

COVID-19 CASES UPDATE - 10/27			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	817 (+25)	36 (+0)	
Harper Woods	363 (+10)	36 (+0)	

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OCTOBER 29, 2020
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Poloni to head Shores

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — While Stephen Poloni's career has taken him to important positions throughout the Grosse Pointes over the years, it is now coming full circle as the groundwork has been laid for the public safety director of the City and Park to close out a 37-year career in public safety and become city manager of the Shores, effective Jan. 25, 2021.

The city has functioned with an interim city manager the last 11 months, following the retirement of Mark Wollenweber in October 2019.

"I feel like this is just the right time and felt good about the move, so I'm excited about it," Poloni said, adding he has been approached by two different cities in the past with opportunities to be city manager, as well as by the Shores several years ago.

While he became public safety director in the City in 2011, and added the Park position in 2015, Poloni first served in the Shores public safety department 25 years and as its director from 2003 to 2011.

"I have a lot of friends in the departments and the administration in Grosse Pointe Shores, as well as still have very good relationships with many residents there," he said.

In addition to his estab-

See **POLONI**, page 5A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Head to head

Rival football squads Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North faced off last weekend, with South earning the win, 41-3. The game was scheduled to be played at North, but a storm just hours before the contest knocked out power to the stadium lights. Read the full story on page 3C.

City hall renamed in Novitke's honor

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Municipal administrators, employees and council members gathered at city hall Friday, Oct. 23, for a dedication almost two years in the making. Mayor Bob Novitke witnessed the formal naming of the Woods government complex as the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Art Bryant spoke at the gathering, calling "the

extraordinary number of years of service that Mayor Novitke has given to our city" worthy of recognition.

Having begun as a city councilman in November 1977, Novitke became mayor in 1990. A veteran of the U.S. Marines, he moved to the Woods in 1974, after serving in Vietnam.

He was moved by the city's gesture in naming the complex.

"I was sincerely hon-

See **HONOR**, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Pro Tem Art Bryant, left, dedicates city hall in honor of Mayor Robert Novitke, center. Novitke's daughter, Debby McCarthy, and wife, Marsha Novitke, look on.

Election around the bend

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — For those voting via absentee ballot, Pointe city clerks are requesting they be returned as soon as possible, in preparation for the anticipated inundation Tuesday, Nov. 3. Such voters can securely track when their absentee ballot is mailed and received at michigan.gov/vote.

While the state legislature passed a proposal allowing city clerks' offices to open absentee ballot envelopes and begin the process a day early, following the August election, the allowance only went through for jurisdictions with populations of 25,000 or more, which excludes the five Pointes.

Despite this, most Pointe precincts are not anticipating a delay in getting the election results to Wayne County. The Farms, for instance, is planning to do so by 8:30 p.m. election night if there are no issues with equipment.

"That's when they should have transmitted all of the other previous elections, but the county has just discovered that there was an issue with the file size trying to be sent on modem," Farms Assistant City Manager and City Clerk Derrick

See **ELECTION**, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

A house in the 1200 block of Anita caught fire Friday late afternoon.

Weather wreaks havoc

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Storm-related issues were suspected in several unrelated incidents Friday evening, Oct. 23. While putting out a transformer fire in the 1100 block of Anita, public safety officers were drawn to a blaze that began in the basement of a home in the 1200 block of Anita around 5:30 p.m.

Woods firefighters were assisted by Farms and Shores public safety. A power surge might have been the cause of the damage, but its origin is still being investigated, officials said.

A nearby residence in the 1100 block had suffered a badly damaged circuit breaker and appliances about an hour earlier.

Grosse Pointe North High School lost power, causing the football team's scheduled 7 p.m. game to be relocated to Grosse Pointe South. Meanwhile, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church also lost power, temporarily leaving elevator passengers stuck between floors.

No injuries were reported in the incidents.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Nate Schwarze

Home: City of Grosse Pointe Coach advocates opportunity for Detroit youth



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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

In a partnership with owner Anthony Soave of Soave Enterprises, Joe Vicari Restaurant Group recently became the operating partner of The Hill Seafood & Chop House.

Andiamo owner partners with The Hill restaurant

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — In a 50/50 partnership with owner Anthony Soave from Soave Enterprises, Joe Vicari Restaurant Group became the operating partner of The Hill Seafood & Chop House at 123 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, in September. The group also owns and operates Andiamo restaurants, among others.

It currently is undecided whether The Hill Seafood & Chop House will keep its name, according to JVRG President Joe Vicari.

The business is scheduled to close at the end of the year through the beginning of February, for an approximately \$250,000 remodel, includ-

ing new kitchen equipment and additional booths and seating, as well as work to lighten up the atmosphere and decor.

“We’re going to try to close for just 30 days,” Vicari said.

Upon reopening, a new menu will be rolled out with an emphasis on fresh seafood.

“Because I own Joe Muer Restaurants, we feel we can get in very fresh quality fish from all over the world and we’re going to showcase a little more fish at The Hill,” Vicari said.

Chef Bryan Hartway, head chef at Joe Muer Seafood Bloomfield Hills, is now head chef at The Hill, while the new general manager, Kaylnn Azar, has five years of experience with JVRG, including at Andiamo

Warren and Bloomfield Township.

The partnership came about through a friendship between Vicari and Soave, with the goal of making the restaurant once again a very successful location in the Farms.

“We like the location,” Vicari said. “I like the opportunity. It’s a well-known restaurant in Grosse Pointe (and) I think Grosse Pointe is definitely underserved with restaurants, especially I’d say one that’s a little finer dining. There’s not really too many that I can think of.”

JVRG also acquired Triple Nickle in Birmingham and Buc’eez Pub in Macomb Township last month. Between the three additions, the group plans to add approximately 150 new employees.

ELECTION:

Continued from page 1A

Kozicki explained. “They’ve gone in and reduced the file size, so now it should work.”

Residents can, however, drop by their open and staffed city halls to be issued absentee ballots Saturday, Oct. 31.

“By law, all cities in Michigan must now have a full day of in-person absentee voting on Saturday before all elections,” explained Pete

Dame, city manager of the City. “Before that statewide ballot initiative was passed last year, it was only half a day.”

Similar to the August election, the state once again provided Pointe precincts with personal protective equipment, as well as funds to purchase items related to the increase in absentee voting, such as tables, letter openers and carts.

“We actually have most of it left from the last time, so they were very generous,” Shores

interim City Manager Tom Krolczyk said. “Honestly, they gave us gallons and gallons of hand sanitizer (along with) masks, shields and gloves. We’re inundated with (it). We should be good for the next two or three elections, for sure.”

Although this presidential election is taking place amid a pandemic, many Pointe precincts also are reporting they’ve already gained the necessary number of volunteers.

“Throughout the state of Michigan, the interest in working elections has been unprecedented and we have actually had to turn people away,” Kozicki said, “but it’s exciting to see that there’s so many people interested in working elections and I hope that in the future, they’ll still be interested.”

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BOE members address campaign divisiveness

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — With just days remaining until the general election Tuesday, Nov. 3, emotions ran high at the regular meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public

School System Board of Education Monday night.

Several trustees used their closing comments to discuss the divisive nature of the school board election, in which 17 candidates are competing for five open seats. “This entire election

has been horribly aggressive towards certain candidates, including myself,” Trustee Cindy Pangborn said. “Not only have signs been destroyed and removed, houses egged, and on Facebook name-calling and lies that could not be

stopped.”

Pangborn said she received hate mail and her email passwords were stolen and the contents of her computer deleted. She added she had notified the authorities.

“Never before has a board member been

silenced not only by her peers, but by the media at large,” she said. “At the last board meeting, I had to be escorted home by the police because of the nature of the mail that I had received. There’s no reason for this type of behavior. I don’t under-

stand it after being a volunteer or board member the last 45 years, living here my whole life, working here, going to school here, along with my family and extended family. I have never seen this kind

See CAMPAIGN, page 4A

Park seeks businesses to award thousands in cash

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Giving away money isn’t a problem grant makers typically encounter, but more than half of \$50,000 earmarked this summer to help neighborhood businesses reopen remains available.

The Tax Increment Finance Authority’s city council-approved \$50,000 budget made it possible for local shops

and restaurants to apply for as much as \$3,500 each, in order to aid their recovery from loss of revenue. Leah Smith, assistant to City Manager Nick Sizeland, announced the program that would support eligible businesses in completing new projects or expanding their operations, following statewide shutdowns in the spring. Only 10 Park-based businesses have successfully applied, leaving opportunities

for others, Sizeland said.

“There’s still \$28,000 out there that’s available right now,” Sizeland added.

Eligible businesses in the TIFA zone, including Mack Avenue, the Charlevoix business district and Kercheval business park, may participate in the Park’s expanded outdoor footprint by applying for the funds. O’Flaherty’s bar, Cellar 313, Grosse Pointe Animal Clinic,

Marge’s Bar, Cornwall Bakery, Bricks Pizzeria, Excalibur, Rustic Cabins, Sweeties and The Charlevoix all have received the first of two grant installments and are eligible to request the remaining funds for which each was approved by the end of October. The city’s plan was to award the funds through September, but businesses that haven’t applied may seek grants through the end of 2020 since the deadline was

extended, Sizeland said. Information about the criteria for applying is available on the Grosse Pointe Park website in the TIFA section. Businesses may apply for reimbursement of reopening costs or funds to assist in reopening.

Sizeland suspects the lack of response from more Park establishments might be a result of aversion to paperwork and what’s assumed to be a challenging application pro-

cess. “We tried to make this as user-friendly as possible,” Sizeland said.

Only two applications for assistance, which doesn’t include support in rental payments, have been rejected, he added. Sizeland’s staff remains available to provide information and answer questions from interested applicants, he said: “We’re not just going to toss you the documents and say, ‘Here you go.’”

Man registers to vote at 79; has lived rich life overseas

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Born at a hospital in Detroit and raised at 132 Moran in Grosse Pointe Farms until he was 12 years old, Barry Russel True recently applied for an absentee ballot to vote in a U.S. election for the first time. The 79-year-old, currently living with dual citizenship in Spain, cited the country’s general healthcare situation and its economy in “dire debt” as the igniters of his interest.

“(I) never got around to voting because I wasn’t particularly interested in politics and not sure how to register,” True said via email. “But these are crucial times, indeed, and I believe it’s necessary to do my duty.”

True left his comfortable life in the Farms behind — the home his father designed and built in 1937 is still here — in 1953 when his parents, who became Bahá’ís in 1937, decided to pioneer for the faith in Nigeria, but ended up in Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands, when their visas were continually delayed.

“We arrived in September 1953, my parents having decided that we stand by on the islands until the British consul could issue the coveted visas,” he explained. “But they never came. Noting, however, that there were no Bahá’ís in the Canaries, my dad then cabled the Guardian of the Faith in Haifa and asked if we could stay there. Which



COURTESY PHOTO

Barry Russel True, right, shakes hands with King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

the Guardian did (allow) and there is now a large Bahá’í community in the Canaries.”

After being sent to a boarding school in St. Gallen, Switzerland, True joined the U.S. Army in Frankfurt, took basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, went to specialist school in Indianapolis and was stationed at the 33rd Field Hospital in Fontainebleau, France.

There, he married his Spanish girlfriend and in 1963, the two had their first of three children, who was denied U.S., Spanish and French citizenship, because True had left the U.S. at 12 and his wife was a foreigner, meaning they failed to meet the requirement of four years of residence in the U.S. after the age of 14; the Spanish authorities would only grant citi-

zenship if the child’s father was a Spanish citizen; and the French refused on the grounds of the family not being political refugees.

“Consequently, before getting an early out from the army after having met the requirement of over two years’ service overseas, I smuggled my son over the French border into Spain, where (Francisco) Franco, to whom I had addressed a moving appeal, granted him Spanish citizenship in 1964,” True said.

In hopes to be stationed in Spain, he then joined the U.S. Air Force, but was sent to Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Fla., where he received a compassionate discharge after two months due to being unable to have his wife and children with him, and returned to the

Canaries where he became a hotel manager.

Leaving the business in 1989, True followed in his great-grandfather’s footsteps — George True was U.S. consul under President Abraham Lincoln in Madeira, Portugal, where he had been sent to convince the Portuguese authorities to refuse to provision confederate warships — to become Sri Lanka’s honorary consul in Tenerife from 1990 to 1993, and its consul general in Madrid and the surrounding provinces from 1993 to 2011.

Also carrying on as a sworn translator, True has lived in Ronda, a mountaintop city in Spain’s Province of Malaga, the last 20 years.

Despite his many adventures around the world, the native Grosse Pointer still holds clear

memories of his time in the Pointes.

The police closing off sloped roads during winter weekends for kids to ride down in sledges; the small huts put up by fishers on Lake St. Clair in especially cold winters; gardeners at the Ford

estate taking a week to mow the expansive lawn; going for a swim off the municipal pier; and earning pocket money distributing the weekly Detroit Shopping News from his bike, until he was caught ditching it, are just some of the many.

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, NOV. 3

◆ General Election. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 4

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom.
◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

THURSDAY, NOV. 5

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Pension Board meeting, 6 p.m. via Zoom.

SATURDAY, NOV. 7

◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. in council chambers.

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Pier Park gazebo demolished

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — After being deemed structurally unsound by the building department, largely due to excessive rotting of the wood at the bottom of the structure, the 23-year-old gazebo in Pier Park was torn down Wednesday, Oct. 14.

“While we didn’t want to see it come down and we hoped that we could find replacement parts and structurally make it sound ... it just wasn’t feasible to do it and safely keep that structure

there,” Parks and Recreation Director Chris Galatis explained.

Although no decisions have yet been made, the city, in partnership with



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS PARKS AND REC

The torn down structure resting in place.

the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation, intends to explore plans that would revamp that area of the park. Such plans could take the form of a new gazebo or an entirely different enhancement.

Currently, there is no estimation for when a replacement project may begin.

“We just wanted to get it down before, knock on wood, anything bad happened,” Galatis said. “With the wind that happens out there, we just felt that we needed to get it down as soon as possible.”

— Laurel Kraus

4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

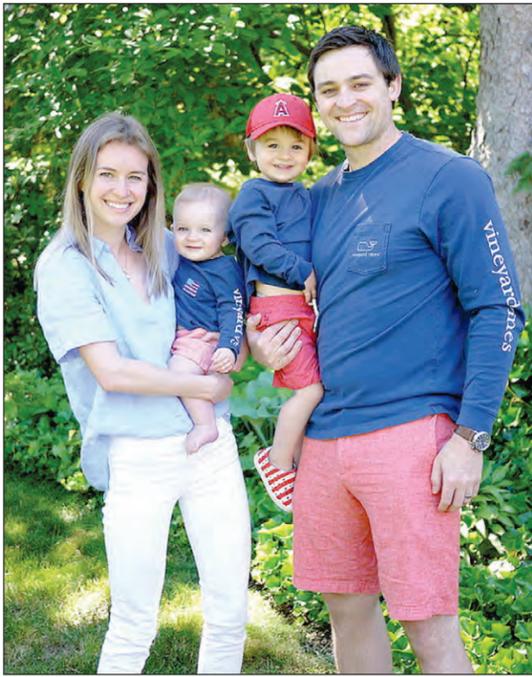
Coach advocates opportunity for Detroit youth

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

Nate Schwarze recognizes the impact of sports from his days as a youth athlete.

“Sports, to me, were everything,” he said. “They taught me all types of life lessons: commitment, getting things done on time. They just taught me all types of life lessons that have translated over to the business world and now to being a dad and running Eagle Sports.”

At 32, Schwarze puts his energy and experience toward helping youth enjoy the exposure he did as a boy. The Grosse Pointe resident serves as director of sports for Soar Detroit’s Eagle Sports Club, based at Grace Community Church. But since 2020’s public health challenges began, Schwarze has grown concerned about what he describes as a



COURTESY PHOTO

Nate Schwarze, right, with his wife, Elizabeth, and their children, Hunter and Henry.

widening opportunity gap for metro Detroit’s children.

“With Eagle Sports, we serve kids less than two miles away (from Grosse

Pointe’s border) in Detroit with people who don’t have a lot of money,” Schwarze said.

While community sports programs came to a halt in the spring when public gatherings were restricted to prevent illness, there were Grosse Pointe-area youth who still enjoyed private training or visits to places like batting cages, he said.

Schwarze remembers parents and grandparents at Eagle Sports Club “in tears” about the abrupt loss of sports their children enjoyed: “They said, ‘All our kids are told to do is sit on the couch and watch TV.’”

The socio-economic gap between families “is just widening and it’s at the expense of these kids,” Schwarze added.

A former Division 1 college basketball player at Rice University in Texas, Schwarze moved to Grosse Pointe about nine years ago. His work

through Eagle Sports Club involves coordinating programs and partnerships that give ages 4 to 14 indoor and outdoor recreational outlets.

“Our mission statement is to build life-changing relationships through sports,” he said.

