

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 12/21			
Since tracking began in March 2020			
	Cases	Deaths	
All Pointes	5,336 (+198)	72 (+0)	
Harper Woods	2,062 (+112)	54 (+0)	(Increase 12/14-12/21)

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 51, 28 PAGES ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 86¢) DECEMBER 23, 2021 GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

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Park honors outgoing council

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Grosse Pointe Park City Council honored outgoing Mayor Robert Denner and council members James Robson, Lauri Read, Aimee Fluitt and Darci McConnell via five resolutions passed at a council meeting Monday, Dec. 13.

A Park resident 39 years, Denner has served on council since 2003, adding the designation of mayor in 2015. Throughout his tenure, he was a trustee of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation for 29 years and a member of the personnel committee, ordinance review committee, public service committee, planning commission, Downtown Development Authority and real estate committee. The resolution noted his role in working through the 2008 recession; improving Kercheval, Charlevoix and Mack business districts; and assisting in transitioning the public works garage to Mack and Wayburn, allowing space for the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery.

"I'm really grateful that I had the opportunity to work with a lot of very talented and dedicated public servants, both elected and the adminis-

See HONOR, page 2A



COURTESY PHOTO

Welcome, St. Nick!

Edmund C. Coates' "Arrival of St. Nicholas" helps us get excited for Christmas and all the warmth and joy it has to offer. From our homes to yours, we wish you all the best this holiday season.

Public safety gives gun locks

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Public safety departments in the Grosse Pointes are encouraging gun owners to come to the departments and receive free cable gun locks to secure their firearms in light of the shooting at Oxford High School, which was followed by threats at Grosse Pointe public schools and around metro Detroit.

"We all want gun owners to be responsible," Park Deputy Director James Bostock said. "A gun lock is a means of securing a firearm. It's not a foolproof way, but it is a start."

The Park posted on its Facebook page Monday, Dec. 13, and Director Bryan Jarrell echoed the message at a council meeting that night, saying cable gun locks are available not just to residents.

"Anybody who wants to secure a gun, I'll give them a gun lock," Jarrell said. "I don't care where they're from. They can come up from Toledo, I don't care."

According to Bostock, the locks online cost around \$10 a piece. The Park has dolled out 25 to 30 locks to gun owners since putting out the message.

Bostock said along with getting a lock, firearms owners should

remember the gun safety rules: "Treat all guns as if they're loaded; ... never point a gun at anything that you're not willing to shoot; you want to be sure of your target and what's behind it; and lastly, keep your finger off the trigger until you've made the decision to shoot."

"The responsibility starts and ends with the gun owner," Bostock

See LOCKS, page 3A

Mayfield donations collected

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Following the tragic tornado outbreak Friday, Dec. 10, that took dozens of lives and leveled the city of Mayfield, Ky., Grosse Pointe Shores is encouraging community members to come together and lend aid to those who lost everything two weeks before Christmas.

"We're partnering with the Pryorsburg Community Fellowship in supporting the Kenlake Shelter where they have residents from Wingo and Mayfield," Shores City Manager Stephen Poloni said.

Between now and Christmas Day, nonperishable food items, bedding, cleaning supplies, batteries, flashlights and diapers size four and up will be collected at the police desk at Shores city hall.

Those who would prefer to donate a tax-deductible check can make it out to the "MI FOP Foundation," which stands for the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police, an organization which is partnering with the Shores for the effort. The checks may be placed in an envelope

See DONATE, page 3A

Fisher will be tackled next year

City schedules 2022 road improvements

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Entering the eighth year of the City of Grosse Pointe's Road Improvement Program, made possible by a 2.5 mill road improvement levy, plans to fix Fisher Road have been ad-

vanced by six years.

During its meeting Monday, Dec. 13, city council unanimously approved 2022 road improvements for Cranford from Cadieux to Notre Dame and Fisher from Waterloo to Mack for a 3.5 mill and resurface. Design work for the



FILE PHOTO

Fisher Road repairs between Waterloo and Mack will occur six years ahead of originally planned.

Cranford project potentially also could be in conjunction with a water main replacement.

The Fisher Road project previously was scheduled to take place in six years, as the City

and Farms were denied grants through the

See FISHER, page 3A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



James Bellanca Jr.
Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Longtime attorney and manager of 40 percent of tenants in The Village commercial district



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Woods mayor pitches unity

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Mayor Arthur Bryant continues pushing a state commission to keep the city united for representation in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Bryant asked the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission last week to scrap a proposal separating the southern portion of Grosse Pointe Woods — bordered by the south side of Huntington Boulevard west of Mack Avenue — from the rest of the city, the other Pointes and eastside Detroit along the riverfront and including downtown for representation in the state House.

The proposal is in one of four House district maps drawn for consideration by the commission, created by the Michigan electorate passing the Voters Not Politicians amendment to the state Constitution in 2018. Three other proposed House maps keep the Woods intact. Only one, labeled Pine, divides the Woods.

“One map, Pine, still shows our fourth precinct being in another district,” Bryant told commissioners during their final general session Thursday, Dec. 16, at Cadillac Place,

on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit. “Would you please correct that and keep our city together? It had been an error on other maps and was corrected. Please put the fourth precinct back in with Grosse Pointe Woods.”

Bryant was the 64th of hundreds of members of the public addressing the commission in person, online or in writing during a meeting lasting more than seven hours.

Voters established the commission to update legislative maps for representation in the state House, Senate and U.S. Congress based on non-partisan factors, such as common interests, rather than for political advantage.

The commission concludes its mission next week by selecting district maps for the three legislative bodies.

On Tuesday, Dec. 28, commissioners decide from among five Congressional district maps. On Dec. 29 and 30, commissioners decide among six state Senate and four House maps, respectively.

All meetings are scheduled to start at 10 a.m. in the Cadillac Room, 1115 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

“A wealth of public comment” is expected, said Sarah Reinhardt, an analyst for the Michigan Secretary of State.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Dan Jensen and Mayor Pro Tem John Gillooly with the proclamation.

Jensen honored for 50 years

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — During his last council meeting as the Grosse Pointe Farms director of public safety, Dan Jensen was honored with a proclamation from council Monday, Dec. 13.

“It’s been my honor and privilege to serve this city for 50 years in various capacities,” he said. “I will miss the job. I will really miss the personnel. I have been able to work not only for an excellent administration and for the residents of the city who I know a

great deal of, but I’ve also had the distinct pleasure and pride to work with some of the finest officers in this state.”

The director’s professional journey with the city began in 1971, with jobs at Pier Park until his graduation from Northwood University when he became a patrolman with the Farms Public Safety Department in 1978. Following an assignment to the detective bureau and promotion to the rank of lieutenant in 1991, he was promoted to deputy director in 2001. Jensen was appointed as the

director of public safety in 2006, serving in the leadership role 15 years.

“Fifty years, ladies and gentlemen,” Mayor Pro Tem John Gillooly said. “Fifty years devoting his life, his talents, his education and many times his family to those who not only live here, but those who come to visit and work in our great city every day. Fifty years of unquestioned ethics, of unquestioned leadership, of waking up in the middle of the night, being on call 24/7 of arguably the most important

See JENSEN, page 3A

HONOR:

Continued from page 1A

tration,” Denner said to council Monday night. “That made a lot of what we accomplished and what we did very easy.

“I’m particularly proud of the result,” he added. “... The quality of life in Grosse Pointe Park is second to none for a lot of very good reasons. We’re a very successful community and I couldn’t be more proud of Grosse Pointe Park.”

A resolution honoring Robson followed, highlighting his service on council from ’85 to ’93, followed by a reelection for service from 2001 to 2021, totaling 28 years on council. Robson was rec-

ognized for his devotion to the northwest sector of the Park, also known as West Park; support for the public safety department; and service on the planning commission, tax increment finance authority board, recreation commission, ordinance review committee and as mayor pro-tem.

“I don’t know who wrote the resolution, but they can write for me anytime they want,” Robson said at the meeting. “... It is my highest honor to have been of service and a privilege to serve the citizens of Grosse Pointe Park. ...

“As I look around our city,” he added, “... I can see we are in excellent, excellent hands going forward.”

Recognized next was former Councilwoman Read, who lost a race for mayor to Michele Hodges. She was honored for “her leadership, vision and dedication and commitment to Grosse Pointe Park that has contributed to the betterment of the lives of the residents of Grosse Pointe Park,” the resolution said.

Her service, totaling one term of four years, was highlighted by service on the beautification commission; recreation commission; communications committee; ordinance review committee; diversity, equity and inclusion committee; public safety committee; ad hoc public schools committee; and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

“I’m going to miss your calm, honest and ethical approach to all of our decision making,” Councilman Vikas Relan said to Read. “I thank you for your dedication to our town and all you’ve instilled in our processes. Pushing proper governance and transparency is something we all on

council I know will continue working on.”

Hodges added, “I know how much you care about our community and it showed by your desire to help professionalize our systems and processes as we move forward, and that’s certainly important and ... something we will continue under this body. I will always admire your commitment to our residents and appreciate all you’ve brought to the table.”

Read said she will continue to be involved.

“Serving my community was an honor,” she said. “It was an honor to serve you and I thank you for the trust that you put into me. I approached every aspect of my service with the residents in mind and I still care deeply about this community and the residents and I will always be a champion for them.

“I encourage this body to keep that in mind and to continue to ask your questions in a public forum,” she added. “That’s how democracy works. That’s transparency. The residents need

to understand the process behind the decisions the council makes and make sure that the questions that they have are answered in a public forum.”

Following Read, Fluit, whose resignation became official with council’s acceptance at the meeting, was honored for her two-year service to the Park, which included the creation of an ordinance on human rights and Pride Month proclamations in 2020 and 2021. Fluit also was recognized for her involvement with the communications committee; Michigan Municipal League; public service works committee; sustainability committee; WeGP; League of Women Voters; and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church.

“Your dedication to our residents will not be forgotten,” Relan said. “... We helped push for resident engagement, which would always lead to better governance, and I know hundreds of people that never paid attention are now dialed in more. You brought forth so many resident-focused initiatives that were somewhat taboo to discuss in our town but needed to be discussed.”

