

EASTPOINTE
Community garden receives \$5K grant
Local » A5

COLLEGE HOOPS
VanDerveer alone as winningest coach
Sports » B1

STERLING HGTS.
Newest apartment complex in town opens
Local » A7

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NFC Divisional Round » Lions 31, Buccaneers 23

CALIFORNIA DREAMING



Detroit has a date in San Francisco with a chance to punch a ticket to its 1st Super Bowl

COVERAGE ONLINE AND INSIDE » PAGE B1

Detroit Lions wide receiver Josh Reynolds celebrates after scoring a touchdown against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the first half.

JOSE JUAREZ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSEVILLE

Widower and dog die in house blast, fire

Witnesses: Homeowner went inside structure to save dog

By Mitch Hotts
mhotts@medianewsgroup.com

A widower made it outside of his burning Roseville house only to go back inside to rescue his dog minutes before the house became engulfed in flames, neighbors said Sunday.

The widower, identified by neighbors as John Balkevitch, died after some type of apparent explosion shook the structure and then set it afire. His dog, Lexi, apparently was killed also.

"He loved that dog," neighbor Jackie Chaviz said.

Chaviz said there a loud boom coming from the single-story house shortly before noon Saturday that resulted in several residents coming outside of their homes on 16900 block of Common Road, east of Groesbeck Highway. Within seconds, the house filled with white smoke before it went up in flames.

"When anything happened in the house, his dog would go right for the basement," Chaviz said. "He could say 'let's go for a walk' and that dog would head toward the basement."

"So we heard that sound and John ran outside."
FIRE » PAGE 4



Balkevitch

Balkevitch is survived by two daughters and seven grandchildren.

ELECTION 2024

Ron DeSantis ends his presidential bid

Throws support behind Trump

By Steve Peoples, Thomas Beaumont and Holly Ramer
The Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H. » Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis suspended his Republican presidential campaign on Sunday, ending his 2024 White House bid just before the New Hampshire primary while endorsing his bitter rival Donald Trump.

The decision leaves Trump and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley as the last major candidates remaining in the race ahead of Tuesday's New Hampshire primary. This is the scenario Trump's foes in the GOP have long sought, raising the stakes for this week's contest as the party's last chance to stop the former president who has so far dominated the race.

But as some Trump critics cheered, DeSantis nodded toward Trump's primary dominance — and attacked Haley — in an exit video he posted on social media.

"It's clear to me that a majority of Republican primary voters want to give Donald Trump



DeSantis

DESANTIS » PAGE 4

ST. CLAIR SHORES

Parents, alumni fight to keep school open

Officials: St. Germaine closing this year

By Susan Smiley
ssmiley@medianewsgroup.com

Parents of students at St. Germaine Catholic School in St. Clair Shores were informed Jan. 16 that the school will close at the end of this academic year.

St. Germaine school opened in 1954 and offers classes from preschool through eighth grade.

A letter sent to parents by St. Gertrude principal Colleen Maciejewski stated financial challenges led to the decision to close the school.

"As a tight-knit community, we are bound together by our shared commitment to providing an exceptional education rooted in faith and values," Maciejewski said in the letter. "Unfortunately, circumstances beyond our control have resulted in the difficult decision to close St. Germaine Catholic School at the end of the 2023-2024 school year."

Parents also received a letter from Father Joe Barron detailing more of the financial struggles the school has



FACEBOOK PHOTO

St. Germaine Catholic School in St. Clair Shores is scheduled to close at the end of this school year.

SCHOOL » PAGE 4

INDEX Kickoff.....A2 | Lottery.....A3 | Obituaries.....A4 | Opinion.....A6 | Sports.....B1 | Comics.....B4 | Classifieds.....B6 | MediaNews Group



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