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FEATURES

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Two South High girls favored to win national title **PAGE 1B**

SPORTS

Playing tough

Norseman basketball team continue winning streak **PAGE 1C**

Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 71, NO. 1, 26 PAGES
ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 71¢)

Michigan Press Association Newspaper of the Year

JANUARY 7, 2010
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Week ahead

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THURSDAY, JAN. 7

◆ A New Year's Resolution open house is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Beaumont Bon Brae Center, 22300 Bon Brae, St. Clair Shores. Personal trainers and group fitness instructors will answer questions and assist in finding the right fitness class. The event is free but registration is requested by calling (800) 633-7377.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8

◆ The Grand Marais Chapter of Questers No. 215 meets at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Lee O'Bryan. She discusses "masks." Members may bring a mask.

MONDAY, JAN. 11

◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meets at 7 p.m. in council chambers, 15115 E. Jefferson.

◆ Grosse Pointe board of education meets at 6:15 p.m. for a work session in the board room, 389 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ Teen Advisory Board meets from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the second floor of the Grosse Pointe Public Library Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call Pat McClary at (313) 343-2072, ext. 205. Attendees must be between 13 and 19 years old.

TUESDAY, JAN. 12

◆ Parcels Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, offers a new student parent meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. This is for current fifth grade students who will attend Parcels in the fall.

◆ Arthritis Foundation representative Barbara Spreitzer-Berent discusses the topic "Taking Care of Arthritis: Knowledge is Key" from 10 a.m. to noon at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. The event is free.

◆ Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce business before hours begins at 8 a.m. at Oppenheimer & Co., 63 Kercheval, Suite 300, Grosse Pointe Farms.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

◆ A preschool fair is from 6 to 8

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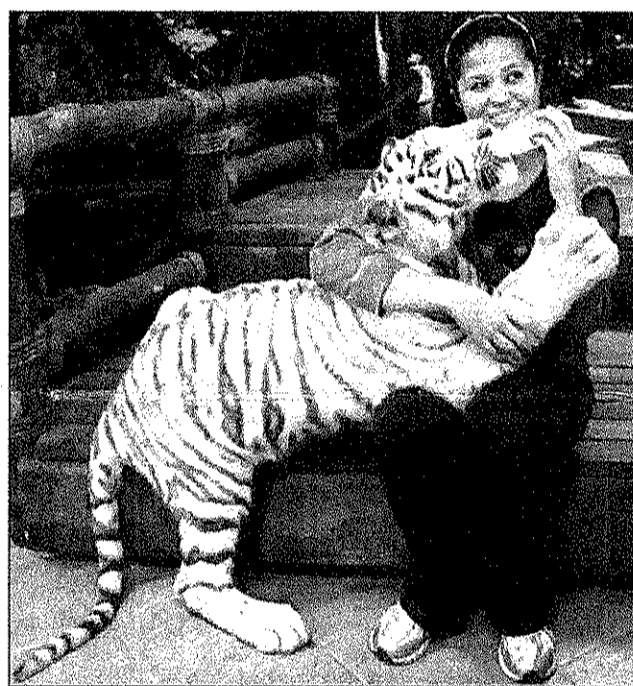
Ultimate Trip

By Ann L. Fouty
Features Editor

Grosse Pointe North High School graduate Aubrey Ling Hang bottle fed a rare white tiger and was up close and personal with a newborn panda and its mother. Hang relaxed in a fine hotel and slept in a primitive hut with a Thai family.

These experiences were part of an Ultimate Thailand Explorer competition undertaken last month by Hang and her boyfriend, Parker Lynch of Bloomfield Hills. As the youngest of five couples in the contest, Hang and Lynch used Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and blogs to share their adventures in Chiang Mai, a province in the northeast of Thailand. Sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the contest's goal is promoting

See **ULTIMATE**, page 8A



PHOTOS COURTESY AUBREY HANG

Top, Grosse Pointe Shores native Aubrey Hang and her companion Parker Lynch dangled from a bungee cord as part of their experiences in Thailand's Chiang Mai Province. Above, Hang bottle fed a white tiger.

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE

Bullet smashes skylight

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

The year began with a bang for Pat Vintevoghel.

And not because of the mystery novel she was reading in bed when the ball dropped on 2010.

Vintevoghel was settled in to the midnight serenade of distant celebratory gunfire when a bullet shattered a skylight in the hall outside her second-floor bedroom.

"I knew immediately what it was," she said. "I'd been laying listening to shooting going on, which was pretty continual. It goes on and on."

Her husband was on the first floor of their house in the 700 block of University between Charlevoix and Goethe in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"He thought I threw something down the stairs," Vintevoghel said. "It was a big bang. It was scary."

She jumped out of bed. A bullet and pieces of shattered safety glass littered the hall carpet.

"Glass went everywhere," Vintevoghel said. There were no injuries.

"Another couple of inches, it would have hit the roof and we wouldn't have been aware of it, maybe," she said.

Her husband's 911 call at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Jan. 1, took the pole in this year's City police blotter.

Officer Thomas Martindale responded and retrieved a .40 caliber slug.

See **BULLET**, page 8A

THE FIVE GROSSE POINTES

Great balls of fire

Attack would have triggered Wayne emergency team

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

If the bomber had succeeded in crashing an airliner entering Detroit's eastern airspace Christmas Day, the jet could have come down in the Grosse Pointes and landed municipal public safety departments in a crisis they aren't designed to handle.

"Nobody in the county would have the resources individually to handle any kind of major incident," said Dave Hiller, Grosse Pointe Park public safety director. To help a city deal with an overwhelm-

See **FIRE**, page 8A



PHOTOS BY BRAD LINDBERG

Teamwork

Lt. Eddie Tujaka of the City of Grosse Pointe public safety department breathes fresh air through a broken window of a house that caught fire late Sunday afternoon on Whittier.

Officers from the City and Farms helped Grosse Pointe Park counterparts fight the multiple-alarm fire Jan. 3 in the 1000 block of Whittier between Jefferson and St. Paul.

"It started in the attic and burned through the eaves," said City Chief James Fox. "When officers arrived, smoke was coming from all the eaves." City Sgt. Tony Railing was on patrol when he heard a park dispatcher broadcast the fire alert.

"The run came as a kitchen fire," Railing said.

He steered his cruiser toward the Park in case officers needed backup.

"They called a second alarm," Railing said. "That means we respond automatically."

Railing and City Lt. Paul Onderbeke helped fight the fire from inside the house. They went to the attic and used an ax to chop a hole in the roof to ventilate hot air.

"We cut a hole on the peak and knocked out the vents," Railing said. "It vented pretty well. Nobody was hurt."

"They did a good knock down," Fox said. At top, PSO Lisa Montocciolo after the fire. Note the hole in the roof, upper left.

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A look at 2009: New rep hits House floor running

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

Some stories can't be hung under the dateline of a single city.

The topics are either general or overlapping, have to do with the collective community or are of relevance one city just as much as the next.

Such topics in the Grosse Pointes during 2009 included legislative actions, such as those of the Pointes' new representative in Lansing. Also, as city officials searched for ways to cut costs while maintaining services, a proposal to reduce the community's fleet of fire trucks was rejected by public safety directors.

Here is the collective year in review:

January

◆ College political science professor turned State Rep. Timothy Bledsoe, D-City of Grosse Pointe, no sooner graduates from the school house to the State House when he hands out homework assignments to his colleagues.

Bledsoe announces plans to introduce a series of ethics bills intended to remake "our state government into one that is responsive to the people, accountable for its successes and failures and transparent in the workings of the political process."

February

◆ Bledsoe keeps a campaign



Daisy Bledsoe pins a gold state representative pin on her father's lapel, State Rep. Tim Bledsoe.

FILE PHOTO

promise by voting to reduce his and other elected state officials' salaries during economic downturns.

"I hope I don't have too many votes like that," Bledsoe said. He co-sponsors successful House legislation for the State Officers Compensation Commission to cut lawmaker's salaries 10 percent. Cuts also apply to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state.

◆ Bledsoe introduces an ethics package requiring full-time elected officials to disclose their sources of income. The measure also docks lawmakers' pay one day for each missed legislative session and makes former legislators wait two years until taking jobs in the state as lobbyists.

March

◆ A Southeast Michigan Council of Governments study begun at the request of the Grosse Pointes recommends expanding the suburbs' public safety mutual aid agreement to better share fire trucks and reduce redundant assets.

The five Grosse Pointes have a total of eight pumper fire trucks and three aerial trucks.

The SEMCOG study concludes that Pointe fire protection could be maintained or possibly improved while reducing apparatus by three or four pumper trucks and at least one aerial truck.

April

◆ Grosse Pointes' public safety chiefs douse SEMCOG's notion of watering down the fleet of aerial fire trucks.

◆ Rep. Bledsoe wonders if there will be consequences for voting against a bill backed by Democrat party brass.

"I'll be making my first vote against the leadership this afternoon," Bledsoe said. "I'm curious to see how that's going to go over."

He opposes part of a three-piece set of legislation to repeal, retroactive to 1996, a drug immunity law in Michigan.

"Can you imagine a legislature that undertakes a policy, then comes back and reverses that policy?" Bledsoe said. "That sends a disastrous message to businesses thinking of locating in Michigan. Businesses more than anything want a stable political environment. This is just a sign of instability."

◆ The State House passes Bledsoe's bill requiring former

legislators to wait at least two years after leaving public office before taking jobs in Michigan as lobbyists.

◆ An anti-tax Tea Party protest draws an estimated 1,700 people during a two-hour rally in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial parking lot.

The protest was among many nationwide.

"I can't stress my amazement at the turnout," said Terry Davis, a Farms resident, councilman and one of about a dozen organizers of the local event. "Many people, regardless of party affiliation, are unbelievably aghast at what is going on in Washington. It has nothing to do with Republicans or Democrats. This has to do with their spending our grandchildren's money."

June

◆ Three houses in the community receive historic plaques from the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

Plaques recognize the structures' historical or architectural value to the community, encourage their continued preservation and recognize the value of adaptive reuse.

The houses are the Emory Moran Ford House, 2 Woodland Place, City of Grosse Pointe; the Carl E. Schmidt House, 301 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms; and the Joseph and Catherine Vernier House, 755 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

July

◆ Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Service receives two new 14-seat computer buses.

PAATS will use the buses to

serve the transportation needs of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods residents needing rides anywhere within the eastside organization's service area, and often beyond.

"It allows seniors and disabled people to get out into the community and do things they need to do," said Sally Graham, executive director of PAATS, headquartered behind Harper Woods city hall.

The vehicles are acquired through SMART's Community Partnership Program.

August

◆ Now's not the time to reduce the collective Grosse Pointes' inventory of fire trucks, according to Dave Hiller, the Park's public safety chief.

Hiller opposes the findings of a SEMCOG study that one of the Pointes' three aerial trucks be removed from the fleet.

"Can we do it with two," Hiller said, referring to fighting the communities' fires with only two aerial trucks. "We can do anything we have to. Right now, we don't need to do that. Ten years from now, we might decide we don't need one."

◆ Budget constraints force Wayne County to pull its four deputies from the eight-man ACTION team, which stands for Arresting Car Thieves in Our Neighborhoods.

The team continues at half strength to focus on protecting the Grosse Pointes, Harper Woods and eastside Detroit.

Four remaining ACTION team members are a Grosse Pointe Park officer, a policeman from Harper Woods and two employees of an insurance collections bureau.

October

◆ Local police don't like Gov. Jennifer Granholm's idea of letting bars stay open an extra two hours to 4 a.m.

"I think it would cause more problems than it would help, especially with drunk driving," said James Fox, public safety director in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"If you're drunk at 2 a.m., you're going to be drunker at 4 a.m.," said Lt. Richard Rosati, head of the Grosse Pointe Farms public safety detective bureau.

November

◆ Election Day toy sales hint at what may come during the

Christmas gift-buying season.

Public schools were closed during the election, which means moms have a chance to take their children shopping.

At Village Toy Company in the City of Grosse Pointe, owner Ellen Durand said, "We were pleasantly surprised by the turnout."

Wendy Bacon of the Whistle Stop Hobby Shop in St. Clair Shores, said, "We were busier on Election Day than any day during the last month."

◆ Despite a tight budget, the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade features more bands than last year. Also marching is a contingent of Big Heads seen normally in the Thanksgiving Day parade in Detroit. An estimated 10,000 people line Kercheval to see the 34th annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade.

◆ Rep. Bledsoe and a group of other freshman legislators in the Michigan House of Representatives introduce a resolution expanding the state's legislative term limits to 14 years.

Bledsoe said current term limits (six years in the House, eight years in the Senate) are too short to give lawmakers experience necessary to get their jobs done.

"It's a tragedy to see a legislative institution crippled by inexperience," he said.

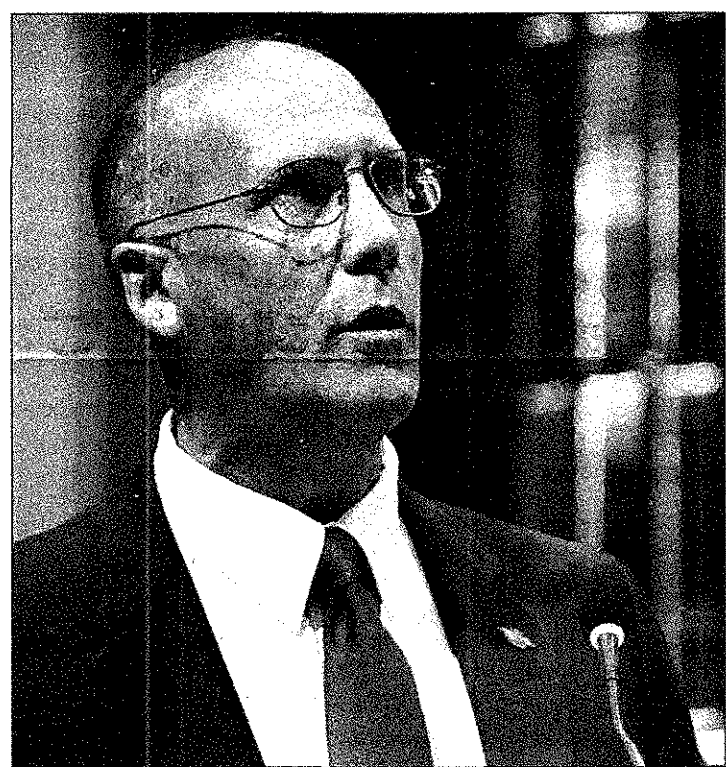
The freshman cite their own party leaders' inability to pass a budget on time during two of the last three years as examples of the need for more experience in Lansing.

December

◆ Vickey Bloom, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Public Library, cites the recession when explaining why plans have been shelved to expand the Central Branch in Grosse Pointe Farms.

"We probably expect (a) double-digit decrease in revenue this next year and possibly the year after," Bloom said. "Once the decreases are done, it could take as long as 14 years to recover."

"As a result of that — and the fact that if a new building were built tomorrow, we would need more funds to operate it than our current millage allows — the board voted to postpone further work on the funding of central and direct fundraising activities to supporting current operational activities and a library endowment."



State Rep. Tim Bledsoe

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WEEK AHEAD:

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13

Continued from page 1A

p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods branch, 20680 Mack. Area preschools' staff will answer questions. For more information, call Kathleen Gallagher at (313) 343-2074, ext. 206.

◆ Gale K. Rodgers discusses with senior citizens tips on staying healthy during the winter from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. The event is free.

◆ The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe, offers the class, "Managing Your Finances in Uncertain Times" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The event is free.

THURSDAY, JAN. 14

◆ A ninth-grade orientation for Parcels Middle School eighth graders is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Grosse Pointe North High School cafeteria, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ "Stealing Buddha's Dinner" by Bich Minh Nguyen is the topic of the Grosse Pointe Public Library's adult book discussion group at 7 p.m. in the Woods branch program room, 20680 Mack. Peter Axe is the presenter. To register, call (313) 343-2072.

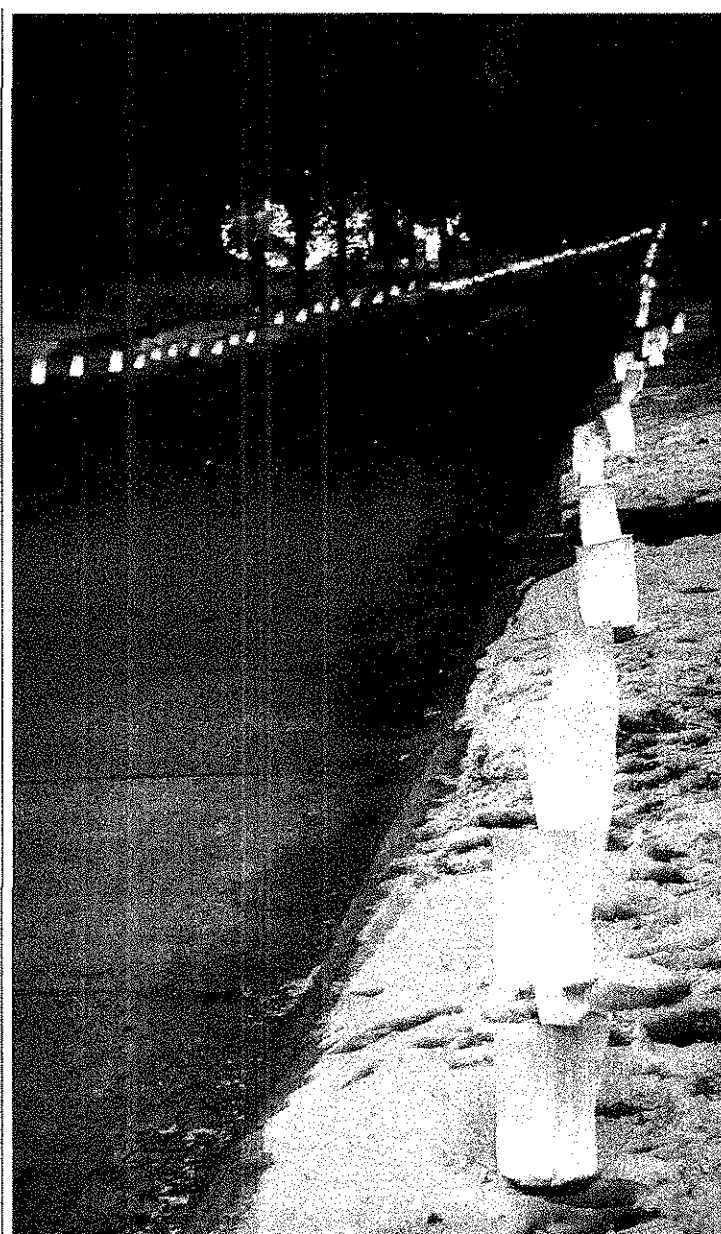


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Santa's runway

For more than six years residents on University between Mack and Waterloo in Grosse Pointe Farms come out at dusk on Christmas Eve and line their curbs with luminaries. When darkness falls, the luminaries create a runway effect or guiding lights for Santa to land his sleigh. Who began the tradition remains a mystery.

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Rep. attends signing

State Rep. Tim Bledsoe, D-City of Grosse Pointe, joins, from left, State Rep. Joan Bauer, D-Lansing; Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm and State Rep. Lesia Liss, D-Warren, at the signing of Michigan's smoking ban Friday, Dec. 18, at Michigan Brewing Company in Lansing. The new law takes effect May 1 and makes Michigan the 38th state to ban smoking in most indoor places, including bars and restaurants.

Employees attacked in Woods robbery attempt

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

Grosse Pointe Woods police continue to investigate an attack on two employees of Kay Anos Furs on Mack. The attack occurred as they closed the store Tuesday, Dec. 29.

"We have several good leads and we are working diligently to close this case," said one of the detectives involved.

According to the police report, the two were exiting the store when three black males appeared from around the corner of the building. One suspect pushed the female employee to the ground while the other two assaulted the male employee. The three suspects kept demanding the keys to the store, the report said.

The female employee told police

after she was pushed to the ground, one of the suspects attempted to drag her back toward the building, demanding the keys. He eventually released her and she ran across Mack, yelling for help.

At the same time, the male employee was fighting with the two other perpetrators. They, too, demanded he turn the keys over to them. His shirt was ripped during the struggle and when he broke free, he ran into the middle of Mack Avenue seeking help. A motorist stopped and called police.

The suspects then ran toward a vehicle, described by police only as an SUV, but apparently could not start it. They then escaped on foot, running in the direction of Pointe Plaza.

The victims sustained minor injuries. The female employee suffered swollen knees with some dis-

coloration, while the male employee suffered an abrasion to his right elbow and a small laceration on his right hand. Both declined medical treatment.

The suspects are described as black males. One was described as 5'9" tall, with a thin build. He was wearing glasses and black sweat pants with yellow printing on the leg.

Another was described as 6 feet tall, with a stocky build. At least one of the suspects was wearing a ski mask.

Police do not believe a weapon was involved and have notified all area businesses of the incident and urged extra precaution on the part of business owners and employees, especially at opening and closing times.

Kay Anos Furs was purchased by Lazare's in 2009.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Several area students received scholarships from Albion College for the 2009-10 school year. Albion College Trustees' Scholarships are given to students who earn a minimum ACT score of 29 (SAT 1,300) or a minimum grade point average of 3.8.

The recipients are: **Mark Balle**, son of Mark and Pamela Balle of Grosse Pointe Shores and a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School; **Kimberly Leverenz**, daughter of John and Catherine Leverenz of Grosse Pointe and a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School; and **Ethan Brock**, son of Edward and Arlene Brock of Grosse Pointe and a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School. Brock also received a \$500 scholarship from the school's music

department.

Albion College Webster Scholarships are awarded students who graduate from high school with a grade point average above 3.7 and an ACT score above 27 or an SAT score above 1,140. The recipients are: **Kristine Minturn**, daughter of Frederick and Michelle Minturn of Grosse Pointe Shores and a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School; **Christopher Scott**, son of Clyde and Joyce Scott of Grosse Pointe Woods and a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School; **Kaitlyn Whitney**, daughter of Stacey Whitney of Grosse Pointe and a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School; and **Claire Tallerico**, daughter of Randall and Siglinde Tallerico of Grosse Pointe Farms and a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School.

Tallerico also received a \$500 scholarship from the school's music department.

GROSSE POINTE PARK - 2009

Strong winds brought a year of change

By Kathy Ryan
Staff Writer

In 2009, Grosse Pointe Park residents sought relief from power outages and a Cadieux Road detour, saw a decrease in crime and welcomed a political newcomer to the city council. The top news in the Park for 2009

January

◆ Strong winds brought down tree limbs and many residents lost power in a late December wind and rain-storm. Some residents had to wait until the new year to gain power.

The city's annual Chilly-Fest was twice the fun, with activities being held at both Patterson Park and Windmill Pointe Park. Residents were moved between the two parks by horse-drawn carriage.

February

St. Ambrose Parish held its annual auction and dinner dance on Valentine's Day. The auction featured several items from the movie "Gran Torino," which filmed several scenes in the church.

Public safety officers were able to use the snow to track two suspects in an attempted home invasion on Berkshire. Both were arrested.

Janet's Lunch, a fixture in the Park for nearly 80 years, was granted a liquor license.

The council approved the Cadieux Road construction project, slated to begin in the spring.

March

A new sale program, The Good Neighbor Home Purchase Program, assisted selected buyers in the purchase of either a new or a renovated house located within the Park's Tax Increment Finance District, which is bounded by Jefferson, Mack, Beaconsfield and Wayburn.

Public Safety Officer Ryan Willmer was deemed a hero for grabbing a 3-year-old who was running out into the street into the path of a car.

Police continued to investigate the assault of a Park resident by several local youths



Power issues ended 2008 and ushered in a cold start to 2009.

that occurred on the corner of St. Paul and Yorkshire.

The annual public safety report showed a decrease in crime of 16 percent. Chief David Hiller credited the ACTION Team for a decrease in auto theft.

April

Harvard Road residents appeared before the council to complain that their street had been designated the detour for traffic once the repaving of Cadieux Road began later this month. The project was expected to last 11 weeks.

Public safety officers picked up a special delivery of bears and other stuffed animals made by students in St. Joan of Arc's exceptional needs catechism program.

Julie Gough won the city's 26th annual Arbor Day poster contest. Runners-up were

Charlie Calcaterra and Skyla Corey.

May

The West Park Farmers Market held its grand opening as it began its sixth season.

An increase in health care costs of nearly \$300,000 along with a decrease in interest income of \$300,000 sent city officials back to the budget to see where cuts could be made to recover that \$600,000 deficit.

Rick Cozad was hired as the new pool supervisor at Windmill Pointe Park.

June

Officials rescinded an offer to open the Okulski Family Theatre to non-residents once concerns were raised about how access to the park and theater would be controlled.

July

A man and his dog were rescued after their boat capsized off the break wall at Windmill Pointe Park.

The Grosse Pointe Park Mutants swim team came in second in the Lakefront Swimming Association swim league finals.

Fred Olds, Jeffrey Graham and Matthew Tepper were re-appointed to three year terms on the city's Planning Commission.

August

The Public Safety department was able to close several cases of larceny with one arrest. The suspect was also charged as a habitual offender.

A family fun night was planned for Park residents that included music, food and showing of a family movie at Patterson Park.

Full Circle Resale Shop opened for business at 15300 Kercheval. The store is a joint project between the Grosse Pointe Public School System and the Association for Retarded Citizens to promote employment opportunities for young adults with special needs.

The Grosse Pointe Park Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary at a cocktail party at the home of Richard Golden on Windmill Pointe. Projects funded by the foundation include the Lavins Activity Center, the boardwalk at Patterson Park, the new children's pool at Windmill Pointe Park and the putting greens at Patterson Park.

The council authorized a new pool liner for the Olympic pool at Windmill Pointe Park at a cost of \$92,495.

September

According to the city's forester, Brian Coulter, Dutch Elm disease is once again infecting the city's trees: This could be the worst year in recent memory for the disease.

Public safety officers Brent Marlinton and John Kretschmar participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, completing a course that ran from Copper Harbor to Sterling Heights.

October

Residents demanded answers from city officials after one dog died and several others were made ill by rat poison that they said was left in the alleys by a city employee.

DTE officials met with residents and city officials to discuss power outages.

Residents were urged to notify DTE whenever power went out, and not to rely on neighbors to call. They told residents that the more calls DTE receives, the faster service will be restored.

November

Political newcomer Laurie Arora finished first in a four-

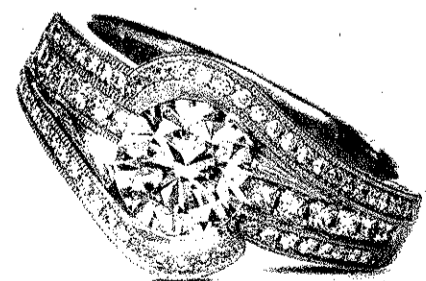
person race for three open council seats. Incumbents James Robson and Daniel Grano were re-elected, while veteran council member Shirley Kennedy was defeated. Palmer Heenan, who ran unopposed, will begin his 26th year as mayor.

Barrington residents Judy and Alan Ramberger donated a 33-foot blue spruce tree for use as the city's official Christmas tree.

