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Grosse Pointe News

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JANUARY 16, 2014
 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes



PHOTO BY KATHY RYAN

Bob Bashara in Wayne County Circuit Court last week with attorney Mark Procida.

Bashara: No laptop, but may get new attorney

By Kathy Ryan
 Staff Writer

DETROIT — There were more questions than answers following Bob Bashara's latest court appearance Thursday, Jan. 9, in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The hearing was set for Judge Vonda Evans to rule on Bashara's request for a laptop computer in order to review discovery documents related to his upcoming trial on the charge that he murdered his wife, Jane, in January 2012.

But even before Evans ruled on the computer issue, she questioned Bashara's court appointed attorney, Mark

Procida, as to why Bashara has not had access to several discovery documents, and expressed concern that a second attorney assigned to the case appears to have been removed.

"This is Mr. Bashara's life," Evans said. "And he needs somebody to represent him that will be able to give the time and dedication, and I don't know if the defender's office is in position to do that."

Evans said she was concerned Procida and Bashara met just once since a December court appearance. With a jury trial date set for March 3 on seven counts related to his wife's death, including first degree

murder and conspiracy to commit murder, she questioned whether Bashara was receiving adequate legal counsel.

She said if Bashara is convicted on the murder charge, he could appeal on grounds of "ineffective assistance of counsel."

Evans noted when Bashara's case was first turned over to the defender's office, three attorneys were assigned to the case. Now only Procida is on the case.

"That's unacceptable," Evans said. "I'm concerned with the lack of preparation. I'm considering removing you from the case. All I hear is excuses, excuses, excuses."

Noting she was "not happy," Evans told Procida, "This is a very big case. Either you're going to do it efficiently, or you're not going to do it."

Bashara smiled. "There are several issues at stake," Bashara told Evans. "The Prosecutor's Office has spent close to a million dollars on this case and the point is that I don't have that same luxury."

That comment brought a challenge by Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Lisa Lindsey.

"I'd like to correct that statement," Lindsey said. "We have not spent a million dollars. We wish we

See LAPTOP, page 3A

Woods outages continue

By Kathy Ryan
 Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Frustration levels are high among city administrators, residents and business owners following another power outage that occurred Sunday night in the area of Mack and Vernier.

The cause of the outage appears to be an explosion of a DTE Energy transformer located on Ridgemont. A fire followed the explosion at 4:55 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9.

While there is agreement on the cause of the outage, questions remain as to why hundreds of residents and businesses lost power yet again in an area that has been plagued by outages for at least a decade.

"The entire grid was out, which was not supposed to happen because DTE has told us that the area had been sectionalized and large outages like this were not supposed to occur anymore," said Woods city administrator, Skip Fincham. "I'm frustrated that we don't have an answer on this."

As of Tuesday morning, Fincham hadn't received response to an e-mail he sent Monday morning to DTE official Kathy Jordan, a regional manager for Corporate and Government Affairs.

Power went out to about 1,000 customers in the area following the explosion, and remained out until about 9:30 p.m. for residents, while power was restored to businesses about 4 a.m. Monday morning.

The area in question is referred to as

See WOODS, page 3A



James and the Giant Peach

Pierce Middle School presents James and the Giant Peach at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 and 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at the school auditorium, on Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Tickets are \$4 for students and seniors and \$7 for adults. At left, Andrew Fleming as James with William Glaser, Cate Christinidis and Maya Petropoulos. Tickets are available at Posterity A Gallery on Kercheval and at the door.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lack of plowing frustrates

By Brad Lindberg
 Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Dr. Paul Giblin is frosted that one of the community's main arteries, Jefferson, was clogged with snow until well after last week's heavy storm.

"Jefferson is a disaster area," said Giblin, of the City of Grosse Pointe. Jefferson through the Grosse Pointes, plus Lakeshore in the

Farms to the intersection of Vernier in Grosse Pointe Shores, are jurisdictions of Wayne County, not the individual suburbs.

"The county is responsible for maintaining and plowing county roads, such as Jefferson and Mack, not the city," said Peter Dame, manager of the City.

Yet, as Giblin said, from experi-

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South hoops on a roll with two big wins. More sports and school news — Section C.



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Bump coming in water rates

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND CITY — The new year kicks off with a \$10 bimonthly water rate increase to shore-up the water department's revenue stream.

The increase totals a flat rate of \$60 per year for customers of the Grosse Pointe Farms water filtration plant, serving the Farms and neighboring City of Grosse Pointe.

"The flat rate adjustment would provide a more predictable revenue source since it's not based on consumption," said John Lamerato, Farms controller and treasurer.

A united Farms council approved the increase Monday, Jan. 13, to stem reduced revenues due to water sales being less

than expected.

"At June 30, 2013, the water and sewer fund had a negative cash balance of approximately \$700,000," Lamerato said.

"This negative cash position has accumulated primarily due to lower water consumption than budgeted over the last two fiscal years."

He said the increase generates about \$250,000 annually.

Starting this year, the minimum bimonthly water bill increases \$10 to \$87.80.

The average residential bill, which had been \$205.21, becomes \$215.21.

"The average residential user rate adjustment is 4.9 percent," Lamerato said.

Water consumption

See WATER, page 8A

PSO Czech proud to serve

By Brad Lindberg
Staff writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The public safety department's oath of office covers a lot of ground.

New officers swear their "fundamental duty is to serve mankind."

The oath is the essence of why Grosse Pointe Farms' newest public safety officer, Alex Czech, 26, sought the job.

"Being a police officer is not only about enforcing the law, but also helping the public," said Czech.

Czech is a known quantity.

"I was his Cub Scout leader and hockey coach," said Lt. Richard Rosati, head of the Farms detective bureau. "He's my son's age and went to De La Salle (Collegiate High School) with him."

Rosati's son, Richard,

joined the force in December 2011.

Czech graduated from the Macomb police and fire academies.

He said he has wanted to be a lawman since childhood.

"If there was a dream job, this would be it," he said at his official swearing in, Tuesday, Jan. 7.

"Growing up across the street from Lt. Rosati and being best friends with his son, I always heard stories about being a police officer and thought it would be awesome to do," Czech said. "I went for it and couldn't be more excited to start my career."

His hiring is in preparation for the retirement this spring of Lt. Brian Belinski.

"We're getting the ball rolling early," said John Hutchins, deputy director.

Belinski's spot is being filled by the promotion



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Dan Jensen, director of Grosse Pointe Farms public safety, welcomes Alex Czech, 26, the city's newest public safety officer. Czech took the oath of office Tuesday, Jan. 7, from City Manager Shane Reeside. Czech is training on the afternoon shift.

of Officer Antonino when I began mine." Trupiano to sergeant.

"I don't like to see any of the guys retire, but the bittersweet part is seeing a young guy begin his career," Rosati said. "It makes me think back

to when I became a police officer Oct. 7, 1985, in Detroit and began work in the Farms on June 1, 1990. "I never forget those dates," he said.



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Which Wich coming to Village

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Which Wich Superior Sandwiches is scheduled to open this spring in the Village.

The shop is managed by Mike Berschback and Nabil Shurafa.

Both of them grew up in the shadow of the Village when attending Maire Elementary and Grosse Pointe South High School.

Which Wich a national sandwich chain founded in Dallas by a former Michigander, Jeff Sinelli, is known for more than 50 customizable sandwiches, a cre-

ative ordering system and personalized sandwich bag.

There are 300 locations open or in development in 38 states and four countries.

The Village location, in the former space

occupied by Sweet Little Sheila's, at 17045 Kercheval, and managed by the Kercheval Company, is the first in southeast Michigan and the second in the state.

Sweet Little Sheila's cakes and cupcakes

continue to be available at the Side Street Diner and in the "Cake Walk" hallway between CVS and Pretty Things, shared by Grosse Pointe Geek, Bruno's and the Grosse Pointe ART Center.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lyla's carry-out and catering

Lyla's is a catering and carryout restaurant now open at 20083 Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods. The cuisine follows a Mediterranean food theme with items such as spinach pies, humous, stromboli, and grape leaves offered in both meat and vegetarian options. Most of the items at Lyla's are made from scratch daily. Lyla's hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It is closed Sundays. Call (313) 884-5841 or visit lylascatering.com. At ribbon cutting ceremonies are, from left, Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher, Mark Saigh, Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Bob Novitke, owner Lyla Saigh, Bill Saigh and Al Fincham, Woods city administrator.

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Auto show royalty



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERAL MOTORS

Chevrolet sweeps the North American Car and Truck of the Year voting as the Silverado 1500 and Corvette Stingray are voted the 2014 North American Truck and Car of the Year on Jan. 13 at the start of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit. The 2014 Silverado 1500 and Corvette Stingray were crowned as victors by 48 automotive jurors from among dozens of competitive vehicles.

"It is a distinct honor for the entire Chevrolet team to have both the Corvette and Silverado recognized with the prestigious North American Car and Truck of the Year Awards," said Alan Batey, General Motors senior vice president, Global Chevrolet. "Chevrolet is in the midst of the most aggressive product transformation in the brand's more than 100-year history."

The NAIAS opens to the public at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Cobo Center. More than 500 vehicles are on display. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 through Saturday, Jan. 25, and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26.

Adult tickets cost \$13; seniors pay \$7 and children's tickets cost \$7. For more information, to order tickets or print a floor plan, visit naias.com.

LAPTOP:

Continued from page 1A

had a million dollars. We don't."

Lindsay questioned if a new attorney was brought into the case if they would be ready to go to trial March 3.

Evans asked Bashara to give her a list of attorneys he would like to see represent him, and she would consider the possibility of assigning a new attorney.

Bashara responded he had already been in contact with a new attorney, David Cripps.

"I have paid Mr. Cripps \$15,000, but he wants six times that amount to represent me," Bashara told Evans. "I can't afford that because the prosecution through the State has taken all my resources. I had the money, but it's been taken."

Lindsay said her office has not seized any of Bashara's assets, but rather the State of Michigan has a statute that allows assets to be taken by the state to pay the cost of a prisoner's incarceration.

Bashara suggested to

Evans that Cripps be added to "assist" Procida, but Lindsey questioned if Cripps would have the time to devote to the case.

"He has a very busy trial schedule. Would he even be ready?" she asked Evans.

And while the attorney issue remained unsettled, so too did the question of whether Bashara would be given a laptop computer to review documents.

Bashara, citing macular degeneration brought on by his diabetes, requested the computer at a hearing before Evans in December. He said his eye condition made it difficult for him to read paper documents.

Prosecutors objected, citing rules banning computers in jail and also noted that with computer access, it would be possible for Bashara to contact witnesses in the case under the guise of trial preparation.

"This defendant should be treated like every other prisoner," Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor John Moran told the court. "Reading glasses are cheaper than computers."

He also noted Wayne County has closed its Internet Crime unit, and the officer who had been assigned to the unit is now doing cafeteria duty.

"There would be no one to monitor the defendant's use," he said.

The Prosecutor's Office suggested Bashara be given a magnifying glass or a special reading screen that would make paper documents easier to read.

But Bashara said the problem is just not the paper documents. "The issue is I have pencils this big," he said, holding two fingers about four inches apart, "and I have to handwrite my notes. If I had a computer I could type my notes. Without a computer, I need pens and proper writing materials."