Fluit departed with a wishlist for the Park: “a comprehensive emergency plan; the utilization of professional expertise; business organizations that are not politicized; an independent news source; real estate deals and contracts that are finalized in public view; detailed documentation for every

project; renters who vote so their interests can be represented; equal treatment, no matter what street you live on or how long you’ve lived here; information shared equally among all council members; and residents who never feel voiceless.

“... This is a beautiful corner of the world,” she added, “and I’m going to miss this little oligarchy. Thank you for allowing me to serve.”

Finally, McConnell, whose appointment to fill a vacancy in November 2020 made her the first black person to serve on the Park’s council, was honored for her support of businesses and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic; Food for the Holidays and Sustain GPP initiatives; securing a visit by Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence after the June flooding; and encouraging a diverse search for the city’s newest public safety director.

“You came in and added a different level of resident engagement and outreach that we had not seen in our town,” Relan said. “You thought outside the box and crafted many unique ways to support our hurting businesses and our residents in need while we all dealt with a world-wide pandemic.”

After voicing her thanks, McConnell put forth a wish for the city.

“(I) hope that this body will honor its pledge to unify this city,” she said. “This was a very divisive election and I think the residents are owed that much, so I hope you’ll honor that commitment and continue to build on what we talked about. Govern in a manner that represents best practices, transparency and continues to better empower the residents.”

Filling the vacant seats are newcomer council members Brian Brenner, Tom Caulfield, Christine Gallagher and Max Wiener. Hodges won the mayoral seat following Denner’s decision not to re-run.

Grosse Pointe News
Holiday Hours

Friday, December 24, 2021	8 - Noon
Monday, December 27, 2021	CLOSED
Friday, December 31, 2021	8 - Noon
Monday, January 3, 2022	CLOSED

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The magic of Christmas in GP

Park debuts 'Letters to Santa' program

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Perhaps in efforts to reverse his title of “Grinch” — earned when he sold Santa’s sleigh just before the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade — Grosse Pointe Park City Manager Nick Sizeland is now embracing the magic of Christmas, as he made the executive decision to bring the ability to reach Santa Claus to the children of Grosse Pointe Park.

On his commute to work each morning, Sizeland passes the Grosse Pointe “holiday house,” located at Lakeshore Road and Moross. It didn’t take long for the Christmas spirit to spread to Sizeland and soon he realized there was nothing holding him back from bringing this holiday happiness to his side of town.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Park resident Bennett Terry, 3, hands his letter to Santa in the lobby of Grosse Pointe Park City Hall. Santa told the youngster he was picking up letters and waiting on his. Terry was mesmerized by the whole experience; he gave Santa a hug and promised to leave fresh cookies by the chimney Christmas Eve.

Sizeland told his city hall colleagues about his idea and they all got to work becoming Santa’s helpers. Deputy Clerk Linda Boyle used her art skills to craft three snow-

men — a fireman, a police officer and a department of public works employee — creating a display in the lobby of city hall where they also placed a mailbox for letters to

Santa.

After searching for a rustic, old mailbox, the city decided on a wrapped Christmas present, with a cutout in the top for children to place their letters.

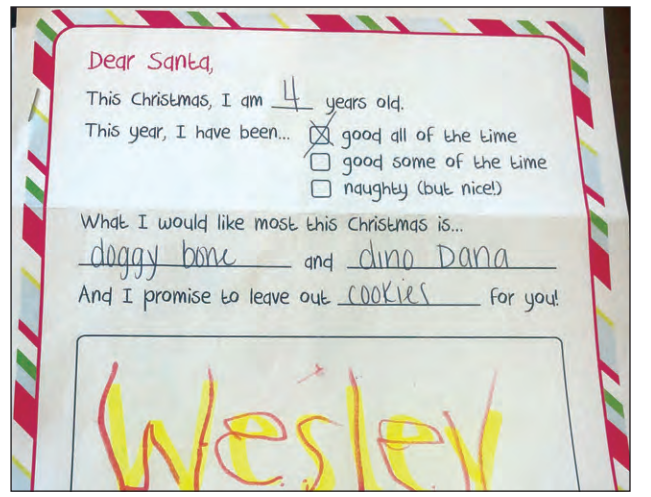


PHOTO BY KATE VANDERSTELT

Wesley said he was not only good, but “good all of the time.”

Boyle developed a graphic for the “Letters to Santa” campaign, which launched Thursday, Dec. 2, via the city’s Facebook page.

“It’s been a lot of fun ...” Sizeland said of the program. “It’s tough for (the kids) with COVID and all — they need some holiday cheer. And for us, it’s been a lot of fun just as kind of a giving back.”

Letters were dropped off to the box, addressed to the North Pole with a return address in the Park so Santa could write back on his own

personal stationary. In order for Santa to get letters back “before he goes on his long travel around the world,” Sizeland said at a council meeting

Monday, Dec. 13, the deadline to submit letters was Monday, Dec. 20.

As of Monday, Sizeland said 48 Park boys and girls had submitted letters to Santa.

“My goal is that this’ll be a new tradition for us moving forward,” Sizeland said. “The Park is going to be the one to do this. Maybe we’ll expand it even more over the years.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

City Manager Stephen Poloni, middle, and department of public works employees begin to load the truck full of donations.

DONATE:

Continued from page 1A

marked “Mayfield Relief” or “Mayfield Strong” and either brought into city hall or placed in the drop box out front.

“We have family in Mayfield, so I go there a couple times a year,” Poloni said. “... We know quite a few people there (but) even if it wasn’t somebody we knew, it’s devastating

what’s happened.”

A truck filled with the donated goods will be driven down to Kentucky Dec. 26.

“We’ve also been in touch with the police department down there and we’re going to be assisting them when needed,” Poloni added.

While it is currently unknown what form in which that help may come, he explained, efforts in the area will be ongoing long term.



Shores council chambers fill with the donations for Kenlake Shelter.

JENSEN:

Continued from page 2A

department of the city (and) obviously the largest budget in the city.

“Director, thank you so very much,” he added. “Congratulations to you.”

Known for his infectious humor and spirited approach to even the most mundane activities, the proclamation notes, Jensen maintained an open-door philosophy as he compiled accomplishments including the creation of the K-9 division; enhancing the dive team and bike patrol program; and successfully leading the department through the COVID-19 pandemic and challenging economic environments.

“Therefore, be it resolved, that the mayor, city council and the citizens of the city of Grosse Pointe Farms do hereby extend their most grate-

ful appreciation to Daniel V. Jensen for his 50 years of dedicated public service, assuring that the city of Grosse Pointe Farms remained the safe and friendly community it is known to be,” the proclamation reads. “And furthermore, that the mayor, city council and all the city staff wish Daniel V. Jensen the very best in his retirement and all his future endeavors.”

Jensen’s last day on duty is Friday, Dec. 31.

“I thank everybody, including my family and my wonderful bride, (Laurie), for all the support for all these years,” he said. “It’s really been a great ride.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Jensen is honored during his last council meeting as director of public safety.

LOCKS:

Continued from page 1A

added. “So if we can get all gun owners to be responsible in securing their firearms, I’ll tell you we can save some lives.”

Other departments giv-

ing away gun locks include the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Woods.

To view a parents’ guide to home firearm safety produced by the University of Michigan, visit bit.ly/3sfFY9I.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 27

◆ Grosse Pointe Woods city offices closed.

THURSDAY, DEC. 30

◆ Grosse Pointe Park, Shores, Woods and City municipal offices closed.

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

◆ All municipal offices closed for New Year’s Eve.

FISHER:

Continued from page 1A

Michigan Department of Transportation three years in a row.

“We’ve applied for the past three years for a grant from the state to get that cost sharing done to help offset the cost, both the Farms and the City for our respective sections,” City Manager Pete Dame said, “and having talked at length with the state grant people for that program, it’s unlikely that we’re ever going to get it if we keep applying.”

“But it can’t wait

because it’s so heavily traveled with buses,” he continued. “The Farms has been asking us to move it up in our process for multiple years, so I frankly just don’t think we can wait any longer.”

With council’s approval, City administration will work with the Farms to set details regarding cost sharing, project administration and engineering for Fisher work between Mack and Kercheval.

While the 2022 road improvement plan in the Farms has yet to be brought before council, the two Pointes agree “in principle,” according to

Dame, to split project costs down the middle.

Project costs for Cranford and Fisher in the City are estimated at \$234,667 and \$633,201, respectively. The voter-approved 15-year road improvement levy will generate approximately \$900,000 in fiscal year 2022-23.

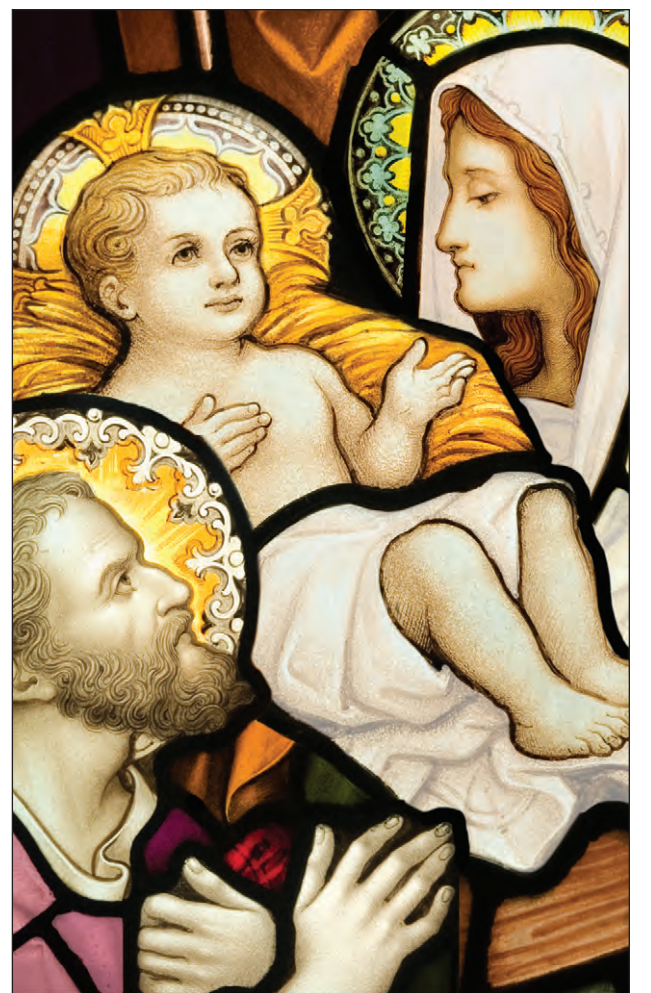
A tentative six-year road improvement plan includes all the streets in the City with a current PASER rating of less than five. Under the PASER system, a rating of one through four is considered poor, requiring rehabilitation or reconstruction; five through seven is consid-

ered fair, suggesting capital preventative maintenance; and eight through 10 is considered good, needing little to no maintenance.