Schwarze, who has coached at Grosse Pointe South High School, is grateful for support from other coaches in the Pointes and elsewhere, who volunteer with Eagle. Following Detroit’s reopening of Balduck Memorial Park to the club, the organization was able to launch an abbreviated soccer season for approximately 130 youths. Eagle’s second annual partnership with Bulldogs Hockey Club begins Nov. 2.

“It’s all of the expert coaches who take time and are teaching our Eagle Sports kids how to get on the ice and skate,”

Schwarze said. “We did it last year for the first time and it was a huge success.”

But despite the club’s progress as 2020 nears its end, Schwarze wants the community to increase its support for expanding youth opportunities. How to convince privileged families to show more concern for children outside their homes is “the million-dollar question,” he said.

“I just truly believe that our country, our city, our state would look a lot different if people would just love one another. Love your neighbor,” Schwarze added.

Donations to Eagle Sports Club and volunteers are always appreciated, he said, noting that both are long-term investments in youth.

“We don’t just coach them for a season,” he said. “We’re connected with these kids for years to come.”

CAMPAIGN:

Continued from page 3A

of behavior in a community. Our community should be outraged.”

City of Grosse Pointe Deputy Chief John Alcorn said while Pangborn mentioned a hacked computer when she filed a report about receiving hate mail at her home, she had not turned in her computer and no investigation was underway. Alcorn added he did investigate the mail and determined it didn’t

reach the level of criminal contact.

Secretary Christopher Profeta, who isn’t running for re-election, said the divisiveness isn’t new to this school board election.

“I recall Mrs. Gafa, Mrs. Abke and I had a giant billboard put up with our names on it,” he said. “I don’t recall any of us coming to the board and complaining about that. We got hate mail. I know I did.”

“It shouldn’t happen and it needs to stop, but it isn’t new,” he added.

“... I think this community is going to put its kids and its schools in good hands. I have a lot of faith about the future.”

Treasurer Judy Gafa, who also is not running for re-election after serving 12 years on the board, addressed the lack of transparency with campaign funding.

“After 11 failed recall attempts with zero signatures collected, thousands of dollars of dark money spent on ads and mailers with untrue accusations, as a community we need to ask ourselves

who is funding this and why?” she said. “Why is someone spending this kind of money on a small school board election?”

“I trust the community to cut through the noise and the empty promises, the dark money, the divisiveness and support the right candidates who actually want to welcome

all students and move this district forward,” she added.

President Margaret Weertz agreed she has “never seen anything like this in our community” in all the campaign cycles she has witnessed.

“We’ve been through a rocky 18 months, but our district is still as out-

standing as it always was,” she said. “We’re on a path of improvement and growth and change. My colleagues here are the people who have been among those who made those changes. They were difficult changes, but they were the adults in the room making difficult choices.”

HONOR:

Continued from page 1A

ored,” Novitke said before the ceremony. “I obviously thank the city council and I’m glad to have the support of the administration.”

Before the Oct. 23 event, Bryant described the process of passing the December 2018 resolution that led to Novitke’s honor as a bit of a trick, given the mayor’s humble nature. Council member Todd McConaghy had suggested to Bryant that the city name the complex for Novitke while he was still mayor, but they anticipated pro-

test from Novitke — who would be part of the council’s vote.

“We wanted to wait until the first time Bob wasn’t there,” Bryant said, “and then one day he was gone and I was in charge of the meeting.”

A unanimous vote by the members who were present led to the announcement of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center.

“When he finally found out, instead of, ‘Oh, that’s great’ he asked, ‘Well, when are we going to do this?’” Bryant said. “Being a lawyer, I think his first reaction was to wonder, ‘Is it legal?’”

A native of Detroit’s

east side, Novitke attended Wayne State University and later earned a juris doctor degree from Detroit College of Law.

The mayor thanked his wife and family, several of whom attended the dedication, for their support and understanding during his years of public service.

The city hall dedication had been planned for 2019, but was delayed first by some previously scheduled work on the premises and then by months of restoration after a pipe burst, causing significant flood damage to the property.

Bryant said he and other council members were “quite pleased that it’s finally happening and in conjunction with there being a newly redone city hall.”

Novitke counted the recognition among his personal highlights, but said his greatest honor comes from serving the Woods.

“When you accomplish something, especially something that is good for the city, that’s fulfilling,” Novitke said.

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City of Grosse Pointe

No crimes to report per public safety.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

Failed other identity

A 27-year-old St. Clair man was arrested for an active felony warrant out of Macomb County for probation violation and dangerous drugs with no bond, after he first attempted to give officers false information when pulled over on Moross Road for not having a license plate displayed at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Mask drama

An unknown couple who came to dine at a business in the 100 block of Kercheval Avenue at 10:10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, were provided with masks but refused to wear them while walking around.

After being asked several times, they began shouting obscenities and the woman spit on one of the employees when they were asked to leave.

Banned for a reason

When an employee at a business in the 19000

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

block of Mack Avenue was taking garbage out of the store at 10:39 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, she was confronted and struck across the face by a 34-year-old Detroit woman, who was angered for having previously been banned from the store. The woman was arrested for assault and battery.

Roadside education

After being pulled over at Moross Road and Moross Place at 6:27 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, for “blinding” an officer with her activated high beams, a 19-year-old Detroit woman was instructed on how to turn them off by the officer.

She also was cited for driving without insurance and the vehicle was towed.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Landscaping equipment theft

Overnight Monday, Oct. 19, a metal ramp

used for landscaping equipment was taken from the bed of a truck on Hawthorne Road.

Three down, one to go

A 67-year-old Southfield woman was pulled over at Lakeshore and Briarcliff Place at 4:07 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.

Unemployment fraud

An unknown suspect attempted to file for unemployment benefits under a 62-year-old Shores man’s name Friday, Oct. 23.

Need for speed

After making a U-turn at Vernier Road and Morningside Drive and then accelerating to 60 mph, a 56-year-old Eastpointe man was pulled over at 4:11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.

With slurred speech and a .27 percent blood alcohol content, he was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

No insurance

A 21-year-old St. Clair Shores man was arrested for an expired plate, not having insurance and not having an operator’s license on his person, after being pulled over at Lakeshore Road and Briarcliff Place at 4:07 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24.

Driving while license suspended

When pulled over at 10:06 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, for driving 44 mph on Lakeshore Road without headlights, an 18-year-old Shelby Township woman was arrested for driving while license suspended.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen car

A white 2020 Ford Edge was discovered missing from the 900 block of Briarcliff around 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, after it had been parked in an attached garage the previous night.

The owner was unsure

whether he’d closed the garage, which was also discovered without items it had contained.

Snatched car parts

A woman who parked her vehicle at Mack and Moross discovered the catalytic converter of the white 2011 Ford Escape stolen around 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. The vehicle had been parked in a lot from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

An oxygen sensor also was discovered missing from the vehicle after the car’s “check engine” light alerted the driver to an issue.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

Grosse Pointe Park

Cigarette arrest

A 24-year-old Detroit man was arrested in the 700 block of Middlesex while in the vehicle of a resident around 7 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21. The suspect had reportedly

stolen cigarettes and loose change from other vehicles in the area.

Wanted on warrants

A 28-year-old Center Line man was arrested at Mack and Lakepointe after he was detained for driving at a rate near 20 miles greater than the speed limit around 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22. It was discovered that the driver had two felony warrants for fleeing and eluding and aggravated assault. He was released to the custody of Warren police.

Retreating from retailer

A 23-year-old Detroit man was arrested around 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, in the 15000 block of Kercheval after he was caught concealing almost \$200 in goods beneath his clothing.

The suspect allegedly tried to leave a store without paying for the items in his possession.

— Eddie B. Allen Jr.

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 822-7400.

POLONI:

Continued from page 1A

lished relationships within the city, as well as those with city administrations and departments throughout the Pointes, Poloni also will bring experience working in city and municipal government. Areas in which he’s worked outside of public safety include a city clerk’s office, department of public works and water department, as well as working closely with several city managers.

His budgeting and grant work experience is evident through his work in government, but also, he said, when taken into account the fact that a public safety department budget often is the biggest portion of a government’s budget.

Compared to the roughly \$10 million in budgeting between the City and Park departments with which he has worked, the Shores city budget is approximately \$6 million.

“Obviously, there’s a lot of different moving parts of being the manager compared to being the director of one department,” Poloni said, “but I think budgeting skills, personnel issues, you can transport those to every

department that you work in.”

His goals for his time as the Shores city manager are simple: To provide a good service to the residents within the budget.

The delayed start date is in place to allow the City and Park departments time to sort through the transition.

“I feel pretty good in my career (and) where I’m at in the two other departments,” Poloni said as to why he feels comfortable leaving the position at this point. “I feel like Grosse Pointe City and Grosse Pointe Park are both in really good shape.

“Obviously, one of my goals, anytime in your career, is that you made a difference and that you leave things better than when you started, at least in your mind you feel that way, and I’m pretty confident that in both communities that that is the case.”

While it is yet to be determined who may be selected as the new public safety director or whether the cities may split with separate directors once again, Poloni reported a succession plan is prepared in both cities, which was one of his goals

while leading the departments. Qualified candidates have received the necessary education and attended staff and command school, as well as on-the-job training. With Poloni unable to be in both cities at once, the candidates served as his backup when necessary.

“The two cities where I currently work are both great places to work,” Poloni said. “I’ve been fortunate in both cities to have great staff to work with. I’ve had fantastic support from the managers, the mayors and councils, who have had confidence in my ability to run the department, as well as great support from the residents.

“I’ve just been blessed, to be honest, to have worked in those two communities and had great support the entire time,” he continued. “You don’t always get that and you’re lucky to have that.”

Also hired

The Shores also hired Cathy Hall as its new finance director, following the resignation of Rhonda Ricketts, during a special meeting of city council Monday, Oct. 5. Hall is a resident

of the Woods and has worked in public accounting more than 20 years, providing services to nonprofits and all levels of government.

Correction

The article, “Growing Smiles: An enjoyable dental experience,” printed in the Oct. 22 Grosse Pointe News, should have read any school can contact the office to set up the education series by calling 586-800-GROW or visiting GrowingSmilesPD.com.

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Can we afford a GPPSS school board that continues its current “hear no evil, see no evil” approach?

- 1. From spring 2015 through last year, GPPSS has lost 9% of its enrollment. This decline was almost 3 times the state average! This data doesn't even count the roughly 500 students lost since 2019 to fall 2020!**
- 2. Average SAT scores in GPPSS declined from 1126 to 1119. Average SAT scores are lower than May 2015. Further, among comparable school districts GPPSS was the only district to see average SAT scores decline over this period.**
- 3. Consider a sample of recent controversies:**
 - ✓ A Huge increase in taxpayer-funded borrowing
 - ✓ Divisive reconfiguration plan
 - ✓ Contentious teacher and coach firings
 - ✓ Fumbling a \$1 Million ECC donation
 - ✓ Flat-footed pandemic response
 - ✓ Gender discrimination lawsuit

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6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

ROBERT B. EDGAR: Founder and Publisher (1940 - 1979)
JOHN MINNIS: Publisher
TERRY MINNIS: Vice President
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor

OUR VIEW

Election central

In the final countdown to Election Day, voters still have options. That includes going to your local clerk's office and voting there through Monday — even registering there through Tuesday if you need to.

These choices opened up with Michigan's voting law changes, which include no-reason absentee ballots. Combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, they have become a particularly popular option in this presidential election year.

If you're still hanging on to an absentee ballot, you need to get it in. At this point, we and Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson recommend that voters NOT mail their ballots this close to the election.

Hand delivering ballots is allowed on Election Day, but clerks prefer to have them in hand earlier. Remember to sign and date the return envelope!

And given the difficulties with mail during the pandemic, most clerks suggest bringing ballots to their offices — and all of them will be open Saturday — or to drop boxes outside the city halls in each of the Grosse Pointes.

Want to know if your ballot has been received? You can track it online, after it gets scanned in at your clerk's office, at the Michigan Voter Information Center, mvic.sos.state.mi.us. The state website has lots of other valuable help, including a way to see a sample ballot for your precinct; that's a good way to study up before you go to vote at either the clerk's office or the polls.

All of this brings Michigan's elections into the modern age in several ways. One important change is the ability to register to vote right up to Election Day. That ends the restrictive requirement for voters to register at least 30 days before an election — an unnecessary barrier to the potential voters who don't focus on an election until the last week or so.

Sadly, today's level of computerization — the improvement that allows last-minute registration of new voters, for example — doesn't add up to faster results once the polls close.

The heavy use of absentee ballots, in particular, will lead to later reporting from many municipalities. That's a problem in the news business; for example, election results are not expected to be available in time to meet deadlines for the Nov. 5 edition of the Grosse Pointe News. Results will be posted at grossepointenews.com when they come in. Complete vote breakdowns and full election coverage will appear Nov. 12.

OUR VIEW

Halloween

What surprises will Halloween bring? No one has banned trick-or-treating, generally done from 5 until 8 p.m. But it's certainly not clear what will happen in the Grosse Pointes — whether children will go door to door and whether adults at home will hand out candy.

The COVID-19 epidemic has changed everyone's life and Halloween arrives as case numbers grow again in Michigan. The Pointes and Harper Woods have likewise seen a steady increase.

But optimistic Grosse Pointers already have invented ways for keeping their distance, including PVC pipe constructions to slide candy directly into children's bags. Other ideas are out there, such as ways to allow trick-or-treaters to pick up their goodies from the porch or a table while adults stand back.

Of course, everyone needs to mask their mouths and noses — and that's another potential way to get creative. Keeping a safe distance means trick-or-treaters also have to be careful to space themselves out.

For some, the dangers outweigh the possibilities; for others, Halloween is a chance to give children a rare bit of fun. Above all, be safe and, if you can, be creative and help scare up a good time!



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

This fine Halloween display welcomes visitors to the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Works at Marter and Parkway roads. Obviously, the DPW workers contributed some of the clothing to the effort. Well done and happy Halloween!

OUR VIEW

Roundabout at Moross/Mack

Mack Avenue could change considerably — and for the better — if a recently finalized corridor improvement plan comes to fruition.

Among the most visible suggestions for the section between Cadieux and Moross roads are street changes that make it safer for pedestrians to cross, along with better bus stops, more greenery and enhancement of bike-friendly cross streets.

The most dramatic — and presumably controversial — change would be a traffic circle where Mack intersects with Moross. Michiganders in general are not yet used to traffic circles. But it's hard to believe they are any stranger than the current system, where left-turning vehicles pile up between the boulevard medians and can come to near gridlock. (Another alternative would be changing to a so-called Michigan left pattern there.)

At this point, the recommendations remain suggestions, with review still to come from a strategy committee that oversees the collaboration. Four cities are participating: Detroit and Grosse Pointe Farms, City and Park.

In the current proposal, other traffic dynamics are in play where East Warren enters Mack. It's a place with bus stops, some of them in a one-off tri-

angle formed by a side street that ends up endangering pedestrians. And given that the Post Office is across from there, the area definitely should be pedestrian friendly.

More focal points, such as where Fisher Road reaches Mack and again at Bluehill Street (across from Notre Dame Street), would involve trying to perk up existing properties or even, in the case of Fisher, to build on a parcel that is currently vacant.

More cosmetic efforts — forming a beautification group, creating a Mack Avenue logo, painting murals and so on — would certainly be welcome and are doable first steps as the more complicated infrastructure and building proposals get tackled.

Mack Avenue already has pedestrian traffic, some because of the bus stops, some because people out for a walk also may want a coffee or to peek into shop windows. The more inviting it can become, the better.

Coffee shops and carry-out food options invite plenty of vehicle traffic, too. That makes it important to assure, on a busy street like Mack already is, that both pedestrians and drivers have a safe experience as well as a pleasant one. The potential certainly is there, if everyone can maintain their dedication.

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters longer than 250 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the editor may be emailed to editor@grossepointenews.com.

Racing For Kids

To the Editor:

While the 14th annual Racing For Kids to the Hill wasn't the event we had been hoping to stage in 2020, we were able to "Shift Gears" and ended up having a wonderfully successful virtual event. And it could not have happened without the help of our amazing friends in the community who donated our "Buy It Now" items, as well as our major donors, our restaurant partners and our steadfast supporters, who bought Donate & Dine tickets or made direct donations to our mission.

First, we'd like to thank our "Buy It Now" contributors — Dan

LaLonde and LaLonde Jewelers, Chick Taylor and City Kitchen, Tony Eckrich and Kart 2 Kart, Gretchen Valade and Willie Jones of the Dirty Dog Jazz Café, Bill Matouk and Woods Wholesale Wine, Patrick Fabian and The League Shop, Chris Ahee of AHEE Jewelers, Mike LeFevre of Mike's on the Water, Benson Ford and Jon Cotton. The exciting items and experiences they donated really helped us achieve our financial goals.

Many thanks go to our restaurant partners who agreed to participate in our Donate & Dine promotion — Café Nini, City Kitchen, Dirty Dog Jazz Café, The Hill Seafood & Chop House, Jumps,

Luxe Bar & Grill and Fresh Farms Market.

