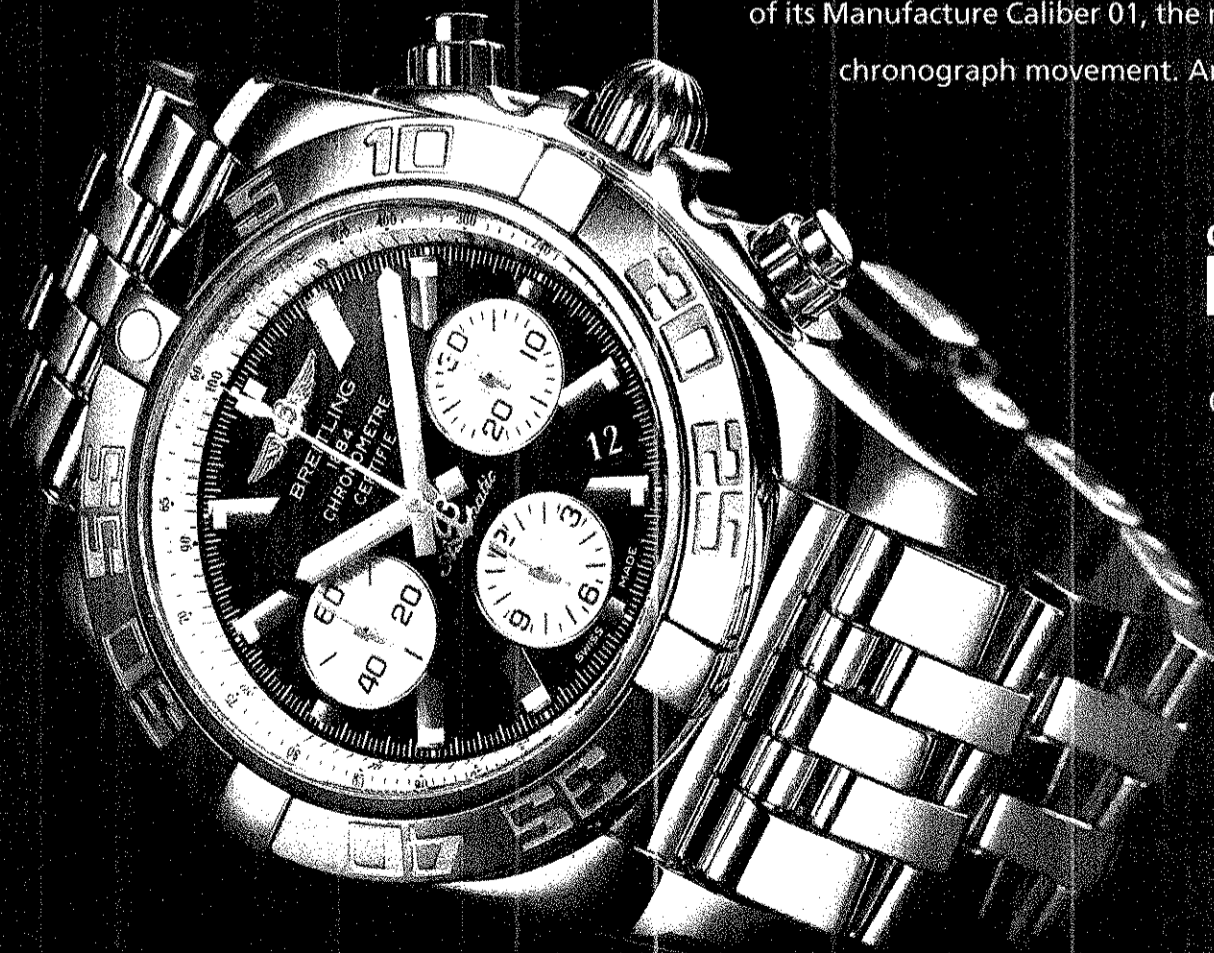
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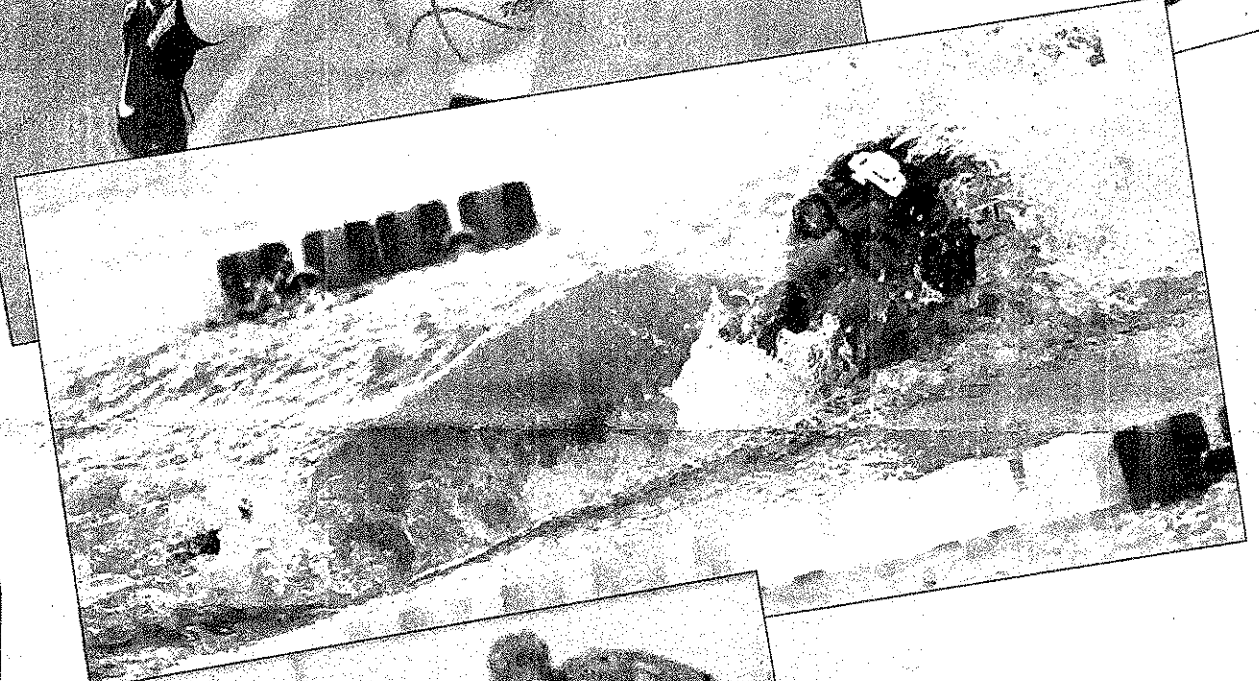
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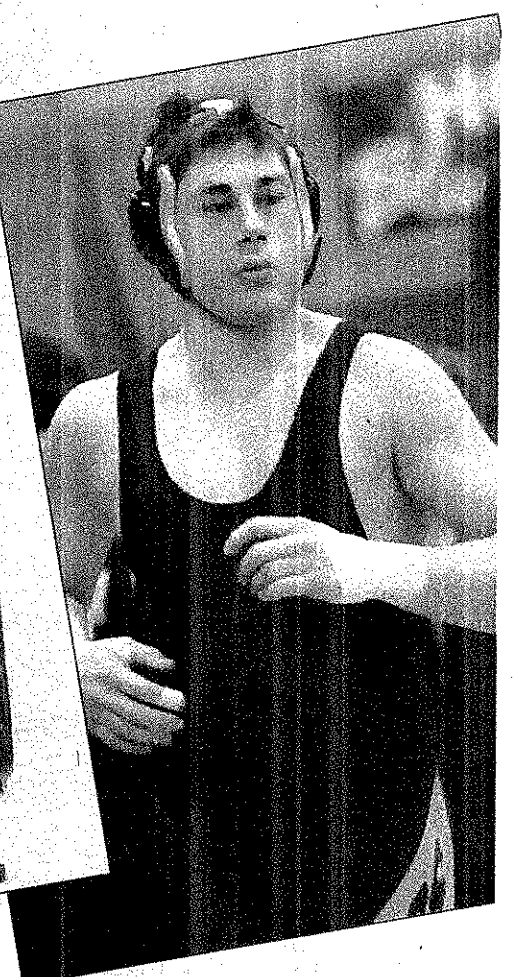


Winter Sports Preview

2011/2012



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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW 2011-12

Girls basketball

LIGGETT

Knights loaded and ready for title try

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Expectations are at an all-time high this season as University Liggett's girls' basketball team tries to win a Class C state championship.

The Knights made it to the finals last spring, but lost to perennial power St. Ignace 65-54. It was closer than the final score indicated, as St. Ignace drained several free throws down the stretch to increase the final margin.

Returning is Miss Basketball candidate and All-State guard Madison Ristovski, along with All-League players, junior Haleigh Ristovski and sophomore Bre Andrews.

Other top returning players are senior Andriana Evangelista, junior Ariana Castillo, sophomore Lia Evangelista and junior Julia DeRoo, who is back from knee surgery.

"It will be nice to get Julia back after her injury cut last season short," head coach Wayne Gigante said. "We have some very high expectations, but the girls understand they have to practice hard and play hard every game for good things to come our way."

"I told the girls everyone will give us their best game and they want to beat us. That is fine because our girls will be physically and mentally ready for each game."

Gigante will lean on his veter-

ans to get the Knights back to the title game. However, he knows his team has a target on its back.

The Knights are the defending Michigan Independent Athletic Conference champs and odds on favorites to repeat this winter.

Bloomfield Hills Roeser will present a challenge, while Plymouth Christian has solid guards. Auburn Hills Oakland Christian fields a team after a one-year hiatus.

Other division opponents are Southfield Christian, Allen Park Inter-City Baptist and Rochester Hills Lutheran Northwest.

The Knights' biggest challenges come in non-conference games against some of the best teams in the state, Livonia Ladywood, Goodrich, Dearborn Divine Child, Inkster and Detroit Country Day.

In addition, the Knights play one game in the annual holiday Roundball Classic at Country Day. The Knights still have two open dates.

"We're looking to add a couple of games to fill our 20-game schedule," Gigante said. "I love our schedule and we might get beat up a little bit with these tough games, but it will prepare the girls for the state playoffs."

Liggett kicks off the season with a 7 p.m. home game Monday, Dec. 5, against Ladywood.



PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett's returning starters are, from left, Andriana Evangelista, Haleigh Ristovski, Ariana Castillo and Madison Ristovski.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Richards' players hungry for success in 2011-12



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

South senior Caitlin Moore and her teammates have the potential to play in the Class A Final Four.

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Things have been great for Grosse Pointe South's girls' basketball team under head coach Kevin Richards.

The Blue Devils have put together several consecutive seasons under Richards' tutelage, but the one thing missing is a district title.

Last year the team won another division championship, the Macomb Area Conference White Division at 11-1, and before that it was back-to-back MAC Blue Division crowns.

Richards has a majority of his players returning, including seniors Caitlin Moore, the leading scorer, Carmen Engel and Cathy Palazzolo; juniors Claire DeBoer, Gretchen Shirar, Emily Satterfield and Ellie Wilson; and sophomore Christy Flom (check grades of all returning players).

They played a pivotal role in helping the Blue Devils post a 16-5 mark last winter.

"We had a great summer and the girls expect to win a lot of games this year," Richards said. "Our motto is, 'high expectations,' and we expect to make a run at it."

Joining the eight returners are sophomore Sydney Srebernak and freshmen Cierra Rice and Aliezza Brown.

"We have a lot of size, including with our guards, and speed," Richards said. "Our

practices have been very competitive and the girls are anxious to start the season."

On paper, the Blue Devils have all areas covered with tall, speedy guards, quick forwards, power forwards, a dominating center, and role players.

The Blue Devils have the potential to put three or more players in double figures in any given game, thanks to their up-tempo style of play.

The high expectations begin with a non-conference slate consisting of Detroit Mumford, Grosse Pointe North, Birmingham Marian, Inkster, Fraser and Chippewa Valley.

They also play in the Christmas Gifts Classic Saturday, Dec. 17, as well as the Holiday Tournament Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Cass Tech.