December

Grayton Road residents who were the victim of a home invasion asked the council to consider a special millage for additional public safety officers.

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POINTER OF INTEREST

Christina Judson extended her love of music 28 years ago when she formed the first handbell choir at her church. Today, she continues to find joy and friendship as she leads the group.

Leading a life of high notes

By Amy Salvagno
Staff Writer

Music has long weaved a special song for Christina Judson.

Through it, the Grosse Pointe Woods virtuoso has experienced the rhapsody in instrumental expression, the joy of teaching and the rhythmic camaraderie that forms out of a shared passion.

"Music is the most marvelous tool in the world to establish friendships with," said Judson, director of the handbell choir at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

For 28 years, she has brought the timeless, enchanting harmony of handbells not only to the congregation, but audiences across the community.

Says Judson, "It's kind of addicting, really, to ring bells."

The longtime musician had no experience with the octave instruments — though accomplished in the flute, piano and strings — prior to forming the church's first handbell choir in 1981.

But a recital one evening changed that.

Judson's friend, the handbell director at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, featured a performance by an ensemble from Ann Arbor. And Judson pondered the idea of the same sound at First English.

To gauge interest, she posted an ad in the church bulletin for prospective handbell ringers. The response was unexpected — and overwhelming.



Christina Judson, director of the handbell choir at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, demonstrates how she plays multiple octaves of bells.

The group began rehearsing at the Methodist church, using its bells to see how interest progressed. Judson also began working

with Susan Berry, who owns Handbell Services, Inc., and was founder and director of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble. "Much of what I learned, I

learned from her," said Judson, who helped Berry form Handbell Services and spent five years with the Detroit ensemble.

Handbells are arranged chromatically on foam-covered tables, which protect the bronze surface of the bell, as well as keep the bells from rolling when placed on their sides.

And unlike an orchestra in which each musician is responsible for one line of the song, a bell ensemble acts as one instrument, with each musician responsible for particular notes, sounding their assigned bells whenever that note appears in the music.

White gloves are worn so the bells don't tarnish when played.

By the end of the first season, enthusiasm still emitted from First English. One of its ringers donated a four-octave set of handbells; the following fall, she donated the fifth.

Within 10 years, the choirs had grown. By the time Judson retired from teaching music in the Grosse Pointe schools, someone had donated another four-octave set, a five-octave set of handchimes and two sets of bell tables.

At its largest, the choir consisted of nine groups. Today, the self-sustaining assembly is down to a comfortable four: the 12-member adult Good News Ringers, the Church Mice (grades 2-5), the middle school Lord's Company Ringers and the Soli Deo Gloria Ringers, a quartet that plays all five octaves of bells. Practices are held in the new handbell choir rehearsal room, where 66 feet of oak cabinets store the bells.

Judson's husband, Nathan — her college sweetheart who taught music for 24 years at Grosse Pointe North High School — built them. She applied the varnish.

The couple makes up half of the quartet, which performs at nursing homes, hospitals, fundraisers and club events. In addition, they appear in six church performances each season.

The Good News Ringers — several of its members are the original ringers — play for the congregation at least once a month.

"I enjoy spreading the Word through music. It's another form of worship," Judson said. "There are some performances when you can cause a congregation to be spellbound or respond instantly with enthusiasm. And you know they have felt the same God you have."

Fellowship is also key. "I think the term 'family' is overused, but we have such close relationships. When

something happens to one, it happens to all of us," she said. "And music is that way. You have such a common goal."

For Judson, the children she taught were like her own.

"It's so rewarding. The closeness with the children is a wonderful tool."

Her own offspring inherited the family gene — all three are accomplished musicians and passing down that love to their own children. Judson teaches three of her six grandchildren violin and piano.

Over the years, she's cherished the continuing chance to teach.

"My whole life has been teaching. Maybe that's why I like the handbells," she said. "I love kids. I can't quite give up the kids, even though I'm retired."

The University of Michigan alumna taught music in Goodrich for four years and offered private flute lessons in

Music is the most marvelous tool in the world to establish friendships with.

CHRISTINA JUDSON
Formed the handbell choir at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church 28 years ago and remains its director today.

Trenton for seven years.

Following that, she instructed the band and orchestra groups at Brownell Middle School for 14 years and at Parcels Middle School for nine years. Along the way, she served as an

adjudicator for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

"Teaching was an essential part of my life. It was my life, except for my family. I looked forward to going to work."

After retiring, Judson conducted for three years the Tower Belles at Grosse Pointe South High School.

Though health issues have limited her these days, she says she just can't give up her involvement.

"It's very difficult to do. I enjoy the music and I enjoy making the music," Judson said. "There's isn't a day that goes by that my husband and I don't say how blessed we are to know the people we worked with and the life we are having."



The Good News Ringers warm up for a recent holiday performance at the church.

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Rep hosts toxic toy testing Jan. 14

State Rep. Tim Bledsoe, D-City of Grosse Pointe, hosts a town hall meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, to inform

residents about the dangers of toxic chemicals in children's toys.

Residents are encouraged to

bring toys and other children's products to be tested.

"Protecting our children from exposure to toxic substances is of vital importance," Bledsoe said. "As a father, I've always been concerned about the safety of toys and products; my daughter played with as even small amounts of a chemical can seriously impair a child's health. I encourage residents to join me at this free event and have their children's toys and other products tested for dangerous chemicals."

The event is in the gym of Trombly Elementary School, 820 Beaconsfield, Grosse Pointe Park.

An expert from the Michigan Ecology Center will be available to test toys and children's products brought to the event. The tests will detect toxins including lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, and PVCs (poly vinyl chlorides).

For more information, call Bledsoe's office toll-free at (888) 254-5291 or e-mail TimBledsoe@house.mi.gov.

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Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY POINTE NEWS GROUP LLC
96 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MI 48236
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GUEST OPINION By Bruce Edward Walker

Art appeal

That a person's house is his or her castle is one of the first principles of property rights.

As long as the rights of neighbors or passersby are respected, property owners should be free to use their property as they see fit.

This would include issues of design, as was the case when Erica and Laurent Chappuis placed inoffensive, original art in front of their house in Grosse Pointe Park and encountered a four-year hailstorm from city officials demanding the painting be removed — or else.



Placing art on one's property might seem unremarkable, provided there's nothing that might prove offensive in accordance with public standards. In some communities, lawn sculptures and other forms of decorative art are the norm.

Grosse Pointe Park, however, begged to differ when artist Erica Chappuis placed one of her own paintings in the front of her house.

Declaring the painting of a young girl innocently frolicking with her horse in violation of the city's sign ordinance, Grosse Pointe Park fined Laurent Chappuis, Erica's husband, and ordered the picture removed.

"We had an air conditioning unit that was placed in the front of our house," said Erica Chappuis. "It wasn't very attractive, so Laurent and I decided to place one of my paintings in front of it."

The painting prompted pedestrians who jogged, bicycled or walked their dogs in front of the Chappuis residence to comment they enjoyed the artwork.

"We never heard anyone state that the painting offended them," Erica Chappuis said. "Everyone we talked to said they really liked it."

Everyone, that is, but local government officials, who declared the couple was breaking the city's law against signs placed in residential areas.

The Chappuises refused to remove the painting, sparking a four-year legal battle with Grosse Pointe Park after Laurent Chappuis was charged with violating the city code.

The case went to trial in November 2007. Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court Judge Carl Jaboe found Laurent guilty in October 2008. The couple appealed to Wayne County Circuit Court, where last August the guilty verdict was overturned and the ordinance found unconstitutionally vague by Judge Bruce Morrow.

"The city of Grosse Pointe Park asserts that the plan (sic) reading of the ordinance makes it plain as the smile on Mona Lisa's face, that a reasonable and common sense definition of sign would automatically include art," wrote Morrow in his opinion. "As such, appellant was found guilty of violating Section 27-101(f) of the City Code, Illegally Erecting a sign.

"This court finds that Section 27-101(f) is unconstitutionally vague and as such reverses the ruling of the lower court and remands this case of the lower court to be dismissed

"The entire text of a statute must be examined to determine whether or not it is vague. The state must provide a person of ordinary intelligence a reasonable opportunity to know required behavior. Reading the entire text (of) this code does not alert a reasonable person that a permit is required for 'art.'"

The common sense ruling of Morrow didn't prevent Grosse Pointe Park from appealing, but in late October the city dropped its appeal.

The case may not be resolved, however. As Erica Chappuis pointed out, there's nothing preventing the city from rewriting the code to prohibit her paintings from being displayed in front of her house.

Bruce Edward Walker is communications manager for the Mackinac Center of Public Policy's Property Rights Network and editor of "The Refuge." He can be contacted at walker@mackinac.org.



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.

Solutions

To the Editor:

While the letter, "Michigan deserves more," Dec. 24 Grosse Pointe News, from Dan and Susan Quinn does not refer to me by name, his target is unmistakable.

Even without the reference to legislators as "term limited political hacks," the letter is sufficiently problematic to require a response.

The Quinns' letter is long on rhetorical flourishes, but short on specifics.

They seem to equate funding shortfalls for public education with a lack of political leadership.

But to produce additional funds for education, exactly which taxes would they raise and by how much?

Leadership is about solutions, not soaring rhetoric.

The Quinns are correct in two things: First, the Michigan legislature in December passed about 20 years worth of educational reforms within a short time span.

Second, I voted for all five bills in this package, both as a member of the Education Committee and on the final roll-call vote.

These "Race to the Top" bills move Michigan forward about 20 years in educational reform.

They provide for alternative certification of teachers, expansion of high-performing charter schools in failing districts, enhanced state powers to take over failing public schools and close failing charter schools, additional accountability measures for teachers and principals and raising the drop-out age from 16 to 18.

These bills position Michigan to compete for \$400 million federal funds to be used exclusively for education.

Several teacher union leaders, including Mr. Quinn, expressed anxiety about these bills. Indeed, I have had more communications from Mr. Quinn than any of my 86,000 other constituents.

However, the suggestion that these bills failed to receive careful consideration is wrong.

The House was in session until well after midnight both Thursday, Dec. 17, and Friday, Dec. 18; and until mid-afternoon, Saturday, Dec. 19. The real work on these bills, it should be understood, was performed in the Education Committee.

The Education Committee met daily and sometimes twice a day in the preceding weeks.

Small and informal work groups and conference calls augmented the committee hearings. We heard testimony from every group that wished to be heard, including Mr. Quinn's union.

Michigan Education Association leaders from this area were present for several days of hearings.

Ultimately, these reforms enjoyed bipartisan support.

Does this mean that Michigan will receive the \$400 million in federal money for education? Maybe, maybe not.

Even if we do not, the reforms passed by the legislature are an important step forward for education in Michigan.

It may be that we, in Michigan, must learn to compete before we can learn to win. At least now we are competing.

TIM BLEDSOE
State Representative
District 1

Coyotes attack

To the Editor:

My dog was attacked by a coyote on Dec. 27.

My family let my dog outside. I went to watch TV. Then I heard a weird yelp from Daisy.

I beat my dad to the back door to see what was going on. I opened the door, and there was the coyote biting my dog.

I screamed then ran to the couch. My dad ran to the door. I scared the coyote away, but Daisy was still hurt.

We rushed to the veterinarian. Daisy has a broken rib and lots of wounds.

This happened right in front of my eyes.

Not many people are doing anything about the coyotes. Some people are even feeding them.

There are dogs dying and people are just dumping food on their back porch step.

Something has got to be done. I know it is hard to catch a coyote, but I don't think it should take four years. I mean, people shouldn't just let a coyote sit around and kill dogs.

I know it is just trying to survive, but we also can't let pets be killed. Grosse Pointe is a place where you should be able to have a pet. With a coyote in town this will not happen.

Instead of keeping pets, we will be watching pets die. We, the people, need to do something about this.

I never was thrilled with having a coyote in town, but this makes it much worse. If

we do not do anything, we will lose some of our loved pets. I almost did that night.

I can still picture the attack in my head.

Is it safe for young kids to go outside?

Is it even safe for me to go outside?

Are we even going to put in an effort of trying to catch the coyote?

What do you think?

ERINNE LUBIENSKI
age 10

Grosse Pointe Woods

Note from Erinne Lubienski's father: In addition to the broken rib, Daisy suffered deep wounds from the coyote's fangs, including one that penetrated to within one centimeter of her chest cavity.

After three trips to the vet, with more likely to come, she is expected to recover fully.

Our vet said their office alone has treated three coyote attacks in the last two months and one of the dogs died.

When we reported the attack to the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety, they took a report but said they cannot do anything as the coyotes are protected and therefore under the control of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

They suggested we call the DNR, which I did on Dec. 29. To date, we have received no response.

We are concerned coyote attacks will continue to increase unless definitive action is taken to eradicate them from our area.

Thanks many

To the Editor:

Unfortunately, just before Christmas, our family suffered through a very serious early morning fire.

Fortunately, we were all safe mainly because of the working smoke detectors in our home.

Our home suffered serious fire, smoke and water damage.

We understand how lucky we were to have the services and help we received immediately or things could have been much worse.

We want to thank the public safety departments of City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms for their courage, kindness and professionalism. They certainly contained what could have been even more of a loss.

We also cannot say enough about the amazing outpouring of love, generosity and assistance from family, friends, neighbors and people we did not even know who came forward to help and show the true meaning of Christmas.

Whether it was a coat to put over us, shoes to put on, a place to get warm, hot coffee or a reassuring hug in the minutes after we came outside, we cannot express how overwhelmed with thanks we felt.

The awesome support continued with gifts, help, food, prayers, concern and assis-

tance wherever it was needed, for this we are so grateful.

We are truly blessed to live in a community with such wonderful services and generous, considerate and loving people.

THE KARLE FAMILY
City of Grosse Pointe

Smoke-free laws

To the Editor:

We, the leaders of Michigan's major providers of health care, want to congratulate the Michigan Legislature for doing the right thing — passing a law to make workplaces smoke-free.

It was imperative to get a bill passed in 2009 and we appreciate that the Legislature understood that.

It will be indisputably positive for Michigan's health.

As health care professionals, we see first-hand the damage smoking causes to our society. It is impossible to overstate the consequences of smoking when compared to a lifestyle of non-smoking.

Once this new law takes effect, it will be important to ensure Michigan smokers get the help they need in order to quit.

Nicotine, for most smokers, is a powerful addiction. For smokers to successfully quit, they will need access to smoking cessation tools of all varieties. Our groups remain committed to that goal as well.

The economy represents another reason why this legislation is well timed. In 2007, for example, tobacco related illnesses cost Michigan's Medicaid program more than \$1 billion which was an increase from \$881 million in 2004.

Passing this law now helps keep these health care costs from growing even more as legislators continue to address our state's ongoing economic troubles.

To the members of the state House of Representatives and the state Senate we say, thank you for passing a law Michigan wanted and needed. You delivered for your constituents.

RICHARDE E. SMITH, M.D.
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Michigan State Medical Society
DONNA R. MOYER, D.O.
President
Michigan Osteopathic Association
DAVID T. WALSWORTH, M.D.
President
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
STEVEN DUPUIS, D.O.
President
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians

Human trafficking

To the Editor:

The U.S. Senate recently passed a resolution to make Jan. 11 a National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness.

In every country throughout the world — including the United States — women and

See LETTERS, page 7A

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I SAY By Karen Fontanive

Up New Year's Eve? Choice or necessity



The late columnist Bill Vaughan once wrote, "Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to."

My husband mentioned this bon mot New Year's Eve while we were playing euchre with

another couple. We all chuckled knowingly.

Although in my husband's and my case, even in our youth, we had trouble staying up to welcome in the New Year.

We are, after all, the couple who fell asleep New Year's Eve on our honeymoon, in New York City in our hotel room overlooking Times Square, with the window open, before midnight. Another story for another time.

Back to New Year's Eve 2009. Our friends' youngest child and our oldest, both 16, not legally allowed to drive past

midnight, were at the same party a few blocks from our house.

If our kids were allowed to drive, would we have been together, keeping each other awake, playing cards? Or would we have been in our respective houses, in jammies, in front of the TV with a glass of champagne?

But, when you are forced to stay awake, why not have company? And, by the way, when you're forced to stay awake, the person forcing you should have the courtesy to work around your schedule.

The plan was to stop playing

cards shortly before 1 a.m. to pick up our respective children and whomever else we were responsible for providing a ride home. But, our card playing was interrupted briefly when our son called at 12:30 a.m. ready to come home because the party was beginning to break up.

We neglected to mention we'd just started another game of euchre. "OK. We'll be there soon."

Ten minutes later, the cell phone rings again.

"Are you on your way?" The appropriate response

would have been, "No, suck it up. We'll be there in 20 minutes."

But, my son invoked his girlfriend's name saying she needed to get home.

Accommodating parents that we are — not really — we just did not want girlfriend to miss curfew and have her parents think we are negligent, we stopped playing cards for 15 minutes while my husband picked up my son, his girlfriend and her brother and drove everyone home.

Husband and son return. Salutations, a few "Happy New

Year's" later, a call from our friends to their daughter, and cards resumed. (She had the courtesy to allow her parents 15 more minutes to finish the game, dwindling party or not!)

With a 16-year-old and a 13-year-old, Bill Vaughan's observation looms heavily. I'll be forced to stay up many more New Year's eves — as well as many Friday and Saturday nights — to pick children up or wait for them to arrive home safely.

I wouldn't have it any other way.

Euchre, anyone?

STREETWISE By Renee Landuyt

What do you want to be when you grow up?

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



'A nurse because my mom is a nurse and I want to help people get better.'
CHLOE DVONCH
Grosse Pointe Park



'An artist that paints pictures because I like drawing a lot.'
KATE SKUPIEN
Grosse Pointe Park



'A fashion designer because I like being stylish and I could make my own clothes.'
CHARLOTTE PARENT
Grosse Pointe Park



'A hockey player because I like sports and I want to play for the Red Wings.'
SEAN CLARK
Grosse Pointe Park



'A rock star so I can play guitar and sing because you make lots of money, get to stay up late and travel.'
RE'NI FAUSSIE
Grosse Pointe Park

FROM THE ARCHIVES Compiled by Suzy Berschback

Chauvin Roadhouse changes hands



The following article is from the archives of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, circa 1930.

Richard Chauvin opened a roadhouse on the south side of Jefferson Avenue just west of Nottingham in Grosse Pointe Park about 1866 and operated there until about 1890.

When he died, his son, Charles, opened a new place on the north side of Jefferson between Lake Pointe and

Beaconsfield in about 1890 and operated there until 1901.

He was succeeded by Phil Van Assche for a few years, then by George Defer and lastly by John Elliott, who remained until 1918. When prohibition became effective, the place was torn down.

During all these years and with the many changes in proprietors, it was known as the Chauvin House and catered to all comers, serving frog legs, fish and chicken dinners. Gambling was practiced by most all the old roadhouses that served muskrat suppers to organized gatherings.

During the regime of Charles Chauvin, the Michigan National Guard, Co., E. 4th, Regiment, known as the Montgomery Rifles under Capt.

John Considine, built a private rifle range on the premises in rear of the roadhouse in June 1895.

It was the practice of the military company during the summer months to have what is known as forced marches Sunday mornings, starting from their armory about 8 a.m. from Shelby and Woodbridge streets. They would march with their knapsacks and rifles on their shoulders out Jefferson Avenue to Chauvin House, a distance of 7 1/4 miles. There they would be for the day, the commissary department following with a horse and wagon, camp stove, stretcher and food as well as two kegs of beer. After a short rest, they would devote about two hours for target practice, shooting at dis-

tances of 100 to 500 yards. The rest of the day was indulged in by lunches, refreshments, pitching horseshoes, etc.

On April 26, 1898, this company entered the Spanish War and that was the end of the rifle range.

Matthew Matt Kramer opened his first roadhouse opposite the old Blue Ribbon Race Track south of Jefferson, which is now Owen Park, foot of Iroquois Avenue, Indian Village Detroit; one half mile east of Belle Isle Bridge. He operated there in a large frame building from about 1890 to 1896 when the building was torn down to create the park. His was without doubt the most popular resort in the near east end during the summer months, when his place was patronized by the crowds of sports who followed the horses and was the only place close to the race track. He had a long bar and employed several bartenders to take care of the crowds when the day's races were over.

"Matt Kramer, when forced to move, opened his second roadhouse about 1897, on what is now Kensington Road and Jefferson South in Grosse Pointe Park, in a frame building which formerly was known as the Oxenhart house; Louis Oxenhart having retired about 1896. There, Kramer catered to his former trade until about 1910 when it became the estate of E. J. Hickey."

About 1910, Matt Kramer built a new roadhouse of cement block construction at Gaukler Pointe near the lake 1 1/2 miles from the city hall (now Edsel Ford's estate) where he operated an up-to-date roadhouse until he died.

"He established a dance hall in the building and furnished an orchestra to supply the music. At this period, it was the outstanding resort on the shore of Lake St. Clair, catering to various societies and lodges, who gathered there for reunions, etc."

About 1916, his son, Matthew Jr., while diving too

close to shore in the lake broke his neck, striking his head on the muddy bottom. He died soon after in about 1917.

About one year later, his widow married William (Billy) McIntosh who operated the McIntosh's Roadhouse in St. Clair Shores on the lake about 15 miles out. Billy McIntosh modernized this brick building into what is now considered the finest resort on Lake St. Clair, naming it "Blossom Heath." About 1923, Billy McIntosh died, his widow, the late Mrs. Kramer, carried on for a time and then leased to a syndicate who at present are operating Blossom Heath on a still large scale with its additional open air dancing, best professional talent obtainable and are noted for their high class floor shows.

Another old roadhouse that was well-known and changed hands several times was started by Thomas Ironmonger, at now S.E. corner of Lakeland and Jefferson Avenue, City of Grosse Pointe. Ironmonger operated from 1875 to about 1885.

LETTERS: Negative impact

Continued from page 6A

girls are trafficked and enslaved for sex. They are someone's mother, daughter, sister, friend — hidden behind locked doors and pulled shades, forced against their will to engage in sex acts with dozens of men a day.

Sex trafficking — the transport of women and children within and across national borders for the purposes of sexual exploitation — is a \$32 billion annual industry. Here in the U.S., an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 victims of human trafficking are brought in each year, most of them women and girls trafficked for sex.

As an international organization of business and professional women working to improve the lives of women and girls, Soroptimist helps women and girls escape poverty, abuse and violence.

The issue of trafficking is addressed through our Soroptimists STOP Trafficking project, which seeks to create awareness about this international problem while encouraging local communities such as ours to mobilize for the protection of these women and girls.

One aspect of this problem that receives relatively little attention is the "consumers" — predominately men — who support this illegal and danger-

ous industry.

They remain faceless and nameless, and often go unpunished for their role in an industry that is violent and degrading to women.

Just as trafficking victims may come from any number of backgrounds, the men who create demand for trafficking victims and support the commercial sex industry are equally diverse. They are both rich and poor, single and married, and from Eastern countries and Western lands.

All of them, however, share a common mentality — that women and girls have little or no value.

How can the demand for sex trafficking be reduced? The approach is twofold. First, we believe it is critical to work to change men's attitudes about the value of women and girls in society, and about the dangers of sex trafficking.

Women and girls who work in the commercial sex industry experience physical and emotional degradation. They are modern-day slaves with no control over their bodies or their lives.

Sex trafficking has far-reaching negative effects on communities by removing women and girls from their families, fueling organized crime and burdening public health systems. It also undermines government authority, encourages widespread corruption and threatens the security of vulnerable populations, such as poor women and ethnic minorities.

Second, we call upon law enforcement officials and local,

national and international governments to enforce stricter punishments for the men who support sex trafficking and the commercial sex trade.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 made human trafficking a federal crime. Several states have enacted laws against human trafficking. We ask that these laws be vigorously enforced.

Yet, too often, these men get off with little more than a slap on the wrist and are rarely held accountable for their actions. In fact, women who are trafficked often receive harsher punishments than the men who purchase them for sex.

There can be no real progress toward ending the sexual trafficking of women and girls unless men are actively participating in eradicating sex trafficking, and law enforcement officials and governments send a stern message to men caught participating in the commercial sex industry.

Communities must take it upon themselves to educate men and boys about the negative impact of trafficking upon women and girls, and work to change negative social and cultural attitudes about the status of women and girls.

Soroptimist believes it is possible to effect positive change, and by calling attention to sex trafficking and the demand-side of this epidemic, we can make a difference for women and girls caught in its clutches.

MARY PARSIGIAN
Governor
Soroptimist International
Midwestern Region

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ULTIMATE: An amazing adventure

Continued from page 8A

Thailand's five tourist destinations: Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Koh Samui provinces.

"We visited hidden gems, main attractions and places that tourists would want to see," she said. "If people aren't familiar with Thailand, it can seem like a scary foreign place. Until one visits, no one can truly understand how amazing of a country it is. There is so much natural beauty here and the Thai culture and way of life is amazing."

Both teachers, Hang and Lynch toured Chiang Mai Province in December for a chance to win a top prize of \$10,000.

Winners are determined by the number of votes received from those visiting her website ultimatethailand.com/blog.chiangmai.

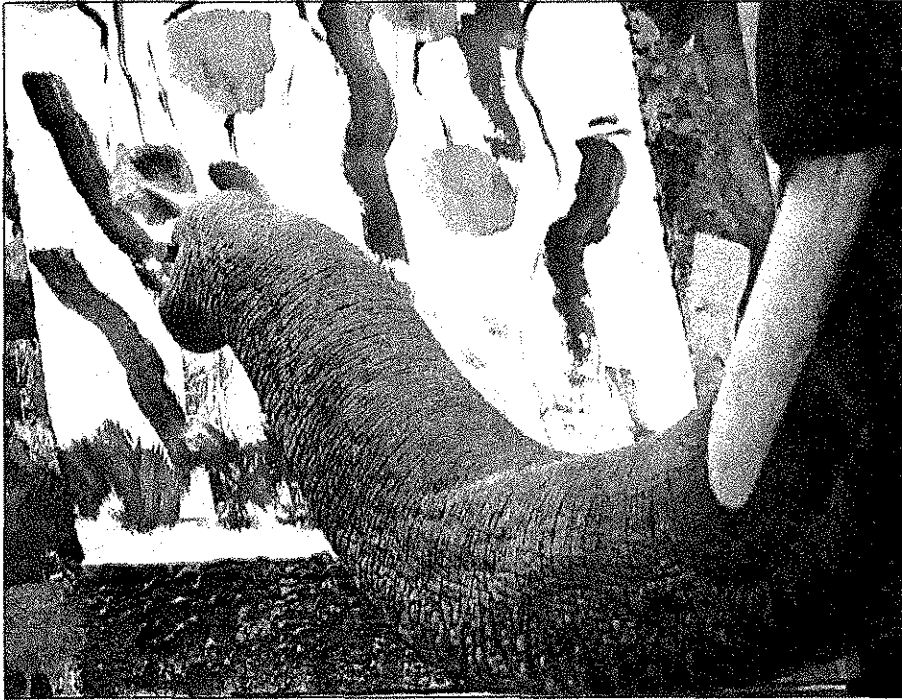
The deadline is Friday, Jan. 8.