Procida pointed out Bashara could only review documents using a computer when his attorney was present and visiting hours were limited.

Evans told Bashara she would meet with the jail commander to see what could be provided to him and to see if visiting hours could be adjusted to allow his attorney to

meet with him more often.

Several times during the hearing Evans admonished Bashara for his behavior, including telling him he was rude when he spoke to Procida while the prosecutor was talking and once when he placed his hand on his hip.

"Take your hand off your hip," she told him.

But even with the admonitions, Bashara remained upbeat, wishing the judge "Blessings and a happy new year, your honor."

Jane Bashara was found dead in her SUV in January 2012. Bashara has been charged with first degree murder, conspiracy to commit first degree murder, solicitation to commit murder, suborning perjury during a capital trial, witness intimidation, obstruction of justice and felony firearm. He is in prison after admitting he attempted to hire a hit man to kill Joe Gentz. Gentz admitted to killing Jane Bashara, but said he did it at the forced behest of Bob Bashara.

Evans set a new hearing for 11 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 23.

Temps cause water issues

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — Low temperatures gummed up repairs of a broken water main on Colonial near Lakeshore during last week's deep freeze.

"It was a typical water main break, but the pumps were freezing," Brett Smith, Grosse Pointe Shores public works director, said of the break Tuesday, Jan. 7. "Even the jackhammer that cut out the roadway was slow — bong, bong, bong."

Extreme temperatures, cold or hot, and corroded pipes are three main causes of water main breaks, according to Scott Homminga, supervisor of the Grosse Pointe Farms water department.

The direct link between broken pipes and corroded, weakened metal is clear.

Temperatures, on the other hand, snap pipes by

proxy.

"The ground shifts more abruptly in hot and cold weather," Homminga said. "It expands and contracts. With ground expanding and contracting, it causes problems."

During cold winters, frost permeates the soil and expands the ground.

"That expansion creates movement of the ground which snaps pipes," Homminga said.

For all the drama of a heavy snowfall, it insulates the ground, helping keep frost from penetrating the surface and breaking pipes.

"Most water mains are 7 to 8 feet deep," Homminga said.

His sister lives in Atlanta, where water mains are shallower than in northern states due to balmy winters. The arctic blast is giving Atlanta residents an idea of life during winter in Michigan.

See TEMPS, page 8A

Service set

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — A memorial ceremony for the City of Grosse Pointe K-9, Raleigh, which died due to cancer in November, is scheduled for 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church, 17150 Maumee, across the street from public safety headquarters.

Week Ahead

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

◆ The Grosse Pointe ART Center, 17118 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe, holds a preview 6:30 to 9 p.m. of its "Motor City" exhibit for the public.

◆ St. Clare of Montefalco holds an American Red Cross blood drive from 2 to 7:45 p.m. Use the sponsor code stclare13 to make an appointment. For more information, call (313) 886-4200.

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski holds office hours from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. For an appointment, call (313) 881-6565.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18

◆ The 10th annual Winter Fest begins at 1 p.m. at the City of Grosse Pointe Park. The event includes a pig roast and a catered meal costs \$5.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

◆ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods municipal offices are closed.
◆ Banks are closed.
◆ Federal, state and county offices are closed.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 795 Lakeshore.

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

◆ The Friends of the Library hold a used book sale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Woods branch, 20680 Mack.
◆ The Grosse Pointe Library Board meets at 7 p.m. at the Ewald branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. The public can attend. The agenda is available at gp.lib.mi.us.

WOODS:

Continued from page 1A

Sector 1481 and has been the subject of numerous meetings between residents and DTE officials in the past few years. In October, DTE officials told residents that it was committing \$4 million to

improving service, including sectionalizing the area, tree trimming and line upgrades.

Director of Public Safety Andrew Pazuchowski said his department received several calls for information Sunday night, and asked residents to understand how his department handles those calls.

"The dispatcher simply doesn't have time to respond to every question," he explained. "We only had one dispatcher on duty because all our personnel, including our ambulance and EMTs were responding to the fire with the transformer. Our dispatcher had to make sure the lines were open for any emergency

calls that came in."

Pazuchowski noted that often times his department has no more information on an outage than residents do.

He did say DTE workers were on the scene of the transformer fire within 30 minutes of the first call and were able to assist his department in extinguishing the fire.

PLOWING:

Continued from page 1A

ence, "The county doesn't do it."

He noted "with pleasure" last week how well his city's public works crews cleared snow from side roads, but not from Jefferson.

The only Pointe that cleared Jefferson was Grosse Pointe Park.

"Jefferson was well plowed," Giblin said.

"We don't do it routinely, but because of the extensive amount of snow and the short staff Wayne County is confronting, our guys made a quick pass through," said Dale Krajniak, Grosse Pointe Park city manager.

Lakeshore in Grosse

Pointe Farms and Shores remained snow covered well past the day-long storm Sunday, Jan. 5.

It wasn't until two days later, well after municipal crews cleared side streets of a foot of snow, that county crews started tending Jefferson and Lakeshore.

"Grosse Pointe Farms is responsible for all public roads in our community with the exception of Mack, Lakeshore and Moross, which are county roads," said Shane Reeside, Grosse Pointe Farms manager. "Frankly, we were displeased with how long it took the county to clear those roadways."

He filed a complaint and a solution.

"We're approaching the county to ask about the county paying us to

do snow removal," Reeside said.

"It would seem reasonable that, if the county doesn't have the wherewithal to do it, they establish some sort of agreement with the local municipalities to do it," Giblin said. "Our cities do a very good job of plowing."

Reeside said liabilities prevent municipal crews from clearing county roads.

"We can't assume the responsibility if it's not our property," he said. "Unfortunately, because those roads are in our community, it reflects poorly on our community, even though it's not our responsibility."

"That's why we'll continue discussions with the county to see how things can be improved."

Years ago in Grosse Pointe Shores, local crews learned the consequences of volunteering to clear snow from the county's portion of Lakeshore.

"The road was in poor condition," said Brett Smith, Shores public works director. "Every time we put a plow in the street, we'd break our equipment."

He's noticed a reduction in county plowing.

"The county used to stay on it more," he said. The protocol these days is clear:

Smith said, "Lakeshore north of Vernier is Grosse Pointe Shores. Lakeshore south of Vernier is Wayne County. The county takes care of its roads and we take care of ours."

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City of Grosse Pointe

3 times limit

At 1:48 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, police arrested a 33-year-old Detroit man for having a .24 percent blood alcohol level — three times the legal limit — while operating a 2002 Ford Taurus erratically on Mack.

Charges include drunken driving, violating a suspended operator's license and failure to maintain a lane of travel.

Check thief

A thief made it easy on investigators by cashing a stolen check in his own name, according to the victim and police.

The victim, a City of Grosse Pointe man, told police the \$550 check was forged.

The admitted thief is a 50-year-old male from Detroit.

He reportedly stole the check from the victim's briefcase in a work vehicle.

"(The) suspect admitted he took (the) check, but (is) unable to pay (it) back for now," he reportedly told the victim.

The victim doubts he'll get restitution, police said.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about these or other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department at (313) 886-3200.

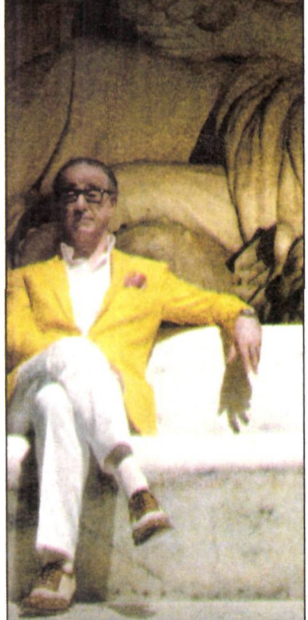
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Public Safety Reports

Second time

A 19-year-old woman from Grosse Pointe Park knew what to expect during a traffic stop when officers discovered one open bottle each of rum and hard lemonade in her gray 2005 Jeep.

"She stated she had an open intoxicants (violation) on her record," said an officer conducting the stop on eastbound Mack near Colonial Court at 2:02 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 12. "She stated she had a baggie in the vehicle that previously contained marijuana."

The woman passed field sobriety tests.

Officers confiscated the liquor and cited her for having open intoxicants in a motor vehicle.

Cart tossing

Two 15-year-old males from Grosse Pointe Park were caught shortly after 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, throwing shopping carts off the top deck of the parking garage on the Hill.

One cart nearly hit an elderly woman, a security guard across the street at Henry Ford Cottage Hospital reportedly told police.

Police arrested both youths.

Officers said one youth possessed 5.2 grams of marijuana; the other had an apple carved into a marijuana pipe.

Flashes knife

A 14-year-old Farms male is accused of stealing another boy's red, \$300 Dr. Dre Beats headphones during a street sale gone bad behind Brownell Middle School between 1 and 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31.

The alleged victim, also

14 and from the Farms, reportedly gave chase until the thief threatened him with a 6-inch knife.

The victim didn't tell his parents of the incident until Friday, Jan. 10, leading to a police report being filed.

The knife is bronze or copper colored, with a curved point and holes on the top of the blade, the victim told police.

Potted

Police confiscated .3 grams of marijuana from an 18-year-old Lathrup Village man, caught driving the wrong way on Fisher, a one-way street, from Ridge to Kercheval at 12:04 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7.

He reportedly admitted smoking the drug six hours earlier.

Officers didn't arrest him. They took him to headquarters to arrange a ride home by someone else.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department at (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Slow reaction

The alleged drunken driver of a 2002 Dodge Ram took two blocks to realize a patrolman was trying to pull him over at 1:10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, for speeding 48 mph on southbound Lakeshore.

"(I) observed no effort to elude, just not stopping," according to the officer's report.

During the stop at Willow Tree Place, the

man was arrested for having a .114 percent blood alcohol level.

Broken pipe

Public safety officers responding to a fire alarm encountered large amounts of water, not smoke, pouring from a house in the 600 block of Lakeshore.

A broken water pipe set off the alarm at 2:49 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10.

No one was home. A member of the owner's family, notified by a representative of the alarm company, arrived on scene shortly after officers.

Officers closed the water supply, shut off power and arranged for a clean-up crew.

Lights out

A 911 caller warned police at about 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, of a male driver weaving a 2013 Lincoln MKZ "all over" eastbound Lakeshore and flashing the car's headlights.

Officers pulled over the suspect, a 61-year-old City of Grosse Pointe man, on northbound Vernier near city hall.

"(He) stated he had his car in for service for an electrical problem, but was not sure if the headlights were on and he was trying to make sure they were on," according to a police report.

Police arrested him for drunken driving. His blood alcohol level measured .09 percent, they said.

Crash bang

During the snowstorm Sunday, Jan. 5, a couple of motorists received crash courses in navigat-

ing the slippery left-hand curve in the 1100 block of eastbound Lakeshore.

At about 11:30 a.m., the driver of a Ford Focus skidded off the road and knocked down a street light.

At 12:04 p.m., the driver of a Volkswagen hit the back of the scout car of a patrolman investigating the first wreck.

There were no injuries.

The scout car, new last year, is damaged but drivable.

Super drunk

A super-drunken driver drove onto the Lakeshore median near Stillmeadow at 10:51 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, and passed out, according to police.