We are very grateful to everyone who participated in our virtual event with particular thanks to these special major donors — TranSystems Corp., Peggy and Peter Kross, Rich Russell and Jennifer and Elaine Peck and the Peck Foundation, Beaumont Hospital, David and Cynthia Hempstead, Lynn and Paul Alandt, Richard Morsches, Joe Backer, Darcy and Fraser MacKenzie, Bruce Burton, Henry Ford III, Northern Trust, The Hill Association, John Eppard, Cynthia and Edsel Ford, Richard and Diane Platt, Highbie Maxon Agney, Mary Kay and Keith Crain, Bill and Jennifer Chope, Martin and Nancy McEnroe, Sam and Elaine Bush, and Warner Norcross + Judd.

Finally, thank you, Grosse Pointe, for supporting our mission and helping us continue to brighten the days of hospitalized children in our community and across the country.

Here's hoping next year we will be back on the street with flags fly-

ing, engines roaring and the community celebrating the 15th Racing For Kids to the Hill.

PAT AND DEBBY WRIGHT, ROBBIE BUHL, KATHLEEN CONWAY, LINDA FINGER AND RICK MUZINGO
The Racing For Kids Team

Roundabouts

To the Editor:

The second I saw the highlighted yellow "ROUNDABOUT" traffic circle on the (Oct. 8) front page of your paper, I instantly thought, "A waste of money which will line the pockets of architects, 'committees' (MAIP, SEMCOG, et al.), jack hammers, big trucks, concrete guys, electricians, federal-state-county-city inspectors and, possibly, exotic five-star hotel vacations, marlin fishing in Ecuador, cases of Speyside scotch, Cuban cigars, etc." Kind of a "UAW bad-behavior repeat thing."

My secondary reaction was, "Why?" The present configuration

See LETTERS, page 7A

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EDITORIAL

(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh: Editor

Bob St. John: Sports Editor

Eddie B. Allen Jr.: Staff Writer

Mary Anne Brush: Staff Writer

Laurel Kraus: Staff Writer

Elizabeth Martin: Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt: Staff Photographer

Barb Arrigo: Editorial Writer

CIRCULATION

(313) 343-5578

Kristin Martin Duus

PRODUCTION

(313) 343-5573

Ken Schop: Production Manager

John Pigott: IT Manager

Patty Dressler

David Hughes

Donna Zetterlund

ADVERTISING

(313) 882-3500

Shelley Owens: Advertising Manager

Paul V. Biondi: Account Executive

Steve Saigh: Account Executive

Julie R. Sutton: Account Executive

Melanie Mahoney: Administrative Assistant

CLASSIFIED

(313) 882-6900 ext 567

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

Vacationing during a pandemic



Between trips canceled due to safety concerns, a dramatic increase in workload for those deemed essential workers and a loss of or reduced income for some others, it's safe to say most people did not get to travel this year.

While the temporary loss of travel for pleasure is certainly what I'd consider a first-world problem, it's still one that a lot of us have been feeling.

Due to the way our society was formed, built around the idea of the American Dream, we tend to live to work rather than work to live. This means many people put in more than 40-hour work weeks, spend the weekend finishing work they didn't get a chance to, shove in some time working on personal

projects and then start all over again.

With such a way of life, Americans tend to rely on vacation time just for the sake of our sanity, because we've ingrained ourselves with the mantra that the only time it's acceptable not to work is when we've been completely removed from it.

It's no wonder the northern areas of the state have been flooded with Michiganders nearly every weekend. Between the sparsely populated areas and not needing a flight to get

there, it's been just about our only option.

In fact, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources reported a 95 percent increase in hunting license sales for first-time hunters since March.

However, as I learned in September, going south can also be doable. Heading to Tennessee's Smoky Mountains with my sister and a small group, we road-tripped to avoid public transportation, brought most of the food we needed and spent our time almost

exclusively in the national park, free of crowds.

With a slight adjustment to normal hiking procedures — putting on your mask when encountering other hikers and allowing those hiking out to have the right of way, while those hiking back step off the trail for social distancing — we were able to enjoy the eight-mile round-trip hike to Charlies Bunion, a hike up to Chimney Tops at 4,724 feet above sea level and a few others.

We ended up hiking 25

miles in four days, successfully spending a vacation in the mountains and away from people, and are now working on plans to hike the Smoky Mountain portion of the Appalachian Trail next year with the same crew.

If you're smart about it and take precautions, the great outdoors is still very much open for business for those in need of a refreshed mind. One of my favorite quotes, "The mountains are calling and I must go," may now be more true than ever.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

works just FINE. AND, if I'm in a northbound ambulance coming up Mack from Cadieux, I sure don't want the last part of my trip to be screwed up by a 270-degree roundabout "irregularity." Yes, roundabouts reduce traffic deaths. They also cause more fender-benders.

All this planning and work to be? Someone has to pay for it. Beware of politicians and committees.

ROBERTE TERRY
Grosse Pointe Woods

Chief medical officers address COVID-19

To the Editor:

The following statement is made on behalf of chief medical officers and chief clinical officers of Michigan healthcare systems and hospitals, including, locally, Ascension, Beaumont and Henry Ford.

As the physician leaders of hospitals and healthcare systems throughout the state of Michigan, representing 110 of Michigan's 137 hospitals, we have an important safety message regarding COVID-19.

We want to make it clear that regardless of state law, executive orders or local public health directives, hospitals and healthcare systems across the state are standing as a united front in our policies and interventions in order to fight the spread of COVID-19. It is imperative that every Michigan resident join us in taking the necessary steps to prevent the spread of this deadly disease.

Our hospitals and healthcare facilities will continue requiring staff, patients and visitors to follow public safety protocols, including mask-wearing, screenings upon entry to our facilities and limitation of visitors. We ask that everyone do the public version of these precautions: wear a mask, stay at least six feet apart, avoid crowds and wash your hands frequently. We do this to keep our patients, visitors and healthcare workers safe.

In recent weeks, we have seen COVID-19 cases trending upwards in all regions of the state and hospitalizations have surged by more than 80 percent. This concerning jump puts our entire healthcare system at risk of another capacity crisis. If the trend contin-

ues, doctors and nurses, therapists and custodians, food services and support staff, who have barely begun to recover from the terrible stress of the initial COVID-19 surge will suffer additional stress and risk their own infection, illness and mortality. If Michigan doesn't change its approach to this disease, we could have crowded hospital emergency departments and approach exceeding the capacity of our hospitals as we did in southeast Michigan this past spring.

The decision to continue these safety measures is driven by data and guidance from healthcare experts, not politics. Public health draws on data to chart the route from where we are now, to where we need to go. It keeps hospitals and healthcare facilities safe places for patients to receive both routine and emergency care as needed. These measures also will prevent another catastrophic surge in hospital admissions and COVID-19 deaths, but we need your help and compliance.

Help keep COVID-19 under control by doing what you can to prevent more illness and hospitalization. Support our dedicated and courageous healthcare staff as they continue the fight against COVID-19 for those patients who have the misfortune of becoming ill during the pandemic.

Together we can get to where we want to be: keeping this dangerous virus under control.

Editor's note: Since this is the last issue before the Nov. 3 general election, we did not run election-related letters to the editor since there would be no opportunity to rebut.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1945

75 years ago this week

JOY RIDE ENDS IN

LECTURE: Five boys, several of whom have had previous acquaintance with the City police, went on a synthetic joy ride Sunday night and were picked up by the police. One of their chief offenses was that they were making a great display of drinking beer out of bottles held at a rakish angle while they coursed up and down the quiet streets of this otherwise well-ordered community. After an earnest talk from the chief and appropriate expressions of regrets from the boys, they were told to go and sin no more.

Obituaries: Mrs. Edward C. Doughty

1970

50 years ago this week

FARMS TO ENFORCE

PARKING LIMIT: The Farms Police Department, at the request of the merchants in the On-The-Hill business district, will ticket "stretch-out" parkers who leave their cars parked all day in the metered spaces in Kercheval Avenue, beginning Nov. 1. "Stretch-out" parkers are those who put additional money in the meters without moving their vehicles.

Obituaries: Armin Rickel, Ruth MacDonald Preston, Gregory Kieren, Walter F. Thiede, Nickolas Wissinger, Lawrence M. Regan, Joan Nichols Briggs, Joseph G. Fredal,

Margaret D. Clifford, Thomas L. Rice, Leland Burton, Dr. Daniel J. Leithauer, Bridgid Michael Bourke, Seymour Jenks, Roemelda V. Peterson, Grace Catto, Valerie Rotsaert

gave the Park until 1999 to complete the project that will eliminate combined sewage overflows into Fox Creek.

1995

25 years ago this week

STATE APPROVES

SEWAGE PLAN: For residents along Fox Creek in Detroit, the state's approval of Grosse Pointe Park's plan to separate its storm and sanitary sewer systems came as a treat on Halloween and not a trick. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

Obituaries: Lillian Cristine Balfrey, C. Norman Guice, Martha R. Boerner, Charles H. D'Hooghe, Florence Ena Willison, Helen O. McKenna, John Jacob Boaz, Harriet Keever, Virginia H. Kalkan, Pearl E. Rochte

tion of its board of directors: Mary Beth Garvey, president; John Minnis, vice president; Lorraine Krawetz, secretary; Deann Newman, treasurer; Lisa Khoury, past president; and Thomas F. Quinn; Randall D. Cain; Lisa Domas; Rebecca Fannon; Sean Hogan-Downey; Beth Moran; Carla Palffy; and Gary M. Wilson. To kick off the anniversary, The Family Center has launched a redesigned website.

Obituaries: Mary Ann Belanger, Elena Callas, Gail L. Erickson, Merrill Ford, Barbara A. Madarasz, Kenneth Charles Roy, Michael Francis Wolcott, Chet Sampson, Dorothy Jean Ferguson, Richard L. Herman, Mary Catherine Wedge

2010

10 years ago this week

CELEBRATING 10

YEARS: The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods began "CELEBRATE 10!!" years of commitment to families with the elec-

Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

★★★★★ 2020 ★★★★★

ENDORSEMENTS

<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">JOE BIDEN & KAMALA HARRIS</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red;">PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT</p>	
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<p style="color: blue;">House District 1</p> <p style="color: blue;">Tenisha Yancey</p> <p style="color: blue;">House District 2</p> <p style="color: blue;">Joe Tate</p>	<p style="color: blue;">Judge 32A District Court</p> <p style="color: blue;">Daniel Palmer</p>
<p style="color: blue;">Board of Education</p> <p style="color: blue;">Ellen Cogen Lipton & Jason Strayhorn</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">GROSSE POINTE SCHOOL BOARD</p> <p style="color: blue;">2-year term: Joseph Herd</p> <p style="color: blue;">4-year terms: Kathleen M.M. Abke, David Brumbaugh, Cynthia M. Douglas & Colleen Worden</p>
<p style="color: blue;">U of M Board of Regents</p> <p style="color: blue;">Mark Bernstein & Shauna Ryder Diggs</p>	<p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">NOTE: Straight-ticket voting includes <u>only</u> partisan races. Judicial and school board races are nonpartisan so must be marked separately!</p>
<p style="color: blue;">MSU Board of Trustees</p> <p style="color: blue;">Brian Mosallam & Rema Ella Vassar</p>	

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR INFO ON EVENTS — INCLUDING COVID-SAFE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE FINAL WEEKEND! — AND GPDEMS.COM FOR MEMBERSHIP FORMS AND OTHER INFO. VOTE BLUE!

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The JoAnn Matouk Romain Mystery

The crazy, but true story of a Grosse Pointe family's search for answers in a suicide that most likely wasn't

By Scott M. Burnstein
Special to the Grosse Pointe News

Part three of a three-part series

The keychain

Grosse Pointe Farms police took a hardline stance from the very first minutes of the investigation that JoAnn Matouk Romain committed suicide. In deposition testimony, Farms police chief Dan Jensen said the timespan in which the department went from viewing it as a missing person case to officially declaring it suicide was "five minutes." JoAnn Matouk Romain went into the water under her own volition, the responding officers concluded.

There was no body found though on that frigid night of Jan. 12, 2010. Not that night. And not for months.

During that time, Matouk Romain's children and brother John Matouk wanted the police to handle the situation as a missing person case, but were repeatedly rebuffed and shuffled from one police department to the other.

"We would go into the Farms and tell them we wanted them to do something, keep looking for her," Michelle Romain says. "They basically told us we were crazy and pushed us off on to the Grosse Pointe Woods police department. Nobody wanted to do anything; nobody was listening to us."

In early February 2010, Grosse Pointe Farms police returned Matouk Romain's keychain, carrying a key to the Lexus SUV she was driving the night she went missing. According to the Matouk Romain family, it was the wrong one — Matouk Romain had a completely different set on her possession at the time of her disappearance. Matouk Romain's children say the keychain given to them by Grosse Pointe Farms police officer Frank Zielinski had been stolen during a real estate showing of their family home around Thanksgiving, and the keys she was driving with that night were the spare set.

A second keychain would be found with Matouk Romain's body. Zielinski's report says he retrieved the set of keys the morning after the disappearance, Jan. 13, 2010. However, he did not remember who had sent him to retrieve them, where he retrieved them from or who he interacted with while retrieving them, per his deposition testimony six years later.

The body

On March 20, 2010, two fishermen in Amherstburg, Ontario, came upon JoAnn Matouk Romain's body floating in the waters of the Detroit River, some 30 miles away from



COURTESY PHOTO

JoAnn Matouk Romain

where she had last been seen nine weeks previously. The body was identified by dental records two days later. Despite damage to her fingers from crab bites, her body was in practically pristine condition.

Even though the case at that point was officially assigned to the Grosse Pointe Woods police, Grosse Pointe Farms police detectives Mike McCarthy and Richard Rosati went to see the body in Ontario. McCarthy told Canadian authorities, per the incident report made out by police in Ontario, that Matouk Romain "suffered from mental health issues" and no foul play was suspected in her death.

Per medical records her family retained from her doctors after her death, Matouk Romain was never treated for any mental fitness or emotional distress issues. At his 2016 deposition testimony, McCarthy denied

telling detectives in Ontario that Matouk Romain had any mental health problems.

She did, however express anxiety and unrest regarding her personal safety to many of those closest to her in the month preceding her death. Matouk Romain's two daughters and brother John Matouk told Detective McCarthy that Matouk Romain was in fear for her life.

Beginning in December 2009, she confided in her daughters that she felt like her phone conversations were being listened in on, her mail was being tampered with and that people were following her. If anything happened to her, she told her family, to look at their cousin the cop, Tim Matouk, as the culprit.

Eleven separate friends, confidants and family members told private investigators hired by the family that Matouk Romain had expressed to them that she felt she

was in imminent danger.

Tim Matouk, currently a lead investigator for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, denied playing any role in his cousin JoAnn Matouk Romain's disappearance or death in his deposition testimony.

Tim Matouk refused to talk on the record for this story. After going to press last week, the Grosse Pointe News received a statement from Tim Matouk:

"On a very tragic night, the night JoAnn went missing in January 2010, I was on duty working for a Michigan State Police narcotics task force in Warren. My location that night has been verified and confirmed by testimony of Michigan State Police troopers and corroborated by cell phone records. After a lengthy five-year lawsuit, not one, but two federal courts dismissed the case against me. Any allegations connecting me to the death of JoAnne are

false."

An autopsy performed in Canada stated Matouk Romain had drowned, but could not determine when, how or where the body ended up in the water. Another autopsy was conducted by the coroner in Macomb County and determined it was a drowning, noting suicide was more likely than homicide due to lack of significant physical trauma to the body.

Matouk Romain's family paid for a private autopsy done by pathologist Dr. Jeff Jentzen at the University of Michigan. Jentzen's review of the body tells a different story. He determined it was a fresh water "dry drowning," meaning there was no water in her lungs when she was found.

The body had a contusion on the left arm. That — along with Matouk Romain's purse, which she would carry over her left shoulder, being ripped — led Matouk

Romain's family to believe there was a struggle before she was either subdued or killed.

"It's blatantly obvious she didn't commit suicide, and all the evidence you find points to murder," private investigator Scott Lewis says. "The overreaction by police that night she vanished reeks of corrupt intent. They made a huge deal of everything, the helicopters, the boats, the dogs, the divers and then they just dropped it. After all that commotion, they had no interest in looking into anything anymore. There appeared no interest in doing any digging at all. That's curious and begs examination."

Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Departments did not return calls to comment on this story.

The debt

In the hours and days after Matouk Romain went missing, the family gathered at Matouk Romain's home on Morningside Lane to try and make some sense of her disappearance and brainstorm possible circumstances that may have contributed to it. Friends and neighbors stopped by to show support and saw a family shaken to its core and ready to start pointing fingers.

And it wasn't just at her cousin Tim Matouk.

According to people present at the Matouk Romain home during these gatherings, at first all eyes turned to John Matouk, JoAnn Matouk Romain's baby brother who had fallen on tough times in recent years.

"They took out a legal pad and literally made a list of all the people who John Matouk owed money to and may have been upset enough to want to do him harm by hurting someone close to him," one attendee says. "Everybody was on edge. It was a very tense environment. The finger pointing started immediately."