“70-plus percent of our roads are fair or above,” Councilman Don Parthum said. “That’s not so bad.”

The majority of Fisher Road, aside from a small section between Kercheval and St. Paul, has a 2021 PASER rating of three. Cranford has a 2021 PASER rating of two.

Under the tentative six-year plan, 2023 would focus on Neff, 2024 on Lakeland and 2025 on Notre Dame.



Have a blessed Christmas from our family to yours

The Ahee Family

4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

A life of law, local coaching and love for small businesses

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

James Bellanca Jr. never thought of becoming anything other than a lawyer. With his father founding the law firm Bellanca LaBarge, P.C. in 1935, and his two older brothers following the same career path, it was a natural choice for the 45-year City of Grosse Pointe resident.

Joining the now third-generation family firm in 1965, as a law clerk while he was in college, Bellanca has managed it the past two decades. His law work has included serving as a United States Army Reserve captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps in the '70s; general counsel to the Associated Food and Petroleum Dealers for 30 years; and chief labor negotiator for Hamtramck for more than a decade.

His firm also has represented the consulate of Italy since 1947, assisting foreign nationals should they be beneficiaries of an estate in the U.S. and aiding Italian counsels — who are based in the U.S. as a resource for citizens of Italy who have immigrated here and continue to retain their Italian citizenship — in finding a place to live and interacting with the community.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Bob Johnston and Bellanca, left, during his time coaching baseball at South.

"I've been principally responsible for the consulate since I became a lawyer, because it got passed down to me," Bellanca said. "Every three or four years, we change counsels, so I've got to find them a place to live and only two have lived in areas other than in Grosse Pointe."

The current counsel, despite representing multiple states including Michigan, lives in the City of Grosse Pointe.

The work has earned Bellanca appointments to the titles of Cavaliere by the Republic of Italy in 1983, and Jufficiale in

2002, in recognition of his contribution to the Italian government and Americans of Italian descent in the U.S.

"It's an interesting area (of law) to practice," he said.

Bellanca is perhaps best known among the community as the nearly 20-year manager of the Edward P. Frohlich Trust, which owns about 40 percent of The Village commercial district space and currently manages around 29 tenants.

It was his management that was responsible for bringing in restaurants such as T.N. Thai Bistro,



Diana and James Bellanca when he was honored by the Italian government in June 1983.

City Kitchen, Which Wich and The Whiskey Six. He also reached out and brought in staple businesses including Savvy Chic Boutique, Small Favors and Susie at Home.

"I literally campaigned to get them to come here and I'm proud of that, because they've all become very integral parts of The Village and the Main Street program," Bellanca said.

As a member of the Grosse Pointe Downtown Development Authority from its inception until its transition into Main Street Grosse Pointe, Bellanca played a signifi-

cant role in bringing the Main Street Program to The Village, including drafting the bylaws and the first budget.

Extending beyond the small business community, Bellanca's impact on the Pointes includes two decades coaching baseball. Starting with Little League, he finished his coaching run with Grosse Pointe South High School in 1993, after one year coaching freshman and five coaching junior varsity under Dan Griesbaum.

His record at South was 100 wins and 20 losses on the JV team, highlighting what he calls, "some of

the best fun I ever had in my life."

"What's really fun is to see the kids that I coached," Bellanca said. "For instance ... I go around having dinner and some young man will come up to me and say, 'Hi coach.'"

Bellanca met his wife, Diana, when her sister married his brother.

"I was in eighth grade when I fell in love with her," he recalled, "but it took me 11 years to mature enough to have the courage to ask her to marry me."

The two now have been married 52 years and have a daughter, Roselia, and son, James III, the latter of whom followed in the footsteps of the generations before him and established a career as an attorney.

Bellanca is anticipating the day he turns over the responsibility of the Frohlich Trust to his son, who he believes will manage it with the same aspirations and intent.

"When you get to be my age, what you look forward to is seeing your family continue to prosper and continue your legacy and that's what I hope for," Bellanca said. "I hope they continue to thrive and be a part of the community and follow my footsteps."

Grosse Pointe Woods

Self-extricated drunk

A 34-year-old Woods man is facing several charges after officers responded to a rollover accident on Mack north of Vernier at 10:23 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

The man struck two parked cars before his car rolled and landed on its hood.

When officers arrived, the man was confused and disoriented, in a state of inebriation, with strong smells of intoxicants emitting

from his breath. He spoke with a thick, slurred speech.

After officers told him not to do so, the driver extricated himself from the rolled-over car. He then had a problem standing by himself.

Officers brought him to the curb and had him sit down. He admitted to using cocaine and consuming alcohol.

While the driver is

facing several charges, he was transported to Ascension St. John Hospital for further evaluation, though his injuries appeared minor.

Disputing fraud

A resident in the 1600 block of Hollywood reported receiving a bill for \$1,454.51 from T-Mobile several months ago and has been disputing it since. The account was opened using his Social Security number, but he did not open the account.

Nude proof

A naked photo from several years ago on Instagram is being used against a resident in the 600 block of South Oxford, with an uniden-

tified person blackmailing the man to give them \$500 or the photo will be sent around.

The resident said the blackmailer does have proof of the picture.

Suspended, speeding, no insurance

A 23-year-old Macomb man was stopped for speeding 51 mph in a 35 mph zone at Vernier and Helen at 7:21 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15.

The man did not have a license or insurance, and was issued citations for such. He also had one warrant out of Warren.

Wet pavement

A 74-year-old Detroit man with longer gray

hair and wearing an orange ball cap, blue mask and gray pajama pants was spotted urinating on the ground by his car in a business parking lot in the 20400 block of Mack at 3:34 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16.

While a witness contacted police, they were able to take two pictures of the man.

He moved his car before the officer arrived, but the pavement was still wet upon arrival.

When the man exited the store, the officer confronted him; the man denied any wrongdoing.

He was issued a citation for urinating in public.

Magic keys

A resident in the 1300 block of Hampton found a set of Honda keys in her mailbox at 2:41 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16.

She does not know how the keys got there.

Reunited bike

A student at Grosse Pointe North High School reported parking his bike in the front bike rack at 7:55 a.m.; however, his mother discovered it missing at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

An officer patrolling east on Vernier near Wedgewood saw a bike on the sidewalk at 10:45 p.m.

It turned out to be the student's missing bike.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Yell for help

A public safety officer heard someone yelling for help at Mack and Wayburn at 8:57 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11.

See REPORTS, page 5A

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REPORTS: Lug nuts gone, bricks ready

Continued from page 4A

The person had been robbed, potentially at gunpoint, and said the suspect was fleeing on foot. The public safety officer pursued the suspect and made an arrest.

A 30-year-old Detroit man was charged with robbery and kidnapping.

Speeding and suspended

A 23-year-old Detroit man was arrested for driving with a suspended license after he was witnessed speeding at Mack and Wayburn at 2:44 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12.

Stolen vehicle or stolen plate

A resident's license plate was stolen in the 1000 block of Devonshire and replaced with a plate from a stolen vehicle at 3:53 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

The resident did not notice until the police contacted them.

Lock your cars

Unlocked vehicles throughout the 1400 blocks of Balfour, Somerset and Beaconsfield fell victim to a black man wearing a black coat, red hoodie, black pants and black face mask, who ravaged through the cars and took personal items between 3 and 4 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13.

Credit cards were taken and used later at a local business.

The investigation is ongoing, with surveillance video being used.

Residents in the 600 block of Middlesex discovered lug nuts were removed from their 2021 Dodge Ram at 5 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14.

Though the wheels were not removed, landscape bricks had been taken from a neighbor, likely to be used when the removal took place.

Possessions after a breakup

After a resident in the 800 block of Beaconsfield reported her diamond bracelet missing at noon Wednesday, Dec. 15, investigation showed a 36-year-old Livonia man, her ex-boyfriend, stole and pawned the bracelet, valued at \$5,000.

The man was arrested at his home.

Warming up the car

Two Warren men, one 18 years old and the other 21, were arrested for stealing a 2018 Land Rover out of a resident's driveway in the 1300 block of Devonshire at 6:57 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16.

The resident left the car running while they took items inside.

The car was later located in Detroit, when the two Warren men were arrested.

Suspicious walker

A 49-year-old Detroit man was found walking at Jefferson and Three Mile at 3:58 a.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

A LEIN check showed

the man had a Wayne County felony warrant for home invasion. He was arrested and turned over to Wayne County.

Stolen car

A tan 2005 Chevrolet Silverado with the license plate number EDZ3260 was taken from the street in the 1200 block of Wayburn overnight Thursday, Dec. 16.

The keys were not in the car.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Heading in the wrong direction

After being pulled over for traveling eastbound in the westbound Mack Avenue lanes at 5:27 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, a 63-year-old Detroit man was found to have slurred speech and various alcohol bottles in the cupholder and on the floor of the vehicle.

A preliminary breath test showed the man had a blood alcohol content of .22 percent. He was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and driving while license suspended.

Backseat firefighter

Smoke and flames were discovered emanating from the basement of a home in the 700 block of Barrington Road in the Park at 9:47

p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, after a mechanical issue with the boiler started the fire.

As Park and City officers fought the fire, a special alarm was requested for two officers from the Farms to respond to deal with the homeowner, who was interfering with firefighters.