The Blue Devils face one of the top teams in the state, Inkster, Thursday, Dec. 29, in the Motor City Roundball Classic at Detroit Country Day.

"Our schedule is very tough, but it will get our girls ready for the state playoffs," Richards said.

The Blue Devils is the favorite to win another MAC White Division title, but Warren Fitzgerald offers a challenge. Other division foes are Utica, L'Anse Creuse, Utica Eisenhower, Warren Cousino and St. Clair.

South opens its schedule in style, playing Mumford Saturday, Dec. 10, at St. Cecilia.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Youthful Norsemen will get better

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's girls' basketball team is going to experience some growing pains before it gets into a groove this season.

Head coach Gary Bennett has a young and inexperienced team led by returning senior Gabby Causley and juniors Emily Armbruster, recovering from ACL surgery, Anna Giordano, Anajai Gutierrez, Taryn Kiah, Lauren Koeppel and Stavi Varlamos; and sophomore Maria Liddane.

The Norsemen are coming off a .500 campaign (13-11) in which the team endured more than a dozen injuries. At one point midway through the season, Bennett had only seven healthy girls dress for games.

Despite the rollercoaster ride, Bennett still had the Norsemen in position to win a division title and at the end of the season they pulled off a stunning overtime upset over city rival Grosse Pointe South in a Class A district championship game at South.

They lost to Warren Regina in a regional semifinal, but the

hustle and determination his players displayed throughout the season was a reason to celebrate.

Expect to see more that hustle and determination this season, even though his players go through a learning curve.

Newcomers to the Norsemen are juniors Francesca Ciaramitaro and Jenna Paglino; sophomores Jayla Hubbard and Brittney Moore; and freshman Megan Lesha.

"I think we will struggle early in the year until we can get our new kids accustomed to

the varsity level," Bennett said. "I hope to see a lot of improvement throughout the year as we grow and develop as a team."

The Norsemen get thrown to the wolves early in the season, compliments of a non-conference slate that includes Birmingham Marian, Livonia Ladywood and Grosse Pointe South before the holiday break.

Other non-conference foes are Farmington, L'Anse Creuse, Utica Eisenhower, Dexter and L'Anse Creuse North.



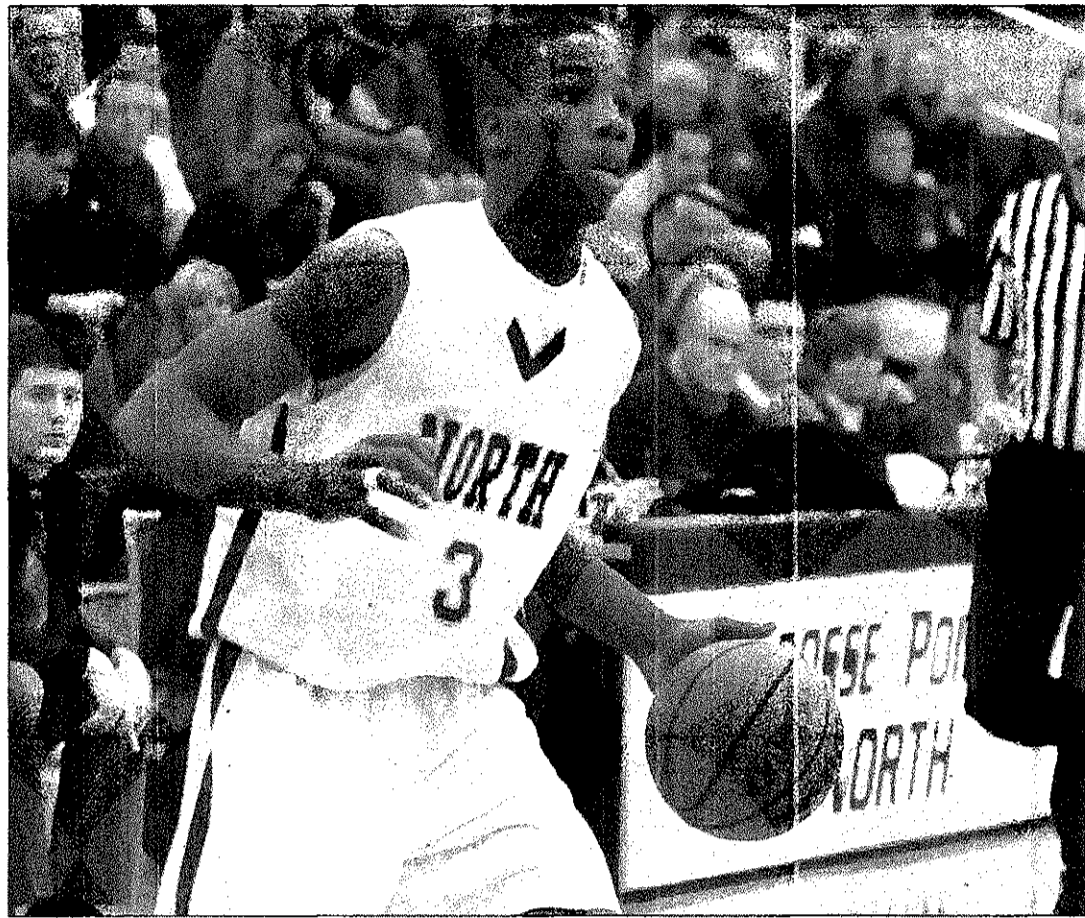
PHOTO BY JEANNE LIDDANE

North's captains this season are, from left, junior Taryn Kiah, senior Gabby Causley and sophomore Maria Liddane.

Boys basketball

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen have depth to contend for title



Jamal Williams is one of several veterans head coach Matt Lockhart is counting on to produce consistent stats this winter.

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Head coach Matt Lockhart has all the pieces for a successful 2011-12 season.

He has senior leadership, maturity, varsity experience and a group of young men hungry to help Grosse Pointe North's boys' basketball team soar to heights seen a few years ago.

"We lost seven games by three or fewer points last year because we didn't get a solid effort every minute of every game," Lockhart said. "That will change this year. I know it. I have some very good leaders on this team and I can see it with my players."

"We can't wait to start." The Norsemen finished 6-16 last winter and had a season-high two-game winning streak twice. That will change, too, thanks to returning seniors Jamal Williams, Clark Ditzhazy, Corey Clifton, Adam Andrzejczak, Derrick Morris, Daniel Schrage, Will Ritchie and Dondre Young who each put in a great summer of condi-

'I have some very good leaders on this team and I can see it with my players.'

MATT LOCKHART,
North boys basketball head coach

tioning and playing basketball.

Another returning player is sophomore Justin Kennedy, who joins newcomers Taiwan Wiggins, Ricky Watson, a transfer from U-D Jesuit, and freshman Timmy Herd.

"I'm looking for Derrick to be our point guard and the key to our offense," Lockhart said. "He has all the tools to be a true team leader and he will make all our players better."

Lockhart doesn't have the 6-foot, 8-inch big man clogging up the middle, but he has several players 6-foot, 5-inches who can run the floor, play defense and block shots.

The experience and leadership should turn those close defeats into victories and make the Norsemen contenders in the Macomb Area Conference

White Division.

Last season they won only two division games. They should play the contender role if all the pieces fall into place.

Utica might be the preseason favorite, while defending champ Eastpointe East Detroit, who lost several seniors, reloaded and will be tough again. Grosse Pointe South has the potential to be a contender, too.

The Norsemen's other division foes are Warren Cousino, Port Huron Northern and Roseville.

In non-conference action, the Norsemen face state power Warren DeLaSalle (in their season opener Tuesday, Dec. 6, Warren Mott, Walled Lake Central (the home opener Tuesday, Dec. 20), L'Anse Creuse, Utica Eisenhower and L'Anse Creuse North.

"We have a tough opening stretch of games, but they will help us prepare for what should be a tough battle through our division games," Lockhart said. "We can't wait to get down to business, play hard and work hard this season."

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Grauzer more at ease in year No. 2 as head coach

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

A year of experience goes a long way in athletics.

Dave Grauzer had plenty of highs and lows during his inaugural season as Grosse Pointe South's boys' basketball head coach last winter.

The Blue Devils finished 10-12 overall.

The transition between year No. 1 and No. 2 has been good for Grauzer and now he enters the season with six returning seniors, Joe Srebernak, Kevin Reck, Tim Kramer, Matt Temrowski, Josh Davey and Matt Reno, who have the leadership qualities to lead the Blue Devils to a winning campaign.

"We have good size, quickness and athleticism with this group of seniors who were with me last year," Grauzer said. "They all play other sports, so they're athletes and they know what it takes to excel."

"I'm hoping that attitude

'We have good size, quickness and athleticism with this group of seniors who were with me last year.'

DAVE GRAUZER,
South boys basketball head coach

rub off on the basketball court."

Sophomore Jabari Burton is on the varsity after spending last winter on the junior varsity. He should be in the mix to play minutes when Grauzer needs them.

Five of the veterans stand 6-foot, 2-inches or taller, which should help the team on both ends of the court. They move fast, so a trapping style of defense could pose problems for smaller guards and forwards.

The Blue Devils still reside in the Macomb Area Conference White Division. They finished

4-8 last year, losing several tough games down the stretch.

Utica is the preseason favorite, but Grauzer pointed out Grosse Pointe North and Eastpointe East Detroit should field good squads.

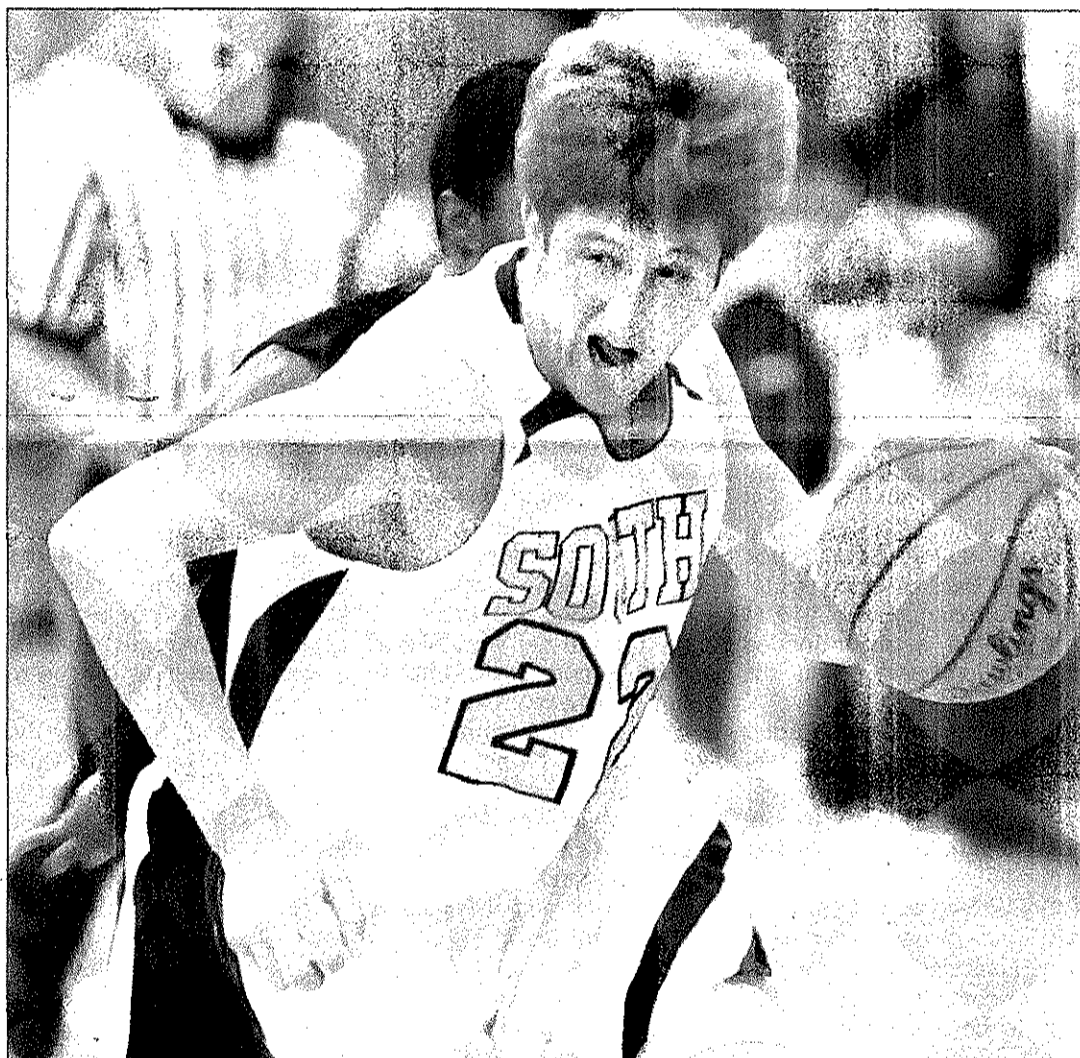
"We're going to give it a go and see what happens," Grauzer said. "The guys are working hard and they want to win games. We have to do the little things better than last season to win those close games we lost."