If they win, Hang said, \$1,000 would be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Michigan as a way of giving back to the community.

"Through this competition they were granted unprecedented access to things most of us will never experience in our life," said Hang's sister, Aleene George. "They have followed and learned from the monks, fed white tigers and get up close with a baby panda."



Aubrey Hang with a young panda and its mother.



During her travels, Aubrey Hang found an elephant painting a picture.

explorers.com/blog.chiangmai.

"This contest is also critical in showing the power of technology."

The couple chose this province because it was an opportunity to see another part of the country, Hang said.

"I live in Bangkok," she said. "Chiang Mai is an amazing place. They have the friendliest people. You can do anything, relax to extreme sports. There is a diversity of animals."

"The best thing was we got to interact with people from all over the world. We got to do a

ton of things. We stayed with villagers whose lifestyle hasn't changed in hundreds of years."

Hang, a graduate of Michigan State University, found she enjoyed living abroad after studying in Rome for a semester during college.

"I attended an international job fair and found this job," she said of her job teaching in a nursery school. "I thought I would stay 10 months but have been here two years."

Hang will return home in June.

FIRE: Emergency team ready

Continued from page 1A

ing incident, large-scale disasters trigger a county-wide response.

Backup for eastside suburbs would come from up to 17 municipal fire departments downriver and 23 in western Wayne County.

"Detroit has a bunch of assets that could be laid out even faster," said Mark Hammond, Wayne County's emergency management coordinator and deputy director of homeland security emergency management.

The two agencies are headquartered at Detroit Metropolitan Airport and support local jurisdictions in disaster management.

"We bring all county assets to bear, as well as mutual aid agreements we have with the police departments, fire departments, hospitals and ambulance companies to assist local jurisdictions," Hammond said.

The Christmas plot against Northwest Airlines flight 253 would have "absolutely" classified as a disaster big enough to activate the emergency team, Hammond said.

Instead, when Islamic terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, of Nigeria, tried to set off an 80-gram bomb stitched to his underwear, the attempt fizzled and mainly set his pants on fire.

"If a crash had happened in our city, we would immediately notify the county incident command," said James Fox, City of Grosse Pointe public safety director. "They would get hold of all the other departments."

"A mobile command post would be set up," said Hiller, who represents eastern Wayne County on the emergency team. "We tell the county what we need. It becomes a county-wide disaster instead of an indi-

vidual city disaster."

The emergency task force can deploy within an hour.

"We would put one of our representatives at Hiller's shoulder and ask what he needs," Hammond said. "He can call for law enforcement assets and department of public service people. We could go to Canton, which has a large department of public works, for tree removal, loaders and backhoes."

The county also would act as liaison between local and federal jurisdictions, such as the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration.

"There's a lot of paperwork involved," Hammond said. "That's how we get reimbursed. The feds open their checkbook to reimburse local communities for their time, vehicle usage, fuel and more."

County support is long term. "NTSB is going to want to put debris in a hangar to investigate it," Hammond said. "We'd come up with a hangar or building. We'd arrange

transportation. Dave Hiller doesn't have a way to transport airplane parts. We'd help him with logistical support. We'd do the permitting for moving oversized loads on roads. Then, we'd return the sight back to normal — whatever it was prevent."

Hammond has been involved with seven declared emergencies since 2000.

"We've had a couple of severe snowstorms, and severe weather moved through Highland Park and Detroit," he said. "The shortest event we go on is typically one week. The longest events are usually about six to eight months. We're longtermers. We make it right."

"They activated it on a limited scale less than a year ago for a refinery fire downriver," Hiller said. "They were able to contain it with downriver mutual aid and part of western Wayne."

Pointe officers were called in 1987 to an airliner crash just outside the airport on Middlebelt near I-94.

BULLET: New Year's Eve bang

Continued from page 8A

"I heard several semiautomatic rounds of gunfire during the last hour across Mack on the Detroit side," Martindale reported.

Most .40 caliber rounds are used with handguns. The bullets have ranges up to 900 yards, depending on weather conditions, wind and the angle they're shot, according to James Fox, City public safety director.

"That bullet could have come from Detroit, but it also could have been shot from somewhere in Grosse Pointe," Fox said.

As the night wore on, the

hole in the skylight got bigger and bigger.

"During the night I heard what I thought was ice hitting the window," Vintevoghel said. "It was glass disintegrating and falling onto the screen."

Bullets pack a powerful punch, even at the end of their trajectory.

The one that made for a cold winter's night at the Vintevoghel's retained enough energy to blow out a 3-inch hole in safety glass.

"They're coming at a good clip," Fox said. "It could kill you."

Fox had his own run-in with a New Year's Eve bullet his first year on the force in 1991.

"I went out to my car to go to work on New Year's Day," Fox said.

"There was a hole in the windshield and a bullet on the floor of the car."



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Snow much fun



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Even with just an inch or two of snow on the ground, children around the Pointes figured out how to enjoy the snow during the winter break. Left: University Liggett School students Lily Heald, front of sled, and her brother Luke, middle, with neighbors and Grosse Pointe Academy students Claire, back left, Jack, front left, and Elizabeth Sheeren, back right, slide down their City of Grosse Pointe driveway for a bit of wintry fun. Above: Jensen Fritz, left, and Andrew Sharp practice stopping on the side of their skates like Red Wings hockey players, spending the last day of the holiday vacation at the ice rink at Patterson Park in Grosse Pointe Park.

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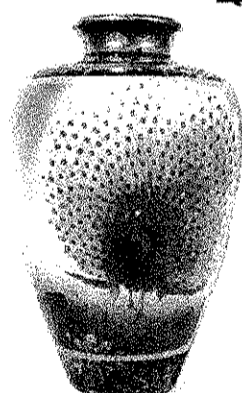
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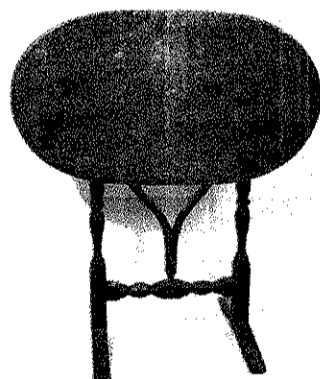
January Auction Dates

Friday the 15th Saturday the 16th Sunday the 17th
 At 6:30 p.m. At 11:00 a.m. At Noon

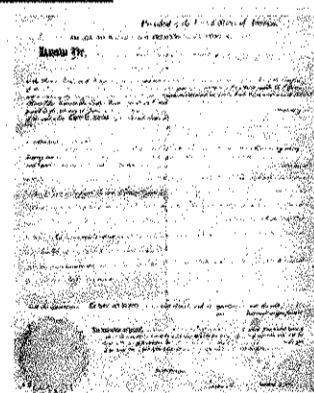
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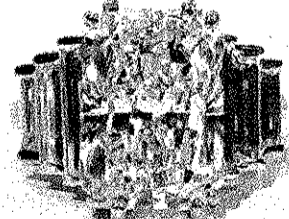
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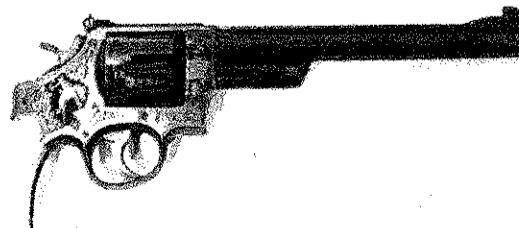
GRIFFEN, SMITH & CO. MAJOLICA COMPOTE, 19TH C., H 5", DIA 9 1/4"



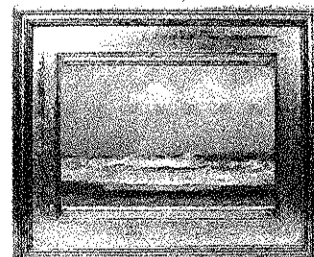
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Teacher of the Week



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

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

Here, students celebrate their favorite teacher.

This week, its Barnes Early

Childhood Center teacher Dorothy Heitjan.

She was nominated by 5-year-old Joey Krausmann: "She make funny faces that make me laugh. She teach me my letters and read me books.

I love her."

Years at the Grosse Pointe Woods school: 10

Previous work: I worked as a speech-language pathologist at other schools in Grosse

Pointe since 1992, and as a speech-language pathologist at the Veteran's Hospital when it was located in Allen Park.

When I was in college, I worked at Hudson's Eastland in the shoe department and volunteered at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

Why did you become a teacher?

I always wanted to work in a helping profession and that's why I chose to become a speech-language pathologist.

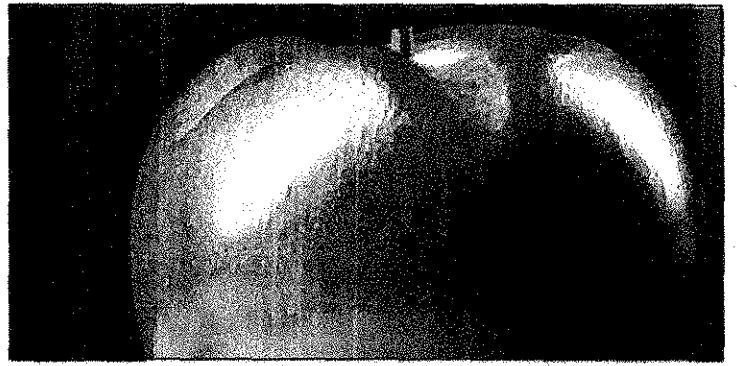
However, while I loved working with adults in other settings, I knew that I always wanted to work in a school. I love teaching and being in a classroom with the children.

Now I have the best of both worlds. I get to use my skills as a speech-language pathologist in an early childhood classroom setting.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

I teach 3- to 5-year-olds. I love the excitement and enthusiasm that children at this age have for life and learning.

I really enjoy watching the children grow and develop in their maturity and skills. It is very rewarding.



Teacher's Pet

Give your teacher something better than a shiny red apple.

Nominate him or her for an upcoming Teacher of the Week. Students in grades K-12 can submit the name of their favorite teacher, along with a few reasons why your teacher is outstanding.

Submissions should include the teacher's name, current school and grade they teach, along with the nominating student's name and contact information.

Featured teachers will be entered into a monthly prize drawing.

Call or e-mail the information to Amy Salvagno at (313) 343-5592 or asalvagno@grossepointenews.com.

How do you feel about being nominated?

Being nominated is such an honor. I work with a wonderful team of people in the Early Childhood Preschool Program, including my two assistants, Vicki Horsley and Linda Whitman, and a staff of therapists, teachers and teaching assistants.

The Barnes Early Childhood Center provides many services to assist families.

Favorite book to share with students?

I love to read books my students are interested in and enjoy. Some of my favorites are "From Head to Toe," by Eric Carle, "If You Take a Mouse to School," by Laura Numeroff and "That's Good, That's Bad," by Margery Cuyler.

—Amy Salvagno

Upcoming Events sponsored by
The Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library


★ Thursday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. "The Classics" Books Lecture
 U of M Professor Terri Finkle presents
Looking for Love in Augustine's Confessions
 \$10 Admission, Free for Friends Members, students & teachers with I.D.
 No pre-sales. Please pay at the door before the lecture.

★ Friday, Feb. 5th, 7:30 p.m. An Evening with
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Writer Marilynne Robinson,
 author of *Gilead, Home, & Housekeeping*
 \$20 General Admission, \$10 for Friends Members

Both events at Grosse Pointe South High School, Grosse Pointe Blvd. at Fisher Rd.
 See www.gppubliclibrary.org or call 313-343-2024 ext. 6 for more info.

Meet the Author - Pre-Lecture Reception, 6:30-7:15 p.m. \$35 per person, or 2 tickets for \$50 (price includes reception & lecture)

For Robinson tickets, send check to Friends of the G.P. Public Library, 11 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236



Gifted screenings offered

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is beginning its annual search for first-through fourth-grade students who are

intellectually/academically gifted. Those interested in having their child screened for the gift-

ed program can contact Cynthia Doherty, coordinating psychologist of Gifted Services, at (313) 432-3045.

Forum slated on toxic toys

Rep. Tim Bledsoe (D-Detroit) hosts a Toxic Toys forum at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Trombly Elementary School gym, 820 Beaconsfield, Grosse

Pointe Park. The forum begins with a 15-minute presentation from the Ecology Center of Michigan. Parents can bring toys forward after to have them

tested for hazardous chemicals. There is no charge to attend. For more information, contact (517) 373-0154.

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Orientation night scheduled

Grosse Pointe North High School, 707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, holds an orientation evening to help parents and students in course selection, schedule planning and pupil adjustment for the 2010-11 school year at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14. The meeting is held by ad-

ministrators, department chairpersons and counselors in the school cafeteria. Those planning to attend North are encouraged to attend.

Following the presentation, parents and students can tour the building and visit classrooms where teachers and students are available to answer

questions. Registration for private and parochial school students for the 2010-11 school year will take place at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, in the media center. For more information, contact Tom Beach, assistant principal, at (313) 432-3215.

Curriculum forums planned

The Grosse Pointe Public School System holds two public forums for curricula under review.

The social studies committee hosts a forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, in the Ferry Elementary School library, 748

Roslyn, Grosse Pointe Woods. The second public forum, for English Language Arts, is at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 19, in the library at Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Procedures are set up to allow those attending to address the committee(s) with their ideas and comments.

For more information, contact Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Susan Allan at (313) 432-3042.

Kindergarten night postponed

The Grosse Pointe Public School System Extended Day Kindergarten Information Night, previously scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 7, has been postponed. Each elementary school will hold a general kindergarten information night Thursday, Jan. 28.

Discussions are currently under way about the kindergarten day as part of the budget development process. More information is expected this month.

Children turning five years of age before Dec. 1, 2010, are eligible for kindergarten in the

2010-11 school year. For any kindergarten program, residency and enrollment for that student must be processed by appointment at 389 St. Clair Ave., Room 203. Contact Teri Fields at (313) 432-3083 to make an appointment.

Open houses for fifth-graders

Parcells Middle School, 200600 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts an open house for incoming sixth-graders of the 2010-11 school year from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, in the auditorium. For more information,

call (313) 432-4600. Brownell Middle School, 260 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts its open house for incoming sixth-graders at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, in the school gym. For more information, call (313) 432-3900.

Pierce Middle School, 15430 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts an open house for incoming sixth-graders from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, in the auditorium. For more information, call (313) 432-4700.

Grosse Pointe News
 96 Kercheval,
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 Attention: Sally Schuman

Please Print

Child's Name (First & Last) _____

Date of Birth _____ Hospital _____

Weight & Length _____

Parents' Name (First & Last) _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Visa MC # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

The Babies of 2009

~ Return no later than January 22, 2010 ~

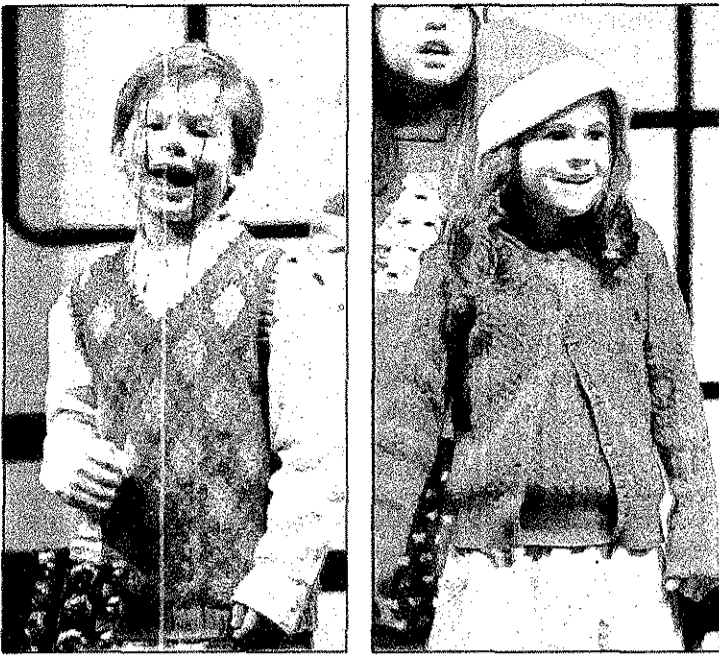


PHOTO PROVIDED BY LINDA KUSCH

In the Christmas mood

Students at Our Lady Star of the Sea got into the spirit of the season with the school's annual Christmas concert Wednesday, Dec. 16. The performance was directed by Patrick Paddock, a 2008 Madonna University graduate who joined the Star faculty this fall as full-time music director. Above: Kindergartener Michael Paluzzi and first-grader Carly Gesell share holiday tunes.

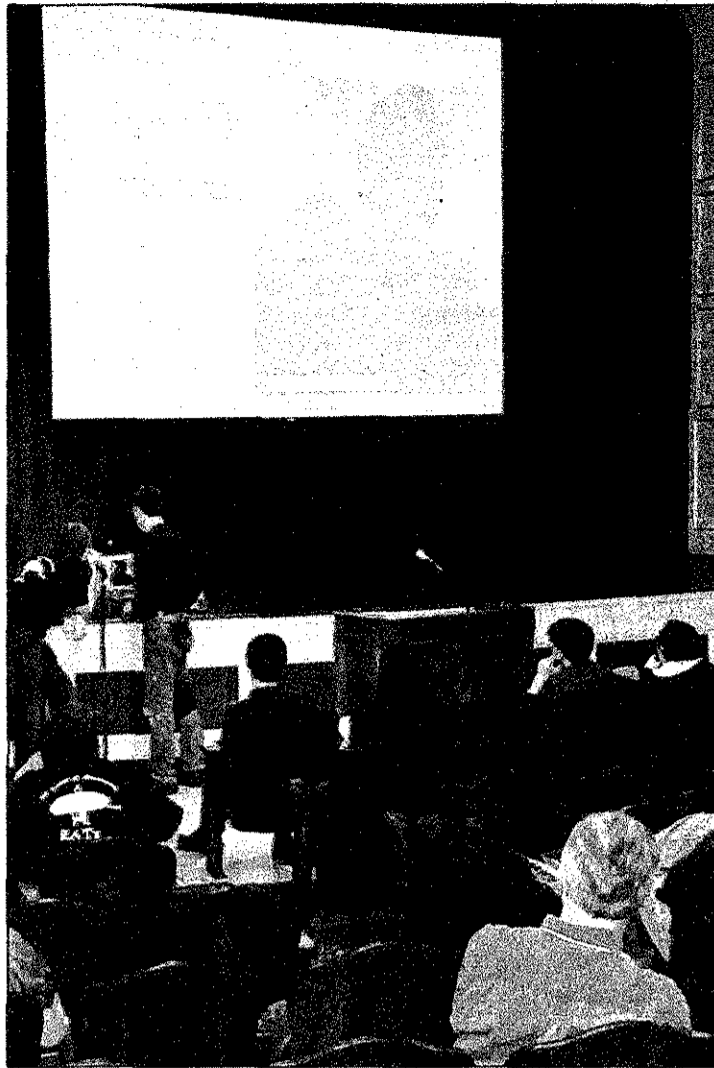


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

RATs reunite

The Radio Astronomy Team held its 20th reunion last month at Grosse Pointe South High School. Former members came from across the country and Skyped in from around the world. Some shared stories from the auditorium stage and reminisced about class trips and friendships. Former club members thanked advisor and Grosse Pointe North High School astronomy teacher, Ardis Herrold, for her efforts and the encouragement that landed them in fields such as biochemistry and astro chemistry, working in the Peace Corps and for NASA and embracing the role of a science teacher. Above: The four original RATs members from 1989 are, from left, Katrina Koski, Derek Harris, Bob Kalogerakos and Jamie Elsil Cook, with Herrold, center. Left: Clifford More, a former RATs member, talks live on Skype from Japan with other former and current club members.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANN MARIE SMIAL

Resounding joy

Maire Elementary School students brightened the holiday season with a winter concert Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Parcels Middle School. Children in grades 1, 3 and 5, along with the Maire Village Singers (grades 4 and 5) sang and danced to several traditional favorites.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LINDA KUSCH

D.A.R.E. alumni

Our Lady Star of the Sea sixth-graders graduated from Drug Abuse Resistance Education Thursday, Dec. 10. The national program's goal is to give children the skills needed to say "no" to drugs and alcohol. Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Officer Sally Begin was instructor of the program and stressed the importance of educating children about drug and alcohol dangers.

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OBITUARIES

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

Francine Harriet Dossin

Former Grosse Pointe resident Francine Harriet Dossin, 77, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009, in South Pasadena, Fla.

Born in Detroit, Mrs. Dossin moved to Florida in 1979 from Grosse Pointe. She worked as a secretary for the Chrysler Corp., was past president of the Detroit Northeast Lions Club women's division and was a former member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Mrs. Smith is survived by her beloved husband, Robert "Bob"; loving daughters, Denise Dossin and Diane (Delbert) Ruth and cherished grandchildren, Brady, Ryan, Philip (Becky) and Nicole.

Services and burial were in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Funeral arrangements were handled by David C. Gross Funeral Homes in St. Petersburg. Share a memory with the family at davidcgross.com.

Maryanne Worden Harvey

Maryanne Worden Harvey, 86, died Sunday, Jan. 3, 2010, at Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo. She had been living in Kalamazoo with her two dogs, pursuing her art at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and volunteering with the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

Born in South Bend, Ind., to John and Sadie Worden, she was an accomplished sculptor.

Her art education included attending Indiana University, The Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, D.C. and the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. She was a graduate of George Washington University.

Ms. Harvey was an elementary school teacher in Ann Arbor, San Francisco and South Bend early in her adult life.

She subsequently founded and was proprietor for 30 years of Harvey's Compleat Traveler, a Grosse Pointe-based purveyor of fine luggage and leather goods.

Throughout her life she was a regular contributor to the editorial pages of the Grosse Pointe News, The Detroit News and The Kalamazoo Gazette, writing frequently concerning animal rights and other issues pertaining to the humane treatment of both people and animals.

Ms. Harvey was co-founder and served 11 years as president of the Michigan Bouvier Rescue. During her tenure, the organization rescued more than 750 dogs from mistreatment or abandonment.

She is survived by her sons, Matthew Farner and Peter (Betsy) Farner and grandchildren, Peter Farner Jr., James Farner, Annie Farner and Mary Farner.

She was predeceased by her parents and her brothers, James and Jack.

Arrangements were handled by The Cremation Society of Michigan.

Ms. Harvey requested that

there be no memorial service. Instead, she preferred that those interested in remembering her make a donation to Food Animal Concerns Trust at foodanimalconcerns.org or to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission at kzoogospel.org.

Joan Barbara Hicks

Joan Barbara Hicks, 81, of Otisville, passed away Monday, Jan. 4, 2010, at her residence.

Joan Barbara Walsh was born Feb. 2, 1928, in New Rochelle, N.Y. the daughter of Edward Gregory and Catherine Mary (nee Twombly) Walsh. She lived in Manhattan while working as a photography assistant for Vogue Magazine, then Eileen Ford Modeling Agency.

She married Charles Vincent Hicks Feb. 2, 1957, in New York City. They were married for 32 years until his death in December 1989. After raising her children, she worked as assistant to the president of Stroh Brewery for some years.

Joan is survived by her daughters, Catherine Hicks Offerman (Dale), Sara Hamilton Hicks (Joseph Staperfenne); son, Charles Vincent "Pat" Hicks Jr.; granddaughter, Sydney Catherine Hicks and her niece, Elizabeth Mikos Canzano.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her parents and siblings.

Cremation has taken place. No services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, Mrs. Hicks' family asks to consider those in



Francine Harriet Dossin

need, contribute a day of service or a good deed and "pay it forward" in her memory.

Share a memory with the family at allenfuneralhome-inc.com.

Norma Nobel

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Norma Nobel, currently of Waterford, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009. She was 93.

Born Jan. 10, 1916, in Cleveland to Louis and Agnes (nee Eiben) Blumenthal, she graduated from Northeastern High School in Detroit in 1933.

She worked at Prudential Insurance where she met Harold Nobel, whom she later married.

Mrs. Nobel taught decoupage and enjoyed sewing, needlepoint, clothing design and reading. She was a member of the Grosse Pointe Women's Club, Grosse Pointe Welcome Wagon and a volunteer for Harper School, Meals on Wheels, Harper Hospital and Cottage Hospital.

A funeral service will be held at noon, Saturday, Jan. 9, at Chas. Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Park. The memorial gathering begins at 11 a.m.

Mrs. Nobel is survived by her daughters, Nancy (Will) Allen and Barbara (Robert)



Joan Barbara Hicks

Lindberg; son, Dr. Gary Nobel; grandchildren, Lindsey, Shannon, Gary, Dan, Michael, Stephen, Bradley, Katie and Scott and great-grandchildren, Bradley and Makenna.

Interment will be at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 120 Wall Street, 19th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10005.

Stuart Burnham Smith D.D.S.

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Stuart Burnham Smith D.D.S., 73, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2009.

A life-long Grosse Pointer, Dr. Smith was born May 8, 1936, at Cottage Hospital in Grosse Pointe Farms to Stanley and Esther Smith.

He attended the Vernier School and Pierce Junior High before graduating from Grosse Pointe High School in 1954. He attended the University of Michigan and earned his doctorate in dentistry from the university in 1960.

In 1960, Dr. Smith joined his father's dental practice on East Warren on the eastside of Detroit. He interrupted practicing dentistry for three years when he served in the Dental Corps of the U.S. Army from 1962 to 1964 serving one year in Korea. He retired in June 2000.

Dr. Smith had many interests and hobbies which he faithfully



Norma Nobel



Stuart Burnham Smith

maintained. He enjoyed working with wood including fine carpentry and model ship building, collecting books, music, hiking, hunting, canoeing and camping. He loved animals and rescued many.

Most of all, Dr. Smith enjoyed boating, especially sailing on his 31-foot sailboat, Rainbow.

He was a member of the Chi Psi Fraternity at the University of Michigan and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church where he served as a deacon and an elder.

Dr. Smith is survived by his wife, Jan; daughter, Holly; son, Paul and grandchildren, Henry and Madeline.

He also is survived by his sister, Laurie Huetteman.

Memorial donations may be made to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Republicans host two forums

Finley addresses ERC

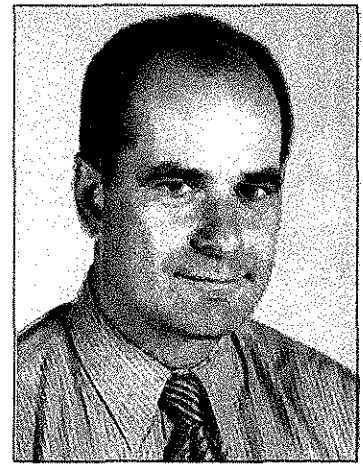
Offering his perspective on Michigan's economic outlook and politics, Nolan Finley, editorial page editor and columnist for The Detroit News, addresses the Eastside Republican Club Forum at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"We invite anyone interested in current events to attend this forum," said John Chouinard, ERC chairman.

Finley's views on the current Michigan political landscape will echo his recent print editorials and comments on his PBS television show, "Am I Right, or Am I Right?" where he debates issues with Debbie Dingell.