After the man was removed from the house twice, Farms officers arrived as he ran back into the foyer; he had to be physically removed from the home.

The homeowner, who smelled of alcohol and claimed Park firefighters did not know how to fight the fire and he needed to show them where it was, was arrested for interfering and obstructing firefighters.

Missing plate

An 18-year-old Detroit man was cited for driving without registration or insurance, after being pulled over at Moross Road and Chandler Park at 4:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, for not having a plate displayed on the vehicle.

Foiled theft

A 39-year-old Fraser man was stopped as he attempted to steal two bottles of vodka, priced at \$50 individually, from a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 8:36 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18.

After a hypodermic needle was found on his person, the man was cited for retail fraud and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Yield, not stop

A 33-year-old Clinton Township woman was cited for driving while license suspended at 1:23 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, after being pulled over for making a complete stop at a blinking yellow light at Lakeshore and Moross roads and for a defective passenger-side taillight.

Alcohol thief

A tall, white male in his early to mid-20s with a hat, long wavy hair and wearing a light jacket was captured on surveillance footage stealing a case of alcohol from a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 11:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Expired, suspended, defective

After being pulled over for an expired temporary tag and defective headlight on Lakeshore Road and Fairlake Lane

at 11:14 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, a 57-year-old Georgia man was arrested for driving while license suspended and not having insurance, as well as cited for defective equipment and an expired plate.

— Laurel Kraus

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Credit card fraud

An unknown suspect opened a Capital One credit card in a Grosse Pointe woman's name, using her prior address, Friday, Dec. 17.

Under influence of drugs

A 23-year-old Plymouth man was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs, after he was pulled over at Jefferson Avenue and Elmsleigh Lane for driving without lights at 1:50 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18.

— Laurel Kraus

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



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**Ascension St. John Hospital
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19251 Mack Ave., Suite 380
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

6A | OPINION

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON
 115 West Ninety-Fifth Street.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

An annual tradition reprinted from the Sept. 21, 1897, The New York Sun.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

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.

Meaning of Christmas

To the Editor:

I want to commend Laurel Kraus for her wonderful article (Dec. 16 I Say) "The Meaning of Christmas." It was so refreshing to know there are still some people who know what Christmas really is about. It is not Santa and lots of presents but the gift of our Savior who ultimately would die for us so we could be made right with God. Thank you Laurel.

MARILYN WOLFE
 Grosse Pointe Park

GPPSS Strategic Planning Committee

To the Editor:

In September of 2021, I was nominated to be a part of the Grosse Pointe Schools Strategic Planning Committee.

The committee was supposed to be made up of 50-plus community members from the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods served by the Grosse Pointe School System.

When I told some of my friends that I was chosen to be part of the committee, I was met with a great deal of skepticism. The consistent response I received was, "Why am I wasting my time," because in their minds the outcome was predetermined.

But I chose to go in with an open mind. I listened, spoke up and I was engaged. It became clear from the beginning that the make-up of the committee was clearly partisan. Of the 56 participants on the Planning Committee, 30 were employed by the school district, current board members or former board members.

I quickly realized I was one of three of what I would call "conservative" members of the committee. Many of

the participants' main focus was diversity, equity and inclusion, although most could not explain how Grosse Pointe schools had failed to be diverse, equitable or inclusive or how those type of practices could be improved.

During the second session, both the GPPSS Community Satisfaction Survey Summary 2020-2021 and the GPPSS Staff Engagement Survey Summary 2021 were shared with the committee members.

On page 4 of the Community Survey to the question: "One thing you would change about our SCHOOL," the No. 1 response from community members were complaints about progressive teaching, woke ideology and politically correct culture.

On page 3 of the Employee Survey to the question: "If you could make one change at your SCHOOL, what would that one change be?" the No. 1 response was consistent high expectations for discipline and behavior (absences, tardies, vaping, general disruption).

What became clear in the subsequent sessions was that the direction of Michigan Leadership Institute was not interested in paying attention to the community and teachers responses. Instead they became hell bent on creating a strategic plan so riddled with woke buzzwords that any hope of restoring trust and healing community division in Grosse Pointe would be impossible.

The feedback data collected in the second and third planning sessions was manipulated by the leadership team to make it seem like DEI, REI and SEL were main topics of discussion. They were not and I have the data which proves that.

Instead of focusing on the things that have made Grosse Pointe schools great over the last 100 years — teachers, curriculum, graduation rates, college entrance scores and the percentage of AP and Honors course participation — they instead created a strategic plan that does not even maintain and improve these criteria.

The plan includes empowering the REI Committee to advise the board and staff. The same REI council that in January 2021 attempted to separate district and staff by "those who identify as People of Color or belong to a minoritized racial group" and those who do not.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is mentioned over 20 times in the plan. Race, Equity and Inclusion (REI) is mentioned nine times and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is mentioned seven times. Maintaining and improving graduation rates, Advance Placement (AP) and Honors classes, as well as college readiness and testing scores, are never mentioned.

In all likelihood by the time this letter is published, the GPPSS 2022-2024 Strategic Plan will be adopted by the Grosse Pointe school board.

But it is not too late for the citizens of this community to make their displeasure known. Become engaged. Attend school board meetings and speak up. Write the board members and administrators; let them know you are watching.

Most important, be prepared to vote next November when three board seats become available. Choose wisely.

TERENCE COLLINS
 Grosse Pointe Park

The loss of community voice

To the Editor:

I like to think globally and act locally, so I have always paid attention to my local elected officials to see how I am being represented, especially with issues that matter to me.

I knew the school district was writing a strategic plan and having been on the district's strategic planning committee in the early 2000s, I took a particu-

lar interest in the strategic plan.

I have concerns with the plan which I expressed in writing to the school board, but having watched tonight's school board meeting I have far more concerns about transparency.

The school board has a work session to discuss proposals and vote at a formal meeting.

At the work session for the strategic plan, I expected the school board to ask questions. While few were asked, when Trustee Ismail began to ask questions, the superintendent rudely stopped him and suggested they meet privately. Where is the transparency?

When President Herd directed the answers be shared with the board for tonight's formal meeting, I thought fine, the answers to his questions would be heard at tonight's meeting.

I was wrong. If I heard correctly, 41 questions were asked and answered by 3:30 p.m. and sent to the board. Were the questions read at the meeting? Nope.

Instead, we will get to see the answers to the questions when they are posted on the district's web page, after the vote has already taken place. But why share the answers when you already have the votes lined up to approve the plan?

Superintendent Dean and Herd met before tonight's meeting. Apparently, it occurred to neither of them to read the answer to Trustee Ismail's questions before public comment and the vote. Apparently it didn't occur to any school board member to request it, even Ismail. This was unfinished business from the work session that shrewdly was kept from the community.

I think Dr. Dean controlled this narrative, while the board watched.

The residents of the community ARE NOT being adequately represented by the school board they elected. They are being ruled by a despot. That was on full display at the work session and tonight's meeting.

Grosse Pointers: Pay attention to what is happening in the schools. You pay for them.

CHRIS KACZANOWSKI
 Grosse Pointe Woods

Wayne County vaccinations*		
As of 12/21	Initiation**	Completions***
Vaccinations	710,489	643,626
% of residents 5+	70.3	63.7
% 5-11 years old	19.8	11.7
% 12-15 years old	52.2	47.2
% 16-64	72.9	66.4
% 65+	91.6	84.9

*Excluding Detroit **1 of 2 doses *** 2 doses or J&J

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I SAY By Mike Adzima

Leveling the playing field in college sports



Last Wednesday, Dec. 15, was a landmark day in college football. Top recruits from around the country signed their National Letters of Intent, taking the first major steps of their college football careers.

I was fortunate enough to attend the signing ceremony for Grosse Pointe South's own Will Johnson that day. Being the No. 1 football player in the state of Michigan, according to popular recruiting website 247 Sports, Johnson's signing attracted plenty of attention from the media and college football fans.

It was a no-brainer decision for Johnson, who signed his letter to officially become a Wolverine and play in college for the University

of Michigan. However, his official signing to Michigan was not the only major announcement of the day.

With family and friends gathered at the Parc Detroit restaurant downtown, it also was revealed that Johnson would be signing a NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) deal with Positivity Alkaline Water. Not only will the Blue Devil be fulfilling his dream of playing college football for the Wolverines, but he also will be making money while doing it by endorsing a bottled water company. This deal is just the first of likely many more to come Johnson's way in the future.

What Johnson did on Wednesday is becoming commonplace in the college sports world now and was especially a common theme of last week's signing day across the country. That same day, the top-ranked football player in the nation made headlines by announcing his commitment to play for Jackson State, a historically black college with an FCS college football

program.

Not only did Travis Hunter make an unprecedented move by signing to play in the FCS, otherwise known as Division 1-AA, but the rumors surrounding his potential sponsorship deals generated even more buzz. Reports quickly surfaced that Hunter allegedly signed a NIL agreement with Barstool Sports worth over \$1 million. These rumors still are unconfirmed, but just the idea shows where the world of college sports, especially football, is at right now.

Ever since the new NIL laws came into effect earlier this year, the college sports landscape has been changing rapidly. I think that change is for the better.

For too long, schools and the NCAA generated millions of dollars off of the hard work of college athletes. The excuse, "They're getting paid with an education," was used by those who were opposed to the idea of athletes being able to profit from their hard work.

The NCAA punished programs and innocent

athletes because of some who received "impermissible benefits." That era is now moving behind us. If a regular college student is allowed to have a job and earn a paycheck while going to school, then what is wrong with a student-athlete getting some sort of compensation for the hours of work they put in on and off the field, all with the end goal of helping colleges, conferences and the NCAA generate revenue?

I understand the arguments that can be made against it. With the new NIL rules and the rise of the transfer portal, loyalty and integrity could be called into question. If big-brand college football programs like Michigan, Alabama, Texas, Ohio State, etc., are where top recruits can get the most money from sponsorship deals, then we could end up in a world where the rich just keep on getting richer. Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney voiced his displeasure with the current situation to the press last week.

