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The Grand Rapids Press

October 26, 2004

Lawyer named to board

Miles Postema replaces Carl Dufendach, who resigned last month.

ROCKFORD -- The Rockford school board traded one lawyer for another by appointing the deputy general counsel of Ferris State University to fill a vacant seat.

Miles Postema was chosen from four applicants Monday to finish an unexpired term.

Postema, 44, is married and has a kindergartner at Valley View Elementary School. He is a deacon at Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church in Wyoming, a board member of Second Harvest Gleaners of West Michigan and a former president of the Kentwood Baseball League.

Postema said the quality of the school district was a big reason his family moved to Rockford five years ago. He wants "to make the school district even better than it already is."

Carl Dufendach, an attorney at Warner, Norcross & Judd, resigned last month because his family is moving outside the district. He was first elected in 1997.

The Grand Rapids Press

October 28, 2004

Write-in challenges candidate for Barry County sheriff

BARRY COUNTY -- Deputy Dar Leaf's name will be the only one listed for Barry County sheriff on Tuesday, but voters do have a choice.

Leaf, 39, upended nine-year incumbent Steven DeBoer by almost 2,400 votes -- 57 percent of those cast -- in the primary. Leaf has been with the department for 15 years and worked in law enforcement in Middleville and Nashville.

Sgt. Jason Sixberry, a 14-year veteran of the department, is running against Leaf as a write-in candidate.

Sixberry, who was defeated for the sheriff's job by DeBoer in 1996, has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ferris State University.

Both candidates have similar ideas for improving the department.

"We're not going to make any significant changes in the first few months," Leaf said. "We need to let the new under-sheriff and secretary get used to the flow. I'd like to get another corrections officer or two as soon as possible, but it's a funding question on that."

The sheriff, by state law, is required to run the county jail in Hastings. The jail, which has a capacity for 90 detainees, generally is staffed by two or three deputies and a part-time nurse

"The jail usually averages between 50 and 60 people, but there are times when it's near capacity," Sixberry said. "So I would like to increase the staff by at least one to make the jail safer for officers and inmates. I also would like to make the nurse's position a full-time one."

Leaf said some adjustments can be made in the department, including freeing up people to spend more time writing for state and federal grants to increase personnel and road coverage.

"We don't have 24-hour road patrol right now," Leaf said. "State police generally handles days and afternoons, and we're out on night patrol."

"My goal is to get reserve officers to work with the certified officers on weekends. That way, we'd have a two-man car out there rather than a single-man car out on the night shift."

Leaf said he would bring in Robert Baker, a retired sergeant from Battle Creek, to serve as under-sheriff. He said he also would bring his administrative assistant, Cindy Tietz, a Middleville resident with a clerical and secretarial background.

Sixberry, who was named young enforcement officer of the year by the Barry County Jaycees and the Michigan Jaycees in 1997, said he understood when entering his name in the race that his election would be difficult to achieve.

“I’m not on the ballot; voters are going to have to write-in my name if they want to support me, and that’s going to be an uphill battle,” he said. “But I want to do this because we have some top-notch deputies here. They’re very good officers, and we need to keep them here. We need to keep them happy and safe so they don’t leave.”

Pioneer

October 30 & 31, 2004

Fraternity to host annual food drive

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University's Lambda Chi Alpha chapter is teaming up with Project Starburst for the annual North American Food Drive on Nov. 6

Members of the fraternity are visiting area residents and dropping off paper bags. Those wishing to donate should place food items in the bags and set them on their front porches.

The fraternity is collecting the filled bags on Nov. 6.

Also, fraternity members will be stationed at Wal-Mart on Nov. 6, collecting food from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's goal is to collect more than two million pounds of food.

Pioneer

October 30 & 31, 2004

Our View Congratulations to....

- Local attorney Jim Samuels for his election to the chairmanship of the Innocence Project Commission.

Samuels, a former Mecosta County prosecuting attorney, has been a member of the commission since its formation in 2001 and now heads a group charged with screening cases for the testing of biological evidence that could potentially overturn a conviction.

To date, the commission has reviewed more than 2,500 cases which led to court authorization of biological testing in six cases and the exoneration of two individuals.

Combined with similar commissions in other states, efforts have led to the exoneration of 151 individuals nationwide who had been serving time for crimes they did not commit and Samuels foresees the numbers growing as additional states establish innocence projects.

We commend Samuels and fellow members of the board for their dedication to standing guard against possible injustice in our judicial system.

- Jeff Kavalunas, Ferris State University's cross country coach, who was named coach of the year for the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, after his girls' team finished third among 13 teams at the conference meet.

The Bulldogs were ranked 14th in the nation in the Oct. 18 NCAA Division II Cross Country Coaches Association National Women's Rankings, a milestone for Kavalunas during his nine-year tenure. He also serves as head coach of the boys' cross and boys' and girls' track teams.