"We have a great schedule, so we're aiming to learn a lot and get ready."

The Blue Devils' other division foes are Port Huron Northern, Warren Cousino and Roseville.

The non-conference slate includes Mount Clemens, St. Clair Shores South Lake, Westland John Glen, U-D Jesuit, Fraser, Chippewa Valley and Warren Mott.

South begins the season Friday, Dec. 9, at Mount Clemens.



South's Tim Kramer is due for a big season, which would help the Blue Devils contend for a division title.

LIGGETT

Veteran Knights motivated for long playoff run

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

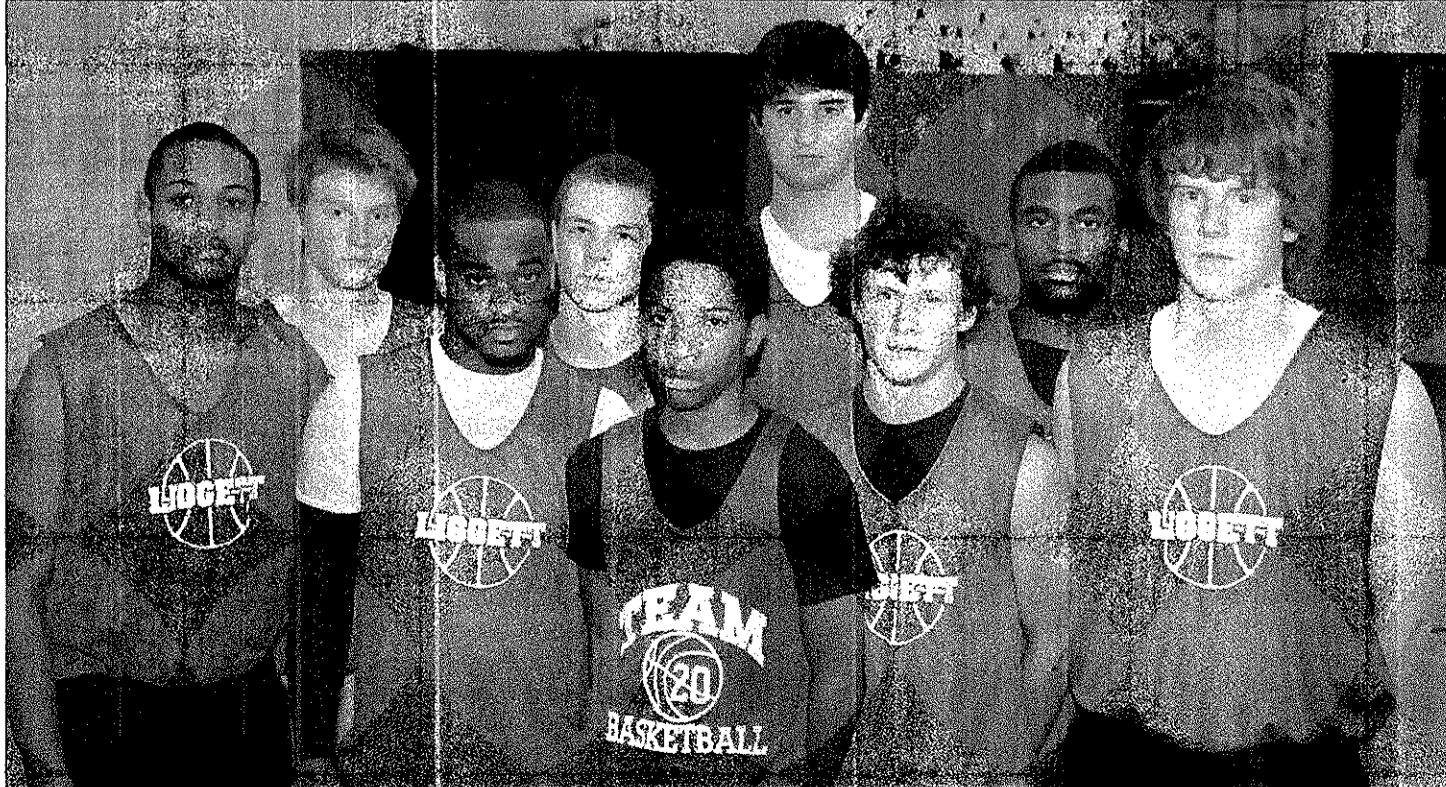
Head coach Sidney Johnson has only one senior on the Liggett boys' basketball team, but it isn't necessarily a bad thing.

He also has seven returning juniors who have either two or three years of varsity experience, creating a wealth of experience and talent the program hasn't seen in a decade.

"We will miss Carl's (Ghafari) leadership, but Drew (Jerome) will step right into the point guard spot and do well for us," Johnson said. "We have a lot of returning veterans who are bigger, stronger and faster than last year."

"They took what they learned and will use that to have a more successful season. We might not repeat the 18-3 record because our schedule is significantly tougher, but we will have a more constructive season, team-wise."

The lone senior is Eddie Thomas. He is in his fourth year as a varsity player and has blossomed into a leader, which is why he is one of two captains. The other captain is junior Eric Ewing, a candidate



Liggett's returning players are, from left, KeVaughn Jackson, Andrew Heaney, Eddie Thomas, Stephen Benard, Ian Clarke, Connor Fannon, Drew Jerome, Eric Ewing and Andrew Zinkel.

for all-state this winter.

Other returning players are juniors KeVaughn Jackson, Drew Jerome, Connor Fannon, Stephen Benard, Andrew Zinkel and Andrew Heaney, and sophomore Ian

Clarke.

Newcomers are juniors Dan Baird and Vijay Policherla, and freshman Freddie Saffold.

"We're a deep, athletic team that will get up and down the court in transition and pres-

sure the ball defensively," Johnson said.

The Knights have two solid low-post options with Fannon and Zinkel. Both improved their skills and are quicker and stronger than last year. The

hard work will pay off, giving the Knights a low-post threat and rebounders.

Johnson's has bigger, faster guards, mixed with a good mix of quick forwards. They should match up against any

team on the schedule.

The Knights are the defending Michigan Independent Athletic Conference co-champions, sharing the title with Auburn Hills Oakland Christian.

The two are once again the teams to beat in the MIAC. The Knights host Oakland Christian Friday, Jan. 27, and travel to OC Friday, Feb. 24.

The other division foes are Southfield Christian, Parkway Christian, Plymouth Christian Academy, Inter-City Baptist, Roeper and Lutheran Northwest.

Johnson beefed up the non-conference schedule. This year's list includes Eaton Academy, Madison Heights Bishop Foley and Detroit Renaissance.

"We have to play these tougher teams to be better prepared for the state playoffs," Johnson said. "I don't think we were mentally and physically ready for the district playoffs last year and it showed with that upset loss."

"The guys have to be ready for the tougher competition and this year they will."

Liggett opens its season hosting Eaton Academy Tuesday, Dec. 6.

PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Boys hockey

LIGGETT

Knights' agenda includes long playoff run

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

University Liggett's boys' hockey team's last game of the 2010-11 season was an upset loss to Birmingham Detroit Country Day.

The loss left a bad taste in the mouths of Knights players and head coach Robb McIntyre.

They had all summer to work on their skills and get back the hunger to erase those memories and create new ones this winter.

"We have the entire team back with the exception of one who moved out of state," McIntyre said. "We have more depth this season and I know the guys are hungry to win.

"They have to get it done on the ice and they know it. We have more depth and we have higher expectations that are attainable."

Leading the way for the Knights are seniors Austin Petitpren and Jake Hodges, and junior Jake Soyka.

Other returning players are seniors Joseph Davenport, Jeff Mott and David Gushee; juniors Cameron Marchese, Manny Counsman and Mark

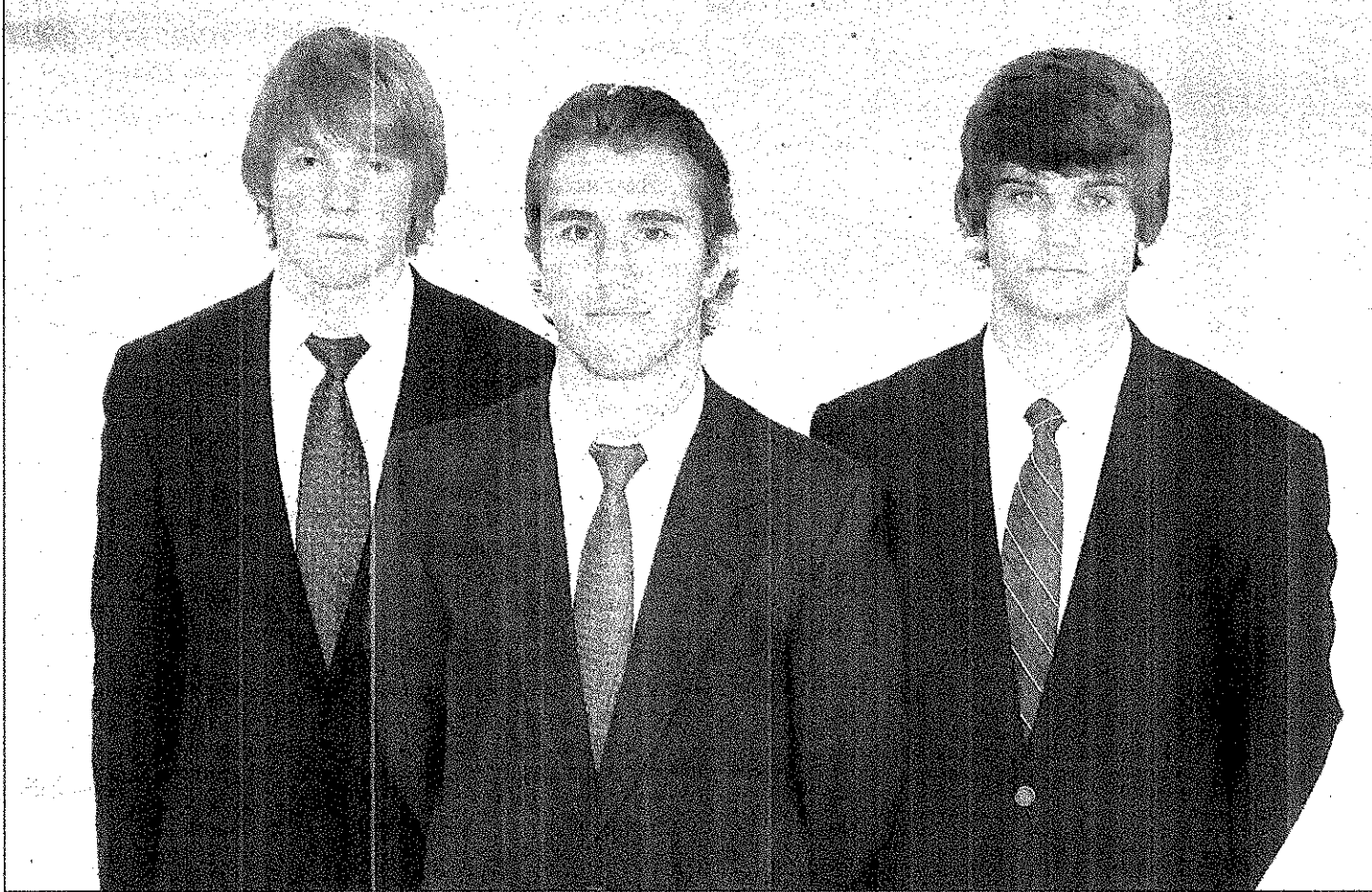


PHOTO BY RENATO JAMETT

Liggett's leading returning players are, from left, senior Austin Petitpren, junior Jake Soyka, and senior Jake Hodges.