"It's total chaos right

now," he said. "Tampering galore. Kids are being manipulated. Grass is greener and all that stuff as opposed to putting the work in and graduating. There's no consequences. So now you've got agents and NIL, tampering, and you have no consequences. No consequences equals no conscience. There's no reason for pause, no barrier for young people, like, nothing. Education is like the last thing now."

Swinney does make an argument, but the argument could also be made that the importance of education in massive revenue-generating college sports like football and basketball has been diminished for quite some time. There are still plenty of athletes out there, like Will Johnson, who place tons of value on education. His mother made it a point to mention during his signing that Johnson getting his degree from Michigan was just as high of a priority as making it to the NFL.

I think what could be bothering people like Swinney the most is that the power in college

football is shifting to where it should be, with the players. Coaches are very important too, but they already make millions of dollars per year. The work really comes down to the players on the field.

The players are now gaining the power to create the opportunities that are best for themselves and their families. No matter how much they try to distract you from it, college and professional sports are a business. In the pros, players can sign with whatever team offers them the best contract. If college athletes are generating as much if not more money for the NCAA than pro players do for their teams or leagues, then what should be stopping a college player from going to the program where they make the most money advancing their personal brands?

As much as some may not like it, this is the future of college sports. It has always been a business, but now the players are getting their rightful seat at the negotiating table.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1946

75 years ago this week

GOODFELLOWS BREAK SALES RECORDS: The Grosse Pointe Goodfellows have done it again — done it better than ever before. With a quota of \$5,000 set for their annual drive to help the Pointe needy, the Goodfellows raised more than \$5,800 in their annual newspaper sales. It was the first time the local organization has raised more than \$5,000, which is the usual goal.

Obituaries: W.B. Palmer Jr., Sterling Young, Frank Lockman

1971

50 years ago this week

FARMS ADOPTS BEHAVIOR CODE: The Farms council passed a new ordinance which defines general offenses against the public, making it unlawful to use indecent language, engage in any gambling activities, throw a snowball in public or, in general, disturb the peace and quiet of the community in any way. Police Chief Robert Ferber pointed out that the Farms has needed a code to define general offenses for several years.

Obituaries: John S. Sweeney, Rose M. Place,

Elsie H. Maynard, Elizabeth M. Dunwoodie, Eugene O. Christiansen, Otto E. Haass, Lucy H. Middleditch

1996

25 years ago this week

GIRLS TEAMS DEBUT: There's going to be history made Sunday at the City Ice Arena. That's when Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South unveil their girls hockey teams for the first time as the cross-town rivals play each other. The teams will be club teams for at least three years before gaining varsity status.

YEAR 2000 EXPECTED TO CAUSE MAJOR TROUBLES: When the clock rolls up to the year 2000, the effect in Detroit can get

real personal. Your driver's license may expire because according to the computer, you haven't been born yet. Timestamped email and phone systems will wax creative when your stock broker calls to say, "The market is making a major move." Professions most likely to be hardest hit are banks, insurers and communication firms, according to experts.

Obituaries: Robert Eugene Arthur Sr., Elizabeth-Mary Hamilton Thurber, Thais J. Slocum, Arthur John Peacock, Harry Merliss D.O., Delbert L. Ryan, William Boles Tyll, Elizabeth W. Bushnell, Edgar H. Eaton

2011

10 years ago this week

WAR MEMORIAL

PRESIDENT CREATES ENDOWMENT FUND: In recognition of 30 years of service as president of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Mark R. Weber donated \$10,000 to create a designated, endowed fund with the Community

Foundation for Southeast Michigan. The Mark R. Weber President's Fund helps the War Memorial continue its mission to honor military service members, veterans and the War Memorial's work as a community

resource. **Obituaries:** Thomas Vincent Giblin, Alexander Kelly M.D., Sara Elizabeth Love, Gerald Duane Moore, Dolores Proven, William M. Caloia, Maria Consuelo Gorski, Frederick L. Prudden

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8A | BUSINESS

Beyond Juicery + Eatery hosts donation drive for Girls on the Run

This Christmas season, Beyond Juicery + Eatery is offering the opportunity to give back, through a partnership with the Girls on the Run chapter of Greater Detroit.

Throughout the month of December, new socks and shoes, as well as crafting supplies such as markers and pens may be dropped off at the donation boxes stationed at each Beyond Juicery location.

"This is a great cause and I feel like this is a wonderful time of year to think about giving back and giving to those who are in need," said Claire Abdo, creator for Beyond Juicery, "... so for people to come out and donate would mean the world to us."

Girls on the Run is a nonprofit organization for 8- to 13-year-old girls that inspires empowerment and offers opportunities to learn life skills

through lessons and running.

"I was in Girls on the Run and really was super excited to see us pick them as a partnership," Abdo said. "I learned a lot of teamwork from them."

The initiative, dubbed "Sweat the Shirt," promotes values from both organizations, such as being proud of the shirt you wear, being a part of something bigger than yourself and showing up for each other.

"We're excited about it," Abdo said, "and I would love to see us pull a little bit more from the community in these last couple of days and see if we can get a couple more donations in just before we close it off."

Local Beyond Juicery locations include 17009 Kercheval in The Village and 21100 Mack in the Woods.

— Laurel Kraus



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

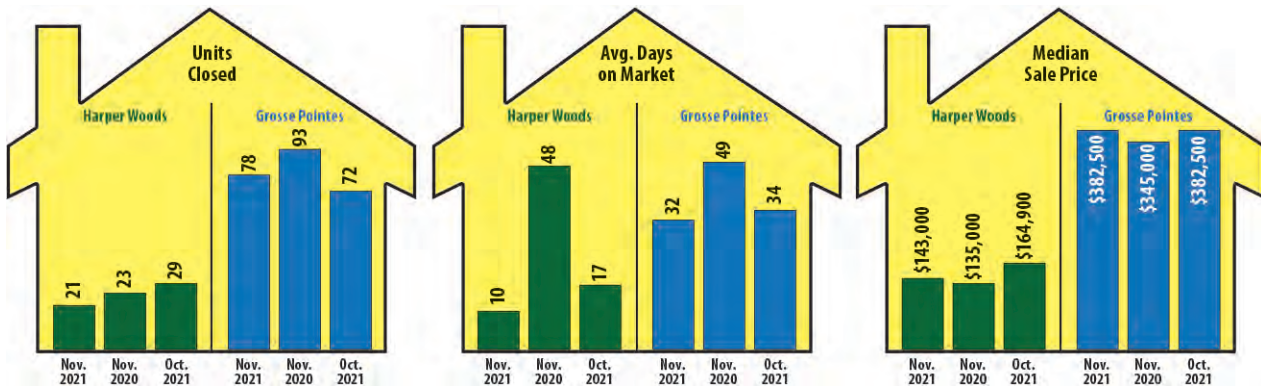
Hot business

It's too cold outside for lemonade, so a group of young ladies thought a stand on Grosse Pointe Boulevard in Grosse Pointe Farms would be a great place to sell hot cocoa. They even offered marshmallows to those who asked. They had the table set up for about two hours Dec. 19, and did a brisk business. Pictured from left are Elle Johnston, Victoria Lawler, Elle Shalla, Ellena Bermudez and Scarlett Ford.

Buyers have more options, sellers more competition in housing market

November housing data recently was released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors for the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. In the Grosse Pointes, days on market, percent of asking price and median sale price have changed little from October. And while closed sales in November were higher than last month, they are significantly lower than a year ago. Percent of asking price also has pretty much remained the same the last three months, which may be indicating that the increase in listings is giving buyers more choices and sellers more competition.

In Harper Woods,



median sale price is up over last year but down from last month. Year-over-year numbers are the more important of the two because of seasonality. Days on market remains aggressively low despite the noteworthy increase in inventory. If this holds, it will suggest

that first-time home buyers are not only continuing to look for homes, but making purchases.

For both markets these conditions indicate good news for those looking to buy or sell. However, gone — at least for now — is the market in which sellers could get pretty

much whatever they wanted and buyers had to bid way over asking price and wave home inspections (in most instances).

It also is expected that in the short term, interest rates will continue to hold around 3 percent, but likely will rise a bit by

the middle of next year, depending on what the Federal Reserve does and how the economy reacts. However, as much as buyers always want to wait for lower rates, inflation has inserted itself into housing prices making that an unwise decision. And while this may

seem to be a first-time home buyer issue, those looking to sell and buy something more expensive will only find the gap widening between what is owned and what is going to be purchased.

Finally, as the end of one year and beginning of another approach, what currently is evidencing itself can make decisions about buying and selling complicated, requiring not only a lot of thought by the consumer, but also requiring wise counseling by an industry professional. Do you have a Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors agent?

Information courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors.

Conway named to Leaders in the Law Class of 2021

Grosse Pointe Farms resident John J. "J.J." Conway, a nationally recognized employee benefits and Employee Retirement Income Security Act attorney and founder of Royal Oak-based J.J. Conway Law, has been named to the Leaders in the Law Class of 2021 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. The publication identifies the Leaders in the Law as those who are setting the standard for other lawyers through their outstanding contributions to the practice of law and the justice system in Michigan, who have demonstrated tremendous leadership and who offer a wealth of expertise in diverse areas of the law.

With more than 22 years of experience, Conway fights for his clients to secure the employee benefits rightfully owed to them. In legally navigating the complexities of disability and retirement benefits, he has led his clients to recover more than \$65 million in benefits and won landmark class-action lawsuits in favor of families and retirees.

Conway is a trailblazer in securing healthcare benefits for children. He successfully litigated the first federal autism benefits healthcare action against an employee benefit plan where the court held that denying medical treatment for autism was "arbitrary

and capricious." He also has been co-lead class action counsel for multiple cases, including the first autism class action settlement that provided a specific course of healthcare treatments for children with autism, two nationwide class actions against insurers for their denial of healthcare benefits for children with autism and a class action counsel for a nationwide class action of 22,000 military families seeking healthcare treatment for children with autism.