A patrolman found the man slumped against the steering wheel of a 2006 Honda Accord, its front tires over the curb.

The man, 32, of Columbus, Ohio, was unconscious but had his foot on the brake.

His blood alcohol level measured .312 at the scene. During subsequent tests at headquarters, it measured .36 percent.

The latter figure is 4.5 times the legal maximum to operate a motor vehicle in Michigan.

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about these or other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety Department at (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Park

Take your purse

A woman left her purse on the front seat of her car while she entered a store on Kercheval at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. When she returned, the purse, containing credit cards and cash, was missing.

Burning bug

Police are blaming an overheated rear windshield wiper motor for a fire in a 2009 Volkswagen that occurred at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9 at Kercheval and Cadieux. Officers arriving on the scene were able to put out the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher carried in scout cars.

'Tis the season

A snowblower was removed overnight Saturday, Jan. 11 from a garage in the 900 block of Lakepointe.

Attempted B&E

Officers responding to an alarm at 5:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, sounded from a building in the 16000 block of Mack found the rear door open. A screw had been removed from a sliding bolt, but it does not appear entry was gained. Nothing was missing from the building.

—Kathy Ryan

Report information on these or other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park public safety at (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Laptops taken

Police were called the morning of Thursday, Jan. 9, to an office on Mack after an employee coming into work discovered two laptops were missing. They had been in the office when the employee left the night before. Police suspect the overnight cleaning crew and will follow up.

—Kathy Ryan

Report information on these or other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods public safety at (313) 343-2400.

New year, same issues

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — One of the city's most persistent lawbreakers is beginning the new year as he began the old, in jail facing further prosecution.

So little has changed during the last 12 months that this account of the latest cases against Mark Joseph Fragel nearly parallels one from the Jan. 24, 2013, Grosse Pointe News.

One difference is Fragel is one year older, 30, but seemingly with prospects just as dim.

"There's nothing inaccurate about that," said Detective Lt. Richard Rosati, head of the Grosse Pointe Farms detective bureau.

Farms Municipal Judge Matthew Rumora on Dec. 18 ruled there was enough evidence against Fragel to forward his prosecution for larceny and home invasion to Wayne County Circuit Court.

Five counts stem from an alleged overnight spree Jan. 12, 2013, of breaking into parked cars in the neighborhood of his parents' house near the Hill.

"When there's larcenies from autos in the Ridge, Kenwood, Lewiston and Moran area between Charlevoix and Ridge, you round up the usual suspect," said Rosati.

Fragel is transported to court from his Michigan Department of Corrections cell in Jackson.

He's nearing the end of an 11-month sentence, begun early last year, for parole violation.

Charges and maximum possible sentences from the January crimes are:

- ♦ home invasion 1st degree, a 20-year felony;
- ♦ two counts of larceny from a motor vehicle, both 5-five year felonies,
- ♦ breaking and entering a motor vehicle to steal property worth less than \$200, a 93-day misdemeanor and

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- JARLSBERG SWISS CHEESE CHUNKS** \$5.99 LB.
- IMPORTED ITALIAN PARMIGIANO REGGIANO** \$12.99 LB.

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

DTE needs to help Woods residents

We understand and certainly understand the frustration of Grosse Pointe Woods City Administrator Skip Fincham.

Grosse Pointe Woods was dark for more than 1,000 residential and business customers on Sunday. While it wasn't snowing as it was a week before, and it wasn't as cold as the double-digit-below-zero temps we had early last week, it disrupts everything.

People with medical conditions, residents of nursing care facilities, businesses who are tired of spending and losing thousands of dollars are all tired of excuses and promises - or in this case - a lack of an excuse or promise.

In this issue, a story tells of Fincham's frustration on behalf of the residents and business owners he represents. Even more frustrating than normal, his e-mail went unanswered for two days.

DTE's commitment to upgrade the guts of the system, along with clearing lines, doesn't seem to be enough at this point.

And yes, full disclosure, we are in the quadrant of Grosse Pointe Woods that's having the problem.

Each power outage costs us time and money, just like it does with the dozens of businesses along Mack that are affected.

When there's an ice storm, or high winds, or heavy snow, there are going to be issues. But Sunday had none of that. And the last long outage, on a muggy 90 degree day Sept. 10, also didn't have a storm to blame.

The leaders, residents and business owners deserve answers. The dance has gone on for years and it's not fair for those who live here and do business here to lose time and money because power issues persist.

We'll let you know what DTE says. We're waiting for their answer.

Plowing, too

The Lakeshore plowing issue came to the forefront with last week's storm. Storm Ion, according to the Weather Channel. Is it annoying we now name regular storms? January has had Hercules and Ion.

We'd rather we stick to names like the Great Ice Storm of 1998 or the Blizzard of 1978.

That way, 40 years from now, we will remember the year of the event. Because it's part of the name. Do we have to complicate everything by naming it?

Back to the issue. Ion clogged Lakeshore, which like Mack, is a county road. The county, Pointe officials said, doesn't give high priority to the Pointes after storms. They are taxed with cuts.

Which is why Farms Manager Shane Reeside's suggestion of the county paying the city to do the work makes perfect sense. Contract it out, but don't expect the cities to do it for free. The wear and tear on equipment certainly isn't free. Especially with a glimpse at the pothole season we have coming.

Chamber event

We're again a proud media sponsor of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce's annual membership dinner.

This is the ninth year for the dinner and Pointe of Distinction Awards Ceremony. It begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 p.m. and dinner and the awards at 6:30 p.m.

It will be at the Country Club of Detroit and cost is \$50 per person with a cash bar.

For more information, visit grossepointechamber.com or call (313) 881-4722.

Auto show

Take the time to visit the new Cobo and the auto show. There are some amazing vehicles to see this year.

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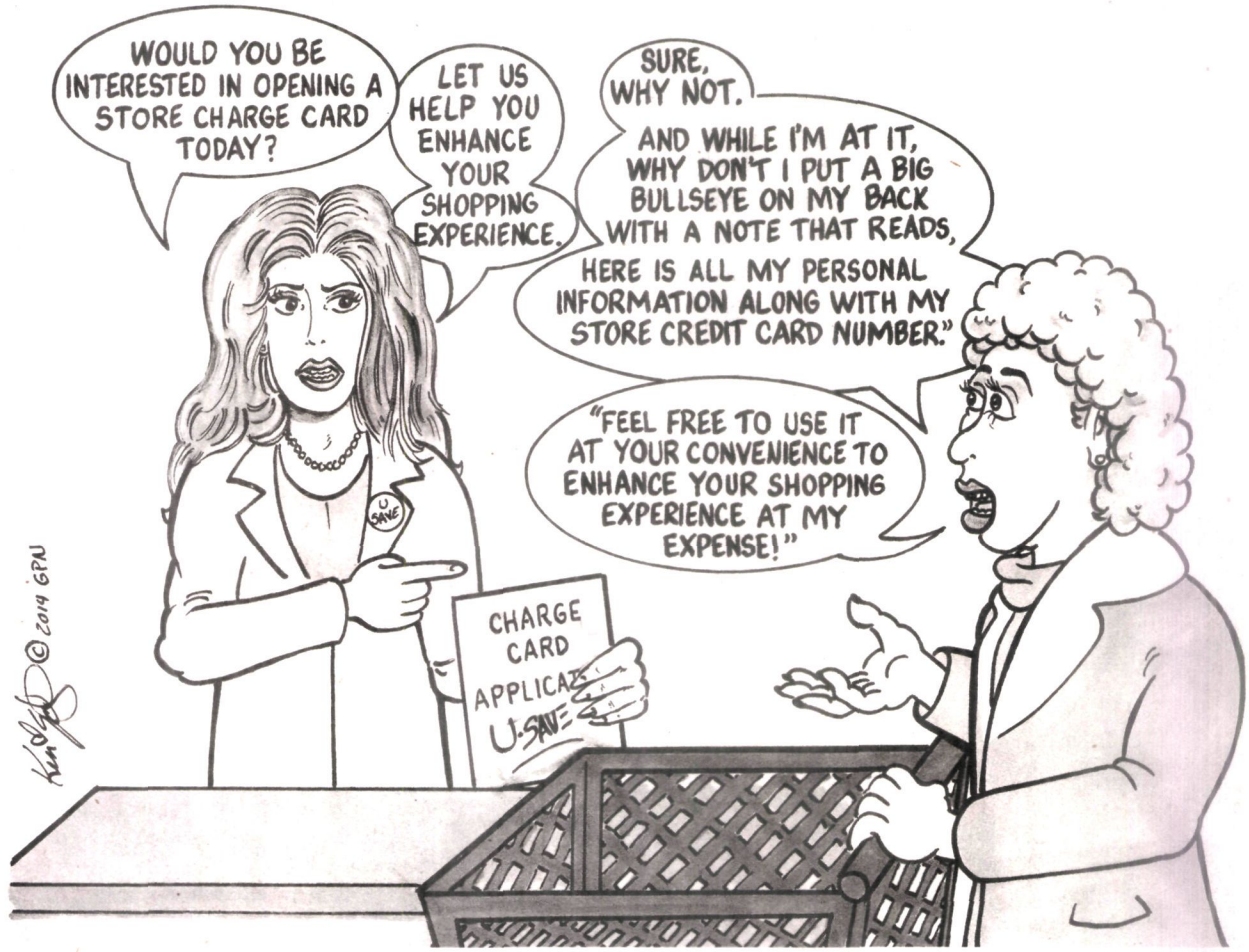
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LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. 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.

Community theater

To the Editor:

For the first time in our 66-year history, Grosse Pointe Theatre held their first holiday show, "White Christmas."

It was attended by more than 3,000 patrons and was a resounding success.

The community has sent us a strong message to continue this holiday show tradition. We carefully packed away the costumes and set, and we plan to perform it again next year.

We not only owe thanks to our wonderful community, but to two other organizations.

First is the Grosse Pointe News. In addition to sponsoring all our shows over the past three years, they went over and above to ensure "White Christmas" received a tremendous amount of promotion.

Grosse Pointe Theatre could not ask for a better endorsement of all we do and are honored they have chosen to partner with us.

Secondly, tremendous thanks to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial — the home of Grosse Pointe Theatre's performances. Their leadership and staff continue to provide our theatergoers with a memorable theater experience in a beautiful venue.

Their staff went over and above to fit our "White Christmas" performances into their highly sought-after holiday season.

Grosse Pointe Theatre members are a passionate group of more than 400 volunteers who take pride in fostering the performing arts in our community.

Your support helps make possible the work of actors, directors, musicians, dancers, technical experts and anyone who loves theater.

The beauty of community theater is that it is the people's theater. We are your friends and neighbors, sharing our passion with our wonderful patrons.

To our community, again, thank you for your patronage.

Please continue to support all the art organizations in Grosse Pointe. We have it all right here in our backyard.

MARCIA SCAVARDA
Executive Director
Grosse Pointe Theatre

Property taxes

To the Editor:

Just got my winter tax bill and note the biggest chunk is for schools.

On top of this, voters and property owners are being asked to authorize a 23 percent school tax increase in February.

I don't think this \$50 million proposal is responsible planning by our public school administration. A fraction of that amount would fix a lot of our streets.