Auk; and sophomores Jerome, Tony Giorgio, Vincent Grissom is one of the top def-

Newcomers to the team are freshmen Josh Soyka, Luke

Soyka, Mason Demsey and John Rahi, as well as sophomore William Yates.

"The guys are a year older and have another year of experience, which will help," McIntyre said. "We're confident we can play good hockey and play at a higher level than a year ago."

The Knights finished 20-7 last year. In the state playoffs, they beat Marysville 1-0 and St. Clair 6-2 before losing 2-1 to Country Day in a regional championship game.

The Knights' independent label allows the squad to play anyone and are not locked into playing 12 or 14 division games.

The 2011-12 slate contains games against Rochester Adams, Toledo St. John, Country Day, Sylvania St. Francis de Sales, Utica Eisenhower, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, Southgate Anderson, Grosse Ile, Marysville, Dearborn Heights Crestwood, Port Huron and Flint Powers.

In addition, the team plays in its own invitational, along with tournaments in Big Rapids, Sault Ste. Marie and Trenton.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen should contend in tough MIHL

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

It's hockey time again and that means Grosse Pointe North's boys' squad is hard at work.

Head coach Scott Lock watched the Norsemen put together a roller coaster 2010-11 season, but a roster loaded with underclassmen was the main culprit.

Those underclassmen are a year older, stronger and mentally tougher, which should make the 2011-12 season more consistent on the winning side for Lock.

"We should be OK since we have most of our team returning," Lock said. "We have 18 players coming back, so we expect to be a good team this year."

Watch for returning seniors Chip Wujek, Joe Giordano, Anthony Saleh, Julian Quinlan, J.P. Lucchese and Joe Aluia to register dynamite seasons.

They played a pivotal role last year, but also should get plenty of help from juniors

Jack Stander, Nick Rahaim, Jack Guest, David Chavis, Jeff Herron, Tyler Capp, Patrick Lane, Anthony Allemon and Brad Werenski.

Other returning players include Alphonse Nepi, a senior, and Vincent Romanelli and C.J. Kusch, sophomores.

Senior Kyle Cosens will share time in net with Wujek and sophomore Kevin O'Shea, who will get a year to learn the system before becoming the Norsemen's No. 1 netminder a year from now.

Once again, the Norsemen play one of the toughest schedules in the state.

The Norsemen finished sixth in the eight-team Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League last winter, posting a 6-7-0-1 mark (13 points). Warren DeLaSalle won the league at 11-2-0-1 with Birmingham Brother Rice one game back at 10-3-0-1.

The other state powers residing in the MIHL are Novi Catholic Central, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, Orchard Lake St. Mary's, U-D Jesuit and Port Huron

Northern.

New to the league are Trenton, winner of 13 state championships; and Wyandotte Roosevelt, defending Division 2 state champ, giving the MIHL 10 members.

"Our league is deep and I think all of us, one through 10, have improved since last year," Lock said. "Every night will be a war, a challenge, but we're ready for it."

With 18 league games on the docket, the Norsemen play only six non-conference contests, including city rival Grosse Pointe South Saturday, Feb. 18, at City Arena.

The Norsemen open the season in the Cranbrook Tournament and play two games the first weekend of January in Marquette. They also play two games in the annual MIHL Showcase the second weekend of February.

Grosse Pointe North opens its season Friday, Nov. 25, at Cranbrook Kingswood, and face either Livonia Stevenson or Grosse Pointe South Saturday, Nov. 26, at Wallace Arena.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

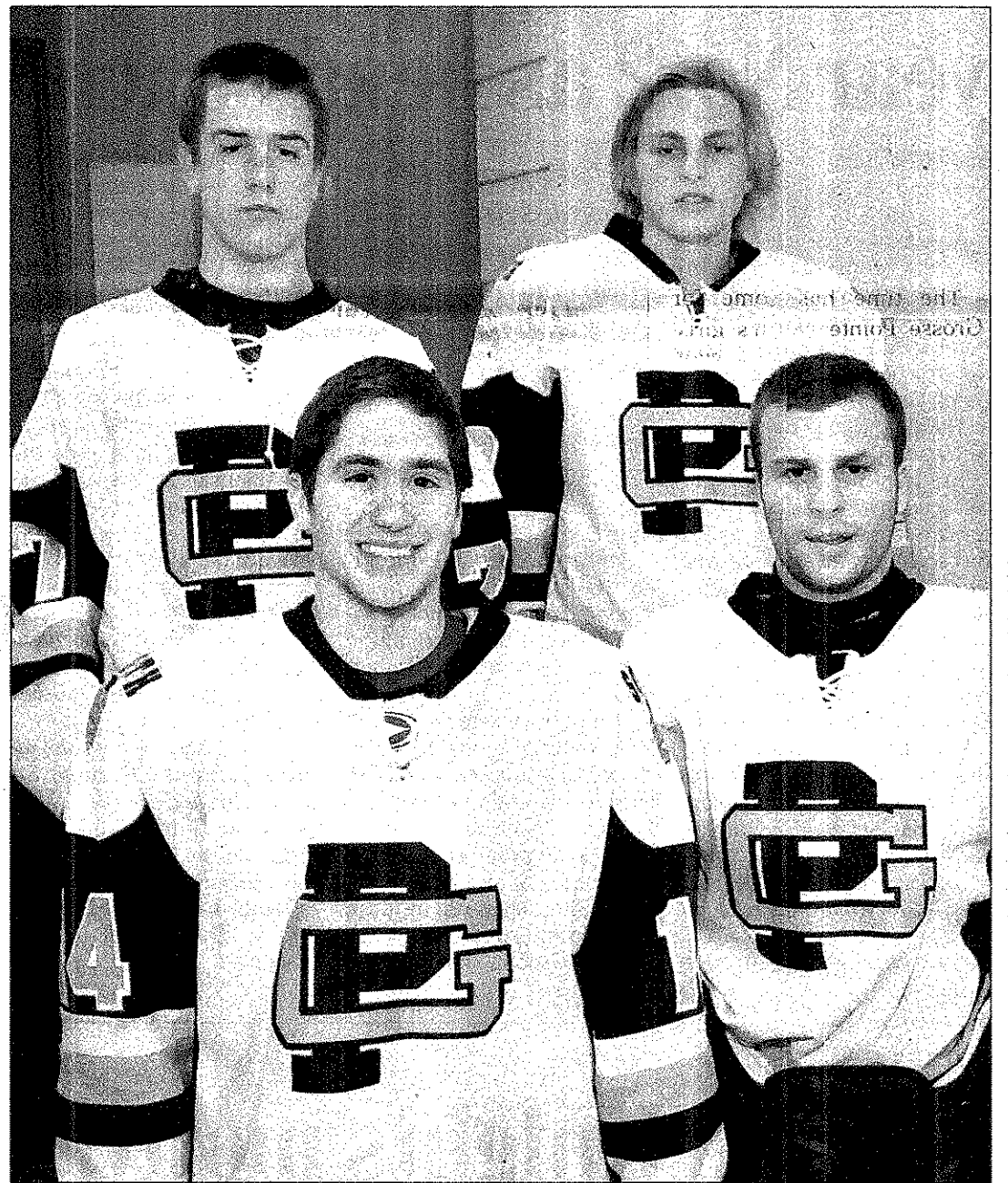


PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

South's captains this winter are, top row from left, Sam Hartman and Cam Gibson; and bottom row from left, Nolan Monforton and Wes Cimmarrusti.

Blue Devils have talent to make noise in 2011-12

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's boys' hockey team is ready to let it fly this winter behind third-year head coach Jamie Bufalino.

Last year, the Blue Devils finished 15-10 overall before losing in the district playoffs.

Building off last year's success are a roster consisting of 11 seniors, seven juniors, three sophomores and one freshman.

Senior Wes Cimmarrusti is the captain and the assistants are seniors Nolan Monforton, Sam Hartman and Cam Gibson.

"Expect everyone on the team to play a vital role in our success," Bufalino said. "Many of our players have at least two years of varsity experience that they plan on sharing with

our new additions."

Newcomers are defensemen Eric Davila, Brad Kohut, Blake Reece and Ian Corbett, plus forwards Shane Sparkman, Andrew Binham and Andrew Hyde. Gibson is new to the team after spending the last several playing for some of the top travel teams in the nation.

Other team members are seniors C.J. Schebil, Marty Moesta, Nate Erickson, Austin Jones, Geoffrey Welsher and Andrew Addy; juniors Jake Corden, Max Corden, Thomas Marantette and Ryley Maher; and sophomore Andrew Wright.

"The Blue Devils look forward to the strength of our schedule and the opportunity to compete with some of the best teams in the state," Bufalino said. "Our goal is to see the best competition before we enter into regional and

state finals, so we may have the experience and ability to make a run for it this season."

Jim Morris, Chris Peterson and Peter Torrice are assistant coaches.

The Blue Devils' Michigan Metro Hockey League East Division foes are Dearborn, Allen Park, Dearborn Divine Child and Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, plus single games against West Division opponents Ann Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Saline, Southgate Anderson and Brownstown Woodhaven.

The Blue Devils' non-conference slate is tough. It consists of University Liggett, Trenton, Livonia Stevenson, Midland, Warren DeLaSalle, U-D Jesuit and Grosse Pointe North.

They will also play other games in the second-half of tournaments Nov. 26, Dec. 17 and Feb. 11.



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

North's captains this season are, from left, Joe Aluia, J.P. Lucchese and Jack Stander.

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW 2011-12

Girls hockey

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils ready to defend state title

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Can head coach Joe Provenzano and the Grosse Pointe South girls' hockey team win back-to-back state titles?

Last winter, Provenzano led the Blue Devils to a state championship in his first year at the helm.

The Blue Devils blasted Ann Arbor 6-2 in the title contest and finished the season 19-3-1. They are the winningest program in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League history.

"We have some good returning players who are happy to get back on the ice," Provenzano said. "We lost eight seniors to graduation, which leaves some voids in our lineup, but we have solid players with experience to fill those roles."

The Blue Devils' seniors are Marissa Monforton, Melissa Klinger, Cara Monforton and Claire Boyle, a contender to earn the prestigious Miss Hockey award in the spring.

Other top returning players are sophomore Tenley Shield and junior goalie Anastasia Diamond, one of the top goalkeepers in the league.

She elevated her game during last year's playoff run in

which the Blue Devils outscored Port Huron, Northville and Ann Arbor by a combined score of 16-2.

"You need solid goalkeeping to win titles and Anastasia gave us that effort in the playoffs," Provenzano said. "We look for her to continue her solid play."

The road to a second straight title will not be easy as the MMGSHL Division 1 opposition is the deepest in its history.

Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood always fields a competitive squad, but watch for improvement from Northville and Port Huron.

Ann Arbor and Livonia Ladywood will be tough to beat and city rivals University Liggett and Grosse Pointe North provide exciting games with plenty of bragging rights on the line.

"I see a lot of balance in our division, which will make for a very competitive season," Provenzano said. "This competitiveness is great for girls hockey. We're going to have to be at the top of our game to win games."

The Blue Devils face each division foe twice and play Division 2 teams Walled Lake, Bloomfield Unified, Warren Regina, Plymouth-Canton-Salem, Farmington Hills Mercy and Detroit Country Day, once.