John Matouk admits to thinking early on that he might have had something indirectly to do with his sister's disappearance.

"I just knew that the situation had gotten out of control," he says. "I considered the possibility that someone took her to hurt me; there was nobody closer to me than my sister; losing her has brought me more pain than I could ever imagine."

One of the names that made it on to the list was Anthony Pipia, a 52-year-old Birmingham resident who grew up on the east-side and at one time lived in Grosse Pointe. Pipia owns an MRI center and has no criminal record.

Per multiple sources, Pipia was a bookmaker at

the time of Matouk Romain's disappearance, and John Matouk owed him a substantial sports-gambling debt. John Matouk puts the number at close to \$100,000. Other sources place it at more than \$200,000.

At least three sources paint Pipia's bookmaking business back then as an offshoot of the one-time Allen "The General" Hilf gambling empire. A convicted felon and, per court records, a high-level adviser to Detroit Mafia figures, Hilf was the most prolific bookie in Michigan for almost 40 years before he succumbed to a kidney disorder in January 2014.

In deposition testimony, Tim Matouk said he knew Pipia, while Bill Matouk admitted to being friendly with him. Pipia was present at some of the gatherings at the Matouk Romain residence in the days after Matouk Romain went missing, according to people in attendance.

John Matouk claims he saw Bill and Tim Matouk and Anthony Pipia's cars parked behind the wine store and the light on the second floor of the building the night after JoAnn Matouk Romain disappeared. In one of Michelle Romain's interviews with police in Grosse Pointe Woods, she told detectives that Pipia told her he met with her dad, David Romain, and her uncle, Bill Matouk, at the wine store on Jan. 16, 2010, four days after her mother went missing, but Pipia didn't tell her what they discussed.

When interviewed by police and private investigators, Bill and Tim Matouk pointed their fingers at John Matouk — if there was indeed foul play in JoAnn Matouk Romain's disappearance and death. Tim Matouk admitted to a private investigator that he called a tip line set up for intelligence gathering purposes and told authorities to look at John Matouk in the Matouk Romain case.

John Matouk took and passed a lie detector test. Tim Matouk has refused to take one. Bill Matouk and Tony Pipia have never been asked to undergo a polygraph examination by law enforcement in relation to the Matouk Romain case.

John Matouk admits to once being close friends with Pipia and says he loaned him a half-million dollars on one occasion. When his gambling debts began mounting, John Matouk wanted leeway, per those familiar with the situation, and Pipia wouldn't give it.

There was property damage to John Matouk's house in 2012 that John Matouk suspects might have come from someone sent by Pipia because of his anger about the debt. The animosity grew. Things eventually got physical.

On security camera video shot in 2013 and posted on YouTube, Tony Pipia is seen pushing John Matouk and sending him tumbling to the pavement in a car wash. John and Tim Matouk scuffled at a furniture store in 2015, resulting in Tim Matouk taking out a personal protection order on John Matouk.

Pipia was interviewed by Grosse Pointe Woods police in relation to JoAnn Matouk Romain's disappearance on Feb. 8, 2010. The detectives con-

ducting the interview determined he had nothing of value to share, per their report.

Contacted at his office, Pipia declined to comment for this story.

"They should have killed me instead," a somber John Matouk said in the summer of 2020. "I've basically been dead for the last 10 years," John Matouk says. "It's been a living hell, and all it's done is sewn and hardened my resolve to find the truth."

Passing the buck

Desperate for answers in their mother's death, Matouk Romain's loved ones hit roadblock after roadblock with law enforcement, encountering, at the very least, apathy, and if one believes her children, an illicit cover-up to protect the killers. As her family pushed for action, Matouk Romain's case pinballed between agencies.

Grosse Pointe Farms police gave the case to Grosse Pointe Woods police two days after her disappearance. Grosse Pointe Woods tried giving part of the investigation to the Michigan State Police. The Michigan State Police would pass people on to the FBI. The FBI did little.

Michelle Romain says she has met with the FBI's organized crime and public corruption units on several occasions in the past decade. She's come away with the feeling that agents were more concerned about pumping her for information on other mob-related items she might have knowledge of through childhood friendships rather than wanting to find out what really happened to her mother.

FBI agents placed mug books of reputed mobsters and mob associates in front of Romain and asked her for identifications, Romain says.

Pipia's photo was in the mug books, she says.

"They'd take me in there, ask me about this guy, or that guy, people that I grew up with or I grew up around their kids in Grosse Pointe, what did I know about their businesses, their restaurants. It had very little, if anything, to do with figuring out who killed my mom and why," Romain says.

The Grosse Pointe Woods detective assigned to the case, Andrew Pazuchowski, reached out to the Michigan State Police early in his department's inquiry because he saw potential conflicts of interest in the handling of Tim and Bill Matouk. Most officers in the Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Farms police departments knew Tim and Bill Matouk on a personal basis.

Michigan State Police investigator Tawada Powell said she met with Pazuchowski, and Pazuchowski asked for help from MSP in "clearing" Tim and Bill Matouk. The way the request was phrased caught her off guard and raised a red flag in her mind.

Powell told Pazuchowski that she doesn't "clear" suspects, she "investigates them," and reported the exchange to her superior. The MSP declined to get involved in that aspect of the probe, and Grosse Pointe Woods PD lists the case's status as "open,

but inactive."

Pazuchowski questioned Michelle Romain regarding a large sum of cash (\$250,000) she and her great aunt transferred into an account at a St. Clair Shores bank in February 2010, less than a month following JoAnn Matouk Romain's disappearance. The bank notified police of the money transfer.

Romain told Pazuchowski that the money was for a ransom demand if one was ever made and for a cash reward she was offering to the public for information leading to finding her then-missing mom.

Pazuchowski declined comment for this story when reached by phone at his new job as police chief of Huntington Woods.

Attention naturally turned to Matouk Romain's husband as well. Things had been soured for some time, per their children.

Dave Romain would go on to raise eyebrows when in 2012 he married Sandy Boehm, his widow's best friend.

An employee of the Blake Kirchner law firm handling JoAnn Matouk Romain's civil case for the black mold outbreak at her former home, told Grosse Pointe Farms police that Matouk Romain "feared trouble from her husband."

Matouk Romain had been separated from Dave Romain for almost five years at the time. She suspected him of being unfaithful. Dave Romain was also a plaintiff in the black mold case and was in court with her and their children the day she went missing. The case had dragged on for seven years and was finally in front of a jury.

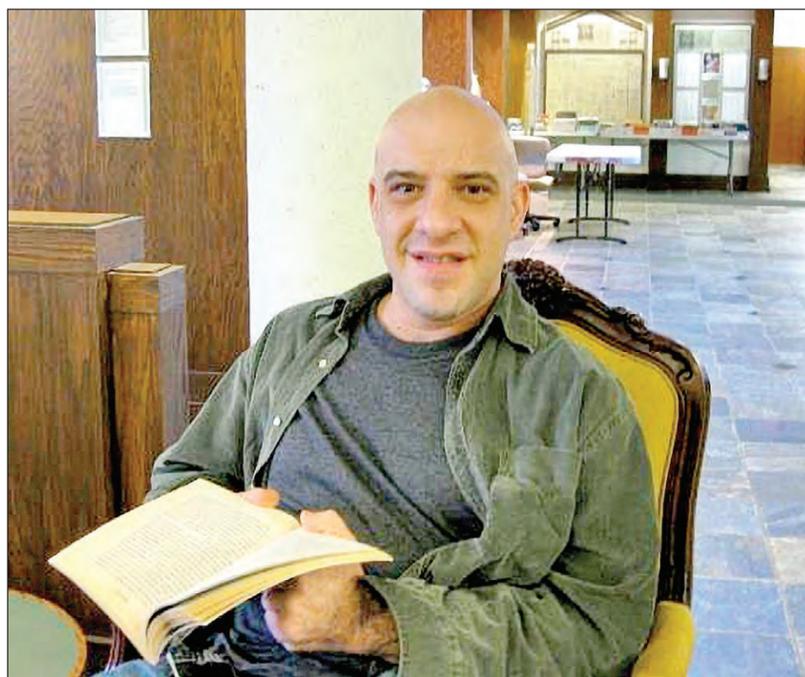
JoAnn and Dave Romain began having trouble in their marriage in the 1980s, according to their children. Dave Romain traveled for work and was gone for days at a time during the week. When he would return home on the weekends, he and Joann Matouk Romain fought frequently, their kids say, jokingly calling the two-day family reunions "psycho Saturday and Sunday."

Private investigators hired by Matouk Romain's children have looked closely at Dave Romain as a person who might have either been involved or known about what they consider a conspiracy to kidnap and murder Matouk Romain. At the time, she disappeared, Dave Romain was at dinner with his two daughters at Andiamo Trattoria on Mack.

Romain's polygraph results were "inconclusive" and "showed signs of deception," but the examiner wrote on his report that he believed the signs of deception were related to his infidelity, not his playing any part in her death.

Nonetheless, his shaky polygraph results combined with his relationship with Boehm — and the fact that with JoAnn Matouk Romain suddenly out of the picture he would be relieved of the financial stress that had been coming his way from what was certainly going to be a costly divorce — had investigators unwilling to eliminate him.

"Dave doesn't look good in this," private investigator Bill Randall



About the author, series

A metro Detroit native, Scott M. Burnstein is an author, investigative reporter and historian who has published six books on the subject of organized crime. He has his law degree from University of Illinois-Chicago and does frequent talks and national media appearances related to mob activity in North America. His work can be read at gangsterreport.com and in *The Oakland Press-Macomb Daily*. Tips on the Matouk Romain case may be sent to burnsteinscott@gmail.com. This investigative story was made possible by a Journalism Emergency Relief Fund grant from Google News Initiative.

said.

Romain hung up when asked to comment on the case.

The lawsuit

In June 2014, the JoAnn Matouk Romain estate filed a \$1 million wrongful death lawsuit in federal court in Detroit against the Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Departments, 16 different police officers spanning both police forces and Tim Matouk. The suit alleged the police departments knew Tim Matouk was going to kill JoAnn Matouk Romain and helped him cover it up.

The year before the suit was filed, John Matouk began hiring the planes to fly around Grosse Pointe with messages aimed at swaying public opinion and embarrassing his brother and cousin. The year before that, John Matouk was evicted from his own house when his brother, Bill Matouk, bought it.

Planes with messages attacking Tim and Bill Matouk were flown in May and September of this year, continuing what is now a seven-year tradition of airing the family's dirty laundry whenever the weather gets warm and people are outside.

U.S. District Judge Linda Parker dismissed the JoAnn Matouk Romain estate's wrongful death lawsuit in March 2018. Despite rejecting the plaintiff's argument, Parker appeared to be uncomfortable with the facts surrounding JoAnn Matouk Romain's death and the investigation into it. Her comments at the court hearing where she dismissed the case and granted defendants' motion for summary judgment made that clear:

"There is no evidence that someone who wanted to kill Ms. Romain knew the police would cover it up. This court, however, acknowledges there are disputed facts in this matter that are very disturbing and remain unresolved. While the circumstances surrounding Ms. Romain's disappearance and death remain a mystery, and in fact are somewhat suspicious, the fact

is that the plaintiff fails to create a genuine issue of material fact to hold the police liable."

Parker dismissed the case against Tim Matouk without prejudice, allowing the plaintiffs an opportunity to refile the case if more evidence becomes available down the road. The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld Parker's ruling in August 2019.

"The case ended the way it should have ended, it was dismissed, end of story," Grosse Pointe Farms Police Lt. Richard Rosati, who was named in the lawsuit told the Detroit Free Press at the time. "They couldn't present any evidence of police collusion because it didn't happen."

Tie to Widlak case?

According to multiple sources, when Grosse Pointe banker David Widlak died of an "execution style" gunshot to the neck eight months after Matouk Romain's disappearance, some in law enforcement came to the belief that Widlak's murder was connected to the death of JoAnn Matouk Romain. Private investigators hired by the Widlak family came to the same conclusion.

Widlak was found floating in Lake St. Clair, a bullet lodged in the back of his neck. The bullet was initially missed in the autopsy performed by Macomb County Coroner Daniel Spitz, who originally ruled it a suicide. Spitz also performed Matouk Romain's Macomb County autopsy and, according to the family's University of Michigan Hospital pathology report, missed the fact that her death was a dry drowning.

Widlak, 62, president of the floundering Community Central Bank, disappeared in September 2010 from his office in Mount Clemens. Community Central was in financial peril. Widlak was calling back \$40 million in loan markers and floated worries about potential investors he was meeting with to loved ones.

Community Central Bank's Grosse Pointe Woods branch was located across Mack Avenue, not far from

Woods Fine Wine & Spirits. According to Community Central records, the store had done some banking there. Per those close to Widlak, he was asking questions about what happened to Matouk Romain in the months leading up to his own death.

"These two cases are actually the same case," says one Widlak relative. "Powerful people on both sides of the law keeping a lid on things; you start realizing that more and more as the years go on, and it's a bitter pill to swallow."

Lack of closure

Michelle Romain is disheartened by the lack of empathy and motivation by authorities in metro Detroit in regards to her mother's death and wanting to uncover the truth.

"I can understand what the Widlak family is going through because we're going through the same exact thing," she says. "People who are supposed to care, don't care, and in our cases, a lot of those people are probably guilty themselves."

Her attorney, Solomon Radner, views the whole situation as a modern day tragedy of epic proportions.

"This is tragic in so many ways: The victims are dumped like a bag of trash; nobody cares in the police or prosecutor's office; silence is power; people intentionally turn blind eyes to grave injustice and loss of human life, and it's accepted as par for the course," he says. "That very fact that we're here a decade later and nobody has made an effort to find out anything, it should chill people to the bone, scare them to the core. The good guys are the bad guys now. Everything is upside down, and people are OK with it."

Today, Michelle Romain finds herself, more than ever before, firm in her belief that there was a cover-up involved in her mother's death.

"This is an inside job; we can't trust law enforcement anymore," she says. "They've let us down. The legal system is flawed."

10A | SCHOOLS

Face-to-face return on hold

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

A group of parents lined the sidewalk to the entrance to Brownell Middle School's multi-purpose room, greeting attendees to the regular meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Oct. 26, with pleas to open the school buildings to face-to-face learning.

One sign captured the sentiments of the protestors: "You're failing our kids and our community. F2F now!"

Young 5 through fifth-grade students returned to elementary and middle school buildings the

weeks of Oct. 12 and 19, as part of a hybrid return to in-person learning, as presented earlier to district staff members, parents and the BOE.

A plan for a return to face-to-face instruction for grades 6 to 12 also was presented to staff and parents last week for review and to the board Monday for final review before a vote at the next meeting Monday, Nov. 9.

Dates for that return, originally slated for Monday, Nov. 9, were removed, according to Deputy Superintendent for Educational Services Jon Dean, due to a rise in cases of COVID-19 locally and a request from the Wayne County Health

Department to pause on adding any more students into the mix.

On Oct. 21, the Wayne County Health Department updated its COVID spread level indicators to reflect new municipal COVID data, according to an Oct. 22 email from GPPSS Superintendent Gary Niehaus.

"GPPSS administration is currently working with (Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies) and the Wayne County Health Department to better understand both the updated ratings as well as the safest next steps for GPPSS to take with regards to our students

and staff," Niehaus wrote. "The county has asked us for more time before we change how we are currently delivering instruction at all levels."

Students in Young 5 through grade 5 will continue with in-person learning two days a week and remote learning the remainder of the week. Students at each grade level are divided into two cohorts to limit the number of students in attendance.

Additional data was to be released Wednesday, after press time, which could determine the next steps for returning secondary students to the school buildings.

"Through the matrix



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

School board president Margaret Weertz takes time to talk with protesters and answer questions.

we told the community we would use to guide us, we decided to slow this down," board Secretary Christopher Profeta said. "I think that was the right choice. I think moving in slowly was the right choice. I think continuing to move slowly is the right choice. There are

lots of bad ways to do this, but I think we have to move slowly to make sure that we don't fall into any of those bad choices."

The GPPSS secondary return to face-to-face instruction presentation is available at gpschools.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LISA VREEDE PHOTOGRAPHY

Grosse Pointe South seniors watched the sun rise during a special breakfast planned in their honor. South senior mom Sarah Reeside donated her graphic design skills to create the banner and photo prop sticks. Pictured, back from left, are Charlotte Parent, Maria Maraldo, Shea Baasch, Ahyana Villanueva, Alana Chapman and Katie Maraldo. Pictured front row from left are Fiona O'Byrne, Zak Smith and Lily Konkey.

Sunrise shoutout to South seniors

Grosse Pointe South High School seniors were up before dawn to watch the sunrise together and create a lasting memory for their final year of high school.

More than 150 seniors gathered in the parking lot of Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park at 7 a.m. Friday, Oct. 16, to enjoy a boxed breakfast courtesy of the Class of 2021 parent sponsors and spend time together in a fun, safe environment, according to one of the organizers, Amanda Roraff.