- Two members of that team, junior Jenny Irwin of Scottville and senior Rachel Cox of Gladstone who were named first-team All-GLIAC for their efforts as cross country runners.

- The Tri County, Pine River, Lakeview, Montabella and Reed City football teams for advancing to the Michigan High School Athletic Association playoffs Friday night. You can read elsewhere in this paper how they fared in their first-round games, but we want it duly noted here that these teams and their coaches, players and supporters deserve a great deal of credit for the hard work and determination it took to earn the right to play beyond the regular season.

- Members of the local all-star basketball team who participated in a game Wednesday night with the Harlem Ambassadors to raise funds for the Mecosta County Community Foundation. While the score was tilted slightly in favor of the Ambassadors, everyone had a great time while putting on a good show for the audience and raising money for a worthy cause.

MiBiz West

November 01, 2004

Hope dedicates expanded science center

HOLLAND - Hope College celebrated the opening of its new science center with a special day of activities on Oct. 8 in conjunction with the college's homecoming weekend.

The \$36 million science center project, part of the college's "Legacies: A Vision of Hope" comprehensive campaign, included the construction of a new 85,900-square-foot building and the renovation of the existing, 72,800-square-foot Peale Science Center, which opened in 1973. The new building opened for the beginning of the 2003-2004 school years, and the renovated Peale reopened this August.

The new center houses the departments of biology, chemistry, geological and environmental sciences, nursing and psychology. The building was designed to complement Hope College's ongoing emphasis on collaborative student-faculty research as a teaching model, and organized to facilitate connections between departments. Hope's science program is nationally recognized for its emphasis on research-based learning.

Architects for the new science building included Ballinger of Philadelphia, Pa. and Jickling Lyman Powell Associates Inc. of Troy, Mich. Contractor for the project were Granger Construction Co. of Lansing.

Rob Train, project manager with Granger said the construction of the science building was completed in two phases beginning in March 2002. The addition was built first to the north and west of the original building with a three-story atrium built in the middle of the building. Phase two, completed in 2004, and involved the renovation of the old science building.

Granger Construction has worked on many educational buildings including a new HVACR facility at Ferris State University. Train said they are also working on the animal health diagnostic laboratory at Michigan State University and his company just completed the Health & Human Services building at Western Michigan University. Granger Construction also constructs a good number of K-12 school buildings, Train added.

Pioneer

November 01, 2004

Ferris hosts inspirational coach for talk on accountability, leadership

BIG RAPIDS - Ken Carter, the California basketball coach who taught his high school team a lesson heard around the country, will bring his message of accountability and leadership to Ferris State University Nov. 3.

He will talk on "Average is Just Not Good Enough," "A Slam-Dunk Lesson in Accountability & Leadership" at 8 p.m. in Wink Arena. His Student Leadership and Activities Speaker Series presentation is free and open to the public.

Carter gained national headlines in 1999 when he benched his entire 45-player roster on the Richmond High School varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams for failing to live up to academic standards. In the face of criticism from both parents and school officials, he forfeited the next two league games and made the school gym off-limits, even for practice.

Play didn't resume until scofflaw students raised their grades with the help of tutors and encouragement from teammates.

Once a star player at the same school, Carter made his players sign an uncompromising academic contract. In a city plagued by gangs, the agreement required players to stay off the streets and maintain a 2.3 grade point average - higher than the state's minimum 2.0 GPA for sports participation. And, his players not only had to attend classes, they had to sit in the front row.

"Coach Carter," a Paramount Pictures movie about the coach's life, starring Samuel L. Jackson as Coach Carter, is scheduled for release Jan. 14, 2005.

Carter left the scholastic coaching ranks in 2002 and joined SlamBall, where he guided the Los Angeles Rumble to the first league championship. An advocate for the Richmond education system and his community as a whole, he also travels the country as a motivational speaker.

Grand Rapids Press

November 01, 2004

Jim Crow Exhibit hits the road

BIG RAPIDS - The Rankin Art Gallery helped organize "Hateful Things," a new traveling exhibition from Ferris State University's Jim Crow Museum and it is making a brief stop at home before being sent off to other locations. The gallery will have special hours for this exhibit: Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Nov. 6 from noon to 3 p.m., and Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There also is a reception on Nov. 5 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Rubber & Plastics News

November 01, 2004

Papers and more

Peter Cameron of Delphi Corp. considered purchasing a technical paper from the convention.

Gathering at the Laur Silicone booth, was Laur's Mike Agodoa, and Paul Kehl and Ferris State University's Matt Yang. Laur was showing off its new one-component, heat-cure silicone rubber system at its booth and in a technical paper.