At the newspaper, Finley directs the editorial position on various national and local issues and writes a column in the Sunday newspaper.

The journalist was the News' deputy managing editor, business editor and had various editing positions on the paper's



Nolan Finley

city, state and metro desks. He was also a reporter, covering Detroit City Hall during the Coleman Young administration.

Finley has been with The Detroit News since 1976, starting as a newsroom copy boy while a student at Wayne State University.

He is a graduate of both Schoolcraft College in Livonia and Wayne State, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism.

The Jan. 19 agenda includes

election of club officers for 2010.

Admission is free and the public is welcome.

For more information, call Tom McCleary at (313) 882-2709 or visit eastside-republican-club.org.

Hoekstra to speak at fundraiser

Pete Hoekstra, Republican Representative from Michigan's 2nd Congressional District, speaks at the 13th Republican District's annual fundraiser Monday, Jan. 18. The fundraiser begins at 5:30 p.m. at They Say Restaurant, 267 Joseph Campau, Detroit.

"Congressman Hoekstra has a wealth of experience regarding issues of national security, along with domestic issues," said Ed Joseph, chairman of the 13th District.

Hoekstra is a candidate for Michigan governor.

He will discuss his efforts

regarding homeland security and detail his plans revamping Michigan's economy.

Hoekstra's career encompasses both the business and public service sectors. He was with Herman Miller for 15 years, where he worked in product development, product management and dealer development. He became vice president of marketing.

Hoekstra won the contested 1992 primary and has served in the United States House of Representatives since 1993.

Hoekstra has served on the Education and Labor, Budget and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence committees.

He was instrumental in reforming the Intelligence Community in response to the terrorist attacks of 2001 and has continued to work for reform in education and government.

For more information about the fundraiser or other 13th District programs, call (313) 417-0244.

The School District of the City of Harper Woods Attention: Technology Companies

The School District of the City of Harper Woods is requesting proposals for Technology Equipment with installation. The technology equipment bid specifications can be picked at the board office of the School District of Harper Woods starting Friday, January 8, 2010.

Technology Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

The School District of the City of Harper Woods
20225 Beaconsfield, Harper Woods, MI 48225

The School District of the City of Harper Woods Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Secondary Community Room located in the Harper Woods High School building at 20225 Beaconsfield, Harper Woods, MI 48225.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 2:30 p.m. on January 25, 2010. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the School District of the City of Harper Woods and be clearly marked: Technology Equipment Proposal.

GPN: 01/07/2010 01/14/2010

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**NOTICE FOR FILING
NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE
FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that nominating petitions for School Board Trustee for the School District of the City of Harper Woods will be available in the Harper Woods City Clerk's Office, Monday thru Friday, between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. until February 9, 2010. Nominating petitions may be taken out on February 9, 2010, however, all nominating petitions must be filed in the City Clerk's Office, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, Michigan, by 4:00 P.M. that day.

Registered voters that reside in the School District of the City of Harper Woods are eligible to be nominated for School Board Trustee for the School District of the City of Harper Woods.

The purpose of taking nominating petitions for the May 4, 2010 Election is to nominate qualified registered voters to the following: (2) four year term as School Board Trustee expiring June 30, 2014.

Persons with questions regarding the nominating process should call the City Clerk's Office at 313-343-2510.

**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
Mickey D. Todd,
CITY CLERK**

G.P.N.: 01/07/2010

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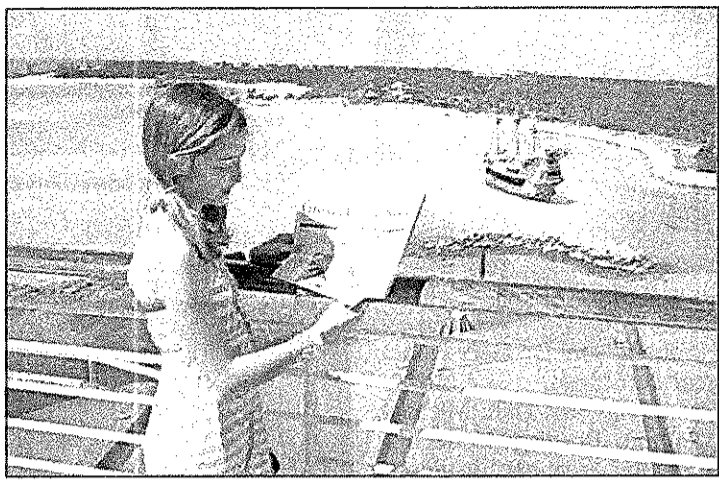
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6A II | NEWS

OUR NEWS WILL TRAVEL



Ashley Cooper of the City of Grosse Pointe on a cruise to the Bahamas on the Disney Wonder with her grandparents, Lewis and Judy Cooper of Grosse Pointe Woods.



Paul M. Schumacher of Harper Woods visiting the Chugach National Park in Eagle River outside Anchorage, Alaska.



Kevin Fisher of Redondo Beach, Calif., and his mother, Jackie Fisher of Loudon, Tenn., formerly of the City of Grosse Pointe with children of San Isidoro, Honduras, during a medical mission trip.



Three generations of the Schmidt family — Kim, Don and Tricia Schmidt of Grosse Pointe Shores, Taryn, Dan and Mackenzie Simon of Grosse Pointe Farms and Tiffany, Matt and Madison Kuhl of Shalimar, Fla. — cruised through the southern Caribbean islands.



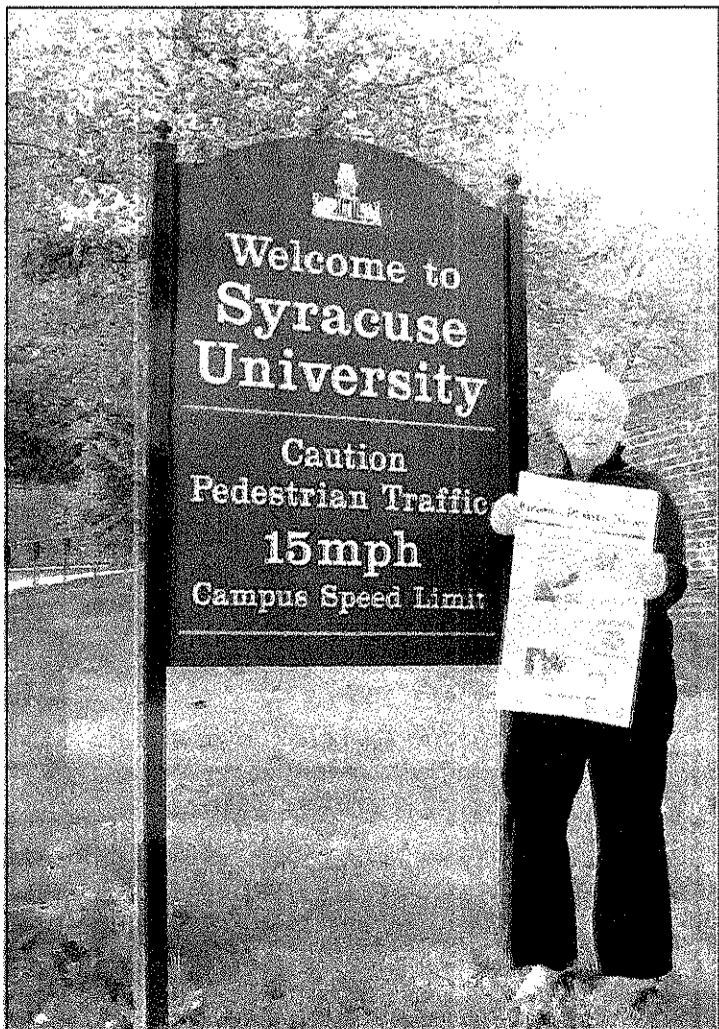
Jil Birkner of St. Clair Shores, Algonquin Provincial Park in northern Ontario.



Members of St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church on a pilgrimage to Israel. Left to right are Arlene Barlow, Mary Ghesquiere, Mary Sullivan-Roselle, Maggie Adlhoch, Bob Roselle, Thekla Abels, Marilyn Rizzo, Beth Crane, Paul Rizzo, Mary Jane McKeever and Sally Luedtke.



Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church members in London, England. Left to right, Jeff Leinike, Alex Bracci, Jon Lorenz, Julia Solecki, Emma Baker, Jaime Leineke and Megan Stowell.



Leona Collins-Forbes of Syracuse, N.Y. Class of Grosse Pointe High June 1956, at Syracuse University. She is an alumna of the University graduate school and retired teacher of English and art in Syracuse.

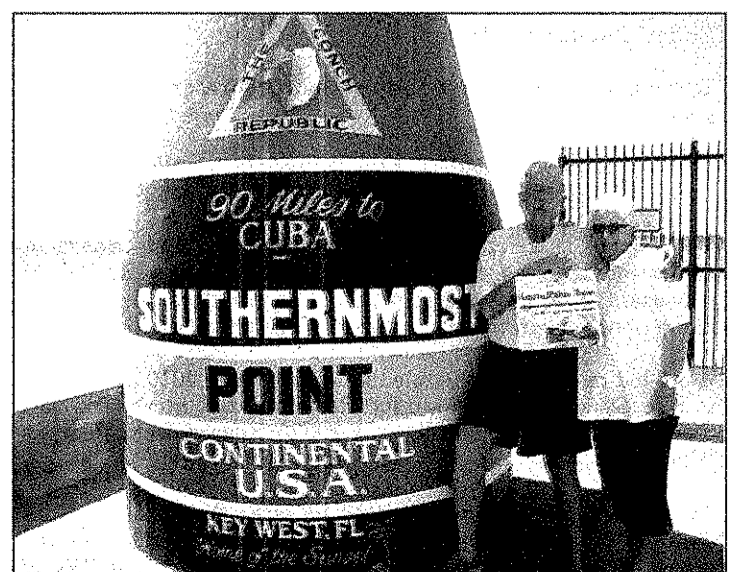


Major Lawrence Edell stationed in Afghanistan. He is the son-in-law of Marsha and David Polus of Grosse Pointe Farms.

When you travel, take along a copy of the Grosse Pointe News and have a photo taken of yourself in front of a local landmark. Send the picture, along with a few words to: The Grosse Pointe News Reader, 96 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; or e-mail editor@grossepointenews.com.



Eugene and Dorothy Ignasiak of Grosse Pointe Woods during a tour of Mardi Gras World in New Orleans while on a trip with the Nomads.



J. Roger and Judy Scott of Grosse Pointe Farms in Key West, Fla., the southern most point in the United States.

FEATURES

HEALTH

Boosting immune system
A strategy to stay healthy this winter
PAGE 4B

4B HEALTH | 5B CHURCHES | 6B ENTERTAINMENT

Grosse Pointers **Alix Chrumka** and **Allison DeClercq** are two of the top high school rowers not just in the state, but in the nation. The duo took the trek out east to compete.

Rowers turn sport into poetry

Grosse Pointe high school students, **Alix Chrumka** and **Allison DeClercq** competed in the Head of the Charles, the biggest rowing regatta in the world, and won gold medals.

The October race attracts thousands of rowers from high school athletes to Olympians, and hundreds of thousands of spectators.

The girls were second in the nation last year at the Junior National Championships and are the favorites to win this year. The duo are ranked the best high school rowers in the state and two of the best in the country. Because of their finish at last year's national championships they are considered All Americans.

Both were selected to try out for the United States Junior National Team to compete against rowers from around the world held in France this past summer.

Both girls attend Grosse Pointe South High School and row for the Girls Varsity Detroit Boat Club Crew on Belle Isle, coached by Robert Heide.

Chrumka and DeClercq endured a constant rain and temperatures in the 30s to race in a double scull against 31 other boats through a 3 mile winding course around bays and under several bridges.

Each boat starts in 15-second intervals and the girls were 22nd in the race.

The faster, passing boats have the right-of-way so they can yell ahead for the boats in front to move to port or starboard.

"The girls said they really enjoyed ordering the other boats around," said Julie Dinan, a boat club representative watching the race with her daughter. "We watched from a bridge about three-quarters of the way down the river. We saw the first several



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE DINAN

Grosse Pointers **Alix Chrumka**, left, and **Allison DeClercq** were all business during their last regatta.

boats come around the bend, then boats 9, 10, 11, and then 22. Holy smokes, they had passed 10 boats and were flying.

"I think they passed a couple more before the finish line. The race announcers, stationed along the course, called the race over loud speakers as the boats went by. They were excited about our girls, emphasizing how strong and beautifully the boat from Detroit moved."

The race is tracked on webcams and posted on the Internet. Because of the staggered start, it's difficult to

know who is in what place until all the boats are in.

"We found out that the girls had unofficially won about the time they were passing us going back up the river to where they launched," Dinan said. "Allison's dad yelled to them the good news. They had the biggest smiles on their faces all the way back."

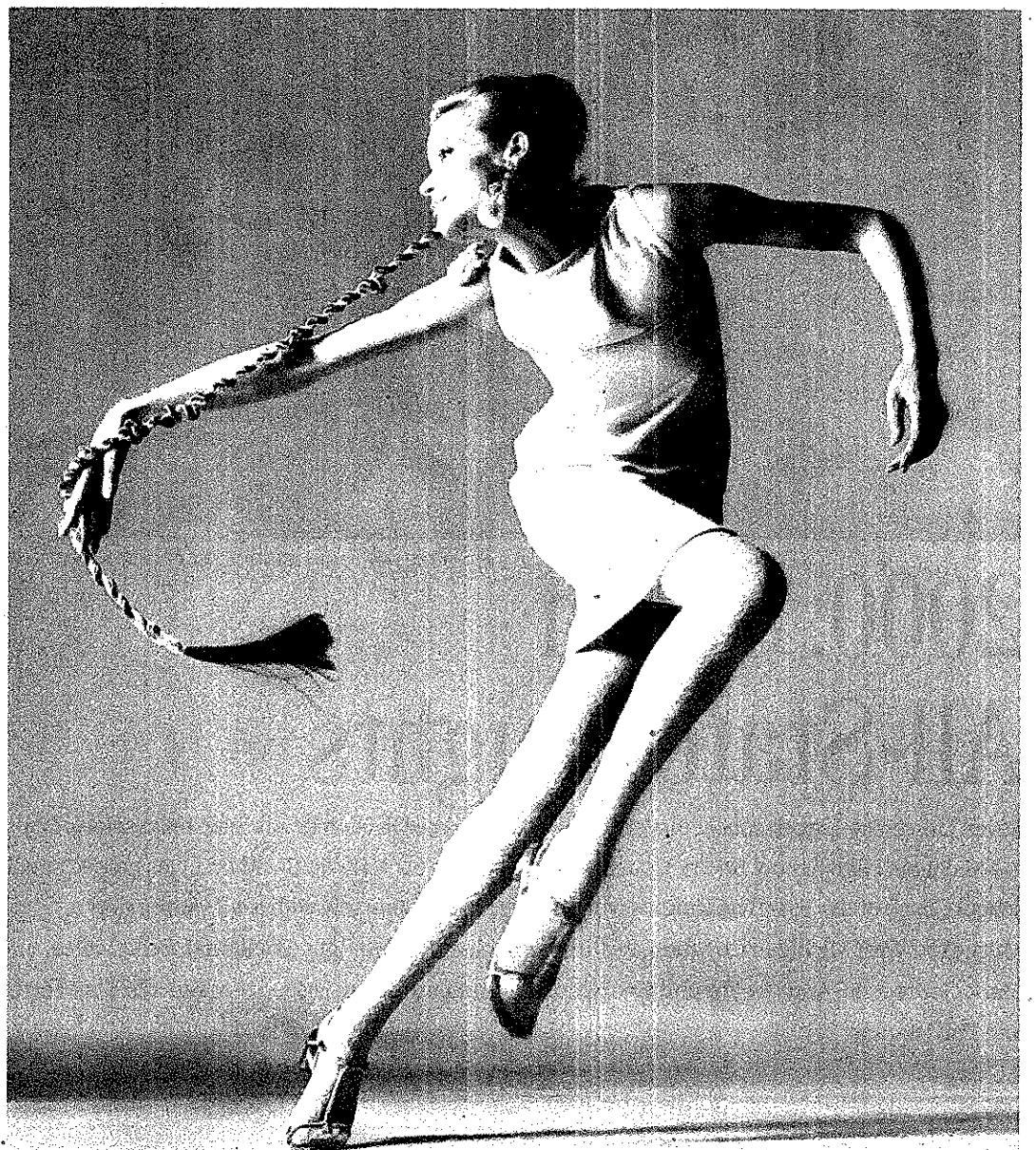
The race started at 9:30 a.m. and when it ended around 11 a.m., the girls said they couldn't feel their feet.

They received their gold medals and had photographs

See ROWERS, page 2B



Allison DeClercq, left, and Alix Chrumka are two of the best rowers in the state.



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23 | FEATURES

ROWERS: Local duo win gold medal

Continued from page 1B

taken at 4 p.m. and 30 minutes later, they were on the road back to Grosse Pointe.

Since its inception 45 years ago, the Head of the Charles regatta has grown into the rowing world's premier event.

Two days before the race, the girls set out to learn the course. Rowers must navigate under five bridges with narrow spans and choose the optimal path through a series of complex turns on the river.

This race has always been considered a coxswain's race. DeClercq and Chrumka were competing in the Junior Women's Double and did not have a coxswain. They had to learn every turn.

After rowing the course in the morning, they walked it with their coach several times. The purpose is to identify the precise route and landmarks that they could use to fine-tune their route.

Organizers limit practice time because of the huge number of entries.

The girls' next opportunity to get on the course was Friday afternoon. By then temperatures were in the high 30s, and it was windy and raining.

"As the girls debated whether they really needed an extra practice run, I told them that their decision should be based on whether another shot at the course would im-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE DINAN

Chrumka, left, and DeClercq show off the gold medals they earned at one of the nation's most prestigious regattas.

prove their chances of winning or not," Dinan said. "Allison looked at Alix and said 'lets go,' and 45 minutes later, they returned to the launching sight looking like Nanuck's daughters.

"There are not many people I know that would have gone

out on the water in similar conditions.

They made one last practice run on the course at 6 a.m. Saturday morning.

In a rowing head race, all boats line up in order at the starting line. They row through the starting line ap-

proximately 15 seconds apart with the race officials recording their start time.

As they cross the finish line, their starting time is deducted from their finish time and the boat with the shortest elapsed time is the winner.

Boats are started in order of

their finish position from the previous year after that, they start based on a lottery draw with DeClercq and Chrumka getting No. 22 out of 31. The advantage of starting in the first few positions is having the ability to set a pace against the top boats and not

needing to pass anyone.

"We arrived at the launch site Sunday morning an hour before the start, Alix was looking loose and didn't appear to have a care in the world and Allison had her headphones on and a game face on that would scare a linebacker," Dinan said. "As the girls looked out over the course in the pouring rain and 40 degree temperature their focus was evident. As parents, we couldn't be more proud. I could tell right then that they were going to win.

"Sara, Dinan's daughter, and I, along with Alix's parents, positioned our self's on the last bridge from the finish line and waited for the girls to arrive. Bow No. 2 was first to reach the last bridge, and they were looking very strong. As bow No. 10 arrived at the bridge we were just starting to look up the race course for Allison and Alix.

"Then we realized that they were right behind boat No. 11. They had passed 10 boats in the first two-thirds of the race. As they approached the bridge the announcer said, 'Look at those girls from Detroit go. They are the fastest team we have seen all day.'"

"Like an ORR or IRC race they knew that they had a great race but had no idea if they had won," Dinan said. "We quickly called our son, Matthew, who had watched the race online and he gave us the good news that unofficially they had finished first."

For more information about both woman's, and men's crews, visit detroitboatclubcrew.com.

Yesterday's Heads



FROM THE JAN. 6, 2000 ISSUE OF THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS

2000: Seven All-State Knights

Seven University Liggett soccer players were named to the Division IV All-State team selected by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association. Coach David Backhurst was named small school Coach of the Year. The Knights won the Division IV state title with a 4-2 victory over Muskegon West Michigan Christian. Pictured in back are, left to right, Backhurst, Scott Vallee, Mark Gottfredson, Andrew Yee and Eric Krauss. In front are, left to right, Steve Buhalis, Dan Ferrin and Phil Leaman.

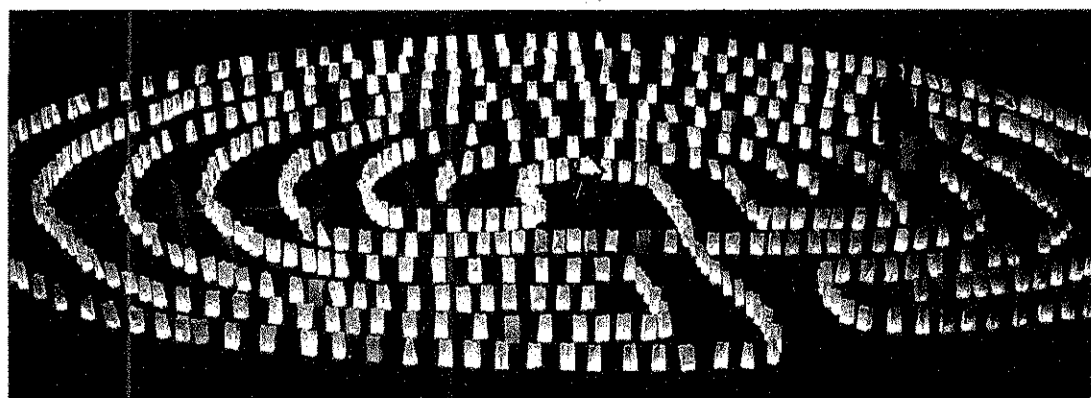


PHOTO COURTESY MAGGIE GRAGEL

Candlelight labyrinth

St. John Hospital and Medical Center's Liggett Breast Center recently hosted an outdoor candlelight labyrinth for breast cancer survivors and those touched by breast cancer at the Van Elslander Cancer Center. Norma Housey, labyrinth builder and facilitator, created the lit path. Attendees were encouraged to write a note and put it in the fire pit in the center of the labyrinth to symbolically let go of feelings.

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

1960

50 years ago this week

◆ **WOODS CITY HALL NEARLY DONE:** The Woods' new municipal hall will be completed by the end of January, the Woods council was informed at a meeting Jan. 4. All contractors stated that they will have their work finished by Jan. 8, but some minor work details must be taken care of and it will not be until the end of the month before equipment and workers will be off the premises.

◆ **FARMS MAN NAMED TO HIGH COURT:** Grosse Pointe Farms resident Theodore Souris has been appointed by Gov. G. Mennen Williams to the position of justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Souris, 34, only 10 years out of the University of Michigan

Law School, is the youngest man ever to be appointed to the state's highest court in its 132-year history.

◆ **THIEF RANSACKS PARK HOME:** Two Park police officers on a routine check of homes on their watch list found a house on Audubon had been entered by burglars.

The officers, checking homes of people who were out of town, discovered the rear door of the house had been jimmed open and the house ransacked.

It was not known what had been taken, if anything, and will not be known until the homeowner returns.

2000

10 years ago this week

◆ **FAMILIAR CRIME:** In a relatively common method of car theft, the owner of a 1995 Dodge Intrepid had left his car's motor running in the driveway of his home in the 900 block of Harcourt when someone drove away with the vehi-

cle. Three days later, a Grosse Pointe Shores woman reported to police that her 1999 Lexus was stolen after she started the vehicle's engine to warm the car up and went inside her house for a few minutes. The car was gone when she returned.

2005

Five years ago this week

◆ **FIRMS ASKED TO BID:** Three contractors are expected to submit competitive bids to renovate Osius Park marina in Grosse Pointe Shores.

◆ **RENTAL HOUSE DAMAGED:** Within hours of a 56-year-old man being evicted from a house on Fontana, Grosse Pointe Shores police discovered the dwelling heavily vandalized. Police found all the light bulbs gone, toilets broken, standing water in the kitchen and four to six inches of water in the basement leaking from the ceiling.

Valade Healing Arts Center community classes

The Valade Healing Arts Center, located within St. John Hospital and Medical Center, offers a variety of caring-healing classes and services.

Call (313) 647-3320 to register for classes which are all held on the third floor of the Van Elslander Cancer Center.

Community events

Intro to Reiki

Reiki is an ancient Japanese healing method. This free mini, hands-on session explains about reiki energy healing and its benefits is from 7 to 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 21.

Registration is not required. Donations are appreciated and help support the oncology fund for the healing arts center.

Reiki I

This class is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, and costs \$135.

Students learn the history of reiki, basic hand positions and ways to use energy in their lives and in service to others.

Aura photography

Participants are provided a color photo of their auras and chakras captured with state-of-the-art equipment for entertainment and educational purposes only.

The 20-minute class is by appointment from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 16. The cost is \$30.

Lunch and learn

"Crime Prevention" is the topic discussed by Rich Court, manager of security at St. John from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12. He talks about how to prevent becoming a victim of crime and property protection.

Admission is free. Bring a lunch. David Gakure, the Detroit Zoo's educational specialist, discusses "Growing Up in Africa" from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26. Admission is free. Bring a lunch. Preregistration is required.

Yoga

"Yes You Can, Yoga" is from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 20 — Feb. 24. The cost is \$70.

Senior yoga is from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 15 — Feb. 5. The cost is \$45. The class open to all ages.

Tai chi

Beginning level is from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., Mondays, Jan. 11 — Feb. 15; or from 1 to 2 p.m., Wednesdays, Jan. 13 — Feb. 17. The cost is \$60.

Continuing level is from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 11 — Feb. 15; or 2 to 3 p.m. Jan. 13 — March 17. The cost is \$95.

Attendees are invited from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Jan. 12 — Feb. 16. The cost is \$60.

To register for classes, or for more information, call the Valade Healing Arts Center at (313) 647-3320.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Questers

Pettipointe Questers No. 243 meet at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, with hostess Judy DeCosmo and co-hostess Marilee Rinke.

The program, by Anne Ryan, is "Papier Mache and Lacquer Ware."

Grosse Pointe Questers

The Grosse Pointe Questers meet at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8. Lynn Baker-Hunter presents "The Life of Carlos Parducci, Local Architect."

Shirley Bradley is the hostess and Rosemary Bay and Karen Joslyn are co-hostesses.

Cozy cooking

Grosse Pointe Historical Society presents Izzy's Cozy Cooking: Gingerbread Cookies, from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday Jan. 9, at the Provençal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Learn how to make gingerbread cookies from scratch. Hot chocolate is served.

The program is for children 8 to 10 years. Parents are welcome. The fee is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Registration deadline is Thursday, Jan. 7.

The class is led by Izzy Donnelly, the historical society's director of Education.

For more information or to make a reservation, call (313) 884-7010.

Chamber music

A Grosse Pointe Chamber Music concert is at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, in the Crystal Ballroom of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Music is performed by Max Brunch, Mason Smith and the Grosse Pointe South Woodwind Quintet.

Tickets are available at the door for \$12; those 18 and under are admitted free. For more information, call (586) 771-4387 or visit gpchambermusic@yahoo.com.

Grosse Pointe Rotary

The Grosse Pointe Rotary

club meets from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Speaker Kevin Graffagnino discusses the Clemens Library.