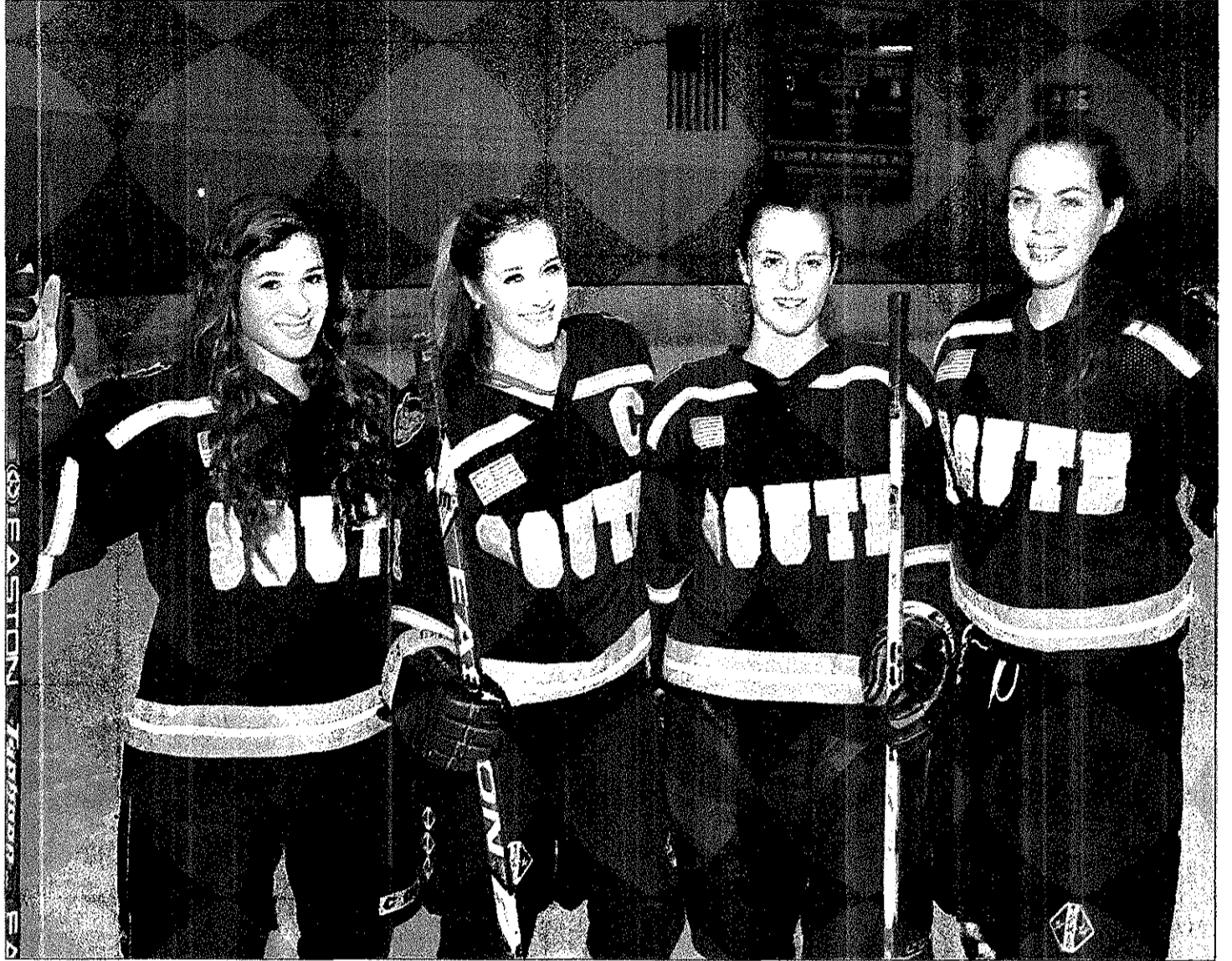


PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

South's returning seniors this season are, from left, Marissa Monforton, Cara Monforton, Melissa Klinger and Claire Boyle.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen to once again contend for state title

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The time has come for Grosse Pointe North's girls' hockey team to win a state championship.

The Norsemen are one of the top programs in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League, making it to the Final Four the last few seasons.

However, they have failed to make it to the title game with close losses.

Can coaches Scott Dockett and Joe Lucchese get the Norsemen to the Promised Land this winter?

At the top, the two officially switched titles with Dockett the assistant and Lucchese the head coach. Dockett is working toward a master's degree.

"I thought it would be better for this season if Joe takes over as head coach and he agreed to the change," Dockett said. "We have the same staff, so that isn't different."

The Norsemen have the talent to win the elusive state championship, but losing key



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

North's captains this winter are, from left, Emma Huellmantel, Jennifer Cusmano, Melissa Mermiges and Natalie Skorupski.

seniors Megan Bergeron, Taylor Moody and Kailey Sickmiller to graduation hurts.

Leading the way this season are veterans Jennifer Cusmano, Melissa Mermiges and one of the top goaltenders, Emma Huellmantel.

Joining the list of leading underclassmen are Natalie Skorupski, C.J. McCarthy, Julia Henderson, Sara Villani, Bryn Moody, Katie Bowles and Jacci Sherry.

The Norsemen have six freshmen on the squad, includ-

ing two established hockey players — Karina Lucchese and Kelly LeBarge.

Other team members are freshmen Nicole Haggerty, Lauren Hartt, Marisa Mieczkowski and Kallin Morris; sophomores Madie

Vyletel and Susan Tomasi; and juniors Melanie Mermiges and Dylan Trout.

"We have four defensemen and we have the potential to roll three lines," Dockett said. "We have depth and girls who want to play hard and try to

win a state title.

"Our defense will smother a lot of offenses and it's our offense that has to be more consistent this season."

The Norsemen tied for the Division 1 title last year at 17-2-1. They are a title contender again this winter, but it will not be an easy task.

Defending state champ Grosse Pointe South will be good, along with Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood and Ann Arbor.

Livonia Ladywood is improved, as are Northville, Port Huron and University Liggett with new head coach Cassie Jaeckle who knows how to build a championship team.

The entire Division 1 slate should feature tight one-goal games, making for an exciting winter.

"Our entire division is full of good competition, so every night we have to play our best," Dockett said.

The Norsemen play 14 division games and six against Division 2 teams Regina, Walled Lake, Country Day, Bloomfield and PCS.

LIGGETT

New head coach brings optimism to program



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

Liggett's new head coach, Cassie Jaeckle, right, is leaning on veterans, from left, Aria Ganz-Waple, Chandler Warren and Haleigh Bolton.

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

For the first time in nearly a decade, University Liggett's girls' hockey team has a new head coach, Cassie Jaeckle.

The Knights, under Laura Aiken, finished 10-14 last winter, losing 6-0 to city rival Grosse Pointe North in the state playoffs. They lost six of the last seven games to finish below the break-even mark.

"My goal as a new head coach is to have the team reach .500 or better," Jaeckle said. "It's important to get everyone on the same page and we can move forward as a team."

Jaeckle brings a wealth of coaching knowledge to Liggett. She started the Mount Clemens Wolves girls' travel hockey program. In four years the team won a state title and made it to the nationals in California last winter as a 14U team.

"We had a lot of success, but it took a lot of hard work at the

'My goal as a new head coach is to have the team reach .500 or better. It's important to get everyone on the same page and we can move forward as a team.'

CASSIE JAECKLE,
Liggett girls' hockey head coach

younger years to get to this point," she said. "Having a rink across from the school is great since the girls can skate all the time and it's easy on practice time with the group."

There is a talented group of returning players, including senior captains Haleigh Bolton and Haley Smith.

Other upperclassmen are juniors Aria Ganz-Waple, Emma Bandos, Chandler Warren and Hannah Mason.

The sophomores are goalie/forward Anne Grech,

Anna Rose Canzano, Bella Canzano, Ania Dow, Danielle Lorant, Caroline Eckrich, Hannah Hodges, Lenka Touhy and Maya Patrick.

Newcomers are Jenalyn Pangborn, Hannah Marchese, Valentia Peruzzi, Jane Ninivaggi and goaltender Jenna Pleva.

The Knights once again reside in Michigan Metro Girls Hockey League's Division 1, along with Grosse Pointe North, Livonia Ladywood, Northville, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood, Port Huron, Ann Arbor and defending state champ, Grosse Pointe South.

They play the seven division foes home and away, leaving six other games against Division 2 opponents Farmington Hills Mercy, Warren Regina, Plymouth-Canton-Salem, Bloomfield Unified, Birmingham Detroit Country Day and Walled Lake.

Liggett also hosts its annual holiday tournament in early December.

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GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Basketball - Boys Varsity

12/09/11	A	Mount Clemens	7:00 PM
12/15/11	A	South Lake	7:00 PM
12/21/11	H	University Of Detroit Jesuit	7:30 PM
12/30/11	A	Metro Coaches Christmas Tourn vs John Glenn	1:00 PM
01/03/12	H	Fraser	7:30 PM
01/06/12	A	East Detroit	7:00 PM
01/10/12	A	Utica	7:00 PM
01/13/12	H	Roseville	7:30 PM
01/17/12	A	Grosse Pointe North	7:00 PM
01/19/12	H	Cousino	7:30 PM
01/24/12	H	Chippewa Valley	7:30 PM
01/27/12	H	Port Huron Northern	7:30 PM
01/31/12	H	East Detroit	7:30 PM
02/03/12	H	Utica	7:30 PM
02/07/12	A	Roseville	7:00 PM
02/10/12	H	Grosse Pointe North	7:30 PM
02/14/12	A	Cousino	7:00 PM
02/16/12	H	Port Huron	7:30 PM
02/21/12	A	Port Huron Northern	7:00 PM
02/24/12	A	Mott	7:00 PM

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Basketball - Girls Varsity

12/10/11	A	St. Ceciliaville Tournament	12:00 PM
12/13/11	H	Grosse Pointe North	7:30 PM
12/17/11	A	MI Christmas Girls Classic	TBA
12/20/11	A	Marian	7:00 PM
12/27/11	A	Holiday Basketball Tournament	11:00 AM
12/29/11	A	Motor City Roundball Classic	TBA
01/03/12	H	Fraser	6:00 PM
01/05/12	A	Fitzgerald	5:30 PM
01/10/12	A	Utica	5:30 PM
01/12/12	H	L'Anse Creuse	7:30 PM
01/17/12	H	Eisenhower	7:00 PM
01/19/12	H	Cousino	6:00 PM
01/24/12	H	Chippewa Valley	6:00 PM
01/26/12	H	St. Clair	7:30 PM
01/31/12	H	Fitzgerald	6:00 PM
02/03/12	H	Utica	6:00 PM
02/07/12	A	L'Anse Creuse	7:00 PM
02/09/12	A	Eisenhower	7:30 PM
02/14/12	A	Cousino	5:30 PM
02/22/12	A	St. Clair	7:30 PM

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Ice Hockey - Boys Varsity

11/16/11	H	Saline	7:20 PM
11/19/11	H	Trenton	7:30 PM
11/25/11	A	Tournament	TBA
11/30/11	A	Ann Arbor Huron	7:45 PM
12/03/11	A	Dearborn	7:10 PM
12/07/11	H	Notre Dame Preparatory	7:30 PM
12/16/11	A	ULS Tournament	TBA
01/04/12	A	Divine Child	7:45 PM
01/11/12	A	Notre Dame Preparatory	TBA
01/14/12	H	Dearborn	5:30 PM
01/18/12	A	Allen Park	7:45 PM
01/21/12	H	Woodhaven	5:30 PM
01/25/12	H	Allen Park	7:20 PM
01/28/12	H	AA Pioneer	TBA
01/28/12	A	AA Pioneer	TBA
02/04/12	A	Midland	4:00 PM
02/09/12	A	MIHL Showcase	TBA
02/11/12	A	MIHL Showcase	TBA
02/15/12	A	Divine Child	7:45 PM
02/18/12	H	Grosse Pointe North	TBA
02/22/12	A	Southgate Anderson	7:20 PM
02/25/12	A	University Of Detroit Jesuit	4:30 PM
02/25/12	H	University Of Detroit Jesuit	7:30 PM