Students were limited to four per car, wore masks, parked in every other parking spot and maintained social distance if they exited their vehicles. About 20 parent volunteers helped make the event possible, raising approximately \$1,000 in donations.

During the event, seniors tuned into 96.3 WDVD-FM on their car radios to listen to a special tribute to the Grosse Pointe South Class of 2021 from the Blaine Fowler Morning Show.

"It's been a tough year but remember, we're all in this together. This one's for you, South seniors," the 96.3 radio host said.

The station played the seniors' request, "Tongue Tied," by Grouplove.

— Mary Anne Brush



Seniors Claire Winger and Charlie Klunder leap for joy at the South sunrise breakfast.

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Teachers ranked No. 1 in state

By Mary Anne Brush
Staff Writer

Teachers are tops in many students' and parents' books, but the recently released 2021 Niche rankings make it official.

For the third consecutive year, teachers in the Grosse Pointe Public School System were rated the best teachers in the state out of 561 school districts, according to the online survey.

Grosse Pointe Public Schools also ranked No. 1 out of 552 best places to teach in Michigan and No. 8 out of the 55 best school districts in Michigan — down from No. 4 in 2020.

Nationally, Grosse Pointe Public Schools ranked No. 25 out of

11,645 districts with the best teachers in America. The school district's overall grade was A+.

Niche rankings are based on "rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education," according to the Niche website. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings and more.

The academics grade (50 percent) is based on state assessment proficiency, SAT/ACT scores and survey responses on academics from students and parents.

The teachers' grade (15

percent) is based on teacher salary, teacher absenteeism, state test results and survey responses on teachers from students and parents.

The culture and diversity grade (10 percent) is based on racial and economic diversity and survey responses on school culture and diversity from students and parents.

The parent/study surveys on overall experience (10 percent) are Niche survey responses scored on a 1 to 5 scale regarding the overall experience of students and parents in the district.

The health and safety grade (5 percent) is based on student chronic absenteeism, suspensions/expulsions and survey responses on the school environment from students and parents.

The resources and facilities grade (5 percent) is based on expenses per student, staffing and survey responses on facilities from students and parents.

The clubs and activities grade (2.5 percent) is based on expenses per student and survey responses on clubs and activities from students and parents.

The sports grade (2.5 percent) is based on the number of sports, participation and survey responses on athletics and athletic facilities from students and parents.

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COURTESY PHOTOS

Drive-by beauty Greenway art expanded to 17

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Drivers along the stretch of Moross between I-94 and Mack Avenue may have noticed some added activity in the median a few weeks ago.

The Moross Greenway Project on Monday, Oct.

12, installed new sculptures to the islands dotting the greenspace, further fulfilling one of its long-term goals.

“This is phase four of the project,” said Sheila O’Hara, who helped launch the 501(c)3 in 2009. “We had really planned this as part of the original plan 10 years ago. I didn’t think we’d get the art in as soon as we did.”

O’Hara, who serves as president of the organization, said one key to having the first wave of art installed last fall was Grosse Pointe Park resident Roger Garrett, who has long supported Moross Greenway.

“When he found out the plan to raise money to get sculptures from Michigan artists, he said,

“I can help,” O’Hara said. “So we put him on the art committee. He knows people in the art world who have brought us different options. The idea was to showcase Michigan artists.”

Saturday, Oct. 10, volunteers completed an annual fall cleanup of the greenspace. Then, two days later, the artwork got an overhaul.

“There are 10 sculptures scattered along the greenway at the moment,” Garrett said days prior to the installation. “One is permanent and the other nine are rented on an annual basis. Of the 10 that are there, three are being removed, one is being relocated and we’re installing 10 new pieces, so there will be a total of 17 sculptures along that stretch.”

The new works were installed by Ken Thompson, a sculptor and installation professional. A few artists also were expected to bring their own work to the site, Garrett said.

No doubt the new



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Moross Greenway volunteers and donors Roger Garrett and John Roberts talk with a crew preparing to install “Ladies in Red.”

sculptures already are catching the attention of passersby; Garrett said many of them are large, including one weighing two tons and another towering 18 feet tall. All of them are meant to spark interest.

“Many love it, some hate it, some are indifferent,” O’Hara said, “but the idea has always been to create conversation and create interest. We already have interest with the plants. The art is meant to be the next step of generating interest.”

The combination of perennials, trees and other vegetation in the

islands, mixed with the colors and materials of the artwork work well for the space, O’Hara said. Plus, the project supports Michigan artists.

“We rent the sculptures and they’re also for sale,” she said. “It’s a win-win for everyone.”

The art rental and expansion are largely supported by private donors; however, more help is needed.

“Next, we’d like to generate additional interest and raise money to provide decent lighting at night,” Garrett said, adding he’s been testing out solar lighting on some of

the pieces, which hasn’t quite turned out as expected.

“I’d like them to be solar lights, but some of the sculptures absorb that light,” O’Hara said, adding there already are electrical conduits for the irrigation system, “so I think we’d be able to get some (electrical lights) installed, but we don’t have the funds for it. It would be lovely if these would all be lighted at night. They’re so beautiful.”

Volunteers also are welcome to contribute to

See BEAUTY, page 6B



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Artist Mike Sohikian installs his sculpture, “Icarus.”

Couple celebrates 70 years of marriage

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The secret to their 70-year marriage is not secret, according to Eugene and Dorothy Ignasiak.

The Grosse Pointe Woods couple both say “give and take” makes it work.

However, their romance began with a bit of luck during a church-sponsored bus trip to Island Lake in 1949. There were two buses from which to choose, Dorothy Ignasiak said. Fate led Eugene, a World War II veteran and University of Michigan College of Engineering student, onto hers.

“I was sitting alone on the bus,” she said. “He spotted me and I guess he liked what he saw. He asked if he could sit with me.”

“I had gone out the night before, so I was tired,” she continued. “I wasn’t too cordial with him. Then he said, ‘I’m Iggy’s brother.’ That’s what we called his brother, Norbert. He was like the Pied Piper; everybody loved Norbert.”

Eugene Ignasiak said introducing himself to the “attractive lady sitting alone” was a no-brainer. They delighted in conversation during the ride, but what happened at the picnic sealed the deal.

“She was a lovely lady,” he said, “and a sportsman, too. We played baseball. I got up to bat and she was the pitcher. When that ball whizzed by my ear, I thought, ‘I better get on her team.’”

“He was impressed; that started it off,” Dorothy Ignasiak said. When her suitor returned to school in Ann Arbor, “we began letter writing. But he lived only several blocks from where I lived, so we’d go out when he’d come home from school.”

Eugene Ignasiak earned his mechanical engineering degree in January 1950, proposed in June 1950 and wed the love of his life Oct. 28,

1950. At the time he worked for the Budd Co., but eventually retired from Ford Motor Co. The couple have four children, Susan, Michael, Gregory and Robert.

Dorothy Ignasiak said her husband’s sense of humor attracted her to him: “Something just clicked,” she said. “He’s a good man, trustworthy. You can depend on him. He’s helpful; he’ll go out of his way to help others.”

“I’m just so blessed,” she added. “I have a wonderful family, a wonderful husband. The Lord is good.”

Eugene Ignasiak agreed that their faith played a key role in their marriage, as did humor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN IGNASIAK

Dorothy and Eugene Ignasiak on their wedding day.

“People ask me, what does it take (for a long-lasting marriage)? At one time, I answered, ‘Dorothy is a lousy shot,’” he chuckled. “We have humor in our house, even

today. That’s a part of it. And we keep our Catholic faith.

“Our marriage has been good; we get along,”

See COUPLE, page 6B

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2B | FEATURES

Library foundation welcomes new staff, board members

Paige Domzalski joined the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation as project coordinator Oct. 1.

Domzalski has a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from Michigan State University and more than 15 years of marketing experience, most recently with The Family Center. Her expertise will enhance the foundation's fundraising, marketing and administrative capabilities.

"I've known Paige for years and was fortunate to have worked with her closely at The Family Center," said Beth

Vernon, executive director of the foundation. "I'm pleased she agreed to lend her talents to the foundation and help to achieve our strategic plan goals."

The foundation also welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors. Roger Hull, Chris Meyer and Andrew Spearman joined the board in 2020 to support the financial health of the Grosse Pointe Public Library. They give of their time, influence and specialized professional knowledge for the benefit of the foundation and library, Vernon said.

Foundation board members serve three-year terms.

Meyer will serve as treasurer.

The Grosse Pointe Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization, founded in 2003, dedicated to enhancing the services and ensuring the financial stability of the Grosse Pointe Public Library system through private donor funding, planned giving and grants.

For more information about the Grosse Pointe Library Foundation, call (313) 640-4683, email beth@gplf.org or visit ffgpl.org.

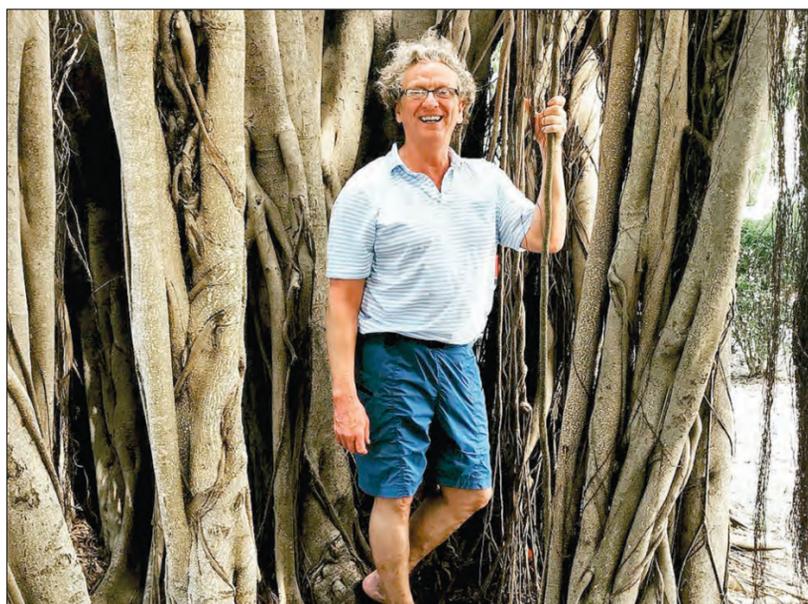


PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLY FORHAN

David Cockell recently was diagnosed with two brain tumors.

Fund will help salon owner through cancer treatment

The news came as a shock not only for David Cockell, owner of David the Salon in the City of Grosse Pointe, but also to those who know him.

Just a few weeks ago, the beloved Grosse Pointe businessman was diagnosed with two brain tumors. While he awaits a concrete treatment plan, he's not working — but his staff certainly is.

On Oct. 15, 11-year employee Carly Forhan created a GoFundMe page for Cockell, enlisting support from the community.

"We're hoping to cover his medical bills and living expenses while he's off," she said. "He's not sure of a treatment plan yet, so we're not sure how long he's going to be off."

In just one week, more than \$52,000 was donated; at press time, that amount reached \$56,760.

"He has so many people supporting him, asking, 'What can we do to help?'" Forhan said. "David has helped so many people. It's hard for him to accept help from others. We love him so much. We want everything to go smoothly for him so he doesn't have any expenses to worry about."

David the Salon opened 13 years ago, but Cockell has been a salon owner nearly 40 years. Forhan said she hopes he is able to return to the career and clients he loves.

"David means everything to me," she said. "He's like a second father to everyone who works here. He does so much for all of us. ... There's a big following behind him."

To make a contribution, visit gf.me/v/c/bw6/kw7fw

— Jody McVeigh

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AREA ACTIVITIES

Gilda's Club Lake House

Gilda's Club's Lake House location, 23500 Pare, St. Clair Shores, hosts the following virtual programs:

◆ 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, Bereavement: Finding Your Way.

◆ 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, Women's Cancer Gathering.

◆ 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, Bereavement: Finding Your Way.

◆ 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, Family Bereavement.

Register at gildasclubdetroit.org/events/calendar.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following virtual programs:

◆ Storytime with Miss Jane, all day Thursday, Oct. 29.

◆ Mother Daughter Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2.

◆ Storytime with Miss Melissa, all day Tuesday, Nov. 3.

◆ Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3.

◆ Storytime with Miss Rachel, all day Wednesday, Nov. 4.

◆ Storytime with Miss

Jane, all day Thursday, Nov. 5.

◆ Wimpy Kid Trivia, celebrating the release of "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End," 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5.

◆ All-Girls Coding Workshop, with University of Michigan engineering students, 4 to 5:45 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6.

◆ Author/illustrator Ruth McNally Barshaw, creator of the Ellie McDoodle book series, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7.

Register on grossepointelibrary.org or call (313) 640-4775.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers the following programs.

◆ The movie "The Two Popes," 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Members pay \$2 for snacks and the movie, \$7 for lunch and the movie; guests pay \$3 for snacks and the movie, \$10 for lunch at the movie.

◆ Chair yoga, 9 to 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

◆ Tai Chi Beginner Class, 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays.

◆ Continuing Tai Chi,

9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays.

◆ Active Fit, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

◆ Seated Full-Body Workout Routine, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

◆ Grief Work support group, 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting virtually at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4. Dan Carmody, president of Eastern Market Corporation, speaks. Visit grossepointerotary.org for information.

Lakeshore Senior Living

Lakeshore Senior Living, 28801 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, hosts a Shred-It Community Drive-Thru event 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 7. The event is limited to two large garbage bags of paper only, per vehicle. Call Rachel at (586) 218-6228.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets via Zoom at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

NAMI

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Metro Peer-Led Recovery Support Group, for people living with mental health issues, meets virtually at 7 p.m. every Monday. There is no cost to participate. Call Lisa at (805) 450-1994 or email lisajonesmentalhealth@gmail.com.

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WEDDINGS

Mestdagh-Oliver

Lindsey Ann Mestdagh and Michael Norwood Oliver were married Aug. 22, 2020, at Torch Lake. Dante Rosa officiated the ceremony, which was followed by a reception also at Torch Lake.

The bride is the daughter of Cathy and William Mestdagh of Grosse Pointe Park. The groom is the son of Kelly and Peter Oliver of Grosse Pointe Park.

The bride wore a gown designed by Alyssa Kristin of Beloved Bridal Boutique. Her veil was created by Made with Love and her shoes were Badgley Mischka. She carried a garden-style floral arrangement featuring white roses, ranunculus and hydrangea, textures of greenery with blush accents.

The bride's sister, Courtney Mestdagh, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids included her friends, Samantha Campau, Kelly Cullen, Kim Stavale and Ingrid Shirar; cousins, Allie Warren and Janie Kaess; future sister-in-law, Lauren Schmidt; and sister-in-law, Nora Oliver. The bride's cousins, Ella Cate Schnelker and Caylie Kaess, served as flower girls. The bridesmaids wore long taupe dresses.

The groom's friend, Charlie Miller, served as best man. Groomsmen included his friends, Sean Milavec, Eric Marshall, Nick Diehl, Peter Barich, Thomas Shields, Mike Fournier, Matt Beck and Thomas Shields; and

brother-in-law, William Mestdagh. The bride's cousins, AJ Schnelker, Michael Wildner and Nicholas Wildner, served as ring bearers.

The bride earned an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Science degree from Wayne State University and is a Physician Assistant.

The groom also earned his undergraduate degree from MSU and currently works in investment banking with Cowen.

The couple honeymooned in Turks and Caicos and resides in Detroit.

Finn-Kish

Kate Finn and Richie Kish were married Aug. 21, 2020, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Ypsilanti, in a ceremony officiated by Father Patrick Gonye. A reception at Waldenwoods Resort in Howell followed.

The bride is the daughter of Greg and Anne Finn of White Lake. The groom is the son of Ken and Amy Kish of Grosse Pointe Park.

The bride wore a tulle and lace ball gown from Justin Alexander, with a chapel-length train and illusion back. She carried a loose, organic bouquet with white roses, small blue accents and greenery, arranged by Kate Schmidt from New Creations.

Lily Finn, the bride's sister, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were her friends, Emma Green,



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Oliver



Katie and Richie Kish

Sarah Melby, Erin Huffer, Brooke Draggoo and Erin Murphy, and the groom's sister, Katie Kish. Charlotte Rose served as junior bridesmaid. Their dresses were a mix of blues – navy, dusty blue and slate blue – in a day-dream A-line style and they carried white roses with greenery.

Rob Kish, the groom's brother, served as best man. Groomsmen were his friends, Bryce Norwood, Jake Kozlowski, Jake Esmacher, Johnny Kendall and Ryan Veenstra, and his cousin, Danny Dixon.

The bride graduated from Hope College with a Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering. She is a Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan, where she continues to study biomedical engineering. Her husband also graduated from Hope College with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He is a process engineer for an automotive supplier in Jackson.

The couple honeymooned in the Smokey Mountains and reside in Chelsea.

Kids on the Go biennial gala goes virtual

Bandstand Battle voting opens Nov. 1; live event Nov. 7

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Putting an exciting twist on its biennial gala, Kids on the Go is stirring things up while raising funds — and staying safe — with a virtual event that kicks off this Sunday.