By voting "No" on Feb. 25, we can encourage the administration and board to consider smarter ways to stay up-to-date. After all, property taxes for Grosse Pointe schools are already double the statewide average.

Remember, as property taxes rise, a prospective buyer of your home will qualify for a smaller mortgage, and make a lower offer.

JAY HACKLEMAN
Grosse Pointe Park

Thanks local business community

To the Editor:

The members of Grosse Pointe Woman's Club wish to acknowledge and thank the generous local business

community — which consists of the five Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and St. Clair Shores — for all the support they gave Grosse Pointe Woman's Club for the Nov. 20 scholarship benefit luncheon, held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Without the beautiful items and practical gift cards donated to the group, the "Bag Auction" would not have been nearly as successful.

The fun this benefit auction gave to the ladies of the club was directly the result of noble owners of businesses wanting to be part of a program that provides scholarships — one to a graduating senior at Grosse Pointe North and one to a graduating senior at Grosse Pointe South.

Since raising funds to provide scholarships to two seniors at each of the public high schools in Grosse Pointe is one of the main missions of the club, the tremendous support that was afforded the group seems to require much more than a mere thank you.

However, the business community can be assured Grosse Pointe Woman's Club was, and is, thrilled and delighted as well as filled with a deep sense of gratitude, for the involvement of the businesses in our community — thank you.

NILA L. CARTER
Grosse Pointe Woman's Club Corresponding Secretary

I SAY By Ann L. Fouty

Petals and buckets



It's true — every inch of the Rose Parade floats, that can be seen, is covered with a flower, seed, bark, vegetable, fruit or leaf.

Our guide left us standing behind the yellow line in the Ridgmont warehouse in Pasadena, Calif.

My husband and I watched while dozens of people scurried here and there to create works of art while we idly stood shifting from one foot to another. We were anxious to help create a float that would be seen all over the world as part of the 125th annual Rose Parade.

This was on my bucket list — to be a Petal Pusher and help decorate a float for Pasadena's famous Rose Parade. I wanted to witness how it was

done — how an idea went from design to fabrication to a stunning sight that traveled 5 1/2 miles on Colorado Boulevard and Orange Grove under the blue Pasadena skies. I wanted to see action of how flowers were transformed from a blossom of beauty to a massive collection of colorful imagination. Dressed in jeans and a not so flattering blue Petal Pusher sweatshirt, my hands were itching to paste a flower or two. I was ready to participate in a Decorating Day when the floats are transformed from vision to reality.

Decorating Days are the final step in the

year-long process of the float's creation. They are manned by both paid staff and volunteers who work in eight-hour shifts from the morning of Dec. 26 until the last flower is carefully placed the night of Dec. 31. Floats are judged in the warehouses and then roll down residential streets to await the new year's sunrise.

We reported to work in a barn housing 13 Rose Parade floats in various stages of completeness.

After 20 minutes, I said, "Let's just go and find someone who needs help. That table has only four people."

My husband and I

were accepted at the table working on the eHarmony float. We were to cut floral tape to secure three florist sticks to a cymbidium orchids. We also carefully wrapped 10 stems of orchids in cotton and cellophane, laid them in a box. Then went to get more long, flat boxes and boxes of cymbidium orchids from the flower tent.

The tent stores thousands and thousands of flowers in a rainbow of colors and then some. Flowers are boxed or stored in pails or vials of water and labeled for specific floats.

The six of us had 50 boxes, 10 orchid stems to a box, in winter white and chili pepper red, to complete. At the end of our shift, 12 boxes were complete. It was tedious work. That's probably why volunteers are re-

I SAY: Decorating Rose Parade float

Continued from page 6A

cruited. Yet, the self-assignment turned out to be more than volunteering to tape, repackage the fragile flowers and tote boxes back and forth, it was the people we met. Nancy was from Orange County. She had been volunteering for seven years and would be riding on the first float of the parade, thus fulfilling one of her bucket list items.

A father-daughter team were on their second day of volunteering. Dad, Jim, was from Burton, a Flint suburb, and Diane, the daughter, from Indianapolis. A ticket to California was his Christmas present. Being a Petal Pusher was a bucket list item.

Kate, a retired school counselor hailing from Kentwood, had taught with my cousins. Of course, she had. Our family plays a version of "seven degrees" with my cousins because of the many people they know and we stumble upon during our travels. This was Kate's 28th year of volunteering as a Petal Pusher. We got along famously, despite her having graduated from the University of Michigan.

We took two breaks — one scheduled and one unscheduled. The first was a half hour for lunch and the second was to witness a ceremony. A couple renewed their vows on the uncompleted eHarmony float. The two met through eHarmony and much to the woman's surprise, a Methodist minister came to renew their vows on their 10th anniversary that December Sunday. However, there were orchids to tape and boxes to fill, it was back to work for the cymbidium orchid Petal Pushers.

The following day, we

were back for a four-hour shift. My husband's stint on the RFD-TV float was holding a ladder while handing flowers up for placement in a hanging basket.

My four hours was to glue white carnation petals on the "ove" of "Everlasting Love" on the front of the eHarmony float.

Sticky glues lives up to its name. I got sticky glue all over my hands, in my hair and on my Petal Pusher sweatshirt while securing white petals on the top and three sides of those letters. The back of the letters were covered with ground up poppy seeds.

It's true — every inch of the Rose Parade floats, that can be seen, is covered with a flower, seed, bark, vegetable, fruit or leaf.

Did you see the eHarmony float?

Due to mechanical trouble, it was at the end of the parade so not many people actually saw my handiwork. That's OK. I can tell you the story and make a check mark on my bucket list.

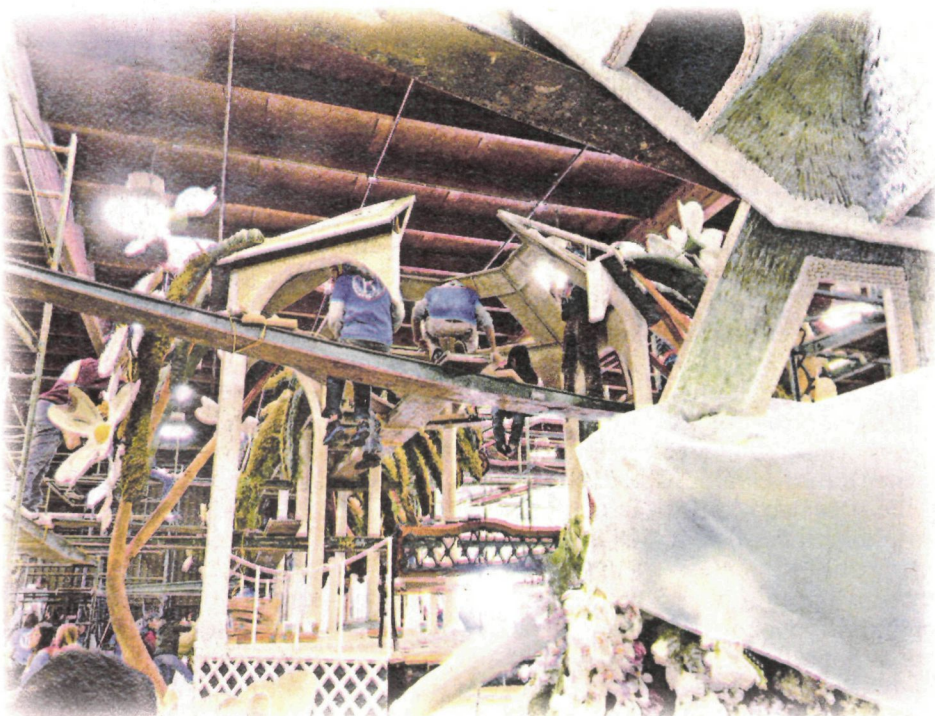


PHOTO BY ANN L. FOUTY



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS J. FOUTY

TOP: The eHarmony float in the process of being covered with flowers prior to the 125th Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif. ABOVE: Ann L. Fouty, center, glues white carnation petals on lettering for the eHarmony Rose Parade float.

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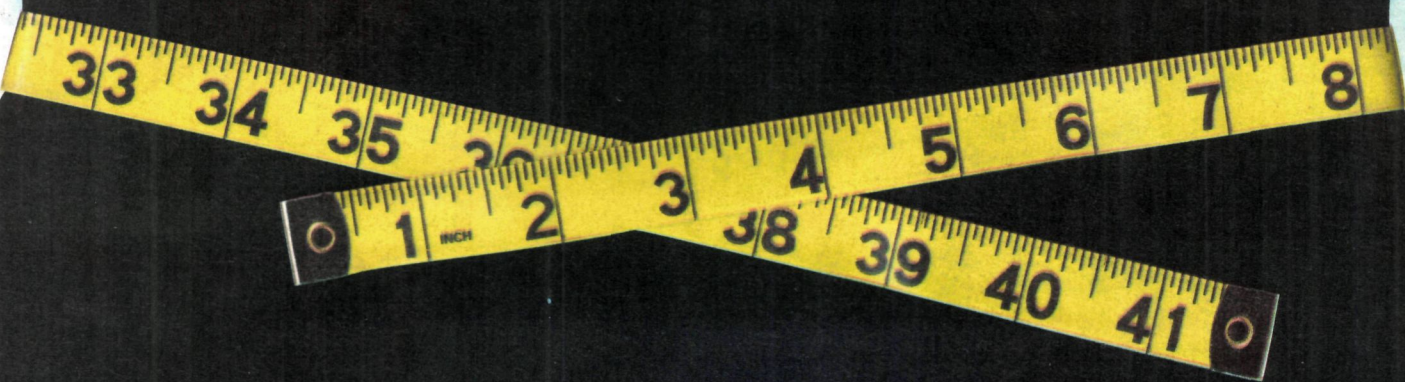
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8A | NEWS



Award winner

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Musial, left and right, accepted the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission's business recognition from the Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Palmer Heenan. Musial's, business, the Wm. J. Hair Harbor, 1513 Kercheval, was restored to its original look, matching the neighboring building.

Church events

Christ Church

Christ Church Grosse Pointe's Schola choir sings at the 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19. Evensong service. The public can attend.

Free throw championship

Boys and girls, ages 10 to 14, in Grosse Pointe and nearby communities can participate in the 2014 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw championship at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the gym of Our Lady Star of the Sea School gymnasium, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Admission is free. A parent or guardian must sign the registration form.

Each contestant attempts 15 free throws

and is receives a certificate of participation. Winners in each age and gender group receive engraved plaques as champions of the event.

One winner in each group advances to a regional competition Monday, Feb. 24, at Everest Academy, Clarkston.

Basketballs with the K of C logo are raffled at no charge.

Prayer service

The annual week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an Ecumenical celebration at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church with the theme "Has Christ Been Divided?"

Episcopalian, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian denominations gather for

special music for Solemn Vespers provided by Christ Church Grosse Pointe choirs and St. Paul on the Lake.

The Very Rev. Patrick Halfpenny of St. Paul presides at the service while Rev. Peter Henry of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church reads the lesson and the Rev. Drew Van Culin of Christ Church delivers the homily.

The public can attend. A dessert reception follows the service.

First English

Church youth are taking orders at (313) 884-5040 for a Super Bowl sub sandwich sale through January. Pickup is Sunday, Feb. 2, at the church.