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Ice Hockey - Girls Varsity

11/16/11	A	Bloomfield Unified	3:30 PM
11/19/11	A	Port Huron	3:15 PM
11/20/11	H	Ann Arbor Huron	1:00 PM
12/03/11	A	Ladywood	7:30 PM
12/07/11	H	University Liggett	5:00 PM
12/17/11	A	Walled Lake	6:00 PM
12/21/11	A	Grosse Pointe North	7:00 PM
01/03/12	A	University Liggett	5:25 PM
01/08/12	H	Detroit Country Day	1:00 PM
01/11/12	H	Ladywood	7:00 PM
01/15/12	H	Port Huron	2:00 PM
01/17/12	A	Plymouth Unified	6:30 PM
01/18/12	H	Regina	7:00 PM
02/01/12	A	Cranbrook Kingswood	5:00 PM
02/05/12	H	Cranbrook Kingswood	2:00 PM
02/08/12	H	Mercy	7:00 PM
02/11/12	A	Northville	6:30 PM
02/15/12	A	Ann Arbor Huron	7:00 PM
02/27/12	H	Northville	7:00 PM
02/29/12	H	Grosse Pointe North	7:00 PM

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Swimming - Boys Varsity

12/06/11	H	Ann Arbor Huron	6:00 PM
12/10/11	A	Warrior Relays - Dive	8:45 AM
12/10/11	A	Warrior Relays - Swim	12:00 PM
12/13/11	A	Anchor Bay	6:00 PM
12/20/11	A	Romeo	6:00 PM
01/10/12	H	Dakota	6:00 PM
01/13/12	H	Midland Dow	5:30 PM
01/26/12	H	Chippewa Valley	5:00 PM
01/31/12	A	Grosse Pointe North	6:30 PM
02/04/12	A	Quad-AASKY/DUDJ/DEX	12:00 PM
02/10/12	A	MISCA - Dive	TBA
02/11/12	A	MISCA - Swim	12:00 PM
02/15/12	H	Stevenson	6:00 PM
02/23/12	H	MAC Red/White Diving Prelims	5:00 PM
02/24/12	H	MAC Red Swimming Prelims	5:00 PM
02/25/12	H	MAC Red Swim/Dive Finals	12:00 PM
02/28/12	A	Last Chance Invite	5:00 PM
03/06/12	A	MHSAA Dive Regional 4-2	TBA
03/09/12	A	MHSAA D2 State Prelims	12:00 PM
03/10/12	A	MHSAA D2 State Finals	12:00 PM

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH Wrestling - Boys Varsity

12/10/11	A	Cousino Wrestling Tournament	9:30 AM
12/16/11	A	Macomb Co Tournament	TBA
12/17/11	A	Macomb Co Tournament	TBA
01/05/12	A	Tri Meet	5:00 PM
01/07/12	A	Clinton	9:00 AM
01/10/12	H	Tri Meet	5:00 PM
01/14/12	A	Port Huron Northern (Blue Water Classic)	8:00 AM
01/19/12	A	Tri Meet	5:00 PM
01/21/12	A	Wrestling Festival	9:30 AM
01/25/12	H	TRI Meet	5:00 PM
01/28/12	A	Lake Shore	TBA
02/04/12	A	League Meet	10:00 AM

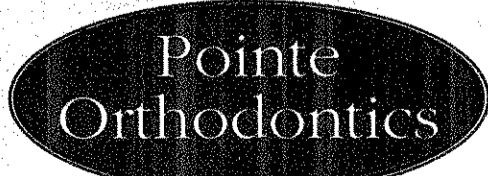


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WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW 2011-12 | 7

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL
Basketball - Boys Varsity**

12/06/11	H	Eaton Academy	7:00 PM
01/06/12	A	Southfield Christian	8:30 PM
01/10/12	H	Parkway Christian	6:00 PM
01/13/12	A	Plymouth Christian Acad.	8:30 PM
01/17/12	H	Inter-City Baptist	6:00 PM
01/20/12	A	Roeper	8:30 PM
01/24/12	A	Lutheran Northwest	7:00 PM
01/27/12	H	Oakland Christian	7:00 PM
02/03/12	H	Southfield Christian	7:00 PM
02/07/12	A	Parkway Christian	7:00 PM
02/10/12	H	Plymouth Christian Acad.	8:30 PM
02/14/12	A	Inter-City Baptist	7:30 PM
02/17/12	H	Roeper	7:00 PM
02/21/12	H	Lutheran Northwest	7:00 PM
02/24/12	A	Oakland Christian	7:30 PM
03/01/12	A	Bishop Foley Catholic	7:30 PM

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL
Basketball - Girls Varsity**

12/05/11	H	Ladywood	7:00 PM
12/09/11	A	Goodrich	7:00 PM
12/16/11	A	Divine Child	7:00 PM
12/26/11		Roundball Classic	TBA
01/06/12	A	Southfield Christian	7:00 PM
01/10/12	H	Detroit Country Day	7:30 PM
01/13/12	A	Plymouth Christian Acad.	7:00 PM
01/17/12	H	Inter-City Baptist	7:00 PM
01/20/12	A	Roeper	7:00 PM
01/24/12	H	Lutheran Northwest	7:00 PM
01/27/12	A	Oakland Christian	7:00 PM
02/02/12	H	Oakland Christian	7:30 PM
02/03/12	H	Southfield Christian	8:30 PM
02/07/12	H	Inkster	7:00 PM
02/10/12	H	Plymouth Christian Acad.	7:00 PM
02/14/12	A	Inter-City Baptist	6:00 PM
02/17/12	H	Roeper	8:30 PM
02/21/12	A	Lutheran Northwest	7:00 PM

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL
Hockey - Boys Varsity**

11/22/11	H	Adams High School	6:00 PM
11/25/11		Allen Park Tournament	6:15 PM
11/26/11		Allen Park Tournament	TBA
12/03/11	A	St. John's Jesuit HS & Academy	3:30 PM
12/07/11	H	Detroit Country Day School	5:45 PM
12/16/11	H	Liggett Invitational	5:25 PM
12/17/11		Liggett Invitational	6:25 PM
12/28/11		Big Rapid Tournament	7:00 PM
12/29/11		Big Rapid Tournament	TBA
01/06/12	A	St. Francis De Sales (Toledo)	6:00 PM
01/07/12	A	Utica Eisenhower HS	8:30 PM
01/13/12	H	Stoney Creek HS	8:15 PM
01/18/12	H	Southgate Anderson HS	5:45 PM
01/21/12	A	Grosse Ile High School	4:20 PM
01/27/12		Sault Ste. Marie	8:00 PM
01/28/12		Sault Ste. Marie	12:00 PM
02/02/12	H	Marysville High School	6:15 PM
02/09/12		Trenton Showcase	TBA
02/15/12	A	Crestwood HS	8:30 PM
02/22/12	H	Port Huron High School	5:45 PM
02/24/12	H	Powers Catholic	7:00 PM

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL
Hockey - Girls Varsity**

11/19/11	A	Regina	5:45 PM
11/22/11	H	Port Huron	4:00 PM
11/29/11	H	Ladywood	5:45 PM
12/02/11	H	Liggett Invitational	5:00 PM
12/03/11	H	Liggett Invitational	11:30 AM
12/07/11	A	Grosse Pointe South	7:00 PM
12/9/11	A	Northville	8:30 PM
12/20/11	A	Mercy	8:00 PM
01/6/12	H	Northville	8:30 PM
01/14/12	A	Bloomfield	2:30 PM
01/19/12	H	Grosse Pointe North	8:00 PM
01/31/12	A	PCS	6:30 PM
02/01/12	A	Grosse Pointe North	7:00 PM
02/04/12	H	Ann Arbor	8:30 PM
02/11/12	A	Cranbrook Kingswood	2:00 PM
02/14/12	A	Detroit Country Day	5:30 PM
02/16/12	H	Cranbrook Kingswood	5:45 PM
02/18/12	A	Walled Lake	6:00 PM
02/24/12	A	Port Huron	8:30 PM
02/25/12	A	Ladywood	7:30 PM
02/27/12	A	Ann Arbor	6:00 PM

**UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL
Swimming - Coed Varsity**

12/0/116	A	Greenhills/Cranbrook	6:30 PM
01/07/12	A	Hazel Park Relay	12:00 PM
01/12/12	A	Clawson	6:00 PM
01/13/12	A	Lake Shore Relay	6:00 PM
01/24/12	H	Greenhills	5:30 PM
01/25/12	A	Fitzgerald	6:00 PM
01/31/12	A	Hazel Park	6:00 PM
02/09/12	A	Greenhills/Willow Run	6:30 PM

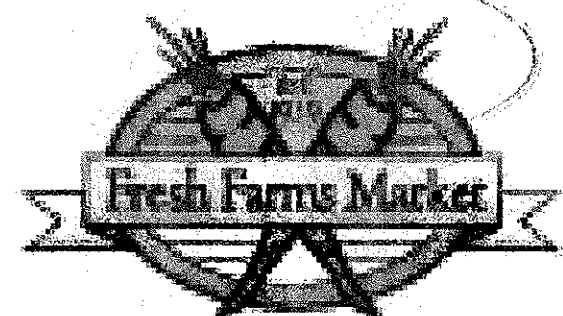
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**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Basketball- Boys Varsity**

12/06/11	A	De La Salle	7:30 PM
12/09/11	A	Warren Mott	7:00 PM
12/20/11	H	Walled Lake Central	7:00 PM
12/26/11	A	Cass Tech Holiday Tournament	1:00 PM
01/03/12	H	L'Anse Creuse	7:00 PM
01/05/12	H	Utica	7:00 PM
01/11/12	A	Cousino	7:00 PM
01/13/12	H	Port Huron Northern	7:00 PM
01/17/12	H	Grosse Pointe South	7:00 PM
01/19/12	H	Eisenhower	7:00 PM
01/24/12	A	Roseville	7:00 PM
01/27/12	A	East Detroit	7:00 PM
01/31/12	A	Utica	7:00 PM
02/02/12	H	Cousino	7:00 PM
02/07/12	A	Port Huron Northern	7:00 PM
02/10/12	A	Grosse Pointe South	7:30 PM
02/16/12	H	Roseville	7:00 PM
02/22/12	H	East Detroit	7:00 PM
02/24/12	A	L'Anse Creuse North	7:00 PM

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Basketball- Girls Varsity**

11/29/11	A	Farmington	7:00 PM
12/01/11	H	Marian	7:00 PM
12/07/11	H	Ladywood	7:00 PM
12/13/11	A	Grosse Pointe South	7:30 PM
01/03/12	A	L'Anse Creuse	7:00 PM
01/06/12	H	Ford II	7:00 PM
01/10/12	A	Dakota	7:00 PM
01/12/12	A	Fraser	7:00 PM
01/16/12	A	Chippewa Valley	7:00 PM
01/20/12	H	Eisenhower	7:00 PM
01/24/12	A	Stevenson	7:00 PM
01/26/12	A	Romeo	7:00 PM
02/01/12	A	Ford II	7:00 PM
02/03/12	H	Dakota	7:00 PM
02/07/12	H	Fraser	7:00 PM
02/09/12	H	Chippewa Valley	7:00 PM
02/14/12	H	Dexter	7:00 PM
02/17/12	H	Stevenson	7:00 PM
02/21/12	H	Romeo	7:00 PM
02/23/12	A	L'Anse Creuse North	7:00 PM