Conway served as co-lead class action counsel for 9,000 pension plan participants against Detroit's Pension Fund, its trustees and advisors seek-

ing protection of the funds themselves, which resulted in a multi-million-dollar settlement and major structural reforms concerning the investment of pension monies in unregulated investments. He has been involved in similar class action litigation protecting the pension rights of police, fire and sheriff deputies from improper financial investments by their pension plan trustees.

Additionally, he has represented hundreds of employees, including physicians, attorneys and investment professionals who have been deemed occupationally disabled in securing their monthly disability benefits from their insurance companies

and plans.

Conway is the author of "Hitting You When You Least Expect It: A Basic Guide to ERISA for Non-ERISA Lawyers," which is a top-searched piece about employee benefits claims. He also is a co-author of the Michigan Basic Practice Handbook, published by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

In addition to Leaders in the Law, Conway has



John J. Conway

been the recipient of multiple awards throughout his career, including the Thomas P. Moore Leadership in Philanthropy Award from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award. He also has been recognized as a Michigan Super Lawyer and Leading Lawyer.

Conway obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Marquette University before earning a Juris Doctor degree at University of Detroit Mercy, where he graduated early and second in his class. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan and State Bar of Arizona. He also has been elected to membership in the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation and the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation.

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Woods modernizes with website debut

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A project in the works for years, Grosse Pointe Woods officially launched its new municipal website Monday, Nov. 29. The new site replaces one in use since 2006.

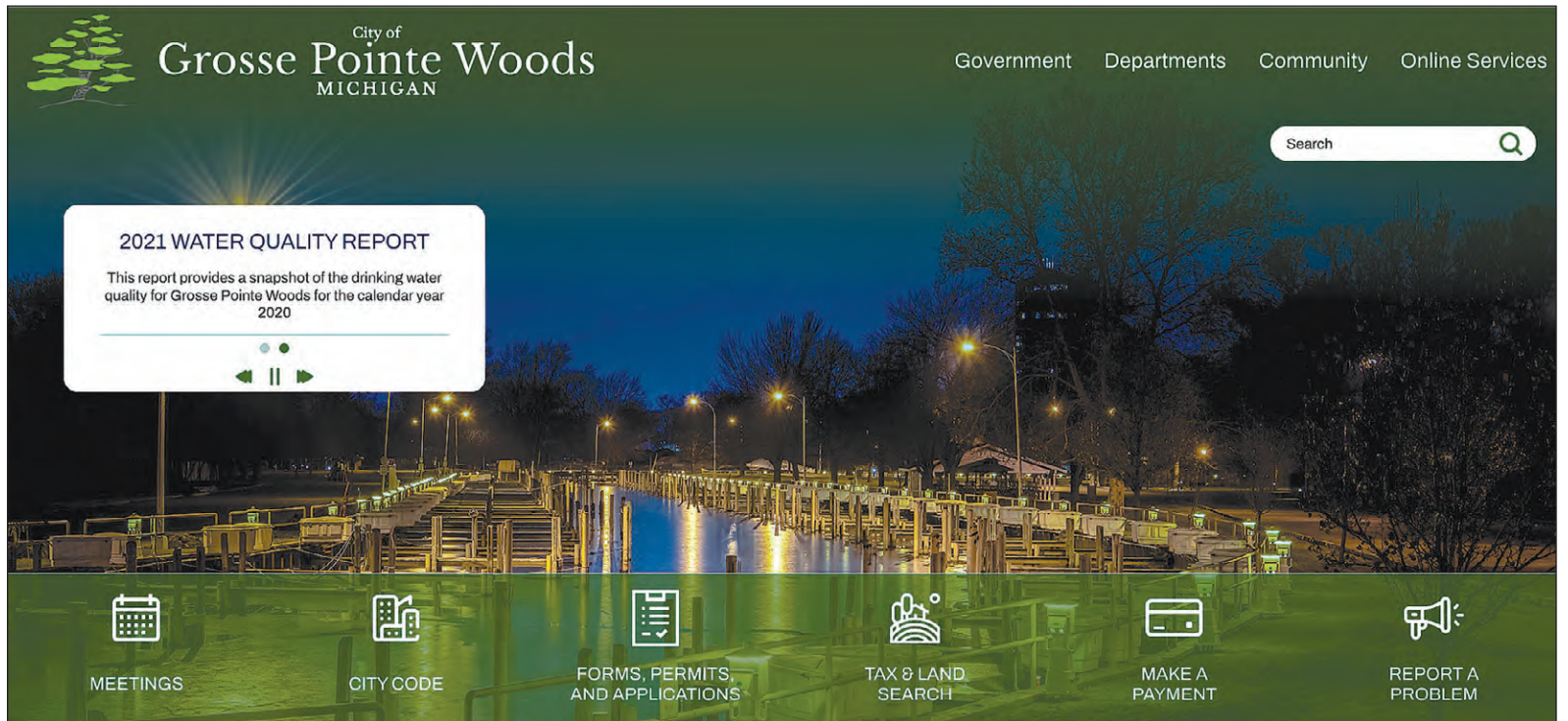
In 2019, Information Technology Manager Gary Capps and his production team went to work looking at different site vendors, prioritizing which features the city desired. Ultimately, the city partnered with Municode, a company specializing in online meeting and agenda management services, to build the new site.

“Gary made sure (he) included anyone and everyone, (with) input from every department head,” Assistant City Administrator Susan Como said. “... He made sure it covered all of our bases, that everyone had input to help us with the final selection of which one we were going to go with.”

With Municode, the city went through a design phase to choose template and style, then a conversion phase to transfer all content to the new site before the city tweaked and rearranged information.

“Municode was very wonderful to work with as far as changing it to accommodate what we wanted,” Capps said.

Training occurred for the various departments to understand the software before the



The city’s new website through Municode offers a responsive web design, which transforms the site based on what kind of site viewers are using to view it. Here, the standard web size shows different tabs and a search bar function.

new site went live Monday, Nov. 29.

New features with Municode on the city’s end include the ability to create agendas through the software and using board management tools. For residents, they’ll find the convenience of the new site a timesaver.

The site allows residents to subscribe to city website updates, which may allow residents to know that an event, such as Polar Express, which filled up quickly this year, has been posted and is accepting sign-ups.

“It’s all about getting this information out to people as easily and as quick as possible,” Capps said.

Residents also may sign up for city services

online that before were in-person applications. One such program Capps is excited about featuring is the public safety department’s Kindcall Care program, where dispatchers check in on signed-up senior residents each morning.

“It was a perfect one to try to streamline and make it easier for people to sign up and use, because the city does value ... being able to provide that service,” Capps said. “It’s a great example of how we were able to use the new website to make it easier for somebody to sign up for that service.”

Aside from practicalities, Capps added, the website’s modernized features are a signifi-

cant improvement, featuring a responsive web design allowing viewers to visit the site on a computer and mobile device both in usable displays.

For the city, department heads will be able to collaborate and manage their own pages without having to report to the IT department each time a minor fix needs to be made. Capps emphasized this would have been especially helpful during the floods of 2021, when administration wanted all new information on the website as soon as possible.

“(Before) if something had happened, if I was unavailable for some reason ... you (didn’t) really get to have the luxury of put-

ting it out there right away,” he said. “... Now it’s never going to be an issue because there’s many people here at the city that have access on different levels of the site. Any information that needs to be put out there can be put out there very readily.”

Google analytics came with the package as well, allowing the city to monitor what residents are searching for and how they’re viewing the site.

“When you look at that and you see things that people are searching for, it kind of gives you an idea of what people are looking for and spawns ideas on maybe what you should put out on your site,” Capps said. “We’re hoping that all of this infor-

mation will paint a much clearer picture of what we’re trying to do with this and information we’re trying to get out there.”

Capps said a big benefit for residents is the added feature to report a problem, located on the home page. Residents may input an issue ranging anywhere from problems with the website to things in the city, comments which will be sent straight to administration.

“I think that alone, giving people the ability to just report a problem like that, I think it’s going to be very helpful for not only the residents, but for us internally as well,” Capps said.

The site may be viewed at gpwmi.us.



Season’s greetings!

One of our readers spotted this familiar face cruising on Lake St. Clair near Moross around 5 p.m. last Friday, Dec. 17. He — and we — extend the merriest of Christmas wishes to all!



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GPPSS strategic plan passes 5-1

By Michael Hartt
Schools Reporter

At the Dec. 20 Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, the GPPSS 2022-24 strategic plan was approved by the board with a 5-1 vote. The approval comes after the plan was drafted during a four-month process, with more than 50 individuals contributing to it.

The plan was centered around three focus areas, each with different goals outlined in them.

Through public comments during the Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 board meetings, much debate surrounded not only the multiple focus areas and the initiatives within them, but also the way in which the strategic plan was developed.

The first focus area is curriculum, instruction and student learning. Some of the initiatives that are to be undertaken with this focus area are:

revising the curriculum to reflect the diversity of the GPPSS community; grading for equity in students' assessments; utilizing trauma-informed, culturally responsive and research-based processes to support students; and establishing an intentional and focused recruitment effort to bolster a diverse applicant pool while tracking demographics annually.

In addition to the Board of Education and GPPSS administration, the Race, Equity and Inclusion Council also was newly listed as a part of the accountability facet for several parts of this focus area. The plan furthered that the REI Council would now be empowered to serve as an advisory board.

Community member Lawrence Ludlow raised concerns regarding the emphasis on REI work present in the strategic plan. He said he disagreed with the district

taking on this initiative as a priority when he thinks academic goals should be pursued instead.

"(These ideas of race, diversity and inclusion) are part of a political ideology, not history or a context of the geopolitics of the world," Ludlow said. "These Critical Race Theory-based theories are all collectivist theories and it is a very superficial racial lens by which you are examining things. It is collectivist and it doesn't look at the individual beneath each person."

The second focus area is based around global competency and real-world literacy and readiness. This area is centered around ensuring the diverse group of students and staff within GPPSS are heard; ensuring that students are learning about the perspectives and world views of others; and creating more learner-centered classrooms.

Maria Simon, a grandparent of students in GPPSS, said she is pleased with the development of the strategic plan, especially with its emphasis on global competency.