Proceeds benefit the youth work camp trip to Racine, Wis., in June.

WATER:

Continued from page 2A

decreased from 83.4 million cubic feet per year in 2005-2006 to 65.3 mcf in 2012-2013, according to municipal figures.

Estimated consumption during 2013-2014 of 67 mcf during has been reduced to 65 mcf, based on consumption and weather conditions during the first five months of the current fiscal year, starting July 1.

"If consumption levels remain fairly steady and there is not a significant City of Detroit sewage rate increase, these increases should take care of the deficit and provide some funding

for improvements," Lamerato said.

He forecast the rate hike last December when filing a deficit elimination plan with the state.

Michigan requires cities with proprietary funds having negative net assets to file a deficit elimination plan with the treasury department.

The Farms' plan includes:

- ◆ a mid-year rate increase and
- ◆ possibly lowering the Farms sewage treatment bill to Detroit by containing more storm water and run-off.

As reported in December, Lamerato said the value of water and sewer fund's unrestricted net assets fell

below capital assets due to negative cash flow, namely:

- ◆ higher legal and engineering costs associated with two instances of basement flooding in 2012 and
- ◆ lower sales of water due to this year's rainy and mild summer.

Lamerato expects legal and engineering costs to abate due to completion of improvements to the sewage pumping station.

Overall water sales may pick up this year because the Farms now supplies the County Club of Detroit, which used to buy water from Highland Park.

The City and Farms share a water intake in Lake St. Clair about 1/4 mile off Pier Park.

TEMPS:

Continued from page 3A

"Now, they have single-digit temperatures and pipes bursting everywhere," Homminga said.

Hot weather also stresses the Farms' underground water distribution network.

The Farms purifies water drawn directly from Lake St. Clair. Cold lake water lowers the temperatures of pipes, which radiates to the surrounding soils, causing shifts.

"Cold water cooling off a pipe has more of an affect in 90-degree weather," Homminga said.

It's been an average

winter for water main breaks in the Farms — so far, according to Terry Brennan, director of public service.

"I know of four in the last week," he said.

"We tend to get more breaks in spring, when the ground starts thawing," Homminga said. "We have to wait and see. We have February and March yet."

ISSUES:

Continued from page 4A

◆ habitual offender, 4th offense, carrying the unlikely consequence of life in prison.

"It never happens," Rosati said.

The home invasion results from one car being in an attached garage, considered part of a dwelling as opposed to an unattached garage, much less cars parked in driveways or curbside.

Although the break-ins were in January, and

Fragel was the only suspect, prosecution was delayed while the Michigan State Police crime lab processed DNA evidence linking him to the crimes.

"It took almost 10 months to develop DNA from blood found on a cell phone in a car on Lothrop and in a car in a garage on Kenwood," Rosati said. "A reasonable person would believe that if blood from one matches blood from the other, he probably went on a spree."

Fragel's criminal record includes 12 felony

convictions since 2006 for crimes with combined maximum sentences totaling 40 years.

Offenses include multiple larcenies from autos, multiple assaults of police officers, drug crimes and drunken driving.

Prior to his current incarceration due to violating parole by testing positive for cocaine, he lived in a residential hotel in downtown Detroit near the Fox Theatre.

"A month or so before, a 20-some-year-old girl died in his apartment of an overdose," Rosati said.

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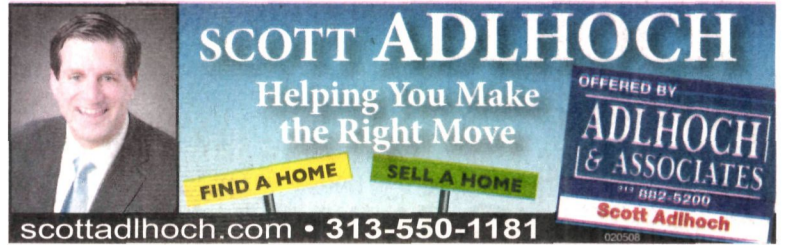
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Set the stage to beat winter blues

Editor's note: This is the second of a four-part series on improving health and lifestyles.

By Ann L. Fouty
 Features Editor

Welcome to winter. Living in a northern state, Michiganians are well aware there are more hours of darkness than light and more cloudy days than sunny. The thermometer keeps busy traveling between bitterly cold negative digits to above freezing double digits. The wind is blowing briskly through the ice-covered bare tree branches.

These set the stage for a case of winter blues and depression. The first is a form of depression, said Linda Hryhorczuk, a Beaumont Hospital psychiatrist and a child and adolescent therapist.

"It's a mild disorder," she said of winter blues. "Everybody gets down with day after day of gloom. People react differently. We are fragile and if circumstances are right, we can tip over."

To avoid the tipping point, she recommends paying attention to each aspect of life from food to exercise, literature, music and socialization and then recalibrate.

The winter blues can manifest as a loss of interest and energy, sleeping a great deal, withdrawing from the family, craving carbohydrates and finding it difficult to get up in the morning. At work, depression can be seen as a person having difficulty concentrating or completing a task.

"It can be cleared up when the weather changes," Hryhorczuk said.

Studies have shown residents of northern states, where cloud cover is more prevalent, are more prone to depression than those who live in southern states and closer to the equator.

The obvious solution is light therapy, an increase in Vitamin D.

"A light box uses the full spectrum (of light rays). A prescription is not needed. Sit 1- to 2-feet away from the box for 30 to 60 minutes a day," she said.

Hryhorczuk advised going outside to absorb natural light and Vitamin D and exercising to feel less stagnant.

Suzy Berschback, manager, Beaumont Community Affairs and Advocacy, Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe, takes her dog, Lucy for a walk.

"I try to get outside and take my dog for a walk at least once a day. My dog lifts my mood on a constant basis as she lives in the moment and reminds me of that. I also enjoy appreciating the beauty of the area we live in," she said.

Light therapy as a way to combat winter's depression was first reported in the early 1980s by psychiatrist Norman E. Rosenthal. He suspected

depression, or seasonal affective disorder, was linked to the lack of sunlight. For more than 20 years he conducted research for the National Institute of Mental Health and developed the use of light therapy as a treatment for SAD. Also, he found SAD was less severe for those who live closer to the equator and those who vacation in a sunny place.

Gender, those with a biological predisposition and stress are also factors contributing to symptoms of SAD, Hryhorczuk pointed out, citing information from Rosenthal's papers.

SAD research continues. Since the advent of light treatments, scientists have found a negative air-ion therapy releasing charged particles has shown a 47.9 percent improvement in the reduction of SAD symptoms in those using the electronic device.

Hryhorczuk goes on to say if you feel yourself slipping into a depressive state, analyze your life. Adjustments could be as simple as changing the type of literature read, the music style on the iPod or eating a more balanced diet. "Be aware. Be more vigilant," she said of not slipping into a slow winter lifestyle.

However, if the depression is more severe, she recommends a visit to a doctor or psychiatrist.

See a doctor when it is affecting your ability to work, family relations deteriorate and there is serious tension in the home, Hryhorczuk said.

"Seeing a physician can also rule out a physical illness that can make (itself) known when depression sets in. There may be something physically wrong."

If medication is prescribed, it is done so with deliberation.

"We need to be careful. We (doctors) don't do this lightly. Antidepressants can have side effects. Suicidal thoughts can increase," she said.

Additional solutions

"You have to force yourself to get out," she advised.

And that includes attending church.

"I view that as an asset," Hryhorczuk. Relationships formed, the service and involvement in church activities



Winter blues have been shown to be caused by lack of sunlight exposure.



Suzy Berschback walks her dog, Lucy, at least once a day to beat the winter blues.

provide an added dimension to a lethargic winter lifestyle.

"In a 2013 study, researchers at UCLA and the University of North Carolina reported that happiness levels have powerful effects on genes and our health," said Rev. Ben Van Arragon of First Christian Reformed in Grosse Pointe Park. "But there was a catch: the specific kind of happiness mattered a lot. The unselfishly happy, whose feelings of well-being involved a deep sense of purpose of life, had a strong expression of antiviral and antibody genes."

His suggestion here is to give and expect nothing in return.

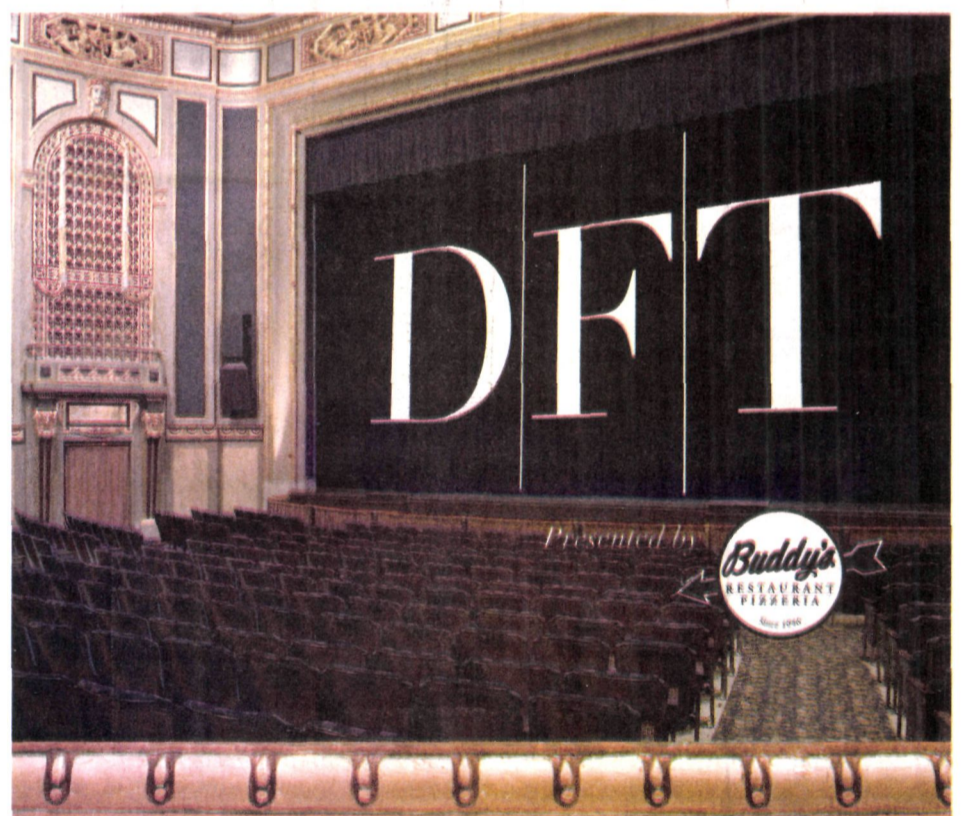
Becoming involved in church is one way to overcome the winter blues.

Having worked in her field for 40 years, Hryhorczuk suggests seeking a balanced life. Recalibrating, she calls it. Ways that can do that, include:

- ◆ Don't over indulge in caffeine or energy drinks.
- ◆ Limit carbohydrates and sweets that can add pounds and contribute to depression.
- ◆ Don't immediately seek medication to take care of the problem but do seek the help of a doctor and psychiatrist if symptoms are a concern.
- ◆ Socializing is an important component of chasing away the winter blues.