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Ice Hockey- Boys Varsity**

11/25/11	A	Cranbrook	2:30 PM
11/26/11	A	Cranbrook Tournament	12:00 PM
11/30/11	A	Wyandotte Catholic Consolidated	7:45 PM
12/08/11	H	Brother Rice	6:00 PM
12/10/11	A	Catholic Central	7:00 PM
12/14/11	H	De La Salle	7:30 PM
12/1/11	H	Port Huron Northern	7:30 PM
12/21/11	H	Trenton	7:30 PM
01/06/12	A	Marquette Tournament	TBA
01/07/12	A	Marquette Tournament	TBA
01/14/12	A	Trenton	7:30 PM
01/18/12	A	De La Salle	8:00 PM
01/21/12	A	University Of Detroit Jesuit	4:30 PM
01/25/12	H	St. Mary Preparatory	5:30 PM
01/28/12	H	Cranbrook	6:30 PM
02/03/12	A	St. Mary Preparatory	8:00 PM
02/04/12	H	University Of Detroit Jesuit	7:30 PM
02/08/12	A	CC-MIHL Showcase	TBA
02/10/12	A	MIHL Showcase	TBA
02/11/12	A	MIHL Showcase	TBA
02/15/12	H	Wyandotte Catholic Consolidated	7:30 PM
02/18/12	H	Grosse Pointe South	TBA
02/21/12	A	Brother Rice	7:00 PM
02/23/12	A	Port Huron Northern	6:15 PM
02/27/12	H	State Tournament Begins	TBA

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Wrestling- Boys Varsity**

12/07/11	A	Armada	5:30 PM
12/10/11	A	Hartland Invitational	10:00 AM
12/16/11	A	Macomb County Ind Tournament	TBA
12/17/11	A	Macomb County Ind Tournament	TBA
01/05/12	A	Dakota	5:00 PM
01/07/12	A	Roosevelt HS Wyandotte Invitational	9:15 AM
01/12/12	A	Port Huron	5:00 PM
01/14/12	H	Norsemen Classic	9:00 AM
01/18/12	H	Wrestling Quad	5:00 PM
01/21/12	A	Clawson Invitational	9:00 AM
01/26/12	A	Utica	5:00 PM
01/28/12	A	Goodrich Wrestling Team Tournament	9:30 AM
02/04/12	A	League Meet Port Huron Northern	9:00 AM
02/08/12	A	Team Districts 2/8 or 2/9	5:00 PM
02/11/12	A	Individual Districts	9:00 AM
02/15/12	A	Team Regional	5:00 PM
02/18/12	A	Individual Regional	9:00 AM
03/01/12	A	Individual States 3/1-3/3	9:00 AM

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Ice Hockey- Girls Varsity**

11/19/11	H	Northville	4:00 PM
11/23/11	A	Walled Lake Central	7:30 PM
11/30/11	H	Port Huron	7:00 PM
12/02/11	H	Liggett Tournament (12/2 or 12/3 TBD)	TBA
12/10/11	A	Cranbrook Schools	2:00 PM
12/14/11	H	Ladywood	7:00 PM
12/17/11	H	Ann Arbor Huron	4:00 PM
12/21/11	H	Grosse Pointe South	7:00 PM
01/07/12	A	Ladywood	7:30 PM
01/11/12	H	Detroit Country Day School	7:00 PM
01/14/12	H	Cranbrook Schools	4:00 PM
01/19/12	A	University Liggett	5:45 PM
01/21/12	H	Mercy	4:00 PM
01/25/12	H	Bloomfield United	7:00 PM
01/28/12	A	Northville	6:00 PM
02/01/12	H	University Liggett	7:00 PM
02/04/12	A	Port Huron	3:15 PM
02/11/12	A	Regina	4:25 PM
02/13/12	A	Ann Arbor Huron	6:00 PM
02/18/12	H	Plymouth Canton Salem Unified-Canton	4:00 PM
02/29/12	A	Grosse Pointe South	7:00 PM
03/05/12	A	Tier I Playoffs	TBA
03/10/12	A	Championship Game	TBA

**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Swimming- Boys Varsity**

12/13/11	A	Stevenson	6:30 PM
01/05/12	H	Dakota	6:00 PM
01/10/12	A	Chippewa Valley	6:00 PM
01/17/12	H	Dearborn	6:00 PM
01/24/12	A	Romeo	6:00 PM
01/26/12	H	L'Anse Creuse North	6:00 PM
01/31/12	H	Grosse Pointe South	6:00 PM
02/02/12	A	AAP / Bedford	6:00 PM
02/07/12	H	Fraser	6:00 PM
02/10/12	A	MISCA Diving ONLY at EMU	5:00 PM
02/11/12	A	MISCA - Swimming at EMU	12:00 PM
02/23/12	H	DIVING Divison Meet	5:00 PM
02/24/12	H	SWIMMING Divison Meet	5:00 PM
02/25/12	H	Divison Meet Finals	12:00 PM
03/06/12	A	DIVING - Regionals	5:00 PM
03/09/12	A	STATE MEET - Prelims	12:00 PM
03/10/12	A	STATE MEET - Finals	12:00 PM

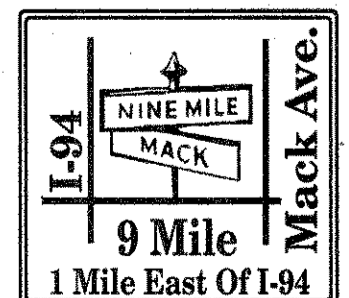
**GROSSE POINTE NORTH
Gymnastics- Girls Varsity**

12/13/11	H	Tecumseh	7:00 PM
12/19/11	A	Plymouth Canton	6:00 PM
01/07/12	A	Fraser Invitational	9:00 AM
01/11/12	A	Edsel Ford (Dearborn United at Stout)	7:00 PM
01/13/12	A	Farmington United at Conrad	6:00 PM
01/21/12	A	Farmington Lakeland Invitational	9:00 AM
01/25/12	H	Fraser	6:30 PM
01/31/12	H	Birmingham Seaholm	7:00 PM
02/04/12	A	Canton Invitational	8:00 AM
02/06/12	A	Fraser	7:00 PM
02/08/12	H	Edsel Ford (Dearborn United at GPN)	7:00 PM
02/15/12	H	Tri-Meet with Troy and Troy Athens	7:00 PM
02/20/12	A	Canton	6:30 PM
02/23/12	A	League Championship Meet	7:00 PM

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Figure skating

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Experience key to team success

The Grosse Pointe varsity figure skating team is made of skaters from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools.

The team competes in District No. 1 and is composed of 16 skaters for the 2011-2012 season. Competitions for the season will take place on Dec. 1, Jan. 20, and March 4, at Royal Oak, Detroit Skate Club and the Onyx Arena, respectively, and face opponents from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Rochester, Royal Oak, Berkley and Christian Combined.

The figure skating team competes on three levels, A, B, and C, with A being the highest and most difficult. Three types of elements, jumps, spins and foot-

work are judged, and medals are awarded to the top three teams in each district.

After the three regular season competitions, the three teams with the most points advance to the state championship March 25 in Traverse City where they face teams from the other four districts.

Team members are Mandy Caruso, Nicole Lubienski, Kaylee Dall, Alex Kaul, Jessie Gabel, Paige Pringle, Katie Butler, Kit Elsey, Steffi Shenouda, Samantha Houmani, Shayna Whitfield, Kamala Kanneganti, Amanda Shenouda, Mackenzie Clark, Shayla Whitfield and Kimberly Morawski. The head coach is Shelly Rosinski.

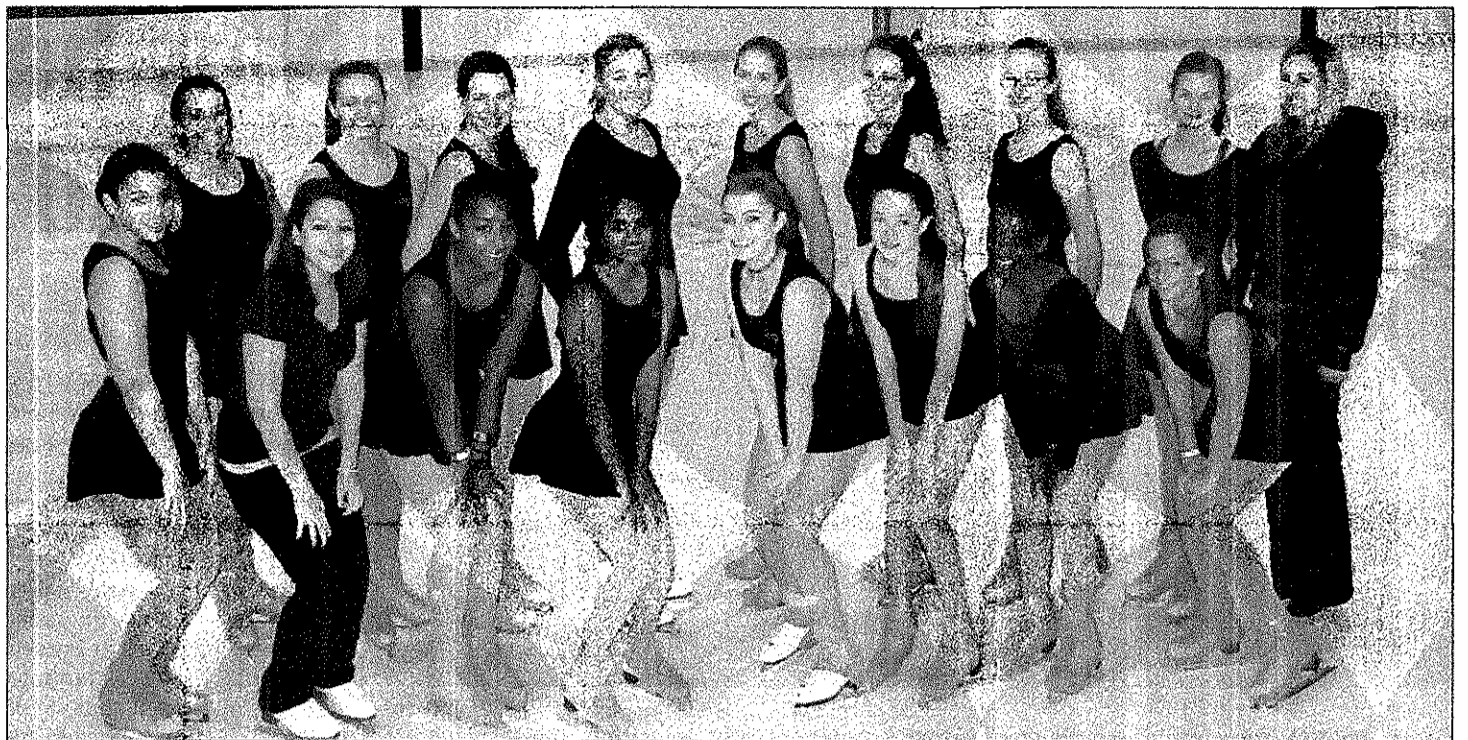


PHOTO BY ANGELIKA MORAWSKI

The members of the 2011-12 Grosse Pointe figure skating team are, back row from left, Mandy Caruso, Nicole Lubienski, Kaylee Dall, Alex Kaul, Jessie Gabel, Paige Pringle, Katie Butler, Kit Elsey and coach Shelly Rosinski; and front row from left, Steffi Shenouda, Samantha Houmani, Shayna Whitfield, Kamala Kanneganti, Amanda Shenouda, Mackenzie Clark, Shayla Whitfield and Kimberly Morawski.

Swimming

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils eager to start season

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's boys' swimming and diving team is preparing for what should be another solid season with head coach Eric Gunderson at the helm.

Gunderson is relentless in pursuing the best training techniques for his swimmers and the results have been outstanding during his tenure, including last year's sixth-place finish in the Division 2 state championship meet, won by Birmingham Seaholm.

"We should have a good team, but we have to replace some very good swimmers from last year's team," Gunderson said.

Most of the Blue Devils swam during the summer and practices on their own this fall, preparing for the long winter season that began the third week of November and ends with the title meet March 9 and 10.

Last year's state finalists were Patrick Jackson, Luke Hessburg and Nicholas Yoo, who competed with 2011 graduate Cam Johnson in the 200-yard medley relay. They placed ninth in the event with a time of 1:39.41.

Hessburg also competed in the 200-yard freestyle, but had a false start.

Jackson and Joe Zampardo were in the 100-yard butterfly with Jackson taking ninth and Zampardo 16th with times of

52.70 and 55.11.