"The clear commitment to cultural competency is the way forward and I am thankful and proud of the commitment in this strategic plan," Simon said. "I am also thankful for the commitment to hiring the highest quality educators."

The final focus area is family and community engagement. The goals of this focus area are related to engagement with parents and students currently connected to the district, as well as community members who are not.

The plan, through its approval process, has appeared to be contentious not only in its content, but also in its development, as many community members

have disagreed about the efficacy of the strategic plan committee process.

Terrence Collins, a parent in the district who served as a member of the strategic planning committee, raised concerns regarding the committee's makeup.

Through a tabulation he provided to the Grosse Pointe News, which was independently verified, nearly 60 percent of the committee members are district employees. Collins believes this statistic is indicative of what he saw was a homogeneous committee, in terms of its members' opinions.

"And including 50 percent of the participants as teachers or administrators, you have to ask yourself, which God are they serving," Collins said. "If an employer invites (an employee) to something and the results of that something affect (the employee's) job, it's gonna be hard fought to find someone who's going to go against

what (their employer) is saying."

Some board members who also served on the strategic planning committee, like Margaret Weertz, disagreed with this idea, saying they believed the large representation of staff was a sign of the fact the committee included the breadth of staff members necessary.

In his final comments, board member David Brumbaugh cautioned that while the passage of the strategic plan represents the areas on which the district will focus over the next three years, many points of it will be under further board review as they are developed.

"This is not the end of that discussion," Brumbaugh said. "There are going to be a lot of discussions about implementation, about what the EPLC will look like (and about) what the content of that curriculum will look like going forward. I am confident that it will be a very robust conversation that will ease many concerns."

University Liggett School students earn superior marks at State Theatre Festival

The University Liggett School Players ventured to the Michigan Educational Thespian Society State Festival at the Lansing Center Dec. 10 and 11.

Students participated in individual and group performances and received several awards.

Junior Dahlia Medvinsky was selected for the Showcase of Stars event that closed the festival.

Freshmen Alexa Kalyvas and Addison Swegles, sophomores Olivia Johnson and Mark Saigh, seniors Emilia Bronk and Kennedy Marshall, and Medvinsky all received superior rat-

ings for their performances. Sophomore Summer Doris received an excellent score.

In addition to individual events, the group also participated in many workshop offerings, including a dance session with Jack Sippel, a lead cast member from "Newsies."

Marshall, the Players' choreographer, also had an opportunity to have in-depth conversations with Sippel, which will assist her in developing and honing her plans for the Players' upcoming production of "Newsies."

"Newsies" show dates are March 10 to 13. Tickets will go on sale in February.



Pictured are, in front, from left, Luke Yoshida and Olivia Johnson; and in back, from left, Alexa Kalyvas, Addison Swegles, Emilia Bronk, Dahlia Medvinsky, Kennedy Marshall, Summer Doris and Mark Saigh.

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ULS to honor Black with 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award

Dedicated University Liggett School alumna Lisa Black, Class of 1977, will be honored as the school's 2022 Distinguished Alumna. Each year, University Liggett School selects one outstanding graduate to receive this award as part of the school's Alumni Weekend festivities, which will take place Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, 2022.

"I was a member of a terrific class and combined with the teachers, coaches and staff, I had a

wonderful six years at ULS," Black said. "ULS laid the groundwork for my success both personally and professionally."

A supportive alumna for decades, Black joined the University Liggett School Board of Trustees in 2009, and continues to serve as a member of the Investment Committee, which she chaired from 2010-15. Black also served as board treasurer from 2012-15.

"We are delighted to present Lisa with our school's highest alumni honor," said Cressie Boggs, director of development and alumni relations. "Lisa has been a dedicated ULS alumna, giving back to the school in countless ways. We look forward to welcoming her back to campus and celebrating her this spring."

In 2015, Black led the fundraising initiative to name the field hockey and girls' lacrosse field after legendary coach and former athletic director Muriel E. Brock, coach/faculty emerita.

"I credit the education I received on and off the field for shaping who I am today and giving me the foundation to be a leader in my professional field," she said. "I admired the teachers and coaches I



Lisa Black

had in and outside the classroom. Their dedication, interest and concern for their students was unwavering."

Black retired from Nuveen, a TIAA company, in March 2019, after a 32-year career at the firm. She held a variety of positions on the taxable fixed income team during her tenure, including research analyst, portfolio manager, head of portfolio management and head of fixed-income trading.

In Black's last role at Nuveen, she served as the chief investment officer and head of the taxable fixed income team from 2012-19. In that position, she led a team of more than 90 investment professionals managing more than \$235 billion of fixed income assets.

Black earned an MBA from The Ross School of

Business at the University of Michigan in May 1987, and graduated from Smith College in 1981, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics.

She is an avid volunteer and also enjoys playing golf, croquet, gardening and boating. She splits her time between Vero Beach, Fla., and Rye, N.Y.

Previous Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are:

- ◆ Pediatric infectious disease physician and vaccine researcher Kristen Feemster, '91
- ◆ C-SPAN co-founder John Evans, '62 GPUS
- ◆ Washington Post foreign correspondent Keith Richburg, '76
- ◆ Retired Rear Adm. Stanley W. Bryant, '64 GPUS
- ◆ Businessman Richard Baron, '60 GPUS
- ◆ Businesswoman Denise Ilitch, '73
- ◆ Businessman Bill Shelden, '68 GPUS
- ◆ Federal Magistrate Judge Nita Stormes, '72
- ◆ Broadcast news journalist Miles O'Brien, '77
- ◆ Carhartt heir and Board Chairperson Gretchen Valade, '45 CDS
- ◆ Founder and owner of the Buffalo Bills Ralph Wilson, '36 DUS
- ◆ Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jeffrey Eugenides, '78.

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Skating with Santa

Santa take the hand of Addison Poirier to help keep her steady while skating.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



St. Nick hits the ice with area youth

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

Hundreds of community children felt the magic of Christmas when they were provided with a skating experience free of charge with Santa Claus himself at St. Clair Shores Civic Ice Arena Saturday, Dec. 18, all courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors' Young Professionals Network.

With the spirit of the season, the YPN wanted to offer surrounding communities the opportunity to experience something this Christmas season they may not get to do regularly. To Chair Randi Brandt, this was the perfect opportunity to get kids out on the ice.

When Brandt was 5 years old, she got involved in the rink via hockey and never looked back. Growing up on the



Families take photos with Santa near the Christmas tree.

ice, she said she knew it was a sport not every child had the opportunity to experience, as it can be expensive.

Skating with Santa, then, was a chance to get local kids to try skating, many of them for the first

time, in hopes that some of them may uncover a love for the sport.

Elementary school children from 32 schools across seven school districts were invited, with a grand total of 298 kids signed up for the event.

The Young Professionals Network purchased skates and donated them to the rink, both to accommodate them for that night and for future kids who want to hit the ice.

Aside from skating, the



Karmine Gambrell and Logan McCray lace up their skates and are ready to get on the ice for the first time.

event included a craft room as well, something Brandt said was incorporated to give kids who didn't fall in love with the ice the first go around something else to do and still have fun. Kids who ventured in could create reindeer ornaments or personalize their own Santa hat.

There also was a photo booth, individually

wrapped pizza slices from Mr. C's Deli, a hot cocoa bar and goodie bags.

"We are very fortunate to have generous event sponsors who made it such a success," Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors President Alexis DeLuca said via email.

The YPN plans to make Skating with Santa an annual event.



Left, Abigail LaPointe helps out the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors during the event. Above, Maurice Hicks shows off the reindeer ornament he made in the crafts room.



Santa takes a photo with Dani Scheuer in the photo booth where you could use props like funny glasses or hats.



Mya Soper and her sister, Anna, write their names on Santa hats.

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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.

Herbert W. Schervish

Grosse Pointe resident Herbert W. Schervish, 83, passed away Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021. Herb was born Dec. 15, 1938, in Detroit, to William and Marie (nee Elum) Schervish, both now deceased. When Herb was 16, his family moved to Grosse Pointe where Herb resided the rest of his life.

Herb graduated with a business degree from the University of Detroit and spent most of his career in the real estate and mortgage industry. Herb was a true entrepreneur who owned and operated different businesses throughout his career, including Greenfield Mortgage Company and Burger King restaurants.

Herb had a magnetic personality that translated into long-lasting friendships. He was strong in his Catholic faith and loved his family beyond measure.

Herb survived his wife, Marilyn, with whom he shared 45 years of marriage. They are survived by their children, daugh-

ter, Elizabeth Bsharah (Larry) of Grosse Pointe Park and their children, Nick, Tom and Katherine; son, Bill Schervish of New York; son, Chuck Schervish (Melissa) of Grosse Pointe Park and their children, C.J., Ella and Allie; and daughter, Katie Tash (Brian) of Shelby Township. Herb survived his brother, Tom Schervish (Angela) of Canton, Ohio, who passed away earlier this year. Herb has two other brothers, David Schervish and Dr. Edward Schervish (Rhonda), both in Michigan. Herb is also survived by countless cousins, nieces and nephews.

A funeral service took place Dec. 21, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Herb's memory may be made to Ascension St. John Hospital's Nothdurft Pediatric Endowment Fund, 22101 Moross Rd., Detroit, MI 48236 via stjohnprovfoundations.org/ways-to-give/donate-online or (313) 343-7480.

Eleanor Moran

Eleanor "Ellie" Moran passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 12, 2021, at her home in Grosse Pointe Farms. Born in 1923 in New York City, she was 98.

Ellie had many hobbies. She especially enjoyed baking and gardening. She also had a sense of adventure; her frequent trips included whitewater rafting in Utah, sailing in the Caribbean, hiking in the Grand Canyon and exploring the Galapagos Islands.

She was a volunteer at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society more than 20 years.

Ellie was predeceased by her husband, Joseph, in 1979. She is survived by her children, Ray of Grosse Pointe Farms and Kathe Stoepel (Chris) of Evanston, Ill.; grandchildren, Raymond Moran (Mais), Ryan Moran (Emily), Katherine Sommerfield (Stephen), Whitney Stoepel-Brewer (Justin) and Dylan Stoepel; and five great-grandchildren, Alexander, Zaid, Eleanor,



Herbert Schervish



Eleanor Moran



Anne Harris-Holmes

Lucas and Robin.