Bandstand Battle puts six local bands at the mercy of online voters to see which three will make it to the live event Nov. 7. In the running for three finalists seats are:

◆ Ms. Carmen, an award-winning Motown singer;

◆ The Stools, performing blues-influenced punk music;

◆ Jes Gru, performing indie music;

◆ Jason Charles Band, a classic rock/country/blues band;

◆ Ben Sharkey, singing contemporary jazz, soul and pop music; and

◆ Yorg Stormrunner, a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist.

Their pre-recorded performances will be streamed starting Nov. 1, to be voted on free of charge. Determined by the week-long vote, the top three bands will be announced and a second performance will be featured during the live broadcast of the gala Saturday, Nov. 7.

“These difficult times have affected the music industry with not being able to perform,” said Kristy Schena, Kids on the Go founder and executive director. “We thought it would be a great way to add excitement to the gala while recognizing local artists. It’s also an opportunity for people to watch and be introduced to new bands.”

There is no cost to register for the live event; by signing up, supporters are able to vote in the first round of performances, bid on silent auction items and view the live event. The night of the gala, during their second performances, bands will receive bids from voters. The entertainer with the

most dollars raised for their performance wins.

The live event also includes messages from event sponsors and friends of Kids on the Go, as well as a live auction. Up for bid this year are a tour of the Motown Museum for eight, led by Motown legend Martha Reeves; a one-on-one virtual experience with University Liggett School grad Tony Cipriano, star of Broadway’s Tony-nominated “Jagged Little Pill”; the five-night rental of an RV for five, courtesy of RV Cruise America, which also includes a national parks pass, Yeti cooler and other accessories; and an Ippolita Wonderland Collection bracelet and earrings, donated by edmund t. AHEE jewelers.

The live event will be emceed by Brandon Roux of WDIV-TV and Wade Leist is the benefit auctioneer. Broken Blanket Media is producing the event.

Registration is offered online at kottgala.cbo.io. From the homepage, click the “Register/Support” tab, then “Viewing Parties” and finally “Register to Bid.”

While the winning band will receive the chance to perform in the Parliament Room at Otis Supply House, Schena said, the real winners are the children who will benefit from the funds raised.

Kids On The Go, a non-profit organization founded in 1999, provides free therapeutic and recreational programs to children with special needs completely free of charge.

“I found that this year feels almost the same as 22 years ago when I founded Kids on the Go,” Schena said. “The need is as great as ever with COVID. There has been a loss of therapies and children are falling behind in school. Through Kids on the Go, we want to enrich therapies by offering face-to-face learning

See GALA, page 6B

ENGAGEMENTS

Dennis-Hulway

William and Joanne Dennis of Grosse Pointe Woods announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Dennis, to Michael Hulway, the son of Andrew and Lynn Hulway of Grosse Pointe Woods.

A March 2021 wedding is planned.

Miss Dennis is a 2007 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater science from Kalamazoo College in 2011, followed by a Master of Public Administration degree from Wayne State University in 2015. She is a major gifts officer at The Henry Ford.

Mr. Hulway also graduated from Grosse Pointe North in 2007. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemical engineering from Michigan Technological University in 2011, and a Master of Industrial Engineering degree from Wayne State University in 2020. He is an engineer at General Motors.

Schmidt-Mestdagh

Wendy and Edward Schmidt of Grosse Pointe announce the engagement of their daughter, Lauren Schmidt, to William Mestdagh III, the son of Cathy and William Mestdagh of Grosse Pointe.



Michael Hulway and Rebecca Dennis



Lauren Schmidt and William Mestdagh III

A November 2021 wedding is planned in Phoenix, Ariz.

Miss Schmidt earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and currently is employed as a senior packaging engineer at Fitbit, Inc.

Mr. Mestdagh earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and is employed as an investment brokerage associate at Marcus and Millichap.

Kish-Hall

Ken and Amy Kish of Grosse Pointe Park announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Kish, to Austin Hall, the son of Chuck and Amber Hall of



Katie Kish and Austin Hall

Swartz Creek.

A December 2020 wedding is planned.

Miss Kish is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School and earned Bachelor of Science degrees in exercise science and religion from Hillsdale College. She is on the staff of the

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Campus at Hillsdale College.

Mr. Hall graduated from Linden High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan. He is an engineer.

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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.

Margaret Isabelle MacEachern

Grosse Pointe Park resident Margaret Isabelle MacEachern, 97, passed away peacefully Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020, at home surrounded by her family.

Isabelle was born in 1923, on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, where she spent her youth on her family's farm. She moved to Detroit in the 1940s and raised her own family in Grosse Pointe.

Isabelle was the beloved wife of the late Donald; and loving mother of Jerry MacEachern (Priscilla), Cathy Piche (Gordon), Michael MacEachern, Marcella Fisher (Michael), Deborah Andrzejczak (Kevin), the late Joseph MacEachern and Helen O'Meara (Sean). She also is survived by 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She will be remembered for the family gatherings she hosted, her great cooking and the Heath bar cookies she baked.

Isabelle will forever be missed by family, friends and neighbors, her family said.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 22, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Claudia Jo Jeannette

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Claudia Jo Jeannette, of Northfield, Ill., passed away Saturday, March 7, 2020.

She was born Oct. 26, 1945, in Mount Clemens, to Katherine Dobner Blank and Norman Blank.

A 1963 graduate of Mount Clemens High School, Claudia earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University in 1967.

Claudia met her future husband, Joe Jeannette, at Mt. Clemens High School; they dated through their high school and college years. Claudia and Joe were married June 24, 1967. The couple settled in Utica, where they raised their children, Anne and Joseph. She and Joe moved to Grosse Pointe Farms in 1997; they moved to Northfield in 2017.

Claudia taught first-grade students in the Utica Community School district five years before she and Joe started their family. She enjoyed volunteering at the Flickinger Elementary School library and later chaired the Utica Community Schools Picture Person Program, through which she brought art education to elementary school classrooms. Claudia loved promoting the arts in schools.

Claudia and Joe enjoyed traveling, especially with her sister and brother-in-law, Janet and Richard Walston. She also enjoyed watching her granddaughter in musical theater productions and her grandson play

lacrosse.

Claudia is survived by her daughter, Anne Klaskin (Michael) of Winnetka, Ill.; a granddaughter and grandson; and sister, Janet Watson (the late Richard). She was predeceased by her husband, Joe; son, Joseph; and parents, Katherine and Norman Blank.

A Celebration of Life service will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Claudia Jeannette may be made to the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center, Henry Ford Health System, Development Office, 1 Ford Place #5A, Detroit, MI 48202; or henryford.com/services/brain-tumors/hermelin-brain-tumor-center-giving; the New Trier Fine Arts Association, 385 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093; newtrier.k12.il.us/Get_Involved/Fine_Arts_Association/Donate; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Lila Francis Abud

Lila Francis Abud, 96, died peacefully Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020, in St. Clair Shores. She was born Jan. 23, 1924, in Detroit, to Louis and Miriam Sfeir Francis.

Lila was predeceased by her beloved husband of 55 years, Charles Fortunato Abud. She was the dearest sister of Jeanette Shalhoub (the late Albert); admired aunt of 44 nieces and nephews, 84 grandnieces and grandnephews, and 35 great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews. She was predeceased by her siblings, Adele Ammar (Louis), Clara Joseph (Joseph), Ida Joseph (Thomas) and John Francis (Cleamance).

Lila was a 1941 graduate of St. Charles Catholic High School and co-president of her class.

Her career spanned 30 years, first as executive secretary at The Detroit Times and then as administrative assistant to the vice president at The Detroit News. A devoted supporter and volunteer more than 20 years for the fundraising and awareness organization at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities, she served as press agent for the non-profit organization in Detroit.

Kind, personable, strong in character and generous, Lila carried herself with style, dignity and grace, her family said. Lila took special interest and pride in her nieces and nephews and their children and grandchildren; she mentioned them in her daily conversations and made each one feel as if they were her favorite. She often said, "Just a little something," when she gave unique gifts for birthdays, religious occasions, milestones and holidays.

Her faith in God was unshakable. She prayed the rosary every day.

Lila will be greatly missed by all and never forgotten, her family said.

A private interment service will take place at

Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105; or stjude.org; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Lila's nieces and nephews are grateful for the thoughtful and attentive care their dear aunt received from the dedicated staff at ShorePointe Nursing Center in St. Clair Shores and the compassionate care she received from Residential Hospice in Troy.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Valerie Apel Dryden

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Valerie Apel Dryden, 85, passed away Friday, Oct. 23, 2020, at her home.

Born June 30, 1935, in Detroit, to John and Rose Apel, she grew up in the city and graduated from Dominion High School in 1953.

An accomplished pianist, Valerie earned a bachelor's degree in music from Siena Heights College in Adrian.

Valerie taught elementary students in the East Detroit Public Schools district more than 40 years. Approximately 10 years into her teaching career, she spent four years overseas teaching students at an American school in Germany. Valerie always loved traveling; on weekends and breaks, she and her friends toured Europe in her Volkswagen Beetle.

Valerie married John Dryden of Birmingham in 1989. The couple traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and visited family and friends from Atlanta to Seattle. Along the way, they planned and enjoyed side trips exploring and hiking in the national parks.

A Detroit native, Valerie closely followed local sports and was an avid Tigers fan. She also enjoyed Formula One racing as well as classic cars and looked forward to the Woodward Dream Cruise each year.

Valerie was an active parishioner at St. Ambrose Catholic Church.

Her family said Valerie will be remembered for her kind heart, gentle spirit and genuine love for her family, friends and students.

She is survived by her husband, John; stepsons, Bryce Dryden (Debbie) of Kennesaw, Ga., and Blair Dryden (Joyce) of Overland Park, Kan.; grandchildren, Maddie Dryden, Darby Dryden and Audrey Dryden; brother-in-law, Eugene Dryden of LaPorte, Ind.; sisters, Virginia Jessup (Jim) of Hanna, Ind., and Ellen Rogers (Allen) of Granger, Ind.; and sister-in-law, Kathy Dryden of Mission Viejo, Calif. Val was predeceased by her brother-in-law, Dennis Dryden of Mission Viejo, Calif.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Oct. 28, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park. Interment took place at Resurrection Cemetery in



Margaret I. MacEachern



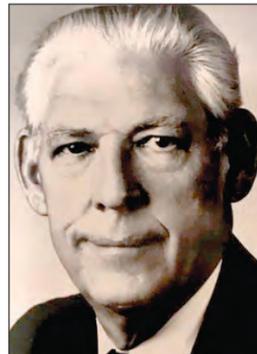
Claudia Jo Jeannette



Lila Francis Abud



Valerie Apel Dryden



Paul F. Keppler



Mark E. de Spelder

Clinton Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Paul F. Keppler

Paul F. Keppler, 96, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020, at home in Irvine, Calif., with his wife and daughter at his side. He was born Sept. 26, 1924, in Hamilton, Ohio, to John M. and Alma C. Keppler.

A 1942 graduate of Hamilton High School, Paul attended Capital University and Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1945, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1949. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton University in 1950.

Ordained at Zion Lutheran Church in Hamilton, Paul later received a call to serve as pastor at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Detroit. He continued in that capacity moved to Grosse Pointe Woods. His pastorate emphasized preaching, pastoral care, stewardship and benevolence to others. Paul retired from First English in 1989, and continued as an associate pastor at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit for 10 years. His greatest joy as a minister was to share with and teach others about Christ's love and grace.

Paul was a devoted husband to his wife of 69 years, Janet, and loving father to their three children. Paul and Janet traveled throughout the U.S., to Europe and Canada; they visited family as often as possible. They spent their retirement years near their daughter in Irvine, Calif., and enjoyed being a close part of her family as they grew together. Paul and Janet also had a special affinity to sunny southern California weather after the cold blasts of so many Michigan winters.

Paul is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Paul (Deborah) of Bay Village, Ohio, Robert (Mary) of Denver, and Gretchen Hudson (Jack) of Irvine; and grandchildren, Andrew, Elizabeth, Lauren, Kathryn, Megan, Carl and Carolyn.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 31,

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Irvine.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in Paul's name may be made to First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, feelc.org.

Mark Emerson de Spelder

Mark Emerson de Spelder, 59, passed away Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020, in Detroit, at Ascension St. John Hospital from sepsis due to complications from surgery.

Mark graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School with many life-long friends. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Michigan.

Mark began his career in investment banking at East West Securities in Harper Woods and later moved to Houston, where he worked at Westcap Securities. Mark returned to Michigan, where he held positions at National City Investments, Citizens Financial Group and Flagstar Bank.

Mark and Sandra Elizabeth Verbeke were married May 22, 1998; their son, Bradford Robert de Spelder, was born Feb. 25, 1999. Mark was proud his son followed in his footsteps by Bradford's pursuit of an economics degree from Grand Valley State University.

Mark loved Michigan football, as did his family; a rabid fan, he never missed a game. Together with his family, Mark also enjoyed traveling and vacationing, which included skiing, sailing, snorkeling and deep-sea fishing – especially in the Caribbean. He also loved cooking meals for close family and friends at holidays and get-togethers. Prior to his passing, Mark began playing golf with his son, Bradford.

Mark loved heavy metal music. He regularly drove home in his Cadillac, wearing a suit and tie, blasting music of the band Cro-Mags so loudly that his dear friend and dog, Bear, heard him coming from down the street. Mark also loved sharing videos of Bear.

Mark was predeceased by his mother, Patricia June de Spelder; father, Robert Emerson de Spelder; and stepson, Alexander Robert Clogg. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Elizabeth de Spelder (nee Verbeke); son, Bradford Robert de Spelder; siblings, William J. Sidenstecker (Julia Yao), Robert B. de Spelder



Maureen E. Burke-Beck

and Lisa L. Macuga (Peter); and several nieces and nephews.

Mark's family will receive friends from 3 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Interment will take place at the Pilgrim Home Cemetery II in Holland.

Maureen Elaine Burke-Beck

Lifelong Grosse Pointe Shores resident Maureen "Mo" Elaine Burke-Beck, 62, passed away peacefully Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, with her family by her side.

Mo was the beloved wife of James T. Beck for 32 years; and sister to Thomas Patrick Burke (Renee), Kathleen Harness (Jeff) and Judy Burke. She was predeceased by her parents, Thomas J. Burke and L. Elaine Burke.

A graduate of Our Lady Star of the Sea High School, Mo earned a bachelor's degree from Villanova University in 1980. She had a successful career in sales management at Pioneer Electronics and the Sutherland Companies.

Mo was a past member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, Ocean Reef Club and Club Island.

An avid sportswoman, she enjoyed boating, water skiing, snow skiing and horseback riding. Mo also had a special place in her heart for black Labrador retrievers and treasured her own, Gunner and Hunter.

Mo, also known as "Mighty Mo," had a fighting spirit and kind heart. Her family said she brought out the best in everyone she touched and they will sadly miss her.

A remembrance gathering will take place at a future date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Sterling Price Berry

Longtime Grosse Pointe resident Sterling Price Berry died Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020.

Born in 1925, in Detroit, Sterling grew up in Grosse Pointe. His summers spent on the Lake St. Clair Flats, where he watched freighters go by, ignited his lifelong love of the Great Lakes and Great Lakes shipping.

A 1943 graduate of Grosse Pointe High School, Sterling served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He graduated from Northwestern University in 1950.

Sterling married Anne Louise Hinchman in 1959, and shared 61 years with his beloved "Anniebelle." Together they raised five daughters, Julia Berry, Ginna Ericksen (Matt), Martha Long, Barbara Pappas (William) and Melissa Hibdon (Terry). Sterling was the proud grandfather of Nick Ericksen, Melissa Ericksen Burns (Will), Andie Long, Peter Sterling Ericksen, Emily Ericksen Johnson (Alex), Stephanie Long, Theodore Sterling Pappas and Sterling Hibdon. He was honorary grandfather to Alejandro Lleras (Leah) and Mark Holley (Karen), and great-grandfather to their children, Maddie and Olivia Lleras and Charlotte Holley; beloved uncle of Ken Berry (Connie Nassios), Judith Garver (Patrick), Emma Meston (Jim), Sara Howell (Brad), Carolyn Gray (Dan), David Hinchman (Pauline) and Ted Hinchman; and many grandnieces and grandnephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Tommie and Annie Berry; beloved uncle, Duncan Pirie; brother, Douglas Berry; sister-in-law, Mary Berry; nephew, Thomas Berry; brother-in-law, Ted Hinchman; and niece, Nancy Hinchman.

In his career in human resources management, Sterling was widely respected by labor and administration alike. He retired in 1988, which allowed him to



Sterling Price Berry

devote more time to his many passions. Chief among those was Great Lakes shipping and sharing his enthusiasm and expertise through his website, greatlakesvesselhistory.com; and affiliations with the Marine Historical Society of Detroit, which honored him with the Distinguished Service Award for 70 years of membership and service on its Advisory Council; Great Lakes Maritime Institute; Lake Superior Marine Museum Association; Dossin Great Lakes Museum; and Toronto Marine Historical Society.