Community chorus

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus begins rehearsals at 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, for its 58th annual spring concert. Rehearsals are in the Grosse Pointe North High School choral room. Registration begins at 7 p.m. and dues are \$35. No auditions are necessary and new members are accepted until Jan. 26.

The spring concert is at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 2, at Parcels Middle School auditorium.

For more information, call (313) 882-2482.

Lakeside Palette

Lakeside Palette Club of St. Clair Shores meets at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Civic Area, 20000 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

Joye Opoku Ofei gives an oil painting demonstration.

For more information, call Robert at (586) 772-8843 or Denise at (586) 296-0217.

Pro Musica

Pro Musica of Detroit hosts pianist Nareh Arghamanyan in concert at 8:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 15, at the Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward, Detroit.

Tickets cost \$45 and may be ordered by calling the music center's box office at (313) 576-5111.

Broadway Stage

"Murderer" by Anthony Shaffer opens the 2010 Broadway Onstage Live Theatre season. The theater is located at 21517 Kelly, Eastpointe. Shows are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays, beginning Friday, Jan. 8 through Feb. 6.

Tickets cost \$14 opening night and \$16 for all other per-

formances.

For more information, call (586) 771-6333.

Garden center

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center holds its annual meeting and luncheon at noon, Friday, Jan. 15, in the Grosse Pointe War Memorial reception room, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Lunch is served at 12:15 p.m., business meeting is at 1 p.m. and program at 1:30 p.m.

Featured speaker Nancy Szerlag's topic is "container gardening."

The cost is \$25 or \$5 for only the lecture.

Reservations are required. For more information call the garden center at (313) 881-7511, ext. 206.

Library events

Local knitting shops, The Wool and The Floss and Artisan Knitworks, are joining the Grosse Pointe Public Library host a knitting event.

"Knitting in the Pointes" is at the Ewald Branch Library, Lakepointe and East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 24.

A workshop for both beginners and advanced knitters will either make a mystery project or just sit and stitch around a fireplace.

Knitters should bring needles and yarn.

When signing up, check the supply list for additional supplies needed. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the Central, Woods or Ewald branch.

For event and ticket information, call (313) 343-2074 or visit gp.lib.mi.us.

An artisan market, featuring jewelry, handbags, bath and body products, pampered pet items, tiles and various other art forms, is open.

Biggy Coffee has refreshments for sale.

Vickey Bloom, director of the library said, "Knitting is extremely popular right now and we see that in the library as well. There are mystery books, fiction books as well as instructional books that are very popular. That led us to tie knitting in with a library program. We hope to make it a yearly



Revolutionary Detroit

Three organizations focused on history took part in a day-long forum on Detroit during the American Revolution. Taking part in the three-party, day-long event were, from left, Detroit Historical Society curator Joel Stone, Wayne State University assistant history professor Denver Brunzman, standing from left, Julie Martin of Grosse Pointe Woods, Grace Smith of Harrison Township, Nancy Swartz of Grosse Pointe Farms, Liz Hardwick of the City of Grosse Pointe and Susie Scheiwe of Grosse Pointe Park, all members of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Information presented was the result of a search in archives and libraries in Michigan and Ontario to learn of Detroit's past by WSU graduate and undergraduate students. Funding for the project also came from the Michigan Humanities Foundation, the Louisa St. Clair Chapter DAR and John Paul Jones Society Children of the American Revolution of Grosse Pointe and the Detroit Historical Society. The findings were published in a book available at the Detroit Historical Museum gift shop are at olddetroitshop.com.

event."

The library is launching a variety of events to appeal to the library community. Additionally, these "grass root" fundraisers are to support programs, collections and services.

Literary feast

A cookbook with recipes submitted by library employees sales for \$15 and is available at all three branches.

The 224 recipes come from staff, board, friends' board and foundation members and

compiled them into a hard-cover cookbook and includes appetizers, main dishes, desserts and some for pets, as well. Recipes include the contributor's name.

Proceeds benefit the library and its programs.

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For the
Whole
Community

January 11 to January 17

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

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

Featured Guests & Topics

Who's in the Kitchen?

Chicken Tosca

Things to Do at the War Memorial

Belly Dancing, Guitar, Charlie Brown and Antique Road Show

Out of the Ordinary

Robert Thibodeau, Musician

Senior Men's Club

Mary Huebner
Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce

Economic Club of Detroit

James E. Rohr, Chairman & CEO,
PNC Financial Services Group

The SOC Show

Margie Pokorske
Physical Therapist

Great Lakes Log

Lorne, Ron & Griffin Sherry
Ice Boat Racing

The John Prost Show

Bob Thibodeau, Doug Fox, Nancy J. Vella
North American International Auto Show &
Financial Advisors

The Legal Insider

Boyd Chapin, Jr.
Character & Fitness of Lawyers

Art & Design

Gillis Benedict
Photographer

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



PHOTO BY JOHN MARTIN

Yacht club board elected

The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Board of Directors appointed Grosse Pointe Farms resident Mary Treder Lang as commodore for 2009-2010. Treder Lang, who has been a member of the GPYC since her childhood, is the club's 77th commodore and the yacht club's first female commodore. Officers and the board of directors for 2010 were also selected. Officers are vice commodore Robert L. Rader Jr.; rear commodore Ronald A. Schaupter; secretary William C. Vogel Jr.; and treasurer James N. Martin. Board of directors are Dr. Gary G. Bill, Daniel C. Bracciano, Kevin B. Granger, Scott K. Houghton, Thomas L. Lauzon, Michael A. Meda and Dr. John T. Seago. Front row from left, Vogel, Rader Jr., Lang, Schaupter and Martin; back row, from left, general manager Thomas G. Trainor, Thomas L. Lauzon, Seago, Granger, Houghton, Bill, Meda, and Bracciano.

FOR YOUR HEALTH

10 ways to strengthen the immune system

Did recurring colds or a tough bout with the flu knock you off your feet last winter?

If so, it may be time to give your immune system a much-needed boost. Although heredity and age play a role in how well your body guards itself against disease, you can enhance your self-healing mechanisms by making some diet and lifestyle changes.

Following are 10 ways to build your immune system. Read on and remember to consult your health care provider for advice on your specific medical requirements:

1. Be proactive. Speak to your physician about getting a tetanus booster every 10 years, a flu shot each fall and the pneumonia vaccine. Make sure your children are up-to-

date on their vaccines as well. Well-balanced diets, multivitamins, good hydration, hand washing and quitting smoking will also help improve your immune system.

2. Get moving. Physical activity stimulates circulation of the immune cells that fight infections and tumors. "For the best boost, aim for 30 minutes of aerobic activity three to five times a week," advises Dennis Ramus, MD, a family practice physician at St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

3. Learn to laugh. Positive experiences have a longer-lasting effect on the immune system than negative ones. In a study of 100 men, a pleasant event, such as a fishing trip, boosted immune function for two days, while a stressful event weakened immune function only on the day it oc-

curred. Enjoy life more by spending quality time with family and friends, caring for a pet or volunteering.

4. Add antioxidants. Enhance your immune system by boosting your intake of vitamins A, C and E and beta-carotene — also known as antioxidants. Vitamin C in particular has been shown to be effective in preventing or shortening the duration of common colds as well as other diseases. It's also proven to speed healing after injuries or operations.

To get the most of your antioxidants through diet, choose colorful fruits and vegetables. Sharpen your cancer-fighting edge by eating plenty of cruciferous vegetables such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and cabbage. They contain indoles and isothiocyanates, phytochemicals that

appear to block cell damage.

5. Watch your mouth. The mouth can harbor infections that take a toll on the immune system. Maintain good oral hygiene by brushing and flossing at least twice daily. Have a dental exam twice a year to detect any areas of hidden infection. If possible, avoid any major dental work while you're ill to avoid putting more strain on your immune system.

6. Think pungent. Although certainly no cure-all, garlic and its relatives — onions, scallions, shallots and chives — contain allyl sulfides, compounds that may help slow the spread of cancer and boost production of cancer-fighting enzymes.

Garlic may also protect your heart health by making blood less sticky and helping to lower high cholesterol levels.

7. Take teatime. Mounting evidence suggests teatime is more than an age-old soothing ritual; it may also help prolong life. Substances in green tea called polyphenols have been shown to prevent or slow the growth of cancerous tumors.

8. Avoid antibiotic overload. "Antibiotics should be used only when the immune system cannot stop a bacterial infection or when an infection invades a vital organ," said Ramus. Taking an antibiotic at the first sign of infection doesn't give the immune system a chance to fight disease and become stronger as a result. Overuse of antibiotics also encourages bacteria to develop into drug-resistant strains.

9. Stop smoking. Chemicals in tobacco may alter your immune system's ability to recognize and eliminate foreign

substances in the body. In addition, T-cells, white blood cells that coordinate immune system attacks, may not function as well in people who smoke.

10. Sleep soundly. It's the best restorative around — and it doesn't cost a dime. Among the important by-products of slumber are growth hormones, which help the body repair tissue and are produced mostly during slow-wave sleep.

Sleep also can help speed recovery from illness, so the next time you feel like you're getting sick, slow down to conserve your energy. Start drinking plenty of fluids. Rearrange your plans, then crawl into bed and rest.

To make an appointment, call St. John Health System Connect at 866-501-DOCS.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Lori Warner

Kindergarten readiness – social, emotional development



Q. I'm not sure if my son should start kindergarten this year. He has a late birthday and we have only done one year of preschool. How can I tell if I should wait or not?

A. Deciding whether to send a "young-fiver" to kindergarten is always an individual decision, and depends on many factors. One consideration most parents easily recognize is academic readiness.

But social and emotional readiness is equally as important, particularly for children who have had no preschool experience. Adjusting to a structured school schedule with multiple transitions can be challenging.

This is especially true for full-day kindergarten programs. Even for children with preschool experience, the behavioral expectations and routine in kindergarten will likely differ from what they've experienced in the past. Your local school district can help you assess your child's readiness in all aspects of development and assist you in making the right decision.

Q. What are some of the key social and emotional

skills needed in kindergarten?
A. Every kindergarten class is different, but all represent the child's first foray into elementary school, and this is a true milestone!

Kindergarten is a time when children increasingly learn they are part of a larger community. They learn more about the world around them and how their family, home, school and familiar places like the park, library, and grocery store fit into larger organizations and institutions.

Kindergarteners begin learning how to better identify and express their feelings and develop stronger empathy and understanding. Socializing with new classmates, learning

Save the date

- ◆ Making a Successful Transition into Kindergarten: A special follow-up to The Family Center's past fall "Kindergarten: Get Ready!" presentation.
- ◆ 7 p.m.
- ◆ Tuesday, Feb. 2
- ◆ Barnes Early Childhood Center 20090 Morningside, Grosse Pointe Woods
- ◆ Cost — \$5 per person
- ◆ RSVP by Jan. 26 at (313) 432-3832 or info@familycenterweb.org

to share and play cooperatively, and learning to assert oneself while understanding the importance of rules and authority are all key skills.

Children also broaden their interests and spark their creativity and excitement of dis-

covery during this timeframe.
Q. What can I expect my child to learn in terms of social and emotional growth in kindergarten?

A. Here are some helpful benchmarks from the Colorado State Library: coloradostatelibrary.org

- ◆ Most kindergarteners can:
 - ◆ Follow a classroom routine
 - ◆ Play cooperatively with others
 - ◆ Label and express feelings and emotions
 - ◆ Try new activities willingly
 - ◆ Stand up for themselves, but know bullying and violence are wrong
 - ◆ Wait fairly patiently for a turn or to speak
 - ◆ Take care of personal needs such as toileting, hand-

washing, and clothing
◆ Pay attention to a story or activity for 10 minutes.

Warner is a licensed psychologist and director of the HOPE Center, Center for Human Development at William Beaumont Hospital in Berkley. She can be reached at (248) 691-4774.

The Family Center, a 501(c)3, non-profit organization, serves as the community's centralized hub for information, resources and referral for families and professionals.

To view more Ask The Experts articles, visit our website familycenterweb.org. E-mail questions to info@familycenterweb.org. To volunteer or contribute, visit familycenterweb.org or call (313) 432-3832.

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Local hospital volunteers recognized

Several local volunteers have been recognized for their work with St. John Health System and its hospitals.

These "Distinguished Volunteers" were honored by the Greater Detroit Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the National Philanthropy Day Recognition Dinner, Nov. 12, at the Dearborn Hyatt.

Albert Callewaert of Clinton Township was recognized for his years serving on the St. John Health Foundation Board of Trustees. His background in banking, business development, real estate and international education and marketing assists the foundation and other community and professional organizations.

Alex and Teresa Lucido of Grosse Pointe Shores were recognized for their longtime dedication to the hospital. The couple donates cash, time and talent. They are members of the Champions for Life, a group of younger, often first-time donors and volunteers who support the Van Elslander Cancer Center. Teresa Lucido chaired the Champions for Life annual fundraising event several times and is a member of the Fontbonne Auxiliary.

Alex Lucido is immediate past president of the SJH&MC Guild, a volunteer fundraising organization.

Jane Nugent of Grosse Pointe Farms was recognized for her commitment to the hospital. She and her late husband, Robert, made leadership gifts to the hospital's expansion campaign. The triage area and the trauma/resuscitation area in the renovated emergency center are named in their honor.

Nugent is secretary of the St. John Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees and a member of the hospital's board of trustees and its past treasurer.

Thomas Russell of Grosse Pointe Farms was honored for his service on the St. John



Teresa and Alex Lucido



Jane Nugent



Thomas Russell



Albert Callewaert

Health Foundation Board of Trustees. He was also a member and chairman of the St. John Hospital and Medical Center Board of Trustees for many years.

Charlotte Walker of Bingham Farms was recognized for her volunteer work at Providence and Providence Park Hospitals. She has been instrumental in the success of the Friends' Ball, the hospital's largest fundraising event. She co-chaired the 2009 event, which raised \$102,000 for renovation of the cardiovascular intensive care unit in Southfield and the cardiac rehabilitation unit in Novi. She is co-chairing the event for 2010.

Walker financially supports Providence. Her husband, Joseph, a long time Providence Health Foundation Trustee, is chairman of the foundation.

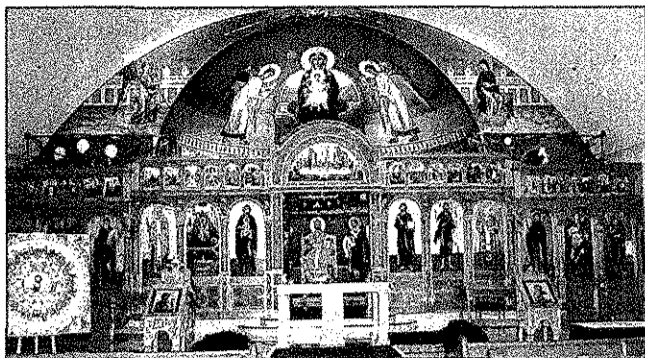


Charlotte Walker

Early Christmas 'gift' arrives at Assumption

By Patti Theros
Special Writer

It's been seven years since a fire destroyed the iconography in Assumption Greek Orthodox Church and last week, parishioners got to see the beginning of the restoration project.



Greek iconographer Vlasios Tsotsonis arrived two months ago to use his world-renowned creativity to sketch and paint to bring back what the blaze took away.

"These holy images are called the 'windows into heaven,'" said The Rev. Michael Varlamos, pastor of Assumption. "The icons of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, saints and angelic hosts beautify the Orthodox church to remind us of their presence in the world."

Drawing the most attention was a painting over the altar of the Virgin Mary enthroned holding the Christ child with angels watching from above.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas recently visited the church to view the restoration progress.

"It's incomprehensible," he said. "It's something you would see in a museum. It's in a church because it's not just a painting," he said, explaining iconography is not just a picture, but the icon represents God to the human being.

Iconography is very much a part of the Orthodox Church's focus on man's five senses. Churchgoers light a candle when they enter, smell the incense, hear the Byzantine music, take communion, and see and touch the icons and iconography.

Because the iconography is very important to the parish, the church formed a committee chaired by Harriet Stoukas

with members Lou Vlahantones, John Sheoris, Ted Niforos, Varlamos and church administrator Joan DeRonne to find the right iconographer.

Vlahantones has worked on three Assumption iconography committees.

"I worked on the iconography when the church was on Charlevoix, when we moved here to Marter Road in St. Clair Shores and now on the restoration project."

He explained iconography in an Orthodox church is placed based on tradition. For this reason, the committee's major challenge was finding the right iconographer for the project.

Sheoris said the committee selected Tsotsonis based on his world-renowned reputation and his use of color. Prior to the church fire, Assumption's iconography included a great deal of the color gold. Tsotsonis uses more vivid colors in his paintings, especially blue.

Tsotsonis was born in Corinth, Greece and is known as the "The Iconographer of Angels." He has been commissioned to paint some of the most prestigious churches in the world, including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and many monasteries and churches in Greece.

Because of his popularity, the Assumption committee had to be patient



An icon of the Lord and the Virgin Mary recently restored in the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. Clair Shores. Left, the restored altar.

for Tsotsonis' arrival. He now works night and day on the project, mostly 15 hour days.

This intense schedule comes with side effects. Tsotsonis said his tendonitis in his wrist acts up and occasionally he has shoulder pain. But it doesn't stop him, he said, adding his passion and love for his work keeps him going.

Tsotsonis left for Greece Dec. 20 and will return in October to complete Phase 1 of the project which includes the altar and two altar chapels.

Tours for groups and organizations can be arranged.

"During Christmas, a time of perpetual hope for all of mankind, it is a wonderful opportunity to come and see the beautiful icon of the Virgin Mary and the Christ child restored at our church," said Varlamos.

PASTOR'S CORNER By Matthew McCroskery

Congratulations

Congratulate yourself for being extraordinarily observant if you happened to notice certain

Christians celebrate the birth of Christ on a different date.

Congratulate yourself again if you know why.

For the rest of you, here is a brief history lesson:

In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar to the Roman world that the entire Christian world eventually adopted and used for more than 1,500 years. However, it proved to be impossible to synchronize this calendar precisely with astronomical phases, so gradually the date of Easter drifted away from the vernal equinox.

This was a slow drift, about 11 minutes per year, but it accumulated over the centuries. By the late 16th century, the calendar was about 10 days from where it had been during the Council of Nicæa in 325.

In February of 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued the papal bull Inter gravissimas, abolishing the Julian calendar and authorizing a new system intended to bring the civil calendar into sync with the astronomical movements and keep it there.

The first countries to adopt the new Gregorian calendar were the predominantly Roman Catholic: Italy, Spain and Portugal. Eventually, the Protestant countries — England, Germany and Denmark — went along, fol-

lowed by East Asian countries. The predominantly Orthodox countries got on board much later.

The Orthodox Church itself, ever reluctant to adopt any change at all — especially one initiated by a Roman pope — did not consider changing its calendar until the early 20th century.

Some Orthodox bodies decided to adopt a "Revised Julian" calendar. This calendar simply removed 13 days from the old calendar, making it nearly indistinguishable from the Gregorian system. Those Orthodox churches that celebrate Christmas with the Protestants and Roman Catholics observe this Revised Julian calendar.

For the rest of us, those few who still follow the ancient Julian calendar, our feast days occur 13 days after those on the Gregorian and Revised Julian calendars. That means, for example, that St. Patrick's Day — the 17th of March — falls on what is, according to the civil calendar, March 30. It also means that today, Jan. 7, by the new calendar, is Dec. 25 by the old.

Therefore, today we celebrate the Nativity of Christ. Merry Christmas!

Note: All Orthodox churches, whether on the old system or the new, celebrate Easter together every year.

McCroskery is director of Christian Outreach at St. Sabbas Orthodox Monastery in Harper Woods.

WORSHIP SERVICE

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www.stjamesgp.org
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Sunday 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

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9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
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Peter C. Smith, Preaching
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9:30 a.m. - Sunday School & Bible Classes
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Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Matthew T. Dent, Assistant Pastor

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Free Childcare provided
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CHURCH SCHOOL
9:45 am. Church School - 4 yrs. - 5th Grade
10:45 am Church School - Middle School
11:00 am Adult Church School
Nursery & Toddler Care Provided
Rev. Judith A. May

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
Crib & Toddler Care 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
"Young Children and Worship"
Program for Preschool through 2nd grade at 9:00 a.m. Service
7:30 a.m. Friday Ecumenical Men's Breakfast
Jan. 10- Guest Preacher, Dr. Steve Eason Preaching at 9 & 11 a.m.
Jan. 17- Worship Services at 9 & 11 a.m.
Jan. 24- Worship Services at 9 & 11 a.m.
Jan. 30- Installation of The Rev. Matthew Parker Wzreszcz at 2 p.m.

Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church
January 10, 2010
10:30 a.m. Service
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Childcare will be provided
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9:30 am Sunday School - All Ages
11:00 am - Traditional Worship
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10:15 a.m. Church School
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marinerschurchofdetroit.org

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881-6670
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10:10 a.m. Education Hour
11:15 a.m. Worship
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Sunday: 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m. (Latin - Choir)
12:00 p.m.
Daily Mass:
Monday - Saturday at 12:15 p.m.
Confessions 20 minutes before every Mass

68 | ENTERTAINMENT

A LA ANNIE By Annie Rouleau-Scheriff

Beef brisket to please many a palate



cook up a beef brisket that's dinner party worthy. Really.

Winter Brisket a la Scordo

- 2 to 3 onions, halved and sliced
- salt and pepper to taste
- 4 to 5 lbs. beef brisket (if you're not sure, ask the butcher)
- 1 16-oz. can whole cranberries
- 1 cup ketchup

My girlfriend Lynda is a terrific cook. She threw me this easy take on beef brisket over the phone yesterday. With just a few ingredients you'll

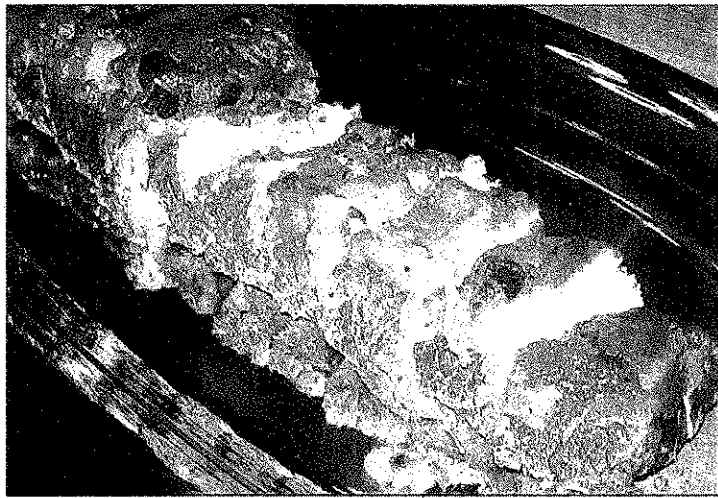


PHOTO BY VIRGINIA O. MCCOY

Cook beef brisket today for tomorrow's dinner.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spread the onions over the bottom of a large roasting dish.

Season generously with salt and pepper. Place the brisket, fat side up over the onions. Season the fat with salt and pepper. Stir together the cranberries and the ketchup and pour over the meat. Cover (with a fitted lid or foil) and cook at 375 for 3 to 4 hours, until the meat is tender.

Allow the brisket to rest covered, for 1/2 hour or so before

servicing. Slice the brisket and top with the sauce.

Lynda usually cooks the brisket a day in advance. Refrigerate over night then slice the brisket and reheat covered, at 300 degrees for 45 minutes or so.

Together the cranberries and the ketchup create a sweet and tangy sauce that will please many a palate. Your family will think you really fussed. Let them.

Thanks Lynda.

Neighborhood Club classes

The Neighborhood Club offers classes to exercise both the mind and body.

Youth gymnastics

Classes for children between the ages of 3 and 14 offer use of a full range of gymnastics equipment and is geared to ability, not age. All classes consist of floor tumbling, balance beam, uneven bars and vault.

Classes for beginners are from 5 to 6 p.m.; preschool 6:15 to 7 p.m.; and intermediate and advanced from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 7 — Feb. 11.

Mom and Tot Exercise Class

This class is for children 1 to 2 years old and their parents or caregivers. Children perform large motor activities and participate in music and movement, storytelling and fingerplays. It meets 9 to 9:50 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 7 — Feb. 4 and costs \$55.

The class meets in the kiddie gym. Children 2 to 3 years old can participate in group games, exercise, music and more from 10 to 10:50 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 7 — Feb. 4. The cost is \$55.

Karate

Benjamin Wolbert, a fifth degree Black belt, teaches classes for children, 4 to 14, 6:45 to 7:30 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 21 — April 1 in the Monteith Elementary School gym. Uniforms are available but not required. The cost is \$54.

Karate for Families is from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 21 — April 1 in the Monteith Elementary School gym. The cost is \$108 for two or more registrants from the same family.

Karate for Adults is 8:15 to 9 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 21 — April 1 in the Monteith Elementary School gym. This is for students 14 years and older. The techniques in this program use the whole body so size and stature is not an issue. The cost is \$54.

Registration for any of the aforementioned classes can be done online at neighborhoodclub.org or in person at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. Registration hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, call (313) 885-4600.

NEW ARRIVALS OF 2009

Proud Parents, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles...

Introduce Your New Baby Born in 2009 in The Grosse Pointe News. To Be Published, February 11, 2010

We will publish your full color photo and text for \$20.00. Deadline is Friday January 22nd! Call 313.343.5586 for details or mail us the completed form below. Feel free to E-mail us your photo in J-peg Format to sschuman@grossepointenews.com

Grosse Pointe News
96 Kercheval,
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236
Attention: Sally Schuman

Please Print

Child's Name (First & Last) _____

Date of Birth _____ Hospital _____

Weight & Length _____

Parents' Name (First & Last) _____

Mother's Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Visa MC Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Phone _____

The Babies of 2009

- Return no later than January 22, 2010 -

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Photo: Al Saib Costume: Dominique Lemieux ©2009 Cirque du Soleil Inc. Alegria and Cirque du Soleil are trademarks owned by and used under license

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SPORTS

BASEBALL

Learning the game

Local baseball coaches offer several clinics PAGE 3C

2C SOUTH YEAR IN REVIEW | 2C NORTH TENNIS | 3C BLOOMHUFF HONORED | 4-6C CLASSIFIEDS

BASKETBALL, HOCKEY

North plays tough

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Head coach Matt Lockhart knew he would need patience.

He lost nearly his entire district-winning team from a year ago and replaced the graduates with untested players.

In addition, the Norsemen's nonleague schedule was very tough. Included in the tough slate of games was a 48-40 loss to host Cass Tech in the PSL Holiday Classic the Monday after Christmas.

"I was happy with how our guys battled against a Cass Tech team that is ranked in the state," Lockhart said. "I knew it would take time for our newcomers to get on the same page with our veterans, who really didn't get a lot of playing time last year because we had so many seniors.

"I can see the guys playing better basketball at both ends of the court, but right now our problem is we're not shooting the ball particularly well. That will turn around. I know it."