Bundle up, leave the house and enjoy a meal with friends, who are probably just as bored as you. Fill the meal with foods high in protein, vegetables and unprocessed foods.

"On Friday nights we cook dinner with another family, the Bodenorns," said Ann Nearhood, Beaumont Community Health Coalition coordinator. "The kids have a chance to play together and the parents have the opportunity to socialize. We truly look forward to our Friday nights together."



GPT opens year with a song

Grosse Pointe Theatre's 66th season continues with Rogers and Hammerstein's musical revue, "A Grand Night for Singing," opening with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, Jan. 19, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Additional shows are Jan. 23 through 26, 30, 31 and Feb. 1. Sunday shows are at 2 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m.

Tickets cost \$24. Group rates are available. For tickets and information call (313) 881-4004; buy tickets in person 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the theater office, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe; or on line at gpt.org. A \$3 per ticket surcharge for online purchases is charged.

Originally produced by New York's Roundabout Theatre Company in 1993, "A Grand Night for Singing" showcases the music of Richard Rodgers and the lyrics of Oscar Hammerstein II.

More than 30 songs, including "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "Hello, Young Lovers," "Shall We Dance?,"



PHOTO BY DALE PEGG

Grosse Pointe Theatre presents "A Grand Night for Singing," Jan. 19, 23 through 26, 30, 31 and Feb. 1 at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, featuring, in front, from left, David A. Roberts and Keith Austin Brown; standing, from left, Ellen Purrenhage Taber, Annie Kordas and Katie Crombe.

"Some Enchanted Evening" and "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" are performed.

Jan Michael of St. Clair Shores directs the music and choreography. The cast includes Katie Crombe of Troy, Annie Kordas of Grosse Pointe Farms, Ellen Purrenhage Taber of St. Clair Shores and Keith Austin Brown and David A. Roberts, both from Mount Clemens.

"Bartleby the Scrivener, A Story of Wall Street," is staged Feb. 20 through 23, 27, 28, March 1 and 2, 2014, at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford Activities Center. The comedy, "The Fox on the Fairway," is scheduled for March 9, 13 through 16, and 20 through 22.

April 5 and 6, GPT Youth on Stage presents "Around the World with Mary Alice," at the War Memorial.

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A LA ANNIE
By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

Serve a healthy dinner in 1 hour

Feeding your family a wholesome, flavorful meal can be a challenge week after week. Win that challenge with my recipe for pasta with chicken, broccoli and fresh garlic. With one pot and one pan you can put a heaping bowl of dinner goodness on the table, in less than one hour.

Pasta with Chicken, Broccoli and Garlic

1 lb. spaghetti (or other pasta)
2 broccoli crowns, cut into spears

2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1 inch pieces
8 or more garlic cloves, roughly chopped
2 tablespoons flour
olive oil
salt and pepper to taste
white wine or chicken broth for deglazing
grated Parmesan cheese and fresh chopped parsley for serving

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add broccoli and cook for 5 minutes. Use tongs to remove broccoli from boiling water. Set aside. Add pasta to boiling water and cook accord-

ing to package directions for al dente.

Meanwhile season flour with salt and pepper. Toss with the cubed chicken.

Heat a bit of olive oil in a wok or very large skillet over medium high heat. Add chicken, toss and cook until the chicken is crispy golden and cooked throughout. (This will take about 20 minutes or longer.)

Add some white wine to deglaze the skillet then add chopped garlic and lower heat just a bit. Add cooked broccoli spears to skillet and toss and cook for another 5 minutes or so.

Drain cooked pasta and give it a quick toss right into the skillet. Gently toss pasta with chicken, broccoli and garlic. Toss some grated Parmesan into skillet. Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Toss in a bit more olive oil if you like.

Serve straight from the skillet or in one of those huge pasta bowls.

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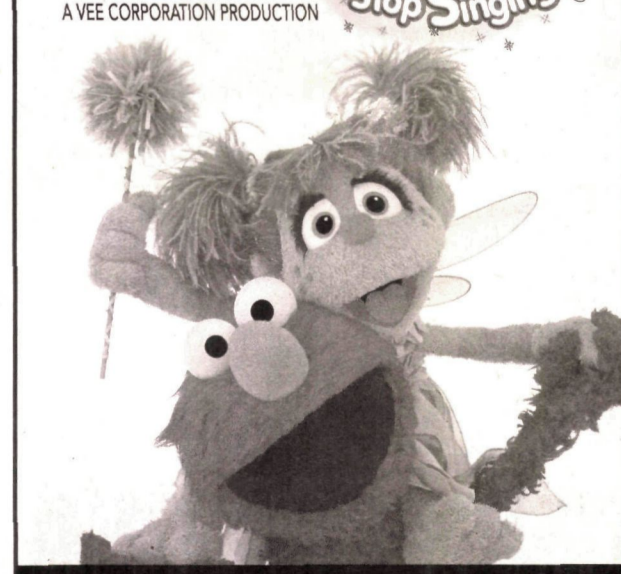
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ACTIVITIES: *Continued from page 2B*

Space is limited for the chili and cookie cook-offs.

For more information, pick up a Winterfest flier at the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center or call (313) 343-2408.

◆ Three- to 10-year-old boys and their moms can watch a movie, "Planes," together at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Community Center. Refreshments are served. Woods residents and their guests can attend, however all reservations must be made by the resident. The cost is \$4 per person. Pre-registration is needed by Jan. 29 and can be done by calling (313) 343-2408 8:30 to 5 p.m. weekdays.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary holds a boating and seamanship course from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Tuesday, Feb. 4, at West Marine, 10 Mile and Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

The \$35 course covers boat handling, rules of the road, legal requirements, trailering, VHF radio and Marlinspike seamanship. The cost includes the course textbook.

For more information, call (586) 771-4700.

War Memorial

Classes offered at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial include the following:

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equipment is provided for those aged 7 years and older. Participants should wear sneakers and exercise clothes. The cost is \$93.

Songwriting 101 — 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 21 through March 4. Composer and educator James Abud shows those 14 years and older how to write songs. The cost is \$90.

Tablemusik — 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 21 through Feb. 11. Youngsters ages 8-12 learn how to build musical instruments from items found at home, as well as writing and performing original compositions. The cost is \$47.

Kids Ballroom Dancing — 6:15 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 22 through Feb. 12. Young people, ages 9 to 13, learn poise and self-confidence with instructor Tino Maggio. The cost is \$43.

To register, call (313) 881-7511 or visit war memorial.org.

Programs are open to members and the public. A \$5 fee is added for registering on day class starts.

NEW ARRIVAL

Emilia Sofia Apess

Armando and Monica Apess of St. Clair Shores are the parents of a daughter, Emilia Sofia Apess, born Nov. 8, 2013.

Annette Apess is her older sister.

Armando and Isaura Blanco of Harlingen, Texas, are the maternal grandparents.

Paternal grandparents are Armando and Helen Apess of Grosse Pointe Woods.

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

South destroys Dakota, Stevenson Norsemen fall to Cousino

By Fletcher Sharpe
Special Writer

Junior starters Aliezza Brown and Cierra Rice combined to score 27 points, which was just enough alone to edge out the Sterling Heights Stevenson Titans 27-23.

When you add in the other scorers, South won 68-23 in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division contest.

"We played better. We got a lot of production out of the five-spot from (junior) Tamira McCoy-Motton, as well as (sophomore) Benna Ames," said head coach Kevin Richards.

Ames played especially well, going 4-of-6 from the field for 10 points, 12 rebounds and a block.

On a night where the team didn't shoot its best, the girls made up for it with defensive pressure as four of Stevenson's first five possessions ended in turnovers.

The Blue Devils would either steal the ball or one instance, the player just stepped out of bounds.

While leading the team in scoring, Brown and Rice both finished 4-of-11 from the field, with



PHOTO BY PAUL KANIA

South sophomore Anna Carmody, No. 4, is getting more comfortable with her role on the Blue Devils' varsity basketball team.

Brown canning a three earlier in the game. Rice had 14 points and Brown 13.

Senior Bre Andrews contributed eight points and seven rebounds to the cause off the bench, as well.

Ames finished with 10 points, while McCoy-Motton had eight and Natalia Engel had seven.

Earlier in the week, South had a chance to play a team it beat three

times last year, including in a Class A regional championship game, Macomb Dakota.

All three games were close, hard fought battles, but this one turned into a laughter as South blasted host Dakota 64-21.

It was 15-2 after the first quarter and 36-12 at the half.

The Blue Devils put an exclamation mark on the victory by outscoring the

Cougars 18-7 in the third quarter and 10-2 in the fourth as everyone played and chipped in.

Brown led three players in double figures, scoring 20 points, followed by Rice with 17 and Anna Carmody with 10.

Andrews just missed, scoring nine.

Grosse Pointe South improved to 3-0 in the MAC Red Division and 10-1 overall.

Norsemen fall to Cousino

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

A shorthanded Grosse Pointe North girls' basketball team lost 50-38 to host Warren Cousino last week.

Playing without three starters, Maria Liddane, Megan Lesha and Erin Armbruster, the Norsemen played well, but not well enough to beat the Patriots on their home court.

"I was very pleased with our effort and competitiveness," head coach Gary Bennett said.

The Norsemen led for most of the first half before falling behind 21-19 at the break. A poor third quarter put the Norsemen in a 38-20 hole they couldn't dig out of.

"I was happy to see us bounce back in the fourth quarter and finished up strong," Bennett said. "It was a great learning and growing experience for our younger players. This is because they were put into situations where they became the person who had to deal with the pressure and they couldn't just look to one of the three injured players to take care of business.

"All in all, I was happy that even though we were short-handed, we really competed hard against a very talented team."

Jayla Hubbard led the Norsemen with 13 points and seven rebounds, while Phoebe Dodge had eight points and three steals. Lucy Dodge chipped in with five points, five rebounds and four assists and Lauren Lesha had five points.

North was scheduled to play at Utica Ford earlier in the week, but school closings caused a postponement. The game will be made up Monday, Feb. 10.

GYMNASTICS

Ladies win Fraser Invitational

The Grosse Pointe United gymnastics team beat eight other squads last weekend to win the 2014 Fraser Gymnastics Invitational.

The team earned 138.75 points, which tied the all-time invitational record.

With several gymnasts in the starting lineup out of the meet with illness or other conflicts, Grosse Pointe's remaining gymnasts stepped up to lead the team to victory.

Isabelle Nguyen and Maria Nguyen finished first and second in the Division 1 All-Around competition, while Michelle Ellis took the Division 2 All-Around title.

Isabelle Nguyen won the vault and uneven bars with scores of 9.5 and 9.3, respectively, and Maria Nguyen won the floor

exercise in Division 1 with a 9.55.

Other gymnast placements in the Division 1 competition included: Maria Nguyen, second in vault (9.475), fifth on bars (8.525), and third on beam (8.4); and Isabelle Nguyen, second on floor (9.45) and beam (8.7).

Isabelle Nguyen's 9.5 in the vault was also a Fraser Invitational record.

In the Division 2 competition, Ellis placed sixth on vault (8.65), second on bars (8.05), and third on beam (8.1); Jennifer Gmeiner placed third on bars (7.975) and second on beam (8.2); and Gyanei' Johnson placed seventh on beam (7.55) and sixth on floor (8.5).