With a song in his heart and a pitch pipe in his pocket, Sterling's musical resume included choirmaster at St. Philip and St. Steven Episcopal Church; 48-year membership in the Society for Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, also known as the Barbershop Harmony Society; Rackham Community Choir; Senior Men's Club of Grosse Pointe Choir; director of the Good News Gospel Singers; St. Michael's Episcopal Church Choir; American House Choir; and most special to him, founder and leader of the Berry Chorale. His participation in the Christ Church Chorale sparked a passion for travel as he performed throughout Europe nearly 20 years.

Sterling also was devoted to service to others. He always was ready with the greeting, "Hello, friend!" as he delivered Meals on Wheels 29 years. He also served at soup kitchens and together with his wife, Anne, advocated for public



Mark Abdo Adams

schools. In addition, he helped adults learn to read and volunteered as a docent at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

Sterling's family will hold a private memorial service. He will be laid to rest at Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit.

Memorial contributions in Sterling's name may be made to Harmony Foundation International, harmony foundation.org; the Chippewa County Historical Society, cchsmi.com; or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum through the Detroit Historical Society website, detroithistorical.org.

Arrangements are entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Mark Abdo Adams

Mark Abdo Adams, 72, of Harrison Township, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Oct. 16, 2020, in Abilene, Kan. He was born Jan. 11, 1948, in Detroit, to Sam and Thelma (nee Fodell) Abdo, both now deceased.

Mark graduated from Austin Catholic Preparatory High School in 1966. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1967, at the height of the Vietnam War. Engaged in several significant battles, the first major engagement in which Mark fought was the Tet Offensive in 1968. Early in his first tour in Vietnam, Mark volunteered and was accepted as a member of the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group. A combined command comprised of four U.S. military



David Clark Stone

branches, it focused on conducting special operations, usually behind enemy lines, and included intelligence gathering, rescue of American personnel, sabotage and similar activities. Mark served two full tours of duty in Vietnam. His service was difficult and extremely dangerous. He did not talk much about his experiences in Vietnam; those who knew him were aware of his extreme pride in having served his country in this way at a difficult time in its history. Mark attained the rank of staff sergeant and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in 1971. In civilian life, Mark earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Michigan State University.

Mark established his career in sales and sales management. In his younger years, he was responsible for sales of defibrillator pacemakers; he was proud of the fact he was present at hundreds of surgical procedures during which the devices were implanted in patients. Mark also was an executive at various medical equipment sales companies for many years.

After he retired from his main sales career, Mark returned to Michigan to be near family. Not one to sit idle, he began a new career as a real estate agent at RE/MAX, where he enjoyed the opportunity to connect people to properties they desired.

For decades, Mark was associated with the National Greyhound Association and wrote for the "Greyhound Review."

Mark enjoyed spending time with his family and being an uncle to

many nieces and nephews. He was the loving brother of Karen VanAssche Gilbert (Lester), Michele Montgomery (James), Donna Abdo (David Reed), Cecelia Scott, Samuel Abdo (Ann) and the late Marycarol Duda (Mike); dear uncle of Edward VanAssche, Amanda Allagreen (Brandon), Kristen Kozlowski, Matthew Reed, Marissa Scot, Angel Scot, Ariana Scot, Brandon and Gabriella Allagreen, and Zak, Jack and Thomas Kezhaya.

Visitation takes place at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. at St. Maron Maronite Catholic Church, 11466 Kercheval, Detroit.

Interment of ashes will take place at a later date at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly.

David Clark Stone

Grosse Pointe Farms resident David Clark Stone passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020.

David graduated from Michigan State University and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Detroit College of Law. He finished his long and distinguished career as a partner at Bodman LLP. David was listed in "The Best Lawyers in America" publication, as a "Top Lawyer" in dbusiness magazine and in the "Michigan Super Lawyers" directory. David will be remembered as an attorney for his steady service, devotion to clients' business and strategic approach to problem solving, as well as being a mentor.

An active member of the community in addition to his professional career, David began his community involvement as a Mount Clemens city commissioner. A tireless supporter of education, including the University of Detroit Mercy and University Liggett School, he also was an emeritus member of the Board of Visitors of the Duke University Divinity School. David received the Dean's Award for Service and

Philanthropy from the Duke University Divinity School and an honorary doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy.

David and his wife, Norma, were generous benefactors to the Sacred Heart Major Seminary through its Fisherman's Fund and the Archdiocese of Detroit, including service on the Archdiocesan Sent on Mission fundraising initiative committee. David also was a long-time Patron of the Arts member of the Vatican Museums; through David's stewardship of the Stange Charitable Trust, restoration of one of the most important tapestries in the Vatican Museums was undertaken.

An accomplished man who never lost his love of golf until illness intervened, he continued his lifelong passion for hunting, fishing, cooking and reading the works of Winston Churchill. All of these pastimes brought joy and fulfillment to his free time.

David is survived by his wife of 51 years, Norma Miller; children, Jonathan David (Emily) and Elizabeth Stone Phillips (the late Thomas John Theodore Phillips); granddaughters, Kingsley Gray Chase and Georgina Ann Clark; brother, retired Maj. Gen. Richard Allan Stone, M.D.; and sister-in-law, Jennifer Moore Stone.

Charitable donations in David's name and memory may be made to the National Audubon Society, Attn: Memorial Donations, 225 Varick St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014; or Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, mipatrons.com, or by check payable to Vatican Patrons of the Arts, Michigan Chapter, 41780 Six Mile Rd., Northville, MI 48168; or College of Veterinary Medicine Scholarship Fund, Michigan State University, 784 Wilson Rd., Room G155, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Arrangements are entrusted to Chas. Verheyden, Inc.

See OBITS, page 6B

Grosse Pointe UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

An Official Welcoming Congregation

Join us online for Sunday morning worship
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Learn more about us by visiting our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/GrossePointeUMC

Rev. Dr. Ray McGee
www.gpumc.org
313-886-2363

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1302

Masses
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.
Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

(313) 822-2814 • stambrose@comcast.net
• stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish

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SUNDAY
8:15 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service
9:30 a.m. - Bible Study
10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

MONDAY
7 p.m. - Worship Service
2nd & 4th Monday of the Month

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study

Randy S. Boelter, Pastor
Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones

FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
800 Vernier Road (Corner of Wedgewood)
(313) 884-5040

9:30 am - Drive-In service on Sunday
11:00 am - Inside service on Sunday
Service on youtube at FEELC-GPW and on our facebook page First English Lutheran Church.

Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor
~ "Go Make Disciples" ~
www.feelc.org

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
www.gpccong.org

Sunday 10AM services are on Zoom Meeting online and phone
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4105997963>
415-762-9988, then enter 4105997963
AND with a Drive-in service in the parking lot

6B | FEATURES

OBITS:

Continued from page 5B

David Allen Beatty

David Allen Beatty, 84, passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 23, 2020. He was born Aug. 9, 1936, in Grosse Pointe, to Melvin William Beatty and Audrey Louise Levillier.

David was proud of his heritage as a direct descendant of Capt. John Martin and the Frech family who settled on the ribbon farms in Grosse Pointe.

A graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School, David was in the co-op program at Chrysler Co. He retired from Chrysler in 1984.

David was a volunteer at many events and historical venues. He also was involved with the Chrysler travel group, Pentastar Travel. An active participant at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dexter, David often assisted at funeral luncheons for fellow parishioners.

David was well-loved by his neighborhood commu-



David Allen Beatty

nity at Sugarloaf Lake in Chelsea, where his family owned a cottage more than 100 years and where he eventually retired.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Oct. 28, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Burial took place at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Expressions of sympathy in David's name may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 7870 4th St., Dexter, MI 48130.

Arrangements are entrusted to Staffan-Mitchell Funeral Home in Chelsea, mitchellfuneral.com.

Park native appears on Food Network

By Eddie B. Allen Jr.
Staff Writer

Jonny Manganello's dream of putting culinary skills on camera began when he was a boy. At his family's Grosse Pointe Park home he recorded episodes of an independent program, despite its limited viewers.

"I would sit around watching these food competitions and I pretended to host my own food show when I was a kid," he said. "My mom would be in the kitchen. I forced her to film 'Cooking with Jonny.' 'You don't want to see some of the cakes that I made,' he added. 'The drive was there, but not the talent.'"

Today, at 29, Manganello is a noteworthy social media presence with the 270,000 Tik Tok followers he entertains by baking and cake-decorating. He'll showcase his personality and skills for a TV audience Nov. 1, as a contes-



COURTESY PHOTO

Jonny Manganello

tant on the Food Network cooking show, "Holiday Wars."

"Let me tell you something," Manganello said, "I'm as surprised as anyone else."

Despite being enamored with TV cooking, he only began baking two years ago at home in Los Angeles. Between working various jobs, from tour guide at Universal Studios to nanny, he studied online videos and techniques in a journey of self-teaching.

"The internet is sort of a black hole of food content and there are a lot of resources," he said.

In March, when California officials told residents to stem rising COVID-19 rates by staying home, Manganello further honed his craft. He drew from early drama and performance training in children's theater and Grosse Pointe South High School stage productions to create Tik Tok content. Manganello also studied acting at the University of Michigan before he moved to L.A.

"I was alone in my house, bored, and I thought, 'I need to share what I'm doing,'" he recalled.

His Tik Tok following caught Food Network's attention and he was approached about the 2020 season of "Holiday Wars," a competitive series featuring culinary artists. After audition videos and other preliminary

steps, he advanced through "round after round" of the six-week series that begins airing at 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1. Actress Raven-Symoné is the host.

As part of his participation agreement, Manganello is not allowed to reveal the outcome of the series or how well he performed, but he enjoyed the experience.

"I will say that there are some really fun, dramatic, crazy moments," he said.

Manganello, who specializes in unusual cake decorations, spent a lot of time "covered in butter cream" and "sweating profusely," he added.

Participating in "Holiday Wars" fueled his goal to host his own TV cooking show — one that wouldn't require having his mom behind the camera.

"If I'm going to watch hours and hours of baking shows ..." he said, "I might as well put that time to good use."

GALA:

Continued from page 3B

opportunities in a safe environment. As always, programs continue to be free."

Just one week after the school closures related

to COVID-19 began, Kids on the Go offered its first virtual program, a social skills class for teens as a way to connect and help provide some structure and a social outlet for many who felt lost without the resources provided through school-

sponsored programs. Throughout the spring, Kids on the Go offered virtual programming and over the summer offered a mix of virtual and social-distanced in-person programs, all of which provided recreation and the chance for

the kids work on their social, educational and physical goals. The funds raised from Bandstand Battle are essential for Kids on the Go to continue to offer these programs free of charge to children with special needs.

"Kids on the Go recognizes the great needs of children and families and has offered more programs in 2020 than in the history of the pro-

gram," Schena said, "but we cannot do it without support and events like Bandstand Battle."

For more information, call (313) 332-1026.

Moross Greenway Project

The following pieces, which were newly installed or relocated along the greenway, are listed with the artist's name and price.

"Once Bitten twice shy" by Ken Thompson. \$11,000
 "Steel Series II" by Michael Barker. \$4,500
 "Ladies In Red" by Ric Leighliter. \$10,000
 "Daddy Long Legs" by John Parker. \$18,000
 "Cara Cara" by John Parker. \$18,000
 "Direction of Sun and Moon" by Mike Sohikian. \$8,500

"Icarus" by Mike Sohikian. \$10,000
 "Arbor Simplex" by Joel Washing. \$22,500
 "Circles and Squares" by James Havens. \$22,000
 "Tricomet" by Carl Billingsley. \$2,800
 "Whimsey" by Pam Reithmeier. \$5,000
 "Semaphore" by Brian Ferriby. \$7,500
 "Reclining Figure" by Michael Barker. \$4,500

BEAUTY:

Continued from page 1B

the ongoing care of the greenspace. The Moross Greenway Project is strictly volunteer-driven; there are no employees, Garrett said.

"Getting those sculptures in the last year generated some excitement," he added. "I'm hoping we get a few more folks involved. It would be nice if every year this would be an event, that we install umpteen new pieces every year and it

becomes an attraction."

O'Hara, who was born and raised in Detroit and settled in Grosse Pointe Farms several years ago, said she's been paying attention to the changes along the stretch since the organization formed.

"It's been so wonderful to see the community coming together like this," she said. "It has made a difference. I've been watching Moross for years since we started planting. Even the residents are taking better care of their property. There are less dilapi-

dated properties. People are cutting their lawns."

It's a far cry from the Moross that led O'Hara to launch the organization.

"It was so sad to see how it had changed (since childhood)," she said. "It was barren. There were dead trees that had fallen over and trees that were about to fall over into the street, knee-high dandelions and so much trash everywhere. ... With St. John Hospital right there, there are a lot of people coming and going. It just

wasn't anything that could make anybody happy."

Even more, she added, she wanted to do something that would help link the communities. Moross Greenway Project fit the bill.

"People from all over come and donate their time and attend our gardening seminars out there," she said. "We're all just people trying to make it work and make it come together."

"We're open to anybody wanting to help or volunteer or donate money," she added.

To donate to the project or learn more about it, visit morossgreenwayproject.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN IGNASIAK

Eugene and Dorothy Ignasiak recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

COUPLE:

Continued from page 1B

he added. "But it's got to be give and take. If you can give it with a smile or a laugh, even better. We created our own laughter if we had to. Life is give

and take; if you fight it, your life is going to be 100 times harder for you."

To celebrate their platinum anniversary, the couple planned to host a family dinner, with surf and turf prepared by their son, Michael.

City of Grosse Pointe, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN
PLANNING COMMISSIONMONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2020 – 7:00 pm
17147 MAUMEE, GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230

This public hearing will be held virtually due to the COVID-19 Epidemic

CHAPTER 90 - ARTICLE VII: AREA, HEIGHT, BULK, AND PLACEMENT
ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Grosse Pointe Planning Commission will hold a public hearing as noticed above to consider a text amendment to CHAPTER 90 - ARTICLE VII AREA, HEIGHT, BULK, AND PLACEMENT of the City of Grosse Pointe Zoning Ordinance. The proposed text amendment is to be included under Section 90-351: Schedule. The proposed amendment would alter the provisions of the ordinance that apply to minimum residential unit sizes for all districts that permit multi-family uses (C-2, T, T-1, T-2, and R-T) to reduce minimum unit sizes and regulate sizes by the number of bedrooms provided in a unit

Said hearing will be held virtually. Information regarding the meeting location, and/or how to attend a virtual meeting, can be found on the City's website or by calling 313-885-5800.

The complete text of the proposed ordinance amendment may be viewed at City Hall located at 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI, Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Public comment is welcome. If you are unable to attend the hearing, written comments will be accepted until 12:00 noon on November 16, 2020. Public comments can be mailed to City Hall or sent via email to jarthurs@grossepointecity.org. If further information is needed, please contact Grosse Pointe Building Dept., 17147 Maumee, Grosse Pointe, MI. 48230, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Telephone: 313-885-5800.

Julie E. Arthurs,
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SPORTS

CROSS COUNTRY

Postseason

Local boys, girls teams run well in pre-regional meets PAGE 2C

2C SWIMMING | 3C FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL | 3-4C CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Soccer

RIVALS

South edges North

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South boys soccer teams played round No. 3 of their rivalry this season.

However, this game had the most importance since it came in a Division 1 district championship game at Hamtramck's Keyworth Stadium. The regular season games were won by the Norsemen.

The Norsemen



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN MARIE SMIHAL

South players and coaches are all smiles after winning a Division I district title.

couldn't make it 3-for-3 after the Blue Devils beat them, 2-1 in a shootout.

Chris Valice scored for the Norsemen, while Ryan Caldwell tallied for the Blue Devils to end regulation 1-1.

After two 10-minute overtimes without a goal, the pressure mounted as the game went to a shootout, which the Blue

Devils won 6-4.

Bennett Smihal saved the final shot to help the Blue Devils win to set up Max Simonson's winning goal.

In the semifinal earlier in the week, North beat the home team, Hamtramck 5-2, while South edged U-D Jesuit 2-1.

For the Blue Devils,

Rene Robert and Nick Spyroe scored the goals.

For the Norsemen, James Streberger had two goals to lead the way, while Ben Sheffield, Chris Valice and John Latiff had one goal apiece.

Grosse Pointe South improved to 8-5-1, while Grosse Pointe North ended its season 10-4-3.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights win title

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School boys soccer team was back at full strength last weekend in its Division 4 district championship game against visiting Memphis.

The Knights won 7-1 to move to the regional round.

"The guys played well, and we were able to get everyone some playing time," head coach David Dwaihy said.

Freshman Claudio Cavallo led the way with three goals, scoring at

the 24:10 and 22:23 marks of the first half, as well as the 33:06 mark of the second half.

Senior Sawyer Szajenko got the home team on the board, scoring at the 28:39 mark of the first half.

Junior Alex George also had a first-half goal, while senior Sheikh Manneh tallied the Knights' final goal of the game.