The Norsemen, playing a

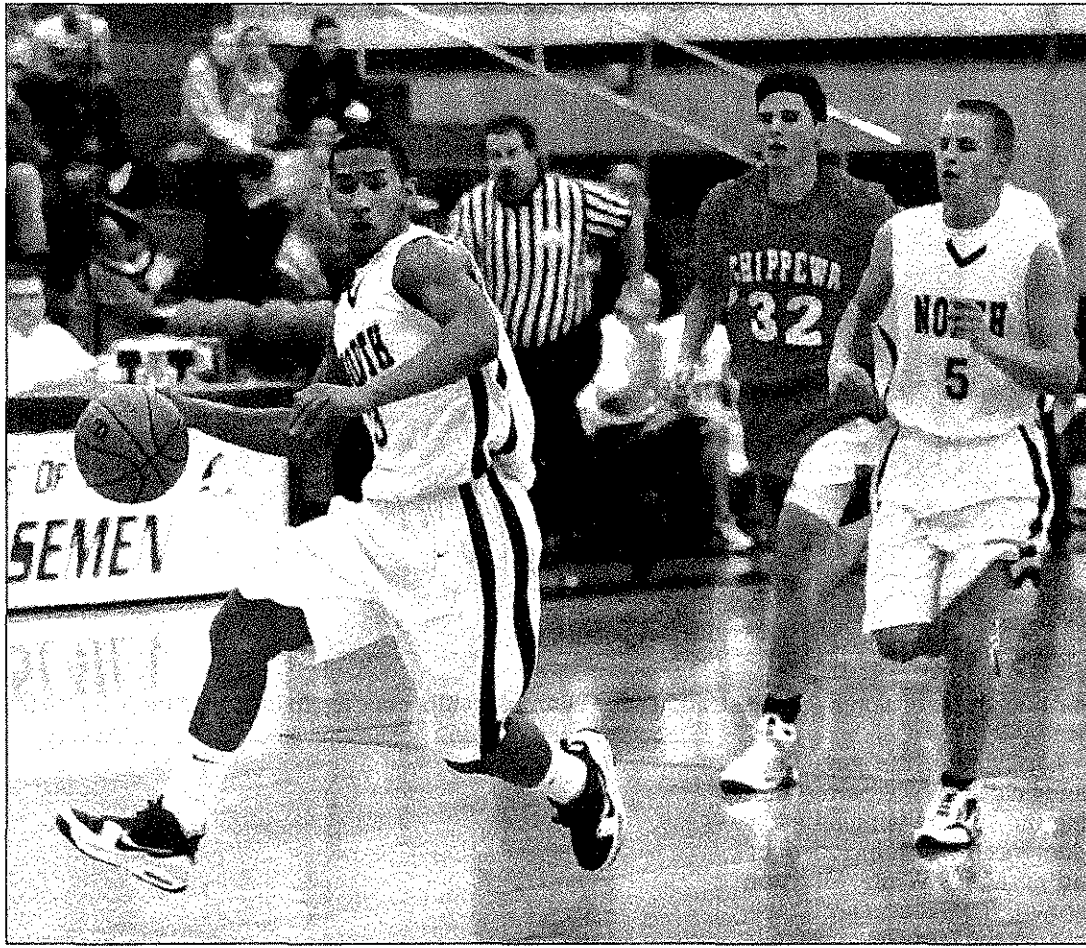


PHOTO BY DANA KAISER

Grosse Pointe North senior Troy Williams, left, shown here against Chippewa Valley, switched from point guard to wing, which head coach Matt Lockhart hopes improves the team's offense.

slower tempo game compared to last season, made only 4-of-26 field goal attempts in the first half and trailed 16-10.

Several times in the final two quarters they had a chance to get close, but a missed shot and a Cass Tech hoop would follow.

Senior Balazs Juhasz led the Norsemen with 14 points. Lockhart called it his best

game of the season.

Lockhart also switched senior Troy Williams from the point to the wing and junior George Greer from the wing to the point.

"The move seemed to work better," Lockhart said. "George had only two turnovers against some good Cass Tech guards and Troy looked better on the wing."

Sophomores Will Ritchie and Adam Andrzejczak also played well, according to Lockhart.

"Everyone is playing better, especially in our last two games against two very athletic teams, Madison and Cass Tech," Lockhart said. "We're going to work hard and get ready for our division play."

North dropped to 1-5 overall.

Blue Devils win tourney

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

"We headed to Alpena to try to get two much needed wins and to come together as a team," head coach Jamie Bufalino said. "And that we did."

After a week break, Grosse Pointe South's boys' hockey team played Hartland and pulled out a 4-3 victory.

The victory ended a three-game losing streak in which the Blue Devils were outscored 19-1.

In that first period, the game was tied 1-1 with Eric Marshall scoring for the Blue Devils, assisted by Jake Murphy and Jess Martinelli.

Hartland took a 2-1 lead off a South give-away and it tallied again to build a 3-1 advantage.

However, with six minutes left in the second stanza, Wes Cimmarusti slammed a rebound past the Hartland goalie, making it a 3-2 game.

Marshall scored again to tie the game and he completed the game-winning power play goal late in the third period, assisted by Jimmy Morris and Max Corbett.

Sophomore goalie C.J. Schebil made 22 saves to earn the win and Marshall was awarded the player of the game honor.

In the Blue Line Classic championship game, the Blue Devils blew past host Alpena, winning 7-1 as Sam Hartman earned the player of the game honor.

After a scoreless opening period, Miles Knight scored off a nice pass from Morris to go up 1-0.

A short time later, Martinelli and Morris set up Cimmarusti for a goal to give the Blue Devils a 2-0 lead.

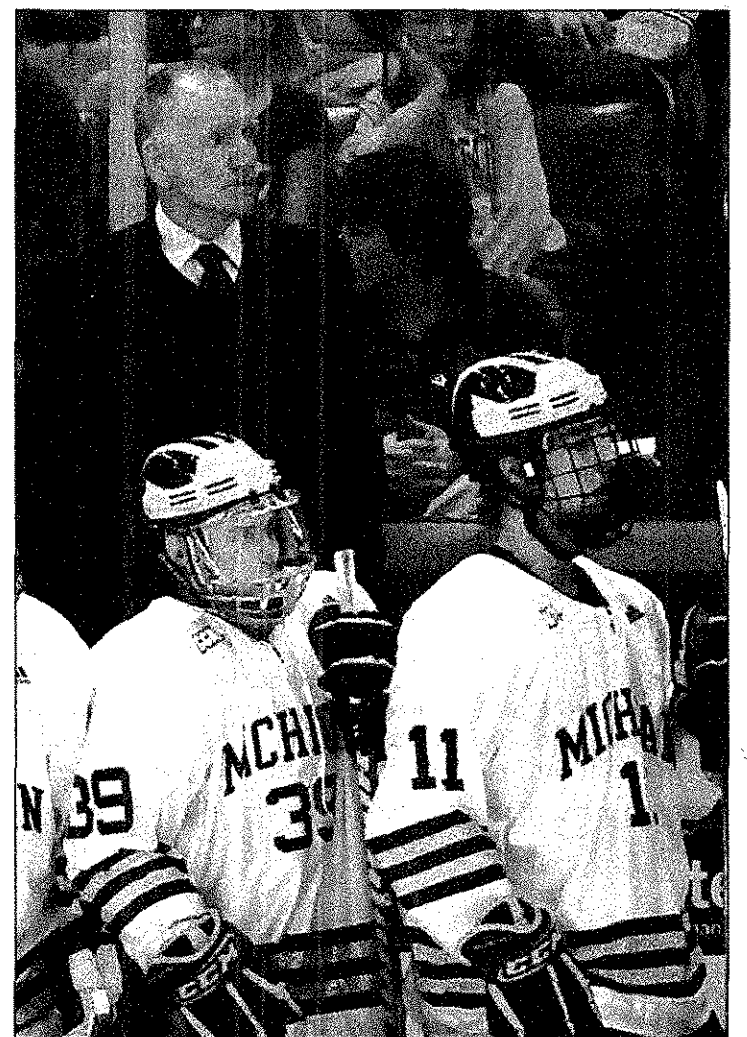
Thomas Marantette scored, assisted by Nolan Monforton and Geoff Welsler, and a couple of minutes later, Corbett tallied to put the Blue Devils up 4-0.

In the final period, Murphy scored, assisted by Billy Mestdagh, and Welsler tallied a power play goal with Cimmarusti drawing an assist.

Morris scored the final goal with Cimmarusti netting another assist. That rounded out the scoring with Schebil earning a second straight win in the net.

Grosse Pointe South improved to 4-5 overall.

COLLEGE HOCKEY



PHOTOS BY RENATO JAMETT

Hockey at the Joe

Grosse Pointe Woods' Corey Tropp, No. 25, a junior forward and assistant captain for Michigan State University's men's hockey team, helped the Spartans win their 12th Great Lakes Invitational Wednesday, Dec. 30, with a 6-1 win over Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Joe Louis Arena. Tropp and his teammates crushed Michigan Tech 10-1 in the semifinals. In addition, University of Michigan freshman and fellow Grosse Pointe Woods resident, Kevin Lynch, No. 11, and the Wolverines had to settle for third place with a 5-3 win over Tech in the consolation game. Last decade, MSU won four GLI titles with U-M winning back-to-back crowns in 2007 and 2008, defeating Michigan Tech and MSU. Other champions this decade were Colorado College, beating MSU in 2005; Boston College defeating MSU in 2003; Boston University beating U-M in 2002; and North Dakota defeating MSU in 2001.

Grosse Pointe South Year in Review

South's student-athletes enjoyed 2009

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Running was the name of the game at Grosse Pointe South in 2009, but through all of the thick and thin, girls' hockey and diving was at the pinnacle.

Below is a look back at South's athletic teams in 2009 and a list of those team that dominated the headlines.

Head coach Bill Fox and his girls' hockey team won a second straight state championship, beating Ann Arbor 3-2 in double-overtime. Shannon Gianino was the hero, scoring the title-winning goal off a scramble in front of the Pioneers' goal.

Fox exemplifies winning and tradition. His Blue Devils hockey teams have won nine of the 12 girls high school hockey championships, including two in a row over Ann Arbor.

During the last two seasons, Fox led the Blue Devils to a 39-1-3 record, which is by far the best of any program in the state.

So far this winter, they're 5-0 and in first place in the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League Division 1 standings.

The road to the championship included a 4-0 win over Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood in the semifinals and an 8-0 victory over Livonia Ladywood in the quarterfinals.

Graduate C.J. Jarboe posted back-to-back shutouts and finished her career as a three-time state champion, including being the starting goalkeeper the final two seasons.

Another champion was 2009 graduate Jordan Long, who won the Division 2 diving championship with 537.002 points. John Santeiu of U.D. Jesuit was second with 506.802 and Eric Rancour of Bay City Western was third with 418.35.

It was Long's second straight diving championship. His hard work earned him a scholarship to dive for Duke University's men's swimming and diving team. Diving coach Chad Hepner played an important role in helping Long break his own school records and repeat as a state champ.

In a meet Dec. 16 at Duke, Long finished fourth with 325.23 points in a meet against North Carolina State and The Ohio State University. Nick McCrory of Duke won with 357.23.

Other winter standouts were the wrestling team, that won a Division 1 district championship, as well as the Macomb Area Conference Gold Division dual and tournament championships under head coach Pat O'Donnell.

Leading the Blue Devils to the tri-fecta were 2009 graduates Griffin Forton, Joseph



The 2009 Grosse Pointe South girls' hockey team won a second straight state championship, once again beating Ann Arbor in the finals.

Konen and Max Thomas, plus underclassmen Undreas Hudson, Sergio Rodriguez and Reggie Lewis.

The boys' swim team, under head coach Eric Gunderson, had an easy time winning another MAC Red Division dual meet and tournament championship, lapping the field.

With Long leading the charge, the Blue Devils finished strong in the Division 2 state finals with Mike Muller, Kevin MacConnachie, Craig Campbell, Roby Boggs, Cam Johnson, Joe Hessburg, Matt Mandel, Mac Day, Luke Hessburg, Matt Schmidt, Mike Shook, Kyle Eschenberg, Joe Zampardo, Fares Ksehati, David Cockell, Cam Laney, Patrick Wagner, Wayne Brackett and Ryan Graham competing, too.

The team is even better this season and should finish in the top five at the state finals.

Head coach Kevin Richards has put fun back in the game of the Blue Devils' girls' basketball program.

The team is no longer the doormat of whatever division it was in and last winter Richards guided the Blue Devils to a MAC Blue Division championship with a road win over Mount Clemens.

Despite the regular season success, the year was dampened at the end after city rival Grosse Pointe North beat the Blue Devils 38-25 in a Class A district first-round game.

The Blue Devils led 14-13 at the half, but an 11-0 third-quarter run was key for the Norsemen.

Richards' squad finished 16-5 overall, which was the best mark in years. The overall leader of the team was 2009 graduate Clare Conway.

Last spring, the girls track and field team was perfect during the season, winning every dual meet, which included another MAC White Division crown. The Blue Devils also ran to the division meet title with 162 points with Romeo taking second with 128.

They placed in all 17 events as sophomore Veronica Schacht, junior Katie Steen, freshman Caitlin Moore, freshman Marissa Monforton and junior Amanda Ray were key cogs in head coach Steve Zaranek's lineup.

Sarah Youngblood, a 2009 graduate, earned All-League honors and fellow graduate Chelsea Gilbert set school records in the shot put and is currently attending an Ivy League school.

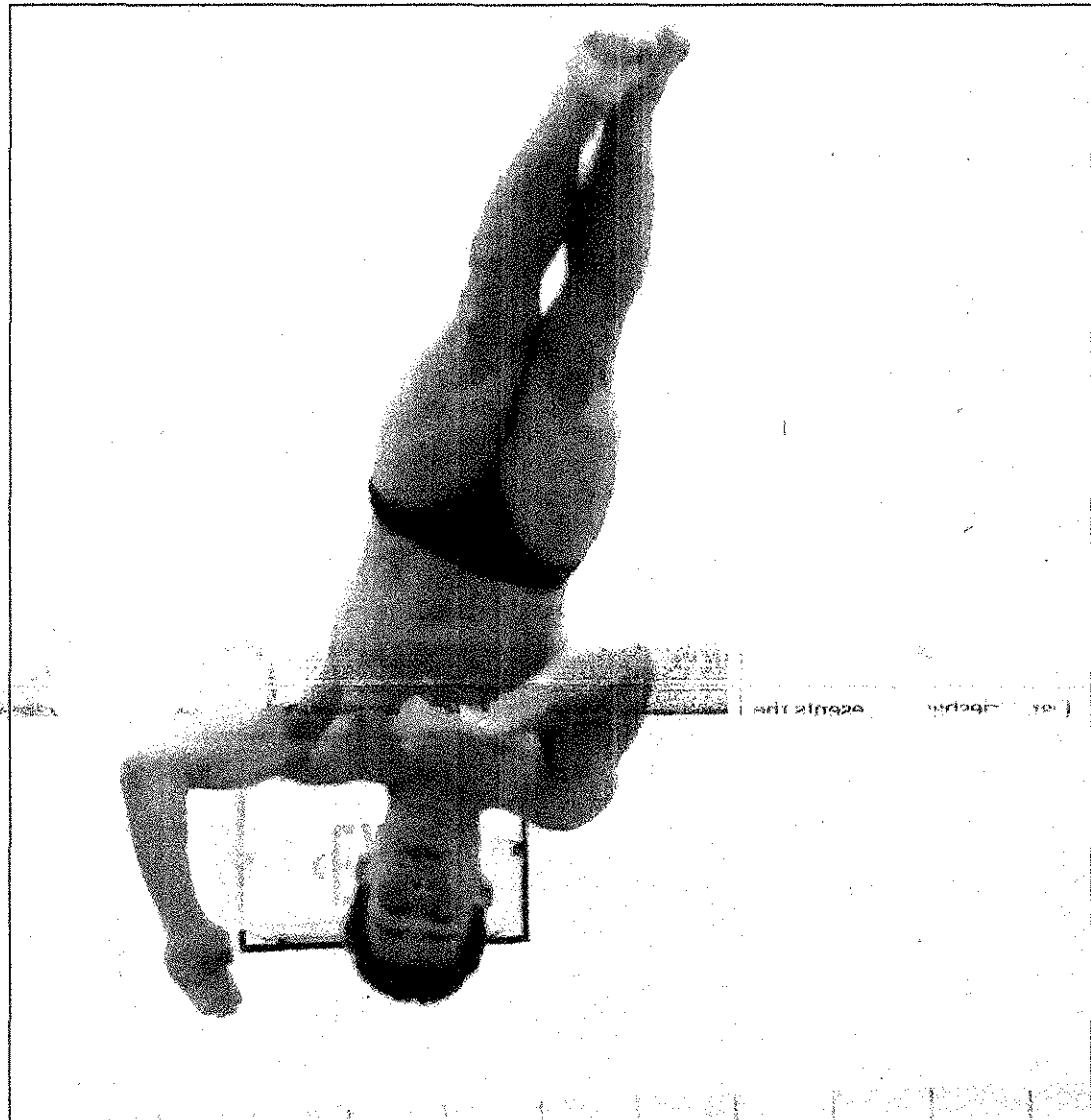
Head coach Dan Griesbaum and the boys' baseball team, loaded with inexperience at nearly every position, started slow, but came on like gangbusters.

The second-half surge was completed when the Blue Devils crushed rival Grosse Pointe North 10-1 in a district championship game at L'Anse Creuse.

Junior Bobby Peltz beat North ace Josh Cok and 2009 graduates Kelly O'Donnell-Daudlin, John Hackett and Keith Sklarski.

The following week, the Blue Devils lost 5-4 to eventual state champ Warren DeLaSalle in a regional final. They finished the season 23-15 overall.

The boys' golf team also had a nice run in the state playoffs, finishing in the top three in the districts to advance to the regional tournament. Head coach Rob McIntyre watched his boys miss making the state finals by just one stroke. The



Jordan Long also defended his state title in diving and earned a scholarship to dive for Duke University.

team's top golfers return this spring to make another run.

The girls' tennis team, under the tutelage of national coach of the year Mark Sobierski, won another MAC Red Division dual meet and tournament title, as well as a regional crown.

The Blue Devils, the defending Division 1 state champ, put together a strong run in the finals, taking third behind Midland Dow and Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Sobierski said it was one of the most satisfying seasons he had as a head coach because of the heart and soul the girls gave each and every day. Many thought the Blue Devils wouldn't finish very high, but taking third silenced all of those doubters.

The team's top finish was the No. 3 doubles team of juniors Diana Dodge and Kiki Fox, who made it to the finals of their respective flight.

Jumping to this fall, the girls' cross country team and head coach Steve Zaranek had a magical run through the schedule.

The Blue Devils, led by senior Katie Steen and several underclassmen, crushed the competition in every meet they competed.

They went on to win a regional championship before finishing with one of its best-ever finishes at the state finals, third, behind freshmen Hannah Meier, Haley Meier and Christina Firl.

The boys' tennis team put together a strong campaign, winning the MAC Red dual and division titles, along with a regional championship.

Head coach Tom Berschback couldn't have been

any happier the following week when the Blue Devils finished in the top 10 in the Division 1 state finals at Midland Tennis Center.

The No. 1 doubles team of senior Rob Montgomery and junior Charlie Miller had the most success for the Blue Devils, advancing to the semifinals.

Gunderson completed his 2009 coaching tenure by leading the girls' swimming and diving team to a 10th place finish at the Division 2 state finals at Oakland University.

The girls crushed the competition to win the MAC Red Division dual meet and tournament titles.

Leading the charge were state qualifiers Jessie Kaminski, Ali DeLoof, Lindsey Phillips, Ellen Neveux, Molly DeWald, Lily Boggs, Caroline Wilkinson, Laurel Johnson, Ellen Henrichs, Kacey Murphy, Abigail Constant, Megan Brooks and Tori Bruce.

The girls' golf team turned in back-to-back solid seasons with a third-place finish in the state finals. Behind junior Grace Scarsella, sophomore Claire Boyle, senior Carey Farley, sophomore Ella Pendy, freshman Hannah Buzolitz and sophomore Rachel Bellovich, the Blue Devils finished in the top three in the regionals, as well as second in the MAC Red Division.

The final team to earn accolades in 2009 was the football squad under third-year man, Tim Brandon.

The Blue Devils made the state playoffs for the first time since early in the decade with a 7-2 mark. The qualifying sixth win came on the best of days, homecoming.

The season ended with a tough loss to DeLaSalle in the opening round of the playoffs, but the Blue Devils put their name on the map and features a roster loaded with talented underclassmen.

Brandon and the players also celebrated after winning a MAC Blue Division crown. They began the run through the division with a come-from-behind 21-14 win at Sterling Heights. They trailed 14-0 midway through the fourth quarter before scoring the final 21 points to stun the home team.

Individuals

Grosse Pointe South student-athletes who earned All-State First Team honors in 2009 were more than a dozen.

They were Kelsey Burgess, Jarboe, Brian Auty and Trevor Sattelmeyer in ice hockey; Long, Shook, Mandel, Campbell, Joe Hessburg and Cam Johnson in swimming and diving; Katherine Palms, girls lacrosse; Sarah VanWalleghem, Liz Hyde and Stephanie Skau in girls tennis; Farley and Pendy in girls golf; Hannah and Haley Meier in cross country; and Montgomery in boys tennis.

Correction

In last week's Grosse Pointe North Year in Review, junior Doug Zade, No. 1 singles, along with seniors Kevin Zak and Kevin Irving, No. 1 doubles, were not listed as those student-athletes who made First Team All-State.

They earned the honor this fall in boys tennis.



The Blue Devils' duo of senior Carey Farley, left, and sophomore Ella Pendy also earned All-State First Team accolades this fall, helping the girls' golf team take third in the state finals.

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

Local athletes shine on college playing fields

Grosse Pointe North graduate Jacob Bloomhuff was selected to the American Football Coaches Association Division III All-America Team.

The Washington & Jefferson College senior defensive end gives the Presidents an All-America player for an eighth consecutive season.

Bloomhuff compiled one of the top defensive statistical seasons in school history this fall. The D3football.com Second Team All-South Region choice posted 35 tackles, 17 pass breakups and 14.5 sacks in 11 games for the 9-2 Presidents. He also forced three fumbles and intercepted one pass.

His 14.5 sacks were the most by a W&J defender since Stephan Swentkowski recorded 15.5 in 1988. In addition, Bloomhuff amassed 128 tackles, 42.5 for a loss, and 26.5 sacks in 35 career games.

With Bloomhuff as a member of the squad, Washington & Jefferson posted a 40-7 overall record and made four appearances in the NCAA Division III playoffs. In 2008, the Presidents advanced to the national quarterfinals.

Bloomhuff is tied for the NCAA Division III lead with 1.32 sacks per game, joining Hampden-Sydney junior William Rigenbach. Both players are third in the nation for overall sacks, trailing Wittenberg junior Eddie Vallery (16.5) and Coe freshman Fran Weymiller (15.5). Vallery was also chosen to the AFCA All-America Team.

The 6-foot-3, 245-pound Bloomhuff helped the North squad record a 14-0 victory in the Division III Senior Classic on December 5 at Salem (Va.) Stadium, home of the Division II Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl.

Hope College

Hope College recently announced its letter winners this fall.

Freshman Michael Bellovich, a Grosse Pointe South graduate, earned a letter in men's cross country, while senior David DeBoer, a South grad, junior Daniel Karam, a Grosse Pointe Woods resident and DeLaSalle grad, and junior Anthony Mucciante, a South grad, earned letters in football.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT D. MCGUINNESS

Jacob Bloomhuff, a Grosse Pointe North graduate, earned one of the highest honors a college student-athlete can achieve — All-American.

BASEBALL

Register now for local camps

Dan Griesbaum presents the Dan Griesbaum Baseball School Indoor Camp, which will be held Saturday, Jan. 16, and Sunday, Jan. 17, at the South high school gymnasiums.

The camp is for students in second through sixth grade, which coincides with Michigan High School Athletic Association rules. Everyone should meet in the main gymnasium.

The specialty camp focuses on pitching, hitting and catcher position.

It runs from 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 16 and 2 to 5 p.m. Jan. 17. It is \$50 for one day or \$90 for both sessions.

Contact camp directors Griesbaum at (313) 884-7834 or Matt Reno at (313) 886-5537 to register or for more questions.

Brochures are available at the main office at South, at the Neighborhood Club or on the South baseball website, gp-southbaseball.com.

South baseball coaches offer personal instruction

Baseball players of any age can receive personal instruction on all aspects of the game from Grosse Pointe South's baseball coaches.

South coaches are available for inside or outside instruction, throughout the year. Players may choose to have one or more coaches at a time and can focus on hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, or any other specific element of the game.

"We will continue to run the camps we have for years at South in January and March, and at Defer in June," said camp co-director and South varsity baseball head coach Dan Griesbaum. "Now, we are responding to the demand for private instruction throughout the year by offering instruction to individual players, a group of players or teams as a whole."

For details, call Reno at (313) 999-3487.

All MHSAA rules regarding out of season participation will be followed.

A portion of the proceeds benefit the Grosse Pointe

TRAVEL SOFTBALL



PHOTO BY JODEE SALISBURY

Holiday treat

Team Michigan's 10-under travel softball squad won its fourth tournament this fall, beating the Flash 14-1 in the championship game of the Genesee Holiday Tournament the weekend of Dec. 19, at the Genesee Field House. Liggett fifth-grader Emma St. John, standing fourth from left, earned the win, pitching two of the three innings, striking out each of the six hitters she faced. In her previous outing the day before, St. John struck out 15 hitters in a 10-1 six-inning victory over PC. Pride. Corbin Hison earned the other two wins, beating the Flash in the semifinals, striking out 10 in four innings, and a team from Ohio. Everyone on the squad enjoyed a solid tournament as each batter had at least two hits, including Sydney Auito who had a home run, as Team Michigan won its four games by a combined score of 48-2. Julia Salisbury had a key two-out RBI single in the semifinal that sparked the offense and Victoria Giardina and Piper Roth had a couple of huge run-scoring doubles in the tournament. Pictured above are, standing from left, Tod Roth, assistant coach; Jess Friedland; Julia Salisbury; St. John; Sydney Auito; Victoria Giardina; Tara Bieniewicz; Corbin Hison; and Kory Hison, co-head coach; kneeling from left, Cindy Hison, co-head coach; Savannah Slayton; Piper Roth; and Aleah Marra. This fall, Team Michigan has compiled a 19-0 record and is ranked No. 1 in the 10-under division.

TENNIS

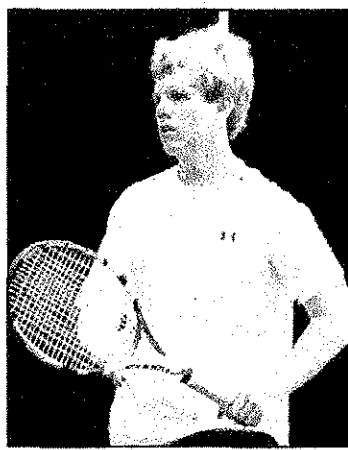


PHOTO BY MARY SCOTT

Holiday spirit

Grosse Pointe North senior Joe Scott won the Men's Campus Showdown at Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., Saturday, Dec. 26. He placed first in the singles and first in the doubles matches. Scott is still visiting colleges, trying to make a decision where to attend in the fall. So far, he has been contacted by 46 college coaches from 31 states.