Brenna Bromwell (7.8 on floor) and Samantha Rogers (8.15 on vault) also competed well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTNEY SCHAFER

The Grosse Pointe United gymnasts are all smiles after winning the 2014 Fraser Invitational.



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Boys hockey

RIVALS

South beats North

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South played their only rivalry game of the season last week at City Ice Arena.

In front of a packed house, South walked away with a 4-0 win.

"We challenged the guys this week," South head coach Bobby McKillop said. "This is a rivalry game and I didn't have to get the guys pumped up because they know there are two games on the schedule we have to win, this one against North and the final game of the season (state championship contest).

"I'm proud of the guys. They bought into this program and it paid off with a nice win over our rivals."

North head coach Brad Case and his Norsemen came off their first two wins of the season the previous weekend and were riding a wave of confidence heading into the game.

Unfortunately for the Norsemen, they couldn't get a puck past Blue Devils senior netminder Andrew Wright.

They came close a couple of times, but Wright played well and posted the shutout.

The Blue Devils scored

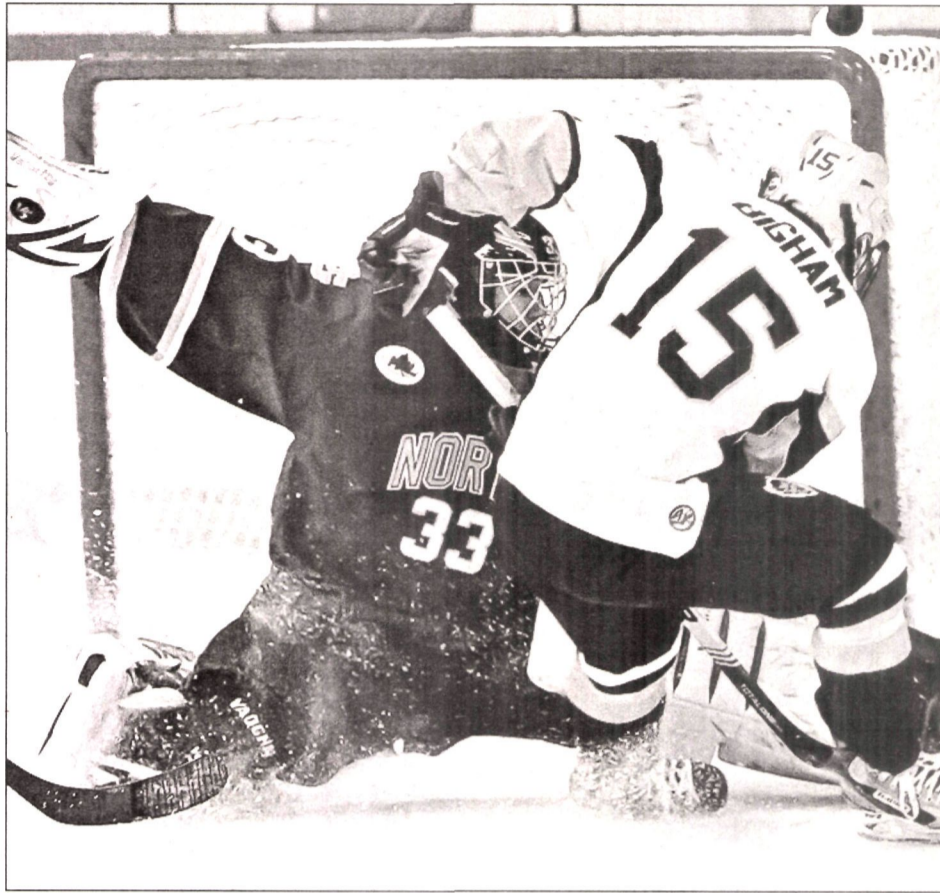


PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

South senior Andrew Bigham's shot was thwarted by North goalkeeper Josh Champney, but Bigham did not a goal and assisted on two others as the Blue Devils beat the Norsemen 4-0.

at the 3:16 mark of the first period when sophomore Griffin Brooks tallied, with senior Andrew Bigham and junior Cameron Mogk drawing assists.

Midway through the second period, South had a two-man advantage.

It took the Blue Devils only a few seconds to cash in on the opportunity as Bigham scored the power-play goal, with Brooks and senior Andrew Hyde getting the assists.

In the final period, the Blue Devils scored again on the power play.

This time, junior William Walker scored, with Bigham and senior

Kenneth Cervone netting assists.

To put the cherry on top of the sundae for the Blue Devils was sophomore Mark Cimmarrusti, who scored on a breakaway with less than 20 seconds in the game.

"This was a big, big win for us," McKillop said. "We're getting better with each game and this was a step in the right direction."

In league action last weekend, North lost 6-0 to host Trenton.

North dropped to 0-7 in the Michigan Interscholastic Hockey League and 2-11 overall.

South traveled to Allen Park for a Michigan Metro Hockey League

game and pulled out a 3-1 victory.

The Jaguars scored midway through the first period, but Bigham tallied a short-handed tally midway through the second stanza, tying it 1-1.

Sophomore Will Poplawski scored on the power play with five minutes left in the third period and the Blue Devils added an empty netter to win.

"We did not come with the same intensity as we did against North," McKillop said. "That has to change if we want to achieve our ultimate goal."

Grosse Pointe South improved to 5-0-1 in the Metro and 9-3-1 overall.

Swimming

RIVALS

Blue Devils defeat North

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South and host Grosse Pointe North opened the 2014 Macomb Area Conference Red Division dual meet slate last week.

In the division opener for both teams, South beat North 128-58.

In the opening event, the 200-yard medley relay, South's team of Connor Mallegg, Zachary Due, Tyler Leggat and Cameron Francis won with a time of 1:52.78, and North's squad of Joseph Cobau, Matt Stander, Patrick Turnbull and A.J. Owens finished second at 1:54.63.

South's Patrick Jackson won the 200-yard freestyle, posting a time of 1:51.47, followed by teammates Jacob Montague and Nick Yoo, who finished second and third with times of 1:54.09 and 1:56.30.

North's Danny MacAskill took fourth with a time of 1:59.76.

In the third event, Jack Martin of South edged North's John Cobau for the top spot with times of 2:21.07 and 2:22.77. Due was third and Turnbull fourth with times of 2:26.73 and 2:26.81.

The Blue Devils, under head coach Eric Gunderson, dominated the 50-yard freestyle, taking the top three spots.

Devlin Francis won with a time of 23.86, followed by Patrick

Waterston at 24.02 and Robby Koueiter at 24.22. North's Owens was fifth with a time of 25.59.

In the diving competition, the Blue Devils' Eric Addy won with 237.90 points and the Norsemen's Duncan MacAskill was second with 222.00 points. Erik Romer for South took third with 219.00 points, followed by North's Sam Shehadeh and Phillip Gusmano with 136.65 and 129.00 points, respectively.

Cameron Francis and Doug Graham of South finished first and second in the 100-yard butterfly, turning in times of 1:00.02 and 1:00.17. North's John Cobau was third with a time of 1:02.04.

The city rivals traded places in the 100-yard freestyle with South's Samuel Wilkinson and Due taking first and third, and North's Turnbull and Owens placing second and fourth.

The top four times were 54.46, 55.38, 57.78 and 58.30, respectively.

North's Danny MacAskill came back to win the 500-yard freestyle, swimming a time of 5:25.97. The next two places were by Devlin Francis and Martin with times of 5:32.36 and 5:39.79.

The Blue Devils won the 200-yard freestyle relay as Devlin Francis, Wilkinson, Jackson and Koueiter won with a time of 1:35.93, and their teammates, Montague, Martin, Graham and Yoo, placed second at 1:36.70.

North's Turnbull, Graham Eger, Danny MacAskill and Owens took third with a time of 1:46.05.

In the 100-yard backstroke, North's Joseph Cobau won and Michael Lemanske placed first and fourth with times of 1:03.33 and 1:10.54. South's Cameron Francis and Leggat placed second and third with times of 1:03.42 and 1:07.79.

Montague of South and Stander of North took first and second in the 100-yard breaststroke, turning in times of 1:08.05 and 1:13.06, while Jackson and Yoo of South finished third and fourth with times of 1:14.48 and 1:14.96.

South completed its sweep of the relays as Wilkinson, Leggat, Yoo and Jackson won the 400-freestyle relay with a time of 3:41.25, and South's Cameron Francis, Waterston, Spencer Rizer and Montague placed second at 3:49.63.

North's John Cobau, Eger, Dann MacAskill and Joseph Cobau took third with a time of 3:59.05.

Grosse Pointe South is 1-0 in the MAC Red and 1-1 overall, while Grosse Pointe North is 0-1 in the MAC Red and 3-2 overall after beating Utica Henry Ford 122-61 two nights later.

Danny MacAskill was a double winner for North, taking the 200- and 500-yard freestyle. Single winners were Duncan MacAskill in diving, John Cobau in the 100-yard butterfly, Turnbull in the 100-yard freestyle and Stander in the 100-yard breaststroke.

O'Connor said several other swimmers posted season-best times in both meets against South and Ford.

YOUTH SWIMMING

Record setter

The Grosse Pointe Gators swim club's Alexis Wenger competed in the Mid-States 14 and under All-Star Championships the weekend of Jan. 4 in Indianapolis.

This meet has all-star teams from Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio come together and compete at the Indiana University Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI.

Wenger dominated the pool in the events she swam. She broke meet record in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:04.38 and 200-yard breaststroke with a time

of 2:22.95.

She also swam the breaststroke leg of the 200-yard medley relay, which finished first for Team Michigan. She competed in the age group consisting of 13- and 14-year-olds.

The Grosse Pointe Gators swim club is a competitive affiliated with USA Swimming, which competes out of Grosse Pointe South High School.

The club has swimmers ranging in age from 5 to 18.

For more information, visit gpgatorsswim.org.

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Girls hockey

RIVALRY

North,
ULS
beat
SouthBy Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe South opened the second half of its schedule with road games against city rivals University Liggett and Grosse Pointe North last week.

Unfortunately for the Blue Devils and head coach Joe Provenzano, starting goalkeeper, sophomore Isabella Strickler, couldn't make the games due to a prior commitment. In stepped in new goalies Ashley Brieden, a sophomore, and Jada Baker, a senior.

They shared duties with Brieden starting against the Knights and Baker coming in midway through the second period. They made several nice saves, but in the end South lost 5-0 to Liggett.

They scored three goals in the first period to set the tone and added single goals in the second and third stanzas to post the victory.

Sophomore Jane Ninivaggi scored the first goal, with sophomore Molly Murphy and senior Mara Hillyer netting assists. Three minute later, sophomore Allison Stapleton tallied, with freshman Riley Marchin and senior Ania Dow getting assists. The final goal was scored by senior Danielle Lorant, with sophomore Grace Scarfone drawing the assist.

Scarfone scored at the 5-minute mark of the second period, with Lorant assisting, and Murphy scored into an empty net with 56.6 left in the third period, with sophomore goalie Olivia Portillo netting an assist.

Next for South was its league game at Grosse Pointe City Rink against Grosse Pointe North.