In the district semifinals, host ULS defeated Sterling Heights Parkway Christian 8-1.

ULS improved to 12-1-1 overall.

Field hockey

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

ULS wins

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The University Liggett School girls field hockey team was almost back to full strength last week and it paid big dividends.

The Knights opened the week by defeating Birmingham Marian 2-1 to claim their first Catholic League championship.

It was the second time this season the Knights beat the Mustangs under head coach Amanda Amine.

"The gang is all back," Amine said after the victory.

Elese Kogel and Delaney Garvey scored the goals for the Knights,



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMANDA AMINE

Players and coaches celebrate after beating Marian in the Catholic League Championship game.

while goalie Bella Metry, playing in place of injured starter Alexandra Karolak, was strong in net.

Others who were standouts, according to Amine, were Ella Karolak and Brooke Summers in the midfield. ULS concluded its

week by hosting Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard in the round of 16 of the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association Division 2 East playoffs.

The Knights endured two lengthy lightning delays to defeat AAFGR 4-1.

The home team scored first when Delaney Garvey scored in the first quarter, but the visitors came back to tie it late in the opening period.

It was all Knights after that as Kogel, Ella Karolak and Lexie Gormely scored goals.

ULS is 8-4 overall.

and in the second quarter senior Kate Skupien made it 2-0 with a goal.

Defense dominated the second half for each team.

The Blue Devils scored their final goal in the third quarter when senior Katherine Bsharah tallied.

Head coach Jessie Rouleau and her Blue Devils improved to 11-1-1 overall.

If they win in the quarterfinals, the state semifinal is Thursday, Oct. 29, while the state final is set for Saturday, Oct. 31, in Brighton.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils beat ASH to advance

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South girls field hockey team advanced to the state quarterfinals after shutting out Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart 3-0 in the second-round last weekend.

A weather delay moved the start time back 30 minutes, but that didn't stop the host Blue Devils from dominating the game.

Junior Molly Ryszewski got the Blue Devils on the board early,

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen ousted in second round at Division 2 playoffs

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Grosse Pointe North girls field hockey team started its 2020 state playoff run with a 6-0 win over visiting Dearborn Edsel Ford.

"It was a nice start to playoffs," head coach Emma Yee said. "The girls are really making smart plays on the field and working as a unit. The chemistry was palpable."

Erin Murphy scored the first two goals, and Sophia Borowski scored

the next two to give the Norsemen a 4-0 lead.

Ashlyn Senter and Rachel Mellon netted one goal each to round out the scoring for the home team.

With the win, the Norsemen advanced to the round of 16 with a road game against No. 7 seed Hartland.

The Norsemen's season came to an end with a 3-1 loss.

North finished its season above .500 at 6-5-1 overall.

Despite the loss, it was a successful season for

the Norsemen under Yee.

They endured the late start due to COVID-19, but once the girls got on the field and got the rust off, they played well.

Senior Erin Murphy had a solid season, and has a good chance to make All-State.

With a productive off-season, the Norsemen should be in fine shape as the 2021 season draws closer.

Hopefully everything is back to normal after the less-than-normal 2020 season.



PHOTO BY URBAN JETHRO

Grosse Pointe North's Erin Murphy scored twice in the playoff win over Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Cross country

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

North shines at pre-region

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls cross-country team advanced to the regionals, while the boys squad missed the mark during last week's Division 1 pre-regional meet at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

For head coach Scott Cooper and his girls squad, they finished second with 70 points. Royal Oak won the meet with a near-perfect 19 points.

"They ran really well and ran very smart races," Cooper said. "They did not go crazy at the start and slowly picked off runners who did go out a little more crazy. They all competed to the very end passing key runners in the last mile of the race. We now move on to regionals

with Royal Oak, South and Warren Mott."

Leading the way for the Norsemen was senior Annaliese Thomas, who finished seventh with a time of 21:20.5.

Sophomore Drew Lovell and junior Becca Moyn finished 11th and 14th with times of 21:53.0 and 22:21.7.

Senior Anna Lisa Lynch took 17th with a time of 22:40.5, while freshman Penny Roustemis took 21st at 23:04.4. Senior Evelyn Riley placed 29th with a time of 23:55.5.

The boys took fifth with 96 points. The top four teams advanced to the regional meet.

"We missed it as a team by 7 points," head coach Diane Montgomery said. "However, my top 5 qualified as individuals. We



PHOTO BY CHUCK DAY

North's Preston Navarre, far right, won the pre-regional race to advance to the regionals.

look forward to racing at Chandler Park."

The Norsemen who advanced are senior Preston Navarre, who won the race with a time of 16:00.1; sophomore Alex Agius, 14th at 17:25.5; junior Max Kluge, 21st at 18:01.0; freshman David Rochon, 28th at 18:14.7; and

sophomore Charlie Bomgaars.

Others who raced were juniors Ryan Spiteri and Paul Ciaravino, who were 37th and 38th with times of 18:55.5 and 19:01.0.

North will compete in a regional meet Friday, Oct. 30, at Chandler Park Golf Course.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights run well

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

University Liggett School will send both its girls and boys cross-country teams to the regional meet after last week's top 4 finishes in a Division 3 pre-regional meet at Memorial Park in Royal Oak.

Head coach Joe Smith watched his girls win their meet with 38 points, and the boys took fourth with 100 points.

For the girls, Penelope Griffioen led the team with a third-place time of 21:00.3.

Sophia Ma was fifth with a time of 21:27.3, while the duo of Ariana Herman and Kelsey Beckett took eighth and ninth with times of 21:31.1 and 22:05.5.

Brynn Collins was the Knights' fifth runner, taking 23rd with a time of 24:17.5.

For the boys, Jacob Whitton was 11th with a time of 19:01.6, and Evan Provenzo was 15th at 19:34.2. Garrett Flynn was 18th at 19:44.9, and Taveon Colston was 27th at 21:49.9.

Jake Juip was 38th with a time of 34:54.6.

Swimming

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils cruise to win

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe South girls swimming and diving team maintained its unblemished won-loss record last week, crushing Macomb Dakota 129-51.

The win also capped another regular season title in the Macomb Area Conference Red Division for the Blue Devils as they moved to 3-0 in the division.

Head coach John Fodell watched his Blue Devils win 8 of the 12 events, including the 200-yard medley relay team of Brooke Lezotte, Phoebe Handwork, Sophia Schuetze and Ella Pazuchowski, who turned in a time of 1:53.17.

Hayden Barry won the

200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:01.74, and in diving, Ava Rogowski and Caroline Rogers took first and second with scores of 155.70 and 128.60.

Schuetze had a time of 59.80 to win the 100-yard butterfly, and Isabella Gelle had a time of 5:17.16 to take first in the following event, the 500-yard freestyle.

Handwork, Schuetze, Phoebe Bedsworth and Gelle took the top spot the 200-yard freestyle relay with a time of 1:42.94, while Elizabeth Klepp won the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:01.97.

In the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, Sienna Clark, Jilliana Pilutti, Barry and Gelle won, turning in a time of 3:51.08.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT COOPER

North's Annaliese Thomas, left, was the Norsemen's top runner at the pre-regional meet.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Blue Devils teams earn spots in regional meet

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Both Grosse Pointe South boys and girls cross-country teams advanced to a Division 1 regional meet.

They had to finish in the top four of last week's pre-regional meet held at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

The boys with 46 points and the girls took third with 80 points, placing behind Royal Oak and Grosse Pointe North.

Leading the way for head coach Mark Sonnenberg and his boys team was the duo of senior Abraham Abouljoud and sophomore Logan Detweiler, who finished 3rd and 4th with times of 16:32.6 and 16:35.9.

"A very nice day for our Varsity Blue Devils," Sonnenberg said. "We came to Metro with the task of being district (pre-region) champs, and we did just that. With our first five all in the top-20, our boys took

first place overall (of 8) and have officially advanced to the 2020 regional championship."

Junior Jack Hurst was third for the Blue Devils, finishing eighth with a time of 17:04.1, and senior Charles Rulison was 12th at 17:24.0. Sophomore Brendan Downey was 19th at 17:44.8, while junior Michael Wholihan took 24th at 18:06.5.

Junior Ronak Parikh was 27th with a time of 18:13.9.

For head coach Steve

Zaraneck and his girls squad, freshman Kloie Roy and sophomore Grace Winger finished 12th and 13th with times of 21:59.6 and 22:00.2 to lead the Blue Devils.

Senior Mayra Eger was 16th at 22:38.5, while sophomore Anna Czech and senior Diane Dollison finished 19th and 20th with times of 22:42.4 and 23:01.9.

Other runners for the Blue Devils were sophomore Marrin Harris and sophomore Ava Carr, who placed 27th and 34th with times of 23:50.2 and 24:39.3.

Next for the Blue Devils is a Division 1 regional meet is Friday, Oct. 30, at Chandler Park Golf Course.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Norsemen beat Ike

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The Grosse Pointe North girls swimming and diving team beat Utica Eisenhower 100-80 last week.

Head coach Danielle Woody and her Norsemen beat the Eagles for the first time in several years.

The Norsemen earned

seven state cut times, including Diana Muccioli in the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyles with times of 2:00.72 and 5:21.52.

Ava Macgillis also made the state cut in two events, the 200-yard individual medley and 100-yard butterfly with times of 2:14.33 and 59.30.

Ava DeCoste made the state finals in the 500-yard freestyle, turning in a time of 5:22.16, while the 200-yard freestyle relay squad of Shayla Andrews, Kelly Heywood, Sophia Vitale and Macgillis is headed to the state finals with a time of 1:43.65.

The final state cut was provided the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Muccioli, Vitale, Andrews and Macgillis. They had a time of 3:46.70.

City of **Grosse Pointe Farms**, Michigan

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
90 KERBY ROAD, NOVEMBER 9, 2020, 7:00 PM**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on November 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. virtually through an online Zoom meeting to consider an application from the owner of the property located at 1 Woodward pl.. The applicant requests the following variances;

- Approve a dimensional variance to exceed the maximum lot coverage;
- Approve a dimensional variance to provide less than the minimum side yard setback.

All interested citizens are requested to attend the Hearings. Public comments will be received during the Public Hearing, orally. If you are unable to be present at the Public Hearing, please submit your written comments to the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, by November 6, 2020. For detailed instructions on how to observe or participate in the meeting please contact the City Clerk's office at 313 885-6600 or visit the City website.

For further information regarding the application please contact Matthew Baka, Public Services Director, at (313) 885-4285. Plans are available at City Hall for review.

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will be considering the following proposed ordinance for a second reading at its meeting scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. to be held remotely by Zoom. The proposed ordinance is available for public inspection at the Municipal Building, 20025 Mack Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Council meeting is open to the public. All interested persons are invited to attend. The proposed ordinance is located on the City's website at www.gpwwmi.us.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 8 BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, ARTICLE IX – FENCES, TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF ALLOWABLE FENCES AND TO CLARIFY ALLOWABLE MATERIALS.

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

Football

RIVALS

South bests North, 41-3

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

It's another year, and once again the Grosse Pointe South football team has bragging rights over its rival, Grosse Pointe North, after winning 41-3 last weekend.

The game was scheduled to be played at North, but a storm came through hours before the contest, knocking out power to the stadium lights.

The venue switched to South and the kickoff was pushed back to

8:30 p.m.

Each team scored in the opening quarter. Senior running back Egan Sullivan scored on a 34-yard run. Senior Bennett Smihal kicked the extra point.

For the Norsemen, senior Mike Zontini kicked a 32-yard field goal into the wind.

In the second quarter, Sullivan scored on an 8- and 9-yard runs, while sophomore quarterback Anthony Benard hit junior tight end Joseph Klunder on a 25-yard TD pass.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South's Jordan Johnson, No. 15, scores a touchdown.

Smihal kicked the extra points to help the Blue Devils take a 28-3 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Sullivan added his fourth TD run of the game, and senior running back Jordan Johnson ran in from 10 yards out.

Smihal converted 1 of 2 PATs. His final kick was blocked by North

sophomore Drew Hill.

Offensively for the Blue Devils, Sullivan rushed for more than 100 yards.

For the Norsemen, senior running back Kennard Williams had 53 receiving yards.

Grosse Pointe South finished its regular season 4-2 overall; North finished 3-3.

Volleyball

RIVALS

Blue Devils outlast Norsemen

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

The improvement in each team was evident as the second regular season meeting between Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South wore on last week.

The host Norsemen, behind head coach Chelsea Brozo, gave a battle, but in the end the Blue Devils won 25-14, 25-20, 27-25.

Game one was over quickly as the Blue Devils played their best of the three games as junior hitter Jada DiVita had a half dozen kills to go with a serving ace.

The Blue Devils benefited from a slew of serving points.

Brozo gathered her team between games one and two. They played better, and with more confidence.

The Blue Devils bolted out to a 3-5 lead behind the serving of senior Emily Crane and the kills provided by junior Ellen Martin and DiVita.

The Norsemen's comeback began when junior Bre Watts served back-to-back aces.

Freshman Lauren Lefebvre was solid in the

front row with hitting and blocks, as was sophomore Annabelle Julien.

In the backrow, Norsemen junior Sabrina Shaw and Crane for the Blue Devils were solid, keeping points alive with serve receive and digs.

The Blue Devils prevailed when senior Mary Fannon served the final two points to give the visitors a 2-0 lead in games.

Game three was back and forth with North's Julien and South's Crane serving well.

The Norsemen trailed 20-17 before junior Paige Prezepiora served four straight points to give them the lead.

After that, it was tight, but the Blue Devils were able to grab the win when senior Keely Conlan served an ace for the game-winning point.

DiVita led the Blue Devils in kills, while Lefebvre led the way for the Norsemen.

Earlier in the week, North won a game from Utica, but lost 3-1, while South lost to division-winning Fraser 3-0.

South evened its Macomb Area Conference White Division record at 4-4, while North fell to 0-8.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Knights get No. 5 seed

By Bob St. John
Sports Editor

Win No.2 was a come-from-behind variety for the University Liggett School football team last weekend.

Trailing 28-20 at halftime, the Knights began the second half when Justin Nazarko recovered an onside kick. That played was a key turning point in the game.

Head coach Tarif Kumasi implemented a

new running game to the offensive scheme, and Will Edwards took advantage of it by recording the Knights' first rushing touchdown of the season with a 1-yard run. Andrew Stalker's two-point conversion reception tied the score at 28.

Edwards, a junior, also caught a two-point conversion on the Knights' game-winning score.

The Knights took the lead for good when junior quarterback

Carson Roose and sophomore Ryan Jones hooked up on a 5-yard touchdown pass with 38 seconds left in the third quarter. The duo also connected on first-half passing scores of 19, 27, and 9 yards.

The Knights' defense played a significant role in the win with two fumble recoveries by Jones and freshman Zach Hill while keeping New Haven out of the end zone in the second half. Roose finished with a

season-low 148 yards passing, while Jones continued his hot streak with eight catches for 91 yards.

The new-found running game was fueled by Edwards, who rushed for 186 yards on 24 carries.

ULS improved to 2-4 overall and is the No. 5 seed in its Division 7 district tournament.

The Knights' first playoff game is at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, at No. 4 seed Clintondale.

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King Crossword

Solution for last week's puzzle 10/22/20

M	A	U	L	O	B	I	E	G	O	S	
E	L	S	E	P	R	O	D	U	P	E	
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P	E	O	N	P	L	Y	G	N	A	W	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cracker spread
 - 5 Easter entree
 - 8 "The Thin Man" dog
 - 12 Verve
 - 13 Past
 - 14 Use scissors
 - 15 Sudden temperature drop
 - 17 — Christian Andersen
 - 18 Dueler's ally
 - 19 Pass by
 - 21 Watch chain
 - 22 Foolish
 - 23 Andrews or Edwards, for ex.
 - 26 Path
 - 28 Gaggle members
 - 31 Conks out
 - 33 Joke
 - 35 Paint crudely
 - 36 "Yes we can" man
 - 38 Off-tattooed word
- DOWN**
- 1 Chest muscles, for short
 - 2 Lotion additive
 - 3 Body powder
 - 4 The — the line
 - 5 Purse
 - 6 Khan title
 - 7 Motorized bike
 - 8 Embarrassed

- 9 Crisp-pod legume
- 10 Supermarket stack
- 11 Church section
- 16 Winter forecast
- 20 Drag along
- 23 Commotion
- 24 Little white lie
- 25 Tall thin person
- 27 Thanksgiving veggie
- 29 Seek damages
- 30 "Chicago" lyricist
- 32 Slandered
- 34 Ape
- 37 Piercing tool
- 39 Cinderella's horses, really
- 42 Long-snouted critter
- 44 Nuisances
- 45 Wading bird
- 46 Fashion
- 48 On
- 49 Infatuated
- 50 Cupid's alias
- 53 Antiquated

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51				52	53						
54											
57											

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle
Solution for last weeks puzzle 10/22/20

5	1	2	7	8	6	9	3	4
8	7	9	1	3	4	5	2	6
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		8	7					2	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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