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Business CONNECTION

**Produced by the Grosse Pointe News
January 7, 2010**

The League Shop "Then and Now"

Then - "The Little Shop" 1931-1955

The present day success of The League Shop as an established fixture within the Grosse Pointe community cannot be separated from its rich history and inception, born from the mission of The Junior League of Detroit.

It is with great delight we reprint an excerpt from the achieves of the Junior League of Detroit, as provided to us by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, from a narrative given by Betsy Bushnell for the 50th Anniversary of the Junior League.

"Since 1923, the Junior League of Detroit had operated a sales room at the Newbury House



Under the direction of Juliana McMillan (Mrs. Neil), "The Little Shop" was open in the Punch and Judy Building in July 1931.

From: Detroit News, Sunday, Sept 24, 1933

Headquarters. Through this outlet, articles produced by handicapped persons in the Detroit area were sold wholesale to factories and large department stores and retail to area residents. Expenses were paid from the general operating fund of "The League for the Handicapped" and proceeds from sales were placed in a revolving fund. From the revolving fund were paid costs of additional raw material and wages to homebound and handicapped workers.

The items produced by handicapped workers grew from dish-towels and maid's aprons to include monogrammed linens, trousseau items, crewelwork, baskets and chair caning.

With guidance from Alice Weibel, instructor in Italian stitchery, the workers produced needlework of exceptional beauty and quality.

During the Depression year's sales at the Newbury House declined. By 1931 League members were eager to provide an additional market for the handicrafts. There existed a need in Grosse Pointe for a gift shop and a need within the League to provide a worthy service for League volunteers. A retail shop was created to meet all of these needs.

Under the direction of Juliana McMillan (Mrs. Neil), "The Little Shop" was opened in the Punch and Judy building in July 1931.

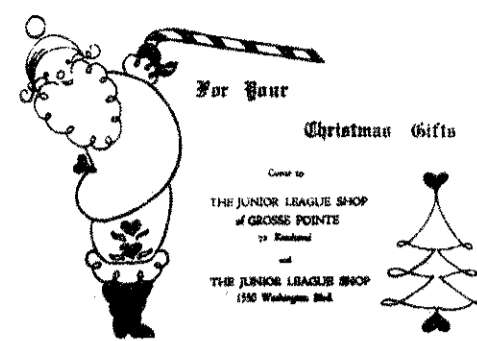
Merchandise in the store included specialty gift items, as well as handicrafts produced by handicapped workers. Mrs. McMillan visited the Chicago Merchandise Mart to select gift items to be sold in "The Little Shop." The profit from the sales of these items was used to cover rent costs.

League members frequented "The Little Shop." They offered ideas, gathered from worldwide travels, for new merchandise. Eventually the League employed Emma Garrison, expert in textile art, to design patterns for articles to be reproduced by handicapped workers. Her art was influenced by the suggestions of artistic beauty from every corner of the world.

In an effort to increase funds, League members set up a children's book corner and a puzzle shelf within the store. Children's books and large jigsaw puzzles were rented on a weekly basis. With overhead costs defrayed, all money from the sale of goods produced by the handicapped workers was returned to "The League for the Handicapped."

Twenty-five League volunteers a week offered excellent services to a discriminating clientele. "The Little Shop" merchandise earned a reputation for outstanding quality and design.

Although the Shop changed its location on Kercheval several



times, it retained its reputation for quality service and merchandise. In March 1948, "The Little Shop" was moved to 72 Kercheval (the location of the current League Shop) and the name of the shop was changed to "The Junior League Shop of Grosse Pointe." The League continued to operate it until 1955. In October of that year ownership was transferred to two philanthropists.

Although the store name was changed to simply "The League Shop," it remained a retail outlet for items produced by handicapped workers.

In announcing the ownership transfer on October 6, 1955, the Junior League explained, "The Shop has grown and expanded and has outgrown its original pioneering aspects. Because of this ... the Junior League feels obligated to withdraw from this field in order to concentrate its energies on other major tasks."

Now - "The League Shop -

change of ownership and higher end offerings" 1971-Present

"Training from the Junior League allowed me to do other work in the community," Pat Brinker, owner of The League Shop.

By Sally Schuman, Special Writer

The year 1971 saw a change in ownership for The League Shop and brought about a whole new life direction for, now owner, Pat Brinker and her family.

Brinker, a teacher for four years at Barnes Elementary School, met and married fellow Barnes educator, Henry Reynolds. This began her new life as housewife and mother to three stepchildren. In 1971 Reynolds left teaching, planning to move his family to Vermont and pursue a PHD at his alma mater, Dartmouth. At the same time, The League Shop was put up for sale, intriguing Reynolds with the thought of owning a retail business. His children convinced him it was a great idea and so the store changed hands, Vermont and the PHD stepping aside for a whole new direction!

"The interesting thing is that I got involved so quickly," Brinker said, as this was not the original plan. "In the first two months (we owned the store) I was in the store five days a week," and with her husbands passing just three short years later, "I've been in the store a lot more than that for the last 38 years!"

Brinker is proud of the heritage The League Shop shares with the Junior League of Detroit and quickly points out, "Training from the Junior League allowed me to do other work in the community."

In spite of long hours spent at her store, Brinker has been extensively involved as a volunteer in the community. Her service has included work with the Hill Association, a board position with the Grosse Pointe Rotary and seven years on the Neighborhood Club board; this last June seeing the end of her four year tenure as president of that organization. "This has allowed me to give back to the community," Brinker states.

Brinker also volunteers her knowledge of china and crystal to the Grosse Pointe School System. "South held a contest in their Home Design class on setting a table for two," Brinker explained. "I taught the students the differ-

ences between stoneware, pottery and fine china, explaining table setting; then the students were divided into groups of six and tested on their knowledge." Another benefit she provides the schools, through The League Shop, has been her involvement with co-op students. "I have trained co-op students for years. When they go into the job force afterwards, they have the training to service the public and the knowledge of what is required in the work place. It helps them get a job a lot easier."

In the tradition of her Junior League predecessors, Brinker has continued training and employing those with special needs. "I have a young woman who has been with me for 12 years now; she was trained on the machine that makes our bows and works in the lower level of the store in our wrapping department," Brinker shares. "All of my employees bring something unique to The League Shop and we add to that training in what is unique to our store."

Under Brinker's ownership, The League Shop sold stationery, casual dinnerware and glassware along with gift items. "When the Sign of the Mermaid closed, we expanded our offerings into higher end dinnerware, crystal and silver. Nobody on the eastside has the quality of merchandise we do," Brinker states proudly.

"The store was then located where Café Nini is now and in 1980, we moved to our current address at 72 Kercheval, the last location of the Junior Leagues "The Little Shop." We have come full circle!" Two years ago Brinker expanded into the building next door, devoting that space to her stationery offerings, including brands, William Arthur, Crane, Embossed Graphics and Anna Griffin. This also enabled her to bring up more casual dinnerware and glassware selections, giving her customers greater variety.

Today the League Shop is known for their bridal registry, offered both in store and online. "We feature Juliska' casual stoneware and crystal," Brinker informs. "This brand is really hot right now and half of our brides register for it." Another selection greatly desired by League Shop brides-to-be is 'Steuben' glass, "the world's most expensive glass - very clear, not cut

and known for its etching." The League Shop also carries Herend, Jay Strongwater, Baccarat and Mary Jurek; "Her hammered stainless steel look accessories are really popular right now," Brinker says.

Top quality services are also found at The League Shop. "We wrap all our purchases free of charge and offer free deliver twice a week in the Grosse Pointe area," Brinker states. "We also ship out via UPS each day for our customers convenience."

Another sought after League Shop exclusive is their annual September silver clinic. At this event, Brinker brings in a silver specialist from Philadelphia who supplies her customers with no charge estimates for repairing or replating their silver. Brinker said, "Through this event my customers find out whether or not it is worth repairing or replating their silver." She also has a source she can send

fine crystal to be repaired. "I have a glass blower in Ohio who beautifully repairs chips or breaks."

Twice a year, in January and July, The League Shop holds a much-anticipated 20% off sale on all wedding invitations and accessories. This includes all napkins, shower invitations, place cards and programs. This sale is currently going on for the entire month of January. "It is a great time for our brides to purchase the items they want and save money," Brinker states.

Shopping the elegantly displayed items offered at The League Shop is always a treat no matter the season or item desired. The store, located at 72 Kercheval "on the Hill" is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., with late hours each Thursday until 7:00 p.m. You can call the store for further information at 313-882-6880 and visit their website at www.theleagueshop.com.



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A small, family-owned store started in 1972 by founder, George Skolas, has grown to three Sargent Appliance & Video locations. As some businesses have struggled with the difficult economy, Sargent opened a location on Hall Road in Macomb Township, adding to stores in Clinton Township and Rochester.

"The key to surviving has been customer service. Everyone can claim customer service, but few deliver it," said General Manager Dave Faulk. "There are three generations who work here, George, his son and daughter, John and Nicki and their children, serving three generations of customers. We work very hard to provide reliable service. It's the best part of the job."

Sargent Appliance & Video offers a wide range of air conditioners, dishwashers, washers, dryers,

microwaves, televisions and more. Built-in and luxury kitchen items are on display in their showrooms. Brand names include GE, Jenn-Air, Maytag, Whirlpool, Amana, Hotpoint, KitchenAid, Viking, Miele, Bosch and others. On the electronics side televisions featured include Sony, LG, Toshiba and Samsung.

"We have high quality products at discount prices," said Faulk, who has worked for Sargent for 19 years. "If a new product hits, we'll have it."

Faulk said Sargent only sells quality items because repeat customers are key to their success.

"Everybody who works here works for

us, not another company," Faulk said. "Our delivery, installation, everything is done by employees who live in the area and spend their money here. It's really a family. We appreciate our customers and help in every way we can."



The hot ticket items include front-loading washers and dryers. Always a popular purchase, flat-panel TVs are also much more affordable than they were a few years ago.

Sargent Appliance & Video competes with larger stores because of their buying power and reputation. Service and attention to detail sets them apart from competitors.

"We will answer every single question you have about a product we sell here," Faulk said. "If we don't know the

answer, we'll get it right away. We want to make sure you're completely satisfied with your purchase. Our employees do whatever it takes for our customers. That's where we're one step ahead of everyone else."

Sargent has three locations, including the Clinton Township store at 35950 Gratiot Ave., just south of Metro Parkway and next to Dorian Ford. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call (586) 791-0560 for more information. Sargent Appliance in Rochester is located at 528 Main Street, just north of University. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Call (248) 652-7257 for more information. The newest store is located in Macomb Township at 20201 Hall Road. For more information, call (586) 226-2266.

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"Restaurant Compared to 'Cheers' But It's Really 'All in the Family'"

By Sally Schuman, Special Writer

Being restaurateurs is 'in the blood' for the Curis family, as Dan Curis, owner of Champs Rotisserie & Spirits and the Grosse Pointe Woods Big Boy relays.

Prominently displayed in both of his restaurants is a picture of Dan's father, George Curis, who taught his son everything he knew about the restaurant business. "My dad used to work for Fontana Brothers (a vending machine company) and he would fill the cigarette machines at the Big Boy, he even ran Fontana Brothers for awhile. So when Big Boys began franchising in the early 60's my father became one of the first franchise owners in the state of Michigan." At one point, Curis' father increased his franchise to 14 locations, one of those being the Big Boys located at 20710 Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods, which was originally built for Johnny Elias.

In 1978, Dan had earned his degree in law enforcement but decided to take over his father's restaurant, "Big Boys", in Grosse Pointe Woods - and he has been running it ever since. His father instilled in him at an early age the importance of treating his employees with respect. Those same values are what creates the family atmosphere, and sets Curis' restaurants apart from the rest. "My dad always told me to be a good boss," something Curis took to heart. "My employees have been with me a long time. People want to do a good job and be a good employee," Curis stated.

Curis met Jim Champion, then owner of Champs Rotisserie & Spirits, through running

the Big Boys. Being a long time Grosse Pointer, Curis and his family believe in supporting the local merchants and dining out at the area restaurants. Curis, a frequent guest, was very familiar with Champs and the staff. He recounted, "We enjoyed the food and the service." He told Champion, "If you ever decide to sell, I want to buy this place," a business deal that was sealed with a gentleman's handshake as Champs changed hands on October 24th 2007.

Keeping the quality of the restaurant and the staff intact were very important points to Champion, whose employees had been with him a long time. Curis didn't change the menu, kept the atmosphere and kept the 'family' of employees - all promises included in the handshake.

Curis sang the praises of these long time employees, stating "They took me under their wing and helped me as the 'new guy.' They taught me about their restaurant - and it was their restaurant. It still works for us that way and they haven't fired me yet!"

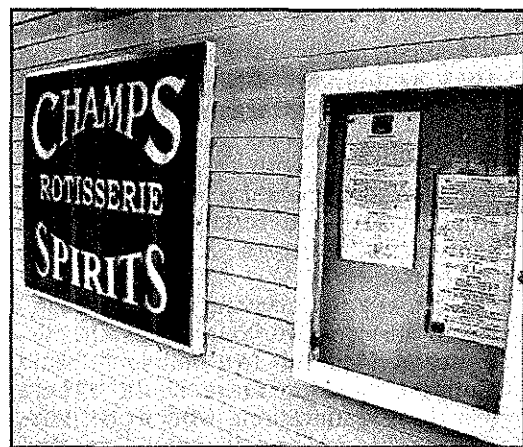
Saving the best for last, Curis expounded on how he couldn't do anything without his real life family; "Ann has been my rock and my support base," said Curis proudly, "She is a tremendous help to me. We've been married 25 years." His son Dan Jr. (20) is currently a 3rd year Wayne State, Business Program, student and working for me full time. His 18 year old twins are now Seniors at GP North. His daughter Katie (22)

graduated from Western Michigan University (WMU). Dan also recognized his mother, Amelia Curis, as being the backbone of the entire Curis family.

Champs began as a true rotisserie serving ribs and chicken. The first owner, prior to Champion, used to close the restaurant area for three months in the winter. Only carry out would be available during that time. For this reason, to this day, Champs has a tremendous carry out business that Curis says is "unmatchable."

Over the years, the menu developed and expanded to its current day selection, including steaks, fish, chops, sandwiches, salads, soups, a children's menu - and of course, their famous rotisserie ribs and chicken. All meals include a loaf of their delicious home made garlic bread and there is a full bar to accompany your meal selection. Every day you will find different items that are on special, complete with salad and potato, about \$13-\$15 for a COMPLETE MEAL. "We are on the low end for a Mack Avenue restaurant," said Curis. He also boasts the only two non-smoking restaurants on Mack Avenue (including the patio.)

Inside you will find a warm and inviting atmosphere complete with a fireplace that adds to the ambience. Outside you will find, "the best patio on Mack Avenue," as Curis fondly puts it. "No matter how long you sit out there (on the



patio) you encounter someone you know walking down the sidewalk. We've been referred to as 'Cheers' - you always know somebody." Curis says, all in all, his restaurant is "very cozy" and he's right!

"We still run coupons because the people look forward to them. We understand what's happening out there, but we haven't brought the quality down to make up for the price. That's what keeps us going," said Curis.

The hours have been kept the same also, because as Champion told him, "they are at the perfect time limits," something Curis agrees with. You will find Champs open Monday - Thursday from 4 pm until 10 pm; Friday and Saturday from 4 pm until 11 pm and Sunday 3 pm until 10 pm. Carry outs can be ordered or any questions answered about their catering service by calling 313-886-7755

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TWO BAR•B•Q CHICKEN DINNERS **\$18⁹⁹**

Includes: Cole Slaw, Garlic Loaf, Cottage Fries, or Baked Potato

With Coupon. Dine-in or Carry Out. Exp. 1-31-10

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School activities support healthy lifestyle

By Special Writer, Sally A. Schuman

"Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able, of themselves, to impart purpose and direction to their lives." Rudolf Steiner founded the first Waldorf School upon this philosophy and today over 900 Waldorf schools boast the fastest growing educational model in the world.

Detroit Waldorf School, located at 2555 Burns Avenue in the heart of Indian Village, has proudly carried on the tradition for 43 years. "Detroit Waldorf School's impulse is to create a cultural renewal by bringing forth each child's potential so they can bring their gift to society," Melanie Reiser, Outreach Director explained.

Along with intellectual and academic potential, artistic, social, emotional and physical well-being are developed. "Each child has a unique capacity to transform society," Reiser said. Community activities are the impetus that brings about a child's social growth.

All activities are family oriented and are open to the community at no cost. "Our events support our values," Reiser said. Each month students, parents and neighbors participate in a community service project. Past projects include working in a community garden at Romanski Park with The Greening of Detroit and harvesting honey at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Community Family Nights are held six times a year at the school promoting parent and child participation. "Parents stay and play with their children. Except for films, events are planned so that parents and children can participate in activities together," Reiser said. "As much as possible we are doing things that can be replicated at home."

For example, Detroit Waldorf School has held parent and child cooking classes for sushi, smoothies and pumpkin pies; families were taught double dutch jump rope by the seventh and eighth grade students and their coach and the school has hosted bike safety classes. About 50% of the participants come from the surrounding community.

Even fundraising events support the values of Detroit Waldorf School. The school is particularly proud of the "Knit-a-Thon," where pledges were made and students and community members participated in a "Casting Off Party" knitting squares that were made into blankets. These blankets were then donated to Children's Hospital.

The 2009-10 school year activities are focused on educating families and bringing awareness to healthy play. This includes films on how the media affects children and their families and food issues that affect healthy living and nutrition. In November 2009 the school presented "Consuming Kids," a film that expounded on how advertisers spend over \$60 billion a year to convince children what

they need. Reiser reported, "The auditorium was packed."

On January 29th, 2010 Detroit Waldorf School will present the documentary "The Future of Food." As quoted from the website www.thefutureoffood.com - "The Future of Food, a groundbreaking documentary released in 2004, distills the complex technology and key regulatory, legal, ethical, environmental and consumer issues surrounding the troubling changes happening in the food system today - genetically engi-

neered foods, patenting and the corporatization of food - into terms the average person can easily understand. It empowers consumers to understand the consequences of their food choices on our future."

This film has been shown globally, sold out in European premiers and was chosen "one of the best documentaries of 2004" by the Oscar screening committee of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. "Genetic engineering of food crops is as controversial today as ever, as many of the large

agro corporations that use the technology position themselves as the answer to the world food crisis and further consolidate the seed supply. The Future of Food continues to be a key tool used by activists and educators who call for increased attention to this issue."

Detroit Waldorf School welcomes the community to attend the showing of this film. Light refreshments will be served and a panel of nutrition experts will speak afterwards and field questions from the audience.



Film Screening with Panelists

The Future of Food

THE FUTURE OF FOOD offers an in-depth investigation into the disturbing truth behind the unlabeled, patented, genetically engineered foods that have quietly filled U.S. grocery store shelves for the past decade.

Friday, January 29, 6:30pm, RSVP

At Detroit Waldorf School, in Historic Indian Village

2555 Burns, Detroit 48214 313.822.0300

www.detroitwaldorf.org

Allstate Financial now serving the Grosse Pointes - are your investments in "Good Hands?"

For insurance and financial needs, you're in good hands with Allstate agent Jeffery Torrice.

Torrice opened his business June 1, 2009 on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods. The Grosse Pointe North graduate has six agents on staff with more than 40 years combined experience. His financial background - a Michigan State University Business School Graduate and former First Vice President of Investments - fit right in with the products and services offered through Allstate.

Auto, Home, Condo, Boat, and Motorcycle insurance are available, along with Fixed and Variable annuities, CD's, Mutual Funds, 401-K Rollovers, IRAs, and Life Insurance, on the financial side. Torrice is proud to be back in his hometown.

"This a great community," he said. "I felt comfortable here and I know many of my customers. Becoming an Allstate agent was a natural fit with the financial products we offer."

In this difficult economy, Torrice said bad decisions to cut costs on coverage could cause problems if the insurance is needed.

"Every case is different," he said. "We look at the needs of the customer and make decisions based on what's

best for them. There are ways to save money and protect yourself at the

"Many times we find a way to save a customer money, sometimes up to 20

It's important to have insurance coverage checked to make sure it's more than adequate in an emergency. Many are underinsured and those gaps could cost thousands in the end.

"Too many times, there are shortcuts offered that hurt you if something happens," Torrice said. "We'll give good advice and good service with a name you can trust. Some overlook Allstate as just an insurance company. We can take a look at the financial needs as well."

Another feature with Allstate is the online services offered. More information is available on all of the products from Allstate, and a vast array of planning tools are available for questions about autos, credit cards, home finance, budgeting, saving, college, life insurance and retirement planning. Online quotes and status reports for claims are also available at allstateagencies.com/jefftorrice/welcome.

"We offer a lot of services and it's why I'm proud to be with Allstate," Torrice said. "Our experience will help protect everything that's important."

Allstate is located at 19603 Mack Ave. For more information, call (313) 881-0200. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and anytime by appointment.



same time."

Torrice said Allstate offers several discounts, including for multiple policies and new cars. Claim-free bonuses are also paid to Allstate customers.

percent," Torrice said. "I enjoy this because I can help people. When you can give someone the proper coverage at a lower price and they're confident in it, it's worth it."

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**Annual Percentage Yield (APY). National CD average courtesy of Bankrate.com, No. Palm Beach, FL as of December 22, 2009. © 2010 Allstate Insurance Company.



"The" Place to shop for children's specialty clothing

"When people want special things for their children they come to Connie's," Denise Kort, owner of Connie's Children's Shop states proudly.

This pride is well founded, as Connie's has been the family business for almost 56 years. The 10,000 square foot store is currently located at 23200 Greater Mack in downtown St. Clair Shores, having been in the same block, but expanding three times over the years.

Connie's carries a quality line of children's clothing and shoes. "We are best known for our dressy dresses," Kort said. With sizes ranging from infant to 16, customers will find flower girl dresses, boy's suits, first communion attire, baptism and christening gowns, as well as accessories such as sox, tights and bow ties.

"Basically, if you don't find it at Connie's you won't find it anywhere else."

Kort let's us know, "Basically, if you don't find it at Connie's you won't find it anywhere else!"

"We are back to school uniform specialists," Kort continued. "We clothe the private and parochial schools on the east side."

Connie's carries the best brands of quality children's clothing, including Rothschild's, Baby LuLu, Dockers, Puma, Flapdoodles and Stride-Rite shoes.

Excellent customer service is the foundation Connie's has built on throughout the years. Services include; special ordering, alterations, gift-wrapping and even a convenient photography studio. "We pride ourselves on customer service. That's what's kept us in business so long. We are fortunate that we have a lot of repeat business! People return to us because of the customer service and unique selection."

Connie's salespeople have been with the company for decades. "Our customers know they will always find knowledgeable salespeople ready to assist them. This is what separates us from the department stores," Kort said. In fact, her older sister Connie, for whom the store was named, still helps out one day a week.

Parents, Sidney and Maxine Kort, opened the children's specialty store in 1954 when Connie was only one year old - proudly naming it after the firstborn of four girls. Maxine's parent's, Joe and Yetta Weinberg, were instrumental in prompting this opening, having seen the need when the children's clothing line in their Grosse Pointe dime store, "Howard's," was selling very well. The Weinberg's joined the business two years later, making it one big family affair!

In 1984 the last of the four daughters (Denise) graduated from high school, freeing Maxine to become involved in the buying. She focused on fashion, taking more risks with exclusive lines of quality children's clothing like Polly Flinders and Carter's. Through her keen buying sense came the specialty line that Connie's is known for today.

Denise has been managing the store for over 20 years and says, "I listen to what the customer wants and I buy accordingly. I am not just the owner, I work side by side with the other salespeople on the floor."

Connie's customers look forward to the two annual season end sales in January and June. Currently Connie's is clearing out all their winter merchandise with discounts of 40-75% off. You will find values such as Rothschild's wool coats, regularly priced from \$100 and up at these savings. "All the 'good stuff' is on sale," Kort says, "so come on in!"

Connie's is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. You can call the store at 586-777-8020 for further information.

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www.conniesclothing.com

"The Smallest Job is No Pane Here"

By Sally Schuman, Special Writer

For 15 years, Michael O'Brien, owner of Pointes Glass, worked as a technician for IXL Glass, formerly located at 19807 Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods, so moving his own business to this location in May felt like coming home - complete with family.

"After many years of working for others in the business, I started my own mobile glass company in 2002," said O'Brien. "I was waiting for the right area for a permanent location - I never thought it would be here!"

Behind the desk or on the phone, you will find his sister and office manager, Jan; brother Chris - is around the shop helping out and even Dad and Mom, Patrick and Joan O'Brien, pitched in, planting the flowers out front. "I want to bring the business back to what it used to be - a family owned and operated 'anything glass' neighborhood glass repair shop," O'Brien declares.

Even though the shop is full of vehicles and large shower doors and windows, there is the feel of the small community minded business, as O'Brien does simple cuts and small repairs at no charge for his neighborhood customers who walk in. "I am trying to bring it back to community - I want the little stuff along with all the rest," said O'Brien.

"We repair anything that has to do with auto glass, including the rolling up and down function, regulators and motors, leaks, chips ... I specialize in older vehicles," O'Brien said proudly. When asked if he worked on vintage cars, O'Brien replied, "Yes! I once put a windshield in a '55 Chevy. It was a little nerve wracking, but it was fun!"

"But, we're not just auto glass, we do mirrors, tabletops, shower doors (even the new frameless

Euro doors), we replace fogged window units, anything glass," O'Brien lists. "There is no job that we would consider 'too small.' We've done glass shelves and even replaced one piece of glass in a lantern." New to Pointes Glass are the additions of auto detailing and a hand car wash. Just like all the other services they offer, these will be personal and professional with the "neighborly" touch.

One thing is obvious about O'Brien, he loves his work and he knows his business, as was observed by a Grosse Pointe customer while having a windshield chip repaired. As he worked, O'Brien was educating his customer about the process. "I've had windshield chips repaired before, but no one ever took the time to tell me how it worked," said the customer, whose young son was intently watching the details. With most insurance, these chip repairs are free to the customer.

"We still have mobile glass repair along with free estimates and free delivery," O'Brien informed. "And we welcome commercial business also. We recently mirrored Pointe Fitness."

You will find Pointes Glass conveniently open Monday - Friday from 8 am - 5:30 pm and on Saturday from 9:00 am - 1 pm. For additional information please call them at 313-885-5070.

"A family owned and operated 'anything glass' neighborhood glass repair shop, and the only glass shop in Grosse Pointe."



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Auction house with a special touch

By Special Writer, Sally A. Schuman

Lori Stefek, owner of Stefek's Ltd., has a "passion for things," a head for business and a heart for people that infuses whatever she does, giving Stefek's its unique and highly competitive niche in today's estate and auction market.

Stefek began developing her skills while working part time for her mentor, Susan Hartz, former matriarch of the estate sale business in this area. When Stefek branched out on her own ten years ago, starting Stefek's Ltd., she remained a friendly competitor.