South lost a wild and



PHOTO BY BOB BRUCE

North junior Nicole Haggerty got into the scoring act for the Norsemen in their win over the Blue Devils.

wacky 8-5 decision to North. It was far different than the Blue Devils' close, defensive-minded 2-1 win over the Norsemen in the Liggett Invitational in December.

This time, Provenzano started Brieden between the pipes with freshman Cal McColl playing the second half.

For the Norsemen, junior Lauren Hartt was in net.

The Norsemen struck first with junior Nicole Haggerty tallying at the 13:07 mark, with juniors Karina Lucchese and Kallin Morris netting assists.

The Blue Devils answered when senior Tenley Shield scored at the 8:47 mark. Junior Libby Erickson had the lone assist.

It took the Norsemen only 23 seconds to regain the lead and they would never relinquish it.

Sophomore Elizabeth Gallagher scored the first of her four goals at the 8:24 mark, with Lucchese and sophomore Lindsay Gallagher assisting.

A little more than two minutes later, Lindsay Gallagher scored, with Elizabeth Gallagher and Morris drawing the assists.

The Blue Devils kept it close as sophomore Ginnie Martin scored in the first minute of the second period, with sophomore Emma Frame and Shield netting assists.

The Norsemen made it 4-2 at the 11:34 mark when sophomore Jen

Kusch scored. Lucchese and sophomore Kelly LaBarge had the assists.

In a game when you missed a goal if you blinked, the Norsemen scored again to make 5-2 at the 8:50 mark. This time, Elizabeth Gallagher scored, with Lindsay Gallagher and junior Cinnamon Aslanian getting assists.

After a nifty pass from Erickson to Shield in the neutral zone, Shield weaved her way through two Norsemen defenders and sent a shot into the top shelf to score and bring the Blue Devils within two goals, 5-3.

The Norsemen's Elizabeth Gallagher had the hat trick, scoring to make it 6-3.

North sophomore Caroline Bock scored an unassisted goal early in the third period to make it a 7-3 game and Elizabeth Gallagher rounded out the Norsemen scoring with a goal midway through the third period.

The Blue Devils' two third-period goals were scored at the 10:01 and 7:33 mark. Martin scored the first tally, with Shield getting an assist, and freshman Emma St. John sent a backhand into the net for a power-play goal, with Shield collecting another assist.

Liggett improved to 5-1 in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League and 7-1 overall, while North is 4-4 and 5-5, and South is 6-5 and 7-6.

More South sports

BOYS BASKETBALL, WRESTLING

Staying with it

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South boys' basketball team stretched its winning streak to six games after winning twice last week.

The Blue Devils won 64-51 at Port Huron Northern and returned home to blast Anchor Bay 67-35 in their **M a c o m b** **A r e a** Conference Blue Division openers.

"The guys are playing with confidence and hustling, which is paying off," head coach Troy Glasser said. "Our goal is to wear down the opposition and we have been able to do that."

In the road game against PHN, the Blue Devils led 23-16 at the half and used strong free-throw shooting in the second half to win.

The Blue Devils made 23-of-28 from the foul line to pull out the victory in their division opener.

Senior Dan Dixon led the way with 21 points and senior Gordie Post added seven as Glasser's squad used a balanced scoring attack to beat the Huskies.

Against Anchor Bay, the Tars couldn't miss a three-point attempt in the opening quarter.

When the final buzzer sounded for the first quarter, the Blue Devils held a slim 19-18 advantage.

Glasser made some defensive adjustments, cutting off the Tars' open three-point looks.

The adjustments paid huge dividends as the Blue Devils dominated the final three quarters.

The Blue Devils used their inside-outside offensive game to blow

away the Tars in the final three quarters.

They outscored the Tars 48-17 in the final 24 minutes.

Dixon had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and junior Sam Blanzly added 11 points to lead the Blue Devils.

Other scorers were seniors Jabari Burton with nine points and Darius Harris with eight.

Wrestling

Head coach Tony Cimmarrusti took several wrestlers to compete in last weekend's annual Blue Water Classic at Port Huron Northern.

Alex Manchester and Antoine Herrell earned fifth-place medals after netting three wins apiece.

Colin Brannagan, Earl Allard and Matthew Ground won two matches apiece, but fell shy of earning a medal.

More Liggett sports

BOYS HOCKEY, BOYS BASKETBALL

Positive results

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett boys' hockey team is back in the win column after last weekend's 5-2 win over Utica Eisenhower.

The Knights were coming off their first loss of the season against Saginaw Heritage.

Head coach Mike Hamilton's squad got stronger in each period and outlasted a big, physical Eagles team.

"It was a good game and we improved with each period," Hamilton said. "They were a good team, which was big and physical, but I thought out puck possession and quick passes created a ton of scoring chances."

The Knights held slim leads after the first two periods, 2-1 and 3-2. They played a strong third period and scored twice to put the game away.

Senior Jake Jerome

had the hat trick, while senior Lordanthony Grissom had a goal and assist.

Sophomore Kurt Solak also scored to back junior goaltender Luke Soyka, who stopped 25-of-27 shots to earn the victory.

Liggett improved to 10-1 overall.

Basketball

Senior Ian Clark scored 14 points to lead University Liggett boys' basketball team to a low-scoring 39-35 win over host Bloomfield Hills Roper last weekend.

It was the Knights' 1-0 in the MIAC.

Michigan Independent Athletic Conference opener.

Head coach Sidney Johnson and the Knights endured Roper's patient offense, but found themselves down 33-18 at the end of the third quarter.

The Knights outscored Roper 21-2 in the fourth quarter, thanks to eight points from freshman Jordan Peterson, two three-pointers by Clark and four key free throws down the stretch from freshman Jaren English.

Liggett improved its mark to 2-1 overall and 1-0 in the MIAC.

YOUTH BASEBALL

Register for baseball camp

Grosse Pointe South High School hosts the Dan Griesbaum Baseball School hitting, pitching and catching camps from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, and Saturday, Feb. 8.

The camps are for children in grades two through six and players will be grouped according to age.

Seventh and eighth graders may attend from outside the Grosse Pointe district due to Michigan High School Athletic Association regulations.

The cost is \$60 for each of the hitting, pitching and catching (the position of catcher) or \$100 if campers sign up for both days.

The waiver must be signed in order to participate and all players should bring their own bat and glove, and catchers should bring their own equipment.

All other equipment is provided.

The objective is to provide detailed instruction on the fundamentals of the game of baseball by teaching proper mechanics in a safe and positive

atmosphere. The camp is instructional, not recreational.

The camp directors are Dan Griesbaum, 31-year varsity baseball head coach at Grosse Pointe South, and Matt Reno, a 9-year assistant baseball coach at South.

Mail registration forms and checks payable to Dan Griesbaum Baseball

School to Dan Griesbaum, 1318 Edmonton, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236.

If anyone has a question, contact Griesbaum at (313) 884-7834 or (313) 999-3487 or at Dan.griesbaum@gpschools.org.

The brochure can be downloaded from gpsouthbaseball.com

website or at the Farms/City Little League or Park Little League websites.

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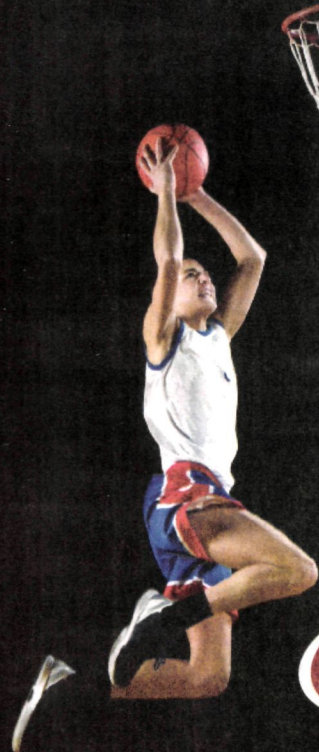
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4C | SCHOOLS

WCCCD enjoys relationship with local schools



Some winners were part of the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

A holiday tradition in the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods school districts is a source of pride for Wayne County Community College District.

The Holiday Family Tradition Art and Essay Contest was a success again, with WCCCD University Center Provost Sandra T. Robinson announcing dozens of winners in the Grosse Pointe News.

Between the two school districts, 386 elementary school students participated in the contest and each student received a certificate of participation from WCCCD. Thirty-four students were selected first-place winners and 36 received honorable mention. All

winners received a certificate and winner's badge. The first-place winners were asked to participate in the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, riding the WCCCD fire engines. The students received a WCCCD Santa hat and blanket on parade day.

According to Robinson, the essay contest started in 2006 with 12 winners and has continued to grow as participation becomes greater every year.

"The essays written by the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods students are extremely heartwarming," Robinson said.

"The topics varied from traditional holiday customs to heartfelt stories

of students who lost loved ones and missed the traditions they once experienced.

"This contest is exceptionally special to the Wayne County Community College District because of the invaluable, long-standing partnership with the Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods school districts. It's an honor and privilege to showcase the talent of the students. The contest and parade participation provide an annual opportunity to recognize the students, their parents, teachers and principals."

WCCCD announces the winners each holiday season in the Grosse Pointe News.

- Joe Warner

School notes:

New date

Weather issues last week forced rescheduling of 8th grade parent orientations for Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools.

The parent night for current 8th grade students (incoming freshmen next fall) has been rescheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 21 at both North and South high schools. Parent night begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be

held at the North Performing Arts Center and at South Auditorium.

For district and enrollment information, call (313) 432-3083 or visit the administration building at 389 St. Clair, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For course selection questions, contact the high school counseling center at (313) 432-3224 (North) and (313) 432-3519 (South).

Showcase

A technology showcase will take place 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Brownell's multipurpose room, 260 Chalfonte.

Samples of the pilot technology program in each school will be on display. Students and staff will demonstrate different instructional technology uses and talk about how the different devices aid instruction and enhance student learning.

We need your help

Teachers, principals, administrators and parents are encouraged to help the Grosse Pointe News when it comes to coverage of our schools. Story and photo ideas, along with

information and photos may be sent to jwarner@grossepointenews.com or call (313) 343-5590.

We appreciate your help getting information to our readers.



Off to Grand Rapids

The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association has chosen students from both Grosse Pointe South High School and Grosse Pointe Pierce Middle School for their 2013-2014 MSBOA All-State Orchestra ensembles.

This year there were more than 2,500 auditions and several students from the Grosse Pointe public schools have been chosen to participate in this event, taking their seat with some of the finest student instrumentalists from every part of the state.

Spencer Korejwo, (first chair viola), Jeannine Degnan (cello), and Joseph Boyle (string bass), will be representing Grosse Pointe South High School. Two other students from South High School, Jeffrey Matthews (string bass) and Connor Reinman (string bass) were named honorable mention. Amelia Abouljoud (viola) will represent Grosse Pointe Pierce Middle School. Two other students from Pierce Middle School, Isabelle Adams (violin) and John Kyle (string bass) were named honorable mention. This year's event is being held at the DeVos Place Convention Center, in conjunction with the Michigan Music Conference, Jan. 16-18 in Grand Rapids.

Top photo, from left, Jeffrey Matthews (string bass), Connor Reinman (string bass), Jeannine Degnan (cello), Spencer Korejwo (viola) and Joseph Boyle (string bass). Above, from left, Isabelle Adams (violin), John Kyle (string bass) and Amelia Abouljoud (viola).

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