Poonsub Threepopnatkul of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell describes her poster to Dan Murphy from the university and Dick Hupp, RJ Consulting, who served as a judge.

Madeleine Jacobs, executive director of the American Chemical Society, addresses the Rubber Division committee chairmen, as Paul Esposito, division chairman from Chemical Technologies L.L.C., looks on.

Pioneer

November 03, 2004

FSU Fall Orchestra Concert set for Sunday

The first concert of the 2004-05 seasons for the Ferris State University West Central Chamber Orchestra will take place Sunday at 4 p.m. at United Church of Big Rapids, 120 S. State St.

The orchestra is under direction of Richard Scott Cohen.

Admission is free; no ticket required to attend. For assistance with attending this event, please call The Ferris State University Music Center at (231)591-2501.

The first concert of the 2004-05 seasons will feature favorites from several centuries of string orchestra music.

The program will include the following works: "Symphony No. 1" by William Boyce; "Tango in D," by Isaac Albeniz; "Czech Song and Dance," arranged by Merle Isaac; "Symphony No. 1" by Gustav Mahler; and "Three Outdoor Sketches," by Brendan McBenen.

The FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra is sponsored by Ferris State University as part of its "Music for Life" initiative. It is comprised of Ferris State University students, adult community members, and select students from throughout West -- Central Michigan.

Ferris students can earn credit and scholar ships for their participation in the FSUCO by enrolling in Music 271. Adult community members and qualified pre-university students recommended by their directors may participate free of charge. This string orchestra rehearses every Tuesday evening throughout school year from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Music Center on FSU's main campus. All experienced players of string instruments are invited to join the orchestra. Please contact director Scott Cohen at (231)591-2484, or rscihen@ferris.edu to get signed up.

Music performance opportunities at Ferris State University are designed to supplement and enrich the lives of students by assisting them in making the transition from the high school musical setting to the world of adult amateur musical ensembles. FSU students can continue to develop their musical skills and be prepared for a rewarding musical "life after college" by participating in Ferris' musical ensembles that include both university students and members of the community- the format of the majority of community ensembles throughout the community. In this way, Ferris aspires to inspire all its students to continue to enrich their lives and the lives of others as active performers of music- for life.

Pioneer

November 04, 2004

Ferris Freshman just happy to be part of the group

BIG RAPIDS - Freshman golfer Becky Hoffman felt right at home from the minute she visited Ferris State - and has looked nothing like a rookie thus far.

That comfort level she has enjoyed - not to mention that of fellow first-year Ferris golf athletes Missy Ward, Yasuyo Kiyota and Kaitlyn Hogan -- paid major dividends for the Bulldogs in the fall season. The class of first-year Bulldogs wasted little time making names for themselves among the best rookie groups in the nation.

The class of Hoffman, Ward, Kiyota and Hogan is listed first in the Golf-stat NCAA Division II Freshman Class poll with a 78.92 stroke average and a 568.766 computer point's total.

To think, for Hoffman, her journey to Ferris all started with a positive visit and good bond she quickly formed with head coach Brad Bedortha.

"When I came here for the visit, I really liked the school and I really liked the camps they put on ... the girls, the campers and Brad all seemed like they were always having fun," Hoffman said earlier this fall after she and her teammates won the Bulldog Invitational played at home (Sept. 4 and 5) at Katke Golf Course in Big Rapids. "I really liked Brad and I really felt like I was going to get a lot better working with him and working with the other girls who were already on the team and the ones who were going to be coming in with me."

Hoffman finished the fall portion of her freshman year with a good showing as she compiled a 78.15 stroke average (third-best on the team behind Elena Robles' 76.92 and Kiyota's 78). Her best 18-hole score was a 75 and her 36-hole mark was 150. As far as individual tournament finishes, Hoffman had second-place showing at the Grand Valley State Laker Classic (Sept. 6 and 7) with a 79 -75 -154.

Not bad for a student-athlete who 'decided to come to the university based on mostly good faith and a quick and good rapport built with Bedortha, who now is in his sixth season as head coach of the men's and women's golf teams at Ferris State.

"I came up early for a visit, before my senior year, and I actually only had a chance to meet three of the girls on the team (Robles, Casey McKinnon and Meredith Johnson)," said Hoffman, a native of Gaines and graduate of Swartz Creek High-School.

"I only knew them for a short time, but I had a good time and liked what Ferris had to offer... but, I really just felt comfortable."

For the women's golf team, there is not a whole lot of time to make the transition to being a freshman intercollegiate athlete.

Freshman women golfers for Ferris arrive, unpack their bags, and settle into the dorm and pretty much head out to Katke for the Bulldog Invitational.

It may not literally happen that fast, but it sometimes seems like it does.

For Hoffman, however, the fast adjustment did not necessarily translate into a rough transition.