"I love to see it (items) and research it," Stefek said. "We research our items heavily and search out the right buyer." This passion moved her forward, step by step, in the development of her company.

From its reputable base as an estate sale and auction company, conducting personal property liquidations, Stefek's has grown into specialty areas, responding to the expanding needs of its clientele. 2004 saw the addition of appraisal, clean out and senior moving services.

Stefek met the challenge, completing her accreditation as a personal property appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers and obtaining a diploma from the Missouri Auction School in 2006. She subsequently furthered her training with a course in benefit auctioneering from the National Association of Auctioneers, enabling her to assist local charity fundraisers. "It's a different chant and mindset from commercial auctioneering," Stefek informed.

"We consider ourselves a 'boutique' auction house," Stefek said. "Boutique, as in the old stores like Jacobson's and Hudson's; boutique, meaning full service. We have a personal relationship with just about everyone who comes through our door."

We will conduct the estate sale, ship to family members, do a complete clean out, making a home realtor ready, and handle every item from high to low end, finding the right venue for each. My clients only have to deal with one person."

Because of this, Stefek's has experienced a steady rise in clientele and earned an excellent reputation in the estate and moving industry.

"Most people don't know what to do or who to trust," Stefek continued. "We have built a reputation and our clients know that we are going to do the right thing." Stefek enjoys long standing professional relationships with CPAs, attorneys, realtors and bankers in the Metro Detroit area, benefiting clientele with a network of resources. (Venues can include) "Estate sales, online, such as EBay, Craig's List or auctions. We choose the best market that will bring the best outcome for our clients."

At Stefek's, their strong point is research, research, research - along with relationship. Industry experts all over the country are readily contacted, cultivating resources that benefit the client.

"We treat people like they are our mother or grandmother and we research their items like they are our own," Stefek said. "In our first auction, a woman had four contemporary paintings that she had taken elsewhere (without success.) One of the paintings that should have averaged \$2,000-\$3,000, sold for \$16,000 because there was a bidding war for it in Texas! We never turn people down and we are never too quick to judge an item."

Stefek's held its first auction at their Grosse Pointe Farms location at 18450 Mack Avenue in the spring of 2008. Auctions have continued to be held once every other month on a Thursday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Previewing of auction items is held daily, beginning the Friday prior to the auction event, running through Wednesday evening. Stefek's will hold their next auction in February 2010 (please check the website for the upcoming date.)

"It's an event," Stefek enthusiastically declares. "We have wine and cheese and fruit and everyone has a good time! We are connected online through liveauctioneers.com and are selling to people all over the world, from as many as 16 different countries, as well as the 50-60 people on the floor and hundreds of absentee and phone bidders."

"The average person," Stefek continues, "doesn't realize that we sell items from \$50-\$500,000 plus. There is a price range for every pocketbook. (And don't worry) If you scratch your nose, you're not going to buy the monkey in the corner," she jokes.

Stefek suggests that those who are not familiar with a live auction come out and enjoy the evening,

watch and learn for the first time, then come back as a participant for the next auction.

Selling is accomplished four different ways: live on the floor bidding, comprised of regular dealers, collectors and the general public, phone bidders, absentee bidding - where an established bidding range is left with the auctioneer prior to the evening's event and via the Internet. "Most items are sold through the Internet," Stefek states. "You have to sell to a global market to be competitive today. We are very competitive with long standing auction houses, selling to the same market, but with that special touch that makes us unique."

"Our customer service is great," Stefek continues, "we pay out quickly and return calls promptly. When we receive payment, we immediately ship out a check to the client." The staff at Stefek's, most of whom are family or long time friends, perform research and catalog items and are available to assist clients Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Stefek, a long time Grosse Pointe resident, is intricately involved within the community. She holds a board position with Services for Older Citizens, is an affiliate member of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors, is co-chair of community services for the Board of Realtors and has conducted numerous charity auctions in Grosse Pointe. Charity auction events include, the SOC auction, The Family Center "Holly Fest" and the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce "Scarecrow Auction" held at Stefek's in 2009.

"With a charity auction the tactics are different," Stefek states, "the goal is to open up creative streams of revenue and give tips to the charities to help them successfully raise funds."

Due to solid ethics, both professional and personal, Stefek's has earned a reputation for excellence and has continued to experience a 30% growth each year. Having already developed a large client base (sellers) along with a strong customer base (buyers) and cultivating a community relationship, Stefek's is uniquely positioned in the market to achieve its goals. Dawn Kaake, owner of LaBelle Antiques, Etc. and long time business associate of Stefek's, states, "Lori has a long-standing reputation for integrity and hard work. Her focus for her clients is primary - where it should be."

Stefek concludes, "We're a dynamic, growing Michigan based estate sale business that has big aspirations for its future and the world. My goal (in the regular auctions) is to be selling that unknown million dollar painting!"

You can visit Stefek's website at www.stefeksltd.com or call them at (313)881-1800.



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DYLAN'S
RAW BAR & GRILLE

"Dylan's celebrates the neighborhood we're part of"

John Montgomery loves coming to work. As co-owner of Dylan's Raw Bar & Grille in Grosse Pointe Park, he admits the days can be long, but the rewards of a neighborhood restaurant and entertainment hotspot far outweigh the challenge for sleep on some nights.

"It's just everything I dreamed of, only a whole lot more," said Montgomery, who agreed to partner with Rocco Cinquemanelli when he bought the restaurant just more than two years ago. Montgomery spent years at the original Tom's Oyster Bar previously at that site. When the owner sold, Montgomery and Cinquemanelli saw the opportunity to make some changes and enjoy a challenge.

The name Dylan's is a tribute to musical legend Bob - who hasn't visited the restaurant, but was invited after a show in Sterling Heights soon after the opening. There was hope, but he couldn't fit it in his schedule.

"Really, Montgomery said, "we agreed on the name because it's short, simple, sounds good and it's easy to remember."

And Dylan's is easy to remember because it's known throughout Metro Detroit for the music, the food, and the atmosphere.

"This is a neighborhood place," Montgomery said. "It's comfortable. It's a piano bar seven nights a week. We have other acts here - just some great music. And we have great food in a fun setting. It celebrates music and sports in one area. It celebrates the neighborhood we're a part of."

The wine list includes dozens of customer favorites at a very reasonable price. The food runs the gamut from fresh seafood, steaks, ribs, pasta and a

solid page of sushi options to salads and sandwiches. Fried bites and hot and cold bites, also known as small plates, number in the dozens, including calamari vera cruz, triple garlic shrimp stuffed portabella mushrooms, oysters Rockefeller and Dylan's crab cakes. Entrees range from frog legs, Michigan lake perch and jambalaya to BBQ baby back ribs, broiled Lake Superior whitefish and New York strip steak.

"The food here is a signature of Chef Derrick Collins," Montgomery said. "It's priced very reasonably. We have specials all the time and it's a blast."



Dylan's Raw Bar & Grille seats approximately 100 people, with a couple dining areas anchored by a bar in two of the rooms. A private banquet area seats 53 and is often host to club and business meetings.

Customers can expect great food, service and

entertainment.

"The people here, many of them have been here well beyond the two years we've owned it," Montgomery said. "Every night we get to meet new people. We see people we know and our regulars are not just friends, they're like family. It's cliché, but it's true. Our staff and customers enjoy being here."

Dylan's is family friendly and takeout is available. Those who dine in enjoy valet parking. Dylan's Raw Bar & Grille is located at 15402 Mack Ave. Hours are Monday through Thursday 4:00pm to close (kitchen closes at 11pm), Friday and Saturday 4:00pm to 2am (kitchen closes at midnight), Sunday 5:00pm to close (kitchen closes at 10:00pm). For more information, call (313) 884-6030 or visit dylansrawbar.com.

Auto repair serves neighborhood for generations

"Through this door pass the finest people in the world ... Our Customers!" This is what you'll read over each door that you enter through at Mack-Alger Firestone Tire & Service, Inc.

Having been in business since 1964 at the location at 22025 Mack Avenue in St Clair Shores, they have serviced generations of neighborhood families over the years. And they just keep on coming back! "We still have some of the same customers as when we opened in '64," said owner Bill Spreder.

Tires and service (with a smile) is their last name and their first and only order of business. They know what their customers look for and what they have come to expect at Mack-Alger. "Customers are comfortable with our service people, the customer is not talked down to, they're treated fairly and honestly and we give them service with a fair price," said Bill.

Mack-Alger sells all the major brands of tires, but their main line is Bridgestone - Firestone, and with good reason. With a mission of "serving society with superior quality products," Bridgestone-Firestone has been making tires since 1900. They have gone on to become the largest tire manufacturer in the world for units sold and come as original equipment on more than 200 different car and light truck models sold in the U.S. The Firestone brand has won more Indianapolis

500 races than all of the other tire brands combined.

Their seven auto service bays handle everything but heavy engine and transmission repairs. They service all makes and models including foreign cars. Very important to them is the service they perform on fleet vehicles, which includes police cars from the surrounding cities. Mike, a fleet customer from Eco-Lab, commended Mack-Alger saying, "I've been working for Eco Lab for 15 years and this is where I bring our cars. I choose here because it's convenient and I get good service. I can get all my maintenance done here."

In talking with some of the other customers that were in the store, they echoed the same sentiment - Mack-Alger was conveniently close to their home, they offered reliable, honest service at a good price and most of the time they can pick up their car in the same day.

All the mechanics at Mack-Alger are state certified and ASE (Auto Service Excellence) certified. That means quality auto service with quality customer service. Their core technicians have each been with the company between 20 to 32 years, giving their customers familiarity and consistency. It's always good to see a friendly familiar face.

Mack-Alger is open Monday through Friday from 8am-6pm and Saturday from 8am-4pm. For further information call 586-771-7050.



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Nature lovers flock to Wild Birds Unlimited

With birds singing in the background, video of birds throughout the store and the availability of a fresh cup of "bird-friendly coffee" as you browse, the Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop in Grosse Pointe Woods offers a pleasant shopping experience every time.

Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU) prides itself on carrying the freshest bird food on the market and expert advice on which food to offer to attract the birds you want. Each staff member is a Certified Bird Feeding Specialist®, so they can assist you with selecting the proper bird food and bird feeder to entice the birds you want to attract to your yard. From goldfinches to cardinals, the staff will guide you to make the right choices, calling upon more than 60 years of combined experience feeding the birds in this area.

The seed blends at WBU are no-waste blends that are made of 100% edible seed, exclusively formulated for the feeding preferences of local birds. No cereal fillers are used - just fresh, high-quality seed the birds will love. With no shells to clean up, the Michigan No-Mess Blend continues to be the best seller at WBU.

"In spring and summer, when the blackbirds are so numerous in the area, many of our customers will switch to using safflower," says Rosann Kovalcik, owner of the Grosse Pointe Woods WBU. "Though cardinals, house finches, chickadees and many other birds will readily eat safflower, it has a bitter taste that is unpalatable to blackbirds and squirrels. So many customers use it year round because of squirrels."

Kovalcik acknowledges that there are challenges with the local squirrel population. "Weighted feeders, like our Eliminator and Fundamentals, are some of our best sellers," Kovalcik says. "The weighted system shuts off the seed ports, denying access to squirrels."

The seed cylinders offered at WBU are another problem solver. Available in Cardinal Fare, Cranberry Fare and pure Safflower, these cylinders are ideal for birds with sturdy beaks that are able to pry the seeds from their molded form. Chickadees and downy woodpeckers chisel away the seeds one at a time.

"House sparrows and pigeons, of which we have an abundance, are not as successful with seed cylinders," said Kovalcik. "Also, birds will stay longer because they have to work harder to feed, and watching them longer is always a benefit for customers." Specialty feeders like the Dinner Bell are perfect for cylinders. The Dinner Bell catches all of the seed shells and helps keep the feeding area clean.

Quick-Clean feeders are ideal to offer seed

blends or Nyjer® (thistle). These feeders feature removable bases that make cleaning a breeze. These private label feeders are made in the United States and have a lifetime guarantee.

"I'm proud that most of the products in this store are American made and always have been," added Kovalcik. "I believe that when you consider price, you should also consider quality and service. When I buy from these chosen suppliers, I know that I am getting good quality and service which I am able to pass along to my customers."

"Proper placement of the feeding station within the yard is important," Kovalcik said. "You want to enjoy the birds up close, yet keep the squirrels out. We can show you how easy it is to accomplish a squirrel proof feeding station with our Advanced Pole System (APS) hardware." The exclusive, patented APS is comprised of interchangeable hardware pieces that combine to create a system to suit customers' needs whether they are hanging feeders from a deck or want a free-standing pole system.

More than a bird food and feeder store, Wild Birds Unlimited carries a variety of other products that help customers enjoy birds and nature, including bird houses, bird baths and water accessories and garden accents such as flags, wind chimes, specialty planters and ceramic mushrooms.

For the past fifteen years Kovalcik has led Bird Walks at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, inspiring people to take in the beauty of the local birds and tallying almost 200 species of birds. Wild Birds Unlimited carries field guides, bird song guides, binoculars and nature related books.

Wild Birds Unlimited also offers a variety of environmentally friendly gift items, including soy candles from companies based in Michigan and Iowa. The bird-friendly coffee is grown in the shade as opposed to the sun, saving habitat for migrants birds as well as being fair trade and organic. Zulgrass jewelry strands are constructed by the Maasai women of Kenya using local grass that is sustainably harvested and strung on elastic with crystal beads. This project supports the women directly. Save Your World personal care products are made with organic rainforest ingredients, with each purchase helping preserve 200,000 acres of rain forest in South America.

Kovalcik believes that personal attention to each customer's needs distinguishes Wild Birds Unlimited from the "big box" stores.

Kovalcik and her staff at Wild Birds Unlimited look forward to the opportunity to share your love of birds and nature.



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"Let our family serve your family"

Villa Restaurant owners, the Palleschi family, are dedicated to preserving the rich tradition of authentic Italian dining in the face of ever emerging chain restaurants; a tradition carried on for over five decades.

Established as a humble pizzeria in 1956, Villa was the dream of Italian immigrants Antonio and Arcangela Palleschi, along with their son Orlando and his wife Anna. The philosophy was simple: everything is fresh, always prepared and served to your table with the same care each time.

Today, the third generation of Palleschi's, Orlando and Anna's children - Tony, Joe and Loretta - are operating the restaurant, still in its original location at 21311 Gratiot Avenue, just north of Eight Mile in Eastpointe. Continuing the family legacy of excellence, they are dedicated to meeting and exceeding the expectations of the changing and ever growing customer base at Villa

You won't find sauce out of a can at Villa Restaurant. "We make our sauces, soups and pizza dough fresh every day with the finest ingredients available. It's not like going to a chain restaurant," Tony explains. As Tony and his siblings maintain the family tradition of authentic home style Italian cooking, the fourth generation can be found cleaning tables and washing dishes to learn the business from the bottom up.

"Family members are always present," Anna states. "Our customers like to see the family here because they

know we are keeping an eye on the food and the service."

The extensive menu features large portions of pasta, pizza and Italian specialties, such as: hand-pounded and breaded veal parmigiana, steak Siciliano and chicken piccante. Lasagna en forno is one of their "must try" entrees; comprised of multiple layers of pasta and sauce stuffed with beef, ricotta, mozzarella, Romano and parmesan cheeses and oven baked to perfection in individual serving dishes. For those desiring vegetarian fare Villa offers delicious Fettuccini Alfredo and eggplant parmigiana

Villa's "Create-Your-Own-Pasta" is a favorite amongst their patrons. Customers can select one of five types of pasta noodles and choose from five unique sauces. Your pasta creation can then be topped with meatballs, Italian sausage, grilled chicken, artichoke hearts, mushrooms, broccoli and melted mozzarella cheese. This entrée includes a cup of home made soup or tossed fresh garden salad and a basket of warm bread for only \$8.95. All of Villa's authentic Italian selections are affordably priced making it a favorite dining destination for 53 years.

Complimenting their menu, Villa offers a full bar with premium wines, liquors, frozen cocktails, coffee drinks and more. Finish your meal with a traditional espresso or cappuccino or indulge yourself and enjoy a decadent dessert of

fresh, hand-made cannoli, tiramisu, spumoni or lemon ice.

The high standard of excellence extends to the cleanliness of the restaurant. Villa boasts the exclusivity of being the only restaurant to twice receive the "Outstanding Sanitation Award" from the Macomb County Health Department.

Villa Restaurant is the perfect host for your impromptu gathering of friends or family or a scheduled event; they graciously accommodate special occasions and large groups. Great food, friendly staff, exceptional customer service and quaint old-world style décor make Villa the perfect setting for relaxed evening dining.

"If you've never visited us, it's worth the trip. Come and experience an authentic Italian restaurant," Tony invites you. "One of the family is



always here and we would love to know what you think of our restaurant."

Villa Restaurant is open daily for dinner; Monday through Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. (586) 778-1780

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Dr. Rodriguez helps patients blend their inner and outer self

By Bob St. John
Staff Writer

Compassion, dedication, and commitment are three words that define Dr. Daniela Rodriguez.

The Grosse Pointe Shores resident was born and raised in the Metro Detroit area.

She received her BA from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and earned both her Master's Degree in Clinical Physiology and Medical Degree from the University of Health Sciences at Chicago Medical School. She graduated at the top of her class and was inducted into the Alpha Honor Society. She was also nominated for the Women Surgeons

Outstanding Resident Award.

"I have always had a passion of becoming a surgeon since I was a child," Rodriguez said.

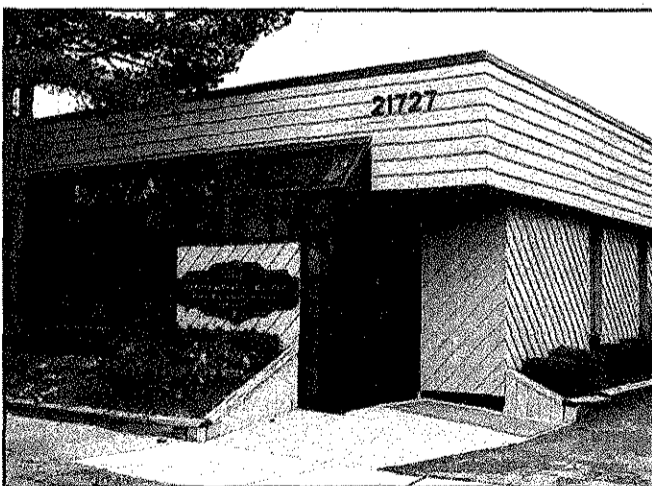
Rodriguez's father is a vascular surgeon, while her sisters are an ophthalmologist and dentist.

She began her intensive plastic surgical training in the five-year integrated plastic surgery program at the prestigious Montefiore Medical Center in New York City.

Her clinical research won awards at the New

York Regional Plastic Surgery Meeting at the New York Academy of Medicine, The New York Society for the Surgery of the Hand, the National Senior Residents Conference at Brown University in Providence, RI, and the American Society of Peripheral Nerve Meeting in San Diego.

Rodriguez has been published in the American Society of Plastic Surgery Journal and the Journal of Reconstructive Microsurgery.



Patients of all ages feel at ease when they are seen by Dr. Rodriguez. She listens to the patient, formulates a game plan and executes it with precision.

"I perform surgery on men and women who are seeking facial and body cosmetic surgery, as well as children and senior citizens who may need to have a reconstructive procedure," Rodriguez said.

If a woman chooses to have reconstructive surgery after a mastectomy, Dr. Rodriguez is ready to help and "make the

patient feel good about their outer, as well as inner self."

In addition, cosmetic surgery, such as facelifts and eyelifts for facial rejuvenation and liposuction and breast enhancement for body resculpting, are popular procedures.

Some of the non-surgical facial rejuvenation procedures Rodriguez performs are facial injectables done in the office such as Restylane, a dermal filler that restores volume and fullness to the skin to correct moderate

to severe facial wrinkles and folds and Botox Cosmetic, in which low doses of Botox are injected that temporarily improves the appearances of moderate to severe frown

lines in people aged 18 to 80.

"My patients are comfortable coming into my office and discussing their concerns about their appearance with me," Rodriguez said. "I am here to help, and that is what I have spent a lot of years in school and several years of training to do to the best of my ability. I truly believe in 'enhancing the natural you' and as a result, all my surgery is very natural looking."

She is certified by the American Board of Plastic

Surgery; is a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons; and the American Medical Association and Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons.

Dr. Rodriguez performs all facial and body cosmetic procedures, as well as reconstructive surgery. She has staff privileges at Beaumont Grosse Pointe

Hospital, Henry Ford Cottage Hospital, St. John Hospital & Medical Center.

In addition to being one of Metro Detroit area's talented and respected surgeons, she can also speak fluent French and Spanish. "I have had the opportunity to speak French with a patient who is waiting to

have surgery, and it really puts the patient at ease, communicating in their fluent language when the stress level is high," Rodriguez said.

Dr. Rodriguez can be reached at (586) 777-7260, and her office is located at 21727 Mack Avenue, which is between 8 and 9 Mile roads, in St. Clair Shores.

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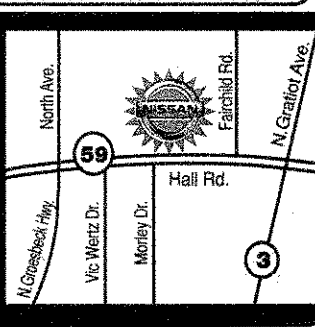
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"Dorian Boyland Hits Homerun with New Nissan Dealership"

By Sally Schuman, Special Writer

Dorian Boyland, former Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman and '79 World Series Champ, hit a homerun when he expanded his Boyland Auto Group into Michigan, with the addition of Boyland Nissan, slightly over one year ago.

Boyland Nissan, located at 23651 Hall Road in the city of Macomb, is his second Nissan dealership, joining ranks with Acura, Dodge, Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Infiniti and Mercedes Benz in the Boyland Auto Group. Boyland Auto Group is the 80th largest dealer group in the country.

Why add a Nissan dealership? "Nissan has always been the risk taker of the big three (Toyota, Honda and Nissan)," said new General Manager, Joe Kern. "Our 3.5 six cylinder engine has been voted 'Best Engine Made' for 15 years in a row. Our body styles are ultra modern and considered risk-taking designs that have proven to be well received by the public. They are incredibly fuel efficient and are among the top in their class for dependability and reliability. Our clientele range from 18 years old to 118!"

Ninety percent of all Nissans are built here in the United States, utilizing thousands of Michigan based suppliers. A seventeen year Michigan resident, the Nissan Technical Center of North America, located in Farmington Hills, more than doubled its Michigan employees when Nissan chose that location for its \$38.8 million dollar expansion in 2002. "Nissan is in the midst of a significant business revival, based primarily on new products," said Fred Standish, Nissan spokesman. "There is a host of new products coming worldwide, so we need capabilities and capacity and facilities to support the development of these new products," he said, in speaking of the Farmington Hills Tech Center, as quoted at the time the expansion was announced.

Following the Boyland Auto Group standard, Boyland Nissan holds the needs of each individual customer as their paramount concern. They believe in doing whatever it takes to meet and exceed the high expectations of their customers each and every time they visit. For this reason, Boyland recruited General Manager, Joe Kern, who had a nine year proven track record of suc-

cessful customer satisfaction.

General Sales Manager, Michael Falotico, who oversees the open sales floor that incorporates both new and pre-loved vehicles, welcomed Kern to the General Manager position. Regarding Kern, he said, "He's been in the business a very long time and he knows what it takes to keep customers coming back. (He knows how) to run a successful dealership. He brings to the table a fun atmosphere for the customers when they are buying a car."

In all, eight employees followed Kern to Boyland Nissan, bringing a cohesive stability, organization and strong Nissan knowledge to the dealership.

One area this strength is being shown in their 18 bay service department. Kern brought in Service Manager Tim Voss to insure customer satisfaction. Kern exemplified Master Technician, Dave Bedenko, a 25-year veteran, stating, "He is one of Nissans most recognized techs, not only in Michigan, but in the Midwest Region. We have people calling from Chicago and as far as Texas to ask our technicians questions."

Also included in the staff are Sales and Floor Manager Keith Giuliani, Finance

and Insurance Manager Dave Carlson, Parts Manager Michael Daley and Office Manager Elaine Moore. All have been hand picked to insure the high standard of customer care held by Kern.

Add to this, Boyland Nissans' nine acre facility with a state of the art show room sporting comfortable leather arm chairs, a big screen TV in the spacious waiting room, a diverse and knowledgeable sales staff, along with a family friendly atmosphere and you can see that Dorian Boyland has scored another

big success. With 14 different models, the flagship of the Nissan line is the Maxima, which has been redesigned for 2009 as a four door sports car with over 270 HP. On its heels, boasting the title of #1 selling Nissan and voted "Best Looking Sedan" three years in a row, is the Altima. It was also voted #1 car above and below \$25,000 by Consumer reports, with a comfortable price ranging from \$19,000 to \$33,000. "I drove an Altima from Michigan to Florida and back," said Kern, "and only spent \$200 in gasoline!"

In its fourth year is the Nissan Versa that starts at an amazing \$10,900 "fully equipped, not stripped." It comes in both

"Joe Kern has been in the business a very long time and he knows what it takes to keep customers coming back. (He knows how) to run a successful dealership."

- Michael Falotico, General Sales Manager, Boyland Nissan speaking of General Manager, Joe Kern



a sedan and a hatchback version and is rated at 36 MPG, "But customers tell me that they are getting 40 plus miles to the gallon," said Falotico.

Newest in their premiere line of automobiles is the Nissan Cube, starting at approximately \$14,900. With one-of-a-kind styling and accessories, this little beeper is just plain cool! A five passenger ride with 58 cubic feet of storage room, one of the Cubes more unusual accessories are the colorful LED's that change the passengers' mood by cycling through 20 different shades of light with the turn of a knob. Also with a peaceful mood in mind, is the rain drop inspired ripple effect that is themed throughout the vehicles interior design. "You would think the Cube would attract a younger buyer, but it has more appeal with customers in the 40 plus age bracket," said General Sales Manager Falotico. "I think it affects people that are stressed out to kick back, have some fun and relax."

Boyland Nissan also offers a full line of leases starting at only \$129 a month. "Our leasing business is huge," said Falotico. "It comprises 60-70% of our business. He explained that the resale value of Nissans has remained high and so the maker hasn't been affected by the leasing crunch. "We've stayed strong in the leasing portion of our portfolio when other manufacturers have fallen off."

Recently Kern held the "1st Annual Nissan Import Car Show." Vendors were on site with all proceeds going to the Knights of Columbus, a major supporter of local and national charities. Kern is carrying out the Boyland tradition of community involvement as he made this event free to the general public as well as the invitees. Hundreds of prizes were given out, including car care kits, Nissan apparel, stadium cushions, hats, towels and coffee mugs.

With a winning tradition backing them and a compass set on community involvement and customer satisfaction, the team at Boyland Nissan is a sure winner. They are open for business Monday and Thursday from 9am until 9pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am until 6pm and Saturday from 10am until 4pm. You can call the sales department at 866-928-7001 and the service department at 586-421-0100, or visit the website at www.boylandnissan.com.