Jackson also posted a 57.68 in the 100-yard backstroke, placing 26th, while Hessburg took fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 59.55, earning All-State honors.

Yoo and Jackson were part of the Blue Devils' 400-yard freestyle relay team, along with Johnson and fellow graduate Craig Campbell, that took fifth with a time of 3:14.79 to take All-State.

Ben Cornillie was 23rd in diving with 142.20 points. He didn't make it out of the preliminary round, but that could change this season.

The same cast of underclassmen competed in other events in the finals, but didn't

make it out of the preliminary round.

Gunderson has these state finalists, plus more than three dozen other swimmers working toward a goal of winning another Macomb Area Conference Red Division dual meet and championship meet titles.

The Blue Devils finished 4-0 in the Red and 11-3 overall, plus won the title meet with 389 points.

Their division foes are city rival Grosse Pointe North, Macomb Dakota, Romeo and Anchor Bay.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen have talented veteran leadership

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Head coach Mike O'Connor might have his best Grosse Pointe North boys swimming and diving team in a few years.

The Norsemen return several top-notch swimmers who competed in last year's Division 2 state championship meet.

The Norsemen finished 10th with 79 points and took second in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division with a 3-1 mark (8-3 overall).

In the division meet, North was second to rival Grosse Pointe South, earning 256 points. Romeo was third with 207, followed by Macomb Dakota with 204 and Anchor Bay with 153.

Underclassmen competing in last year's finals were Matthew Leone, Christian

Mellos and Justin Rakowicz, who were in the 200-yard medley relay, but did not earn any points. Graduate Zack Hanna was also on that relay.

Rakowicz was seventh in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:45.19, earning All-State, while Mellos duplicated the feat in the 200-yard individual medley, posting a time of 2:01.02.

James McNelis was fourth in diving with 397.95 points to earn an All-State honor. Two of the three ahead of him graduated, leaving him behind St. Johns' Brennan LaBar in the pre-season standings.

In the 500-yard freestyle, Rakowicz and Peter Shea finished sixth and 10th with times of 4:43.52 and 4:51.89. Both could be in the top eight this winter.

Mellos was seventh in the 100-yard breaststroke with a

time of 1:00.90 to make All-State, plus was a part of the Norsemen's 400-yard freestyle relay that placed 13th. Rakowicz and Shea joined 2011 graduate Scott Adelson in the relay.

O'Connor will have his veterans ready for the season. They have been swimming throughout the off-season and ready to tackle a slate consisting of Sterling Heights Stevenson, Dakota, Chippewa Valley, Dearborn, Romeo, L'Anse Creuse North, Grosse Pointe South, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Bedford and Fraser.

The MISCA meet is Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11, at Eastern Michigan University, while the MAC Red championship meet is Thursday, Feb. 23, through Saturday, Feb. 25.

The state finals are Friday, March 9, and Saturday, March 10.

LIGGETT

Liggett leaning on vets

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Ryan Gunderson and Mike Mullinger have helped turn around University Liggett's co-ed swimming and diving program.

The past two seasons, the Knights have been competitive and won more meets than they lost.

In 2009, Mullinger was the head coach with Gunderson the assistant. Last winter, they

flipped-flopped positions as Mullinger has other obligations.

Gunderson is back at the helm for a second straight season and hopes to keep the Knights on the positive track.

Leading the way are seniors Kara Zmyslowski and Caleb Ninivaggi. Last year's underclassmen, Mallory Jamett, Connor Borrego, Victoria Chochla, Cristina Milenius, Ellene Bricolas, Patrick Monahan and Billy Marx put

together a solid string of results.

If they return this winter, the Knights should once again hover around the .500 mark, competing against Ann Arbor Greenhills, Hazel Park, Warren Fitzgerald, Willow Run, Clawson and state power Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

The squad also competes in the Hazel Park and Lake Shore relays the first two Saturdays in January.

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Gymnastics

GROSSE POINTE UNITED

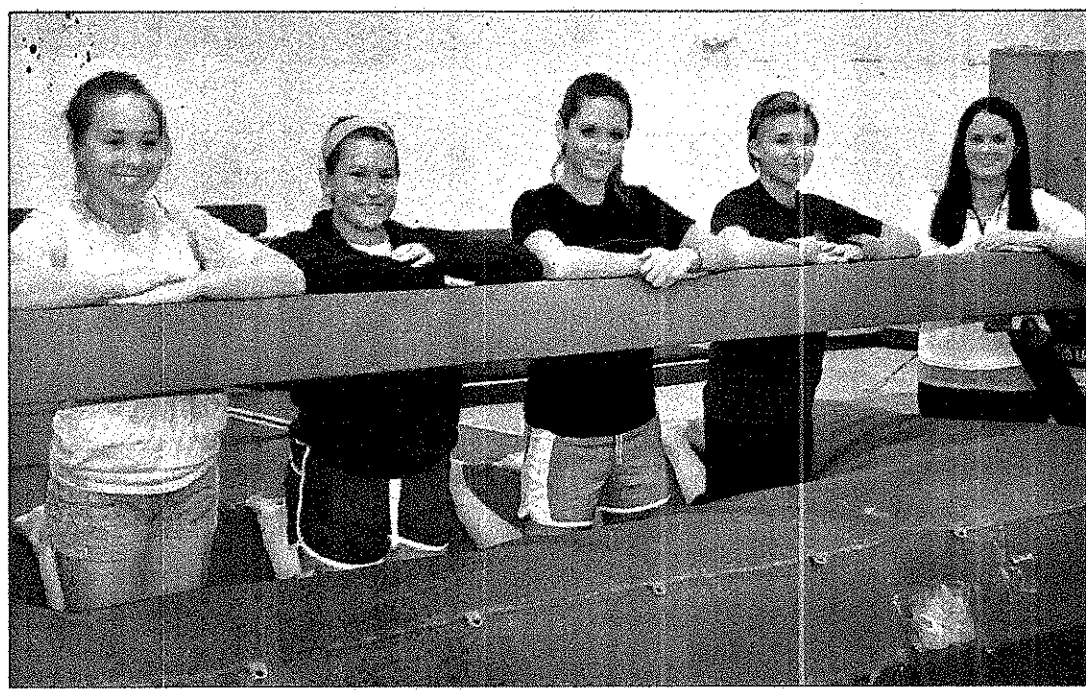


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe's gymnastics head coach Courtney Schafer, far right, is leaning on veterans, from left, Ashley Krynski, captain, Fran Kay, captain, Anna Brucker and Sarah Fentin to help the team reach new heights this winter.

Plethora of veterans create big excitement

On the heels of its most successful season, which culminated with a regional runner-up finish and trip to the high school state finals as a United team, the Grosse Pointe United gymnastics squad already looks in great shape to match or improve upon last year's results.

"It's always a little hard, especially after ending on such a high note, to have to start all over again with a new season," head coach Courtney Law said. "But everyone showed up this year looking ready to go from day one. I feel like this team has a lot of confidence and is really motivated already."

"When everyone wants to work together to get better, I

know that we can look forward to a fun and exciting season."

The gymnasts, coached by Law and assistant Christine Spada, attend both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools.

This year's team is led by a strong senior class, including captains Fran Kay, Madi Kaiser and Ashley Krynski, as well as Sarah Fentin and Anna Brucker.

Kaiser and Fentin both qualified for the individual state meet last year. Law also expects major contributions on all four events from returning All-State junior Emma Abessinio, and her classmate, Aubryn Samaroo, who has just

missed all-state honors on floor the past two years.

The team also relies on other returning gymnasts for routines on one more or events this year, Emily Griffith, Caitlin Gaitley, Meagan Curran, Samantha Rogers, Emily Huguenin, Amy Olson, Kelsey Newa, Jenna Belote and Angela Tibaudo.

Having only lost two seniors from last year's squad, this year's United team is deep with experience, which should serve them well.

During the pre-season, the gymnasts are focused on adding individual skills and putting together their routines

See GYMNASTS, page 11

Wrestling

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

New head coach ready to lead Norsemen

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North's wrestling team is under new leadership this season, Eric Julien.

"We're going to set some goals and try to fulfill those this year," Julien said.

The new head coach spent the past five years as an assistant wrestling coach at Fraser. Before that, he was a standout grappler at Fraser, making it to the state finals during his high school career.

He hopes to bring his passion and knowledge of the sport to his new Norsemen grapplers, including returning standouts Patrick Salazar and Andrew Lock, who just

missed making the state finals as a freshman.

"I want to field a full varsity lineup and go for a team district championship," Julien said. "With a lot of hard work, we can accomplish these goals."

The Norsemen, under head coach Bryan Lorenzo, struggled last winter, winning only one Macomb Area Conference White Division match due to wrestling with a lineup that constantly had four voids.

The team began a lot of matches with a 24-point deficit and it was evident in the division meet where the Norsemen placed seventh with 63.5 points. Macomb Dakota won it with 222

points.

It's a new start for the program under Julien. If he can get his grapplers to rededicate themselves to the program, they will be OK.

In 2009-10, the Norsemen took third in the White Division with a 5-2 mark, but the team might drop a couple of divisions when the MAC realigns the divisions according to enrollment.

"I would like for us to stay up in this division, but if we have to drop, I hope it is with programs comparable to ours so our kids can get some very good, competitive matches," Julien said.

Julien makes his head coaching debut Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Armada quad.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils rebuilding

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South's wrestling team is entering year No. 3 under Greg Snider's tenure.

The Blue Devils struggled with injuries last winter. Graduate Reggie Lewis was the only grappler to make it to the individual state finals.

This year, Snider is working mainly with a new and inexperienced squad, led by returners Josh Alexander, Alex Manchester and Frankie Pangborn.

"We're young and not very experienced, but the guys will work hard, that is for sure," Snider said. "We're a family here and we make sure everyone practices hard and gives it their best shot on the mat in every match."

"The guys will work hard, but have fun in this sport."

Last winter, the Blue Devils finished in the bottom half of the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division dual meet and league meet standings, along with Center Line, New Haven, Mount Clemens and Madison Heights Madison.

In 2009-10, they were third at 5-2 and three years ago they won the title at 7-0. Those squads had a ton of experienced wrestlers leading the charge.

This time around, Snider is going to teach a lot more fundamental moves to his young wrestlers.

They will get plenty of matches before the new year, competing in the Cousino and Macomb County tournaments.

The league meet is in February, while the team and individual districts are set for Feb. 9 and Feb. 11, respectively.

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**GYMNASTS:
Ladies ready
for success**

Continued from page 10

on the various events. As usual, the team has a packed schedule, including meets with three of last year's top four teams in the state, Plymouth Canton (second), Troy Athens (third) and Farmington United (fourth). The team also attends several highly competitive invitations in January and February to prepare for the regional and state tournaments. The United team tries to compete against as many top teams as possible during the regular season, which allows them to determine where they stand and what they need to improve upon as a team to be

at that same level. The meets against league opponents Dearborn and Fraser are also always very important. Law believes the team is capable of winning its fourth consecutive league championship and return to the state finals with a top-3 finish at the regional meet in March. "I think the main difference with this year's team is that it took about half the season last year before the girls really believed that they were a state level team," Law said. "This year, everyone is already thinking about states from the very start." With that mindset, a top-10 finish at the state meet this year is within reach for the talented and experienced Grosse Pointe United gymnastics team. Grosse Pointe opens the season on Dec. 13 at home against Tecumseh.



Top, Sarah Fentin executes what is called scale during her balance beam practice, while above, Caitlin Gaitley performs 'kips' on the uneven bars with assistant coach Christine Spada assisting.

Grosse Pointe gymnast Emily Huguenin practices on the balance beam.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

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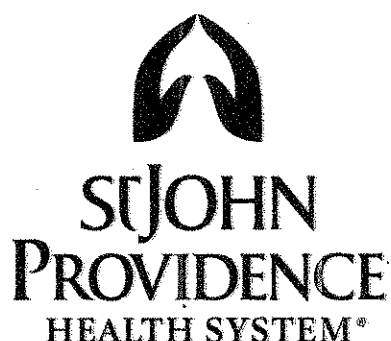
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