To the contrary, she got off to a good start with a score of 75-75-150 to finish fourth overall in a Bulldog Invitational that featured some of the top teams and best individual golfers in all of Division II.

“My first day I really was not nervous,” she said. “That was something that did really surprise me a lot.”

That composure is all part of the growing process.

Also part of the process is finding a comfort zone at Katke, a course that has been known to frustrate more than one golfer from time to time.

“A lot of people don’t like the greens, but I like the greens here and adjusting to it is all about practicing,” she said. “It’s a challenge, but if you keep working at that or anything else then you have a good chance of getting better.”

Pioneer

November 05, 2004

'Cabaret' available for weekend entertainment

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University Theatre is presenting Kander and Ebb's musical masterpiece "Cabaret" tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$4 for students and seniors and \$8 for adults. Please call (231) 591-5600 to reserve tickets. For more information, please visit the Web site at www.ferris.edu/theatre.

The record-sized cast brings Kander and Ebb's portrayal of the rise of Nazism into real life on the Williams Auditorium stage. Major roles and ensemble cast help to create a picture of pre-World War II Germany and the nightlife within. "Cabaret" is the story of Clifford Bradshaw, played by Chay Jenkins, who is a young impoverished American writer who has been roaming Europe in an increasingly frantic search for the inspiration for his novel. He is joined by Ernst Ludwig, played by John Gallinat, who introduces Bradshaw to the nightlife of Berlin and Sally Bowles, played by Monica Spearman, the young singer/dancer at the Kit Kat Club. Through the seedy scene of the night club, audience members are introduced to the Emcee, played by Kevin Kowalkoski, who leads them through the journey, revealing not only a dark secret hidden in German society, but deep-relational social news.

After meeting landlord Fraulein Schneider, played by Kelly Samuels, Herr Schultz, a German Jew living in the apartment complex, played by Nick Kuiper, and the resident prostitute Fraulein Kost, played by Carla Reanick, Bradshaw discovers a world in denial and blind to the , upcoming danger of the Nazi party.

Theatrical Director Katherine LaPietra brought in German professor Marianne Heidemann to coach the performers in German accent and Barry Mehler, professor of humanities and nationally renowned speaker, to talk to the cast and discuss the period, getting them into the mindset of the people during the early 1930's.

Musical director Lois Newton worked very closely with the performers. Not only the vocal coach, Newton also is the conductor for the production, bringing to life the music of the times.

Choreographer Emma Stansky creates an interpretation of the period dance. The Kit Kat girls and the Club are a display of my jazzy, intriguing dance. Also, local private dance instructor Linda Harris directed more traditional dances like the fox trot.

Pioneer

November 05, 2004

Ferris President Eisler to attend state address

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University President David L. Eisler will participate in the second annual State of the Public Universities Address Monday at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Eisler will be on the dais with the presidents and chancellors of the 14 other state public universities for the presentation at the Detroit Economics Club Luncheon.

The state's higher education leaders will meet with high school and college students from the Detroit area prior to the luncheon and will be interviewed by the media following the event.

The address will be given by Gary Russi, president of Oakland University and president of the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan.

Russi will stress the powerful force for economic renewal represented by Michigan universities as they educate future workers and leaders.

Pioneer

November 05, 2004

Ferris faculty receives Fulbright Scholar award

BIG RAPIDS - Reinhold R. Hill, associate professor of languages and literature at Ferris State University, is lecturing at the University of Debrecen in Hungary after receipt of a Fulbright Scholar grant, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Scholarship Board.

Dr. Hill, a Ferris faculty member since 2001, will be abroad until February 2005 to lecture on American Folklore and American Studies. Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

As part of the international educational exchange activity, Ferris will host Fulbright Visiting Scholar Olga Barsony from Debrecen, Hungary, from January to June 2005. Barsony, an assistant professor of English at the University of Debrecen, will be doing research in English for information design.

“The Fulbright lecturing grant provides me a great opportunity to encounter Hungarian culture and educational practices,” said Hill “The students at the University of Debrecen are interested in learning about American religious tradition and American folklore from a U.S perspective. The grant also allows me the opportunity to travel and study Hungarian folklore, which will be integrated into my courses when I return.”

Hill received his baccalaureate from Brigham Young University and his master’s from the University of Louisiana. His doctorate is from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a focus on rhetoric and composition, ethnographic writing and folklore.

He has a wide variety of teaching experiences in American literature, World literature and folklore, as well as many writing and composition classes.

Hill is one of approximately 800 faculty and professionals to travel abroad to some 140 countries for the 2004-05 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between people of the United States and other countries.

Through the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have studied, taught, or done research abroad, and equal numbers of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.

They are among more than 250,000 American and foreign university students, K-12 teachers, and university faculty and professionals who have participated in one of the several Fulbright exchange programs.