The family plans a celebration of her life in the summer at Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park.

Anne Harris-Holmes

Anne Harris-Holmes, 53, of East China, passed away peacefully with her family by her side Monday, Dec. 6, 2021.

She was born July 24, 1968, to Ted and Beverly Harris. She grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1996. On June 27, 1992, Anne married Lee Holmes. Anne worked as a patient advocate at Ascension St. John Hospital, Detroit for 22 years. Anne had a special gift in caring for her patients. She took great pride in giving people comfort and kindness in their worst days.

In her spare time Anne was an avid treasure

hunter. She loved the thrill in finding hidden treasures at thrift stores. She was very artistic. She would repurpose items she found to make art pieces/sculptures of them to give those items a new meaning. She enjoyed taking pictures of the people she loved most.

Anne had a contagious personality. She was a great storyteller with a great sense of humor who loved to make people laugh. Anne was a devoted wife, mother, daughter, sister and aunt, whose generosity, comfort, sense of humor and selflessness will be greatly missed by everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Lee; children, Brittany May (Branden) and Alex Holmes; grandchildren, Isabella, Jack and Ruby; parents, Ted and Beverly Harris; siblings, Dave Harris (Melissa) and Amy Burris; 14 nieces and nephews; her incred-

ibly loyal and faithful companion, Scout, as well as several other special family members, friends and co-workers.

She was predeceased by her grandmother, Margaret Smith; aunt and uncle, Kathy and Moe Geromette; and cousin, Karen Barhydt.

Cremation arrangements were arranged by Young Funeral Home, China Township. A celebration of life will take place at a later date. To leave a message of comfort, visit youngcolonial.com.

Holiday deadlines

Due to the holidays, the deadline to submit an obituary for the Dec. 30 edition of the Grosse Pointe News is noon Friday, Dec. 24. The deadline to submit an obituary for the Jan. 6 edition is noon Friday, Dec. 31. Email obituaries to editor@grossepointe-news.com.

'Conference on Suicide' to address systemic inequality in suicide prevention

Registration is open for Michigan's largest conference on suicide — the Kevin's Song sixth annual "Virtual Conference on Suicide: Equity and Equality: Expanding the Conversation and Offering Solutions" — which takes place live and streamed Jan. 27 to 29.

Presented by Kevin's Song co-founders, John and Gail Urso, the three-day online summit picks up and expands on last year's conversation about the challenges that contribute to inequalities regarding suicide preven-

tion and offers solutions for change. The conference, which will be produced by Detroit Public Television, will feature a prestigious roster of leading experts in the field of suicide with general and breakout sessions and supportive resources for up to 1,000 participants.

"Last year's conference started the conversation on the systemic inequalities that challenge suicide prevention for vulnerable groups of people," Gail Urso said. "Access to health care, cultural biases and other social

inequities put some individuals at high risk for suicide, which is now an epidemic here in Michigan. We not only intend to address these challenges head on at this year's conference, but offer solutions for change as well. We invite anyone affected by suicide to please join us."

"Equity and Equality: Expanding the Conversation and Offering Solutions" will dig deep for solutions to inequalities regarding suicide prevention while providing tools to access risk,

manage those in crisis, console survivors and share resources. It will emphasize prevention in all demographics, with a special focus on high-risk and underserved communities. The diverse group of national and local experts will share their fresh perspectives on suicide as it intersects with race, ethnicity, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or geographic location.

◆ Thursday, Jan. 27: The first day of the conference is the third annual School Summit, pre-

sented by The Children's Foundation, with sessions and speakers focused on education and youth. It will bring together educators to share best practices about innovative programs for students, teachers and parents. School personnel are strongly encouraged to attend.

Keynote speakers include Ellen Kahn, senior director of programs and partnerships, Human Rights Campaign; Jordan Burnham, director of training, Minding Your Mind; Shairi Turner, M.D.,

chief medical officer at Crisis Text Line; Dr. Alfree M. Breland-Noble, founder of the AAKOMA Project, Inc.; and Seli Fakorzi, MA, LPC, director of mental health operations at TimelyMD.

◆ Friday, Jan. 28: The second day of the conference is presented by The Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation and features expanded conversations and solutions to increased suicide risk in marginalized communities. Keynote speakers include

See PREVENT, page 4B

AREA ACTIVITIES

War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents "Voices and Votes: Democracy in America," the traveling version of a major exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The exhibition is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, until Jan. 8. The exhibit is free, but patrons must register for specific times to visit. Masks are required in the carriage house.

Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:

◆ Starry Lights, Thursdays through Sundays, through Jan. 9.

◆ Holiday House Tours and Grounds Pass, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, until Jan. 9.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, Recreational Authority of Roseville and Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, and Tuesday, Dec. 28, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61

Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register online at redcrossblood.org.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the 1,000 Hours Outside Open House, from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. Call (313) 640-4775.

Mini Picassos

Mini Picassos, 20802 Lennon, Harper Woods, offers the following winter classes and workshops:

◆ Toddler Art Mornings, 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 3 to 31. Cost is \$100.

◆ Art Club, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 6 to Feb. 3. Cost is \$115.

◆ Mini Picassos Saturday Art Club, 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 5. Cost is \$145.

◆ Slime Workshop: The Basics, noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8. Cost is \$30.

◆ American Girl Doll Art Pop-Up, 10

a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 16. Cost is \$60.

◆ MLK Day Art Pop-Up, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17. Cost is \$75.

To register, visit minipicassosstudio.com or call (313) 283-6710.

The Helm

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

◆ Mah Jongg lessons, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 10, 17 and 24. Cost is \$5 for nonmembers, free for members.

◆ Happy Hour, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12. Cost is \$18 for members, \$22 for nonmembers. The event includes light hors d'oeuvres and wine.

◆ One-on-one Technology Instruction, noon to 3:30 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.

Beaumont

Beaumont Center for Mindfulness presents Living With Ease: Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 16 to March 13. Orientation takes place 9 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 9. Cost is \$350; scholarships are available. Registration is required by Friday, Jan. 7, at survey-monkey.com/r/Mindful2022. For information, email centerformindfulness@beaumont.org.

Healthy GP

Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods meets via Zoom at 8:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Its mission is to reduce substance abuse among youth and across the community, as well as promote optimal mental health through action, education and

collaboration. Those interested in attending meetings should email Sasha Murphy at smurphy@careofsem.com.

Alliance Francaise

The Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe is an organization that promotes French culture through monthly activities for members. The group seeks members for its new membership year, which began in September. It also offers French lessons for adults at Assumption Cultural Center, from September to May each year. Detailed membership and French classes information may be found at afdegrossepointe.org.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toast-masters 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 at 7 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month, at St. James Church, 170 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms. There is no cost to participate. Call Lisa at (805) 450-1994 or email lisa.jonesmentalhealth@gmail.com.

Lakeshore

Lakeshore Senior Living hosts the Facebook Live Q&A, "Ask the Therapist," from 1:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesdays, and "Coffee Break Chat with Rachel," with Sales and Marketing Manager Rachel Nagorsen, 1:30 to 2 p.m. Thursdays. Call (586) 218-6228.

Longtime musician releases latest album, 'HeartArt'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

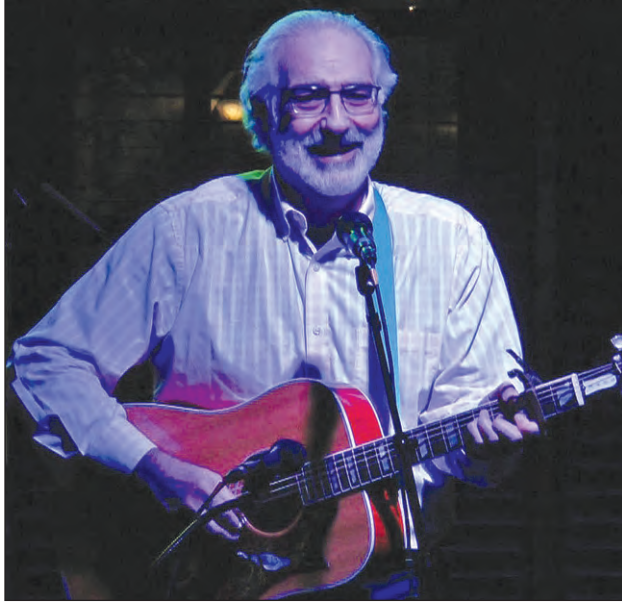
Songwriting has long been a passion of City of Grosse Pointe resident Jef Fisk.

The pandemic and its subsequent lockdown did little to stifle his creativity, made evident by the release of his latest folk album, "HeartArt," available on Spotify, Amazon and iTunes.

"It's a deep passion of mine," Fisk said. "I just love doing this — writing, recording, performing for an audience."

Inspired by a past project — a musical he and his cousin spent 12 years writing — Fisk revisited a few of its works and intermixed them with new songs for the album.

"They're all things that are heartfelt, about heartfelt subjects," he said. "Originally, I



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEF FISK

Fisk performed his Fisk for Footlights show this fall at Cabbage Patch Saloon.

thought it would be all love songs."

The finished product runs the gamut of themes, from new love and lost love, to heavier

ter's cat.

"HeartArt" came quick on the heels of Fisk's late 2019/early 2020 release, "Sandwich," and is among several albums he's released since his debut, "It's All Rootbeer," in 1974.

It's not the only task that kept him busy during the pandemic.

"When the pandemic first hit and everybody locked down, I thought people must be bored, so I did a series of nine virtual coffeehouses," he said. "It's just me in my living room, singing, playing, talking. It was just for people to have something to do. ... It was solely because of the desire to help people through a very difficult time."

All of Fisk's virtual coffeehouse performances may be found on his website — jef-fisk.com — as well as his YouTube channel.

Fisk said he'll start working on his next album in 2022. He has the time; he retired from his 38-year career in information technology — "I called it my sabbatical from music" — in 2015.

He also hopes to continue performing. Though he played live more often pre-pandemic, he continues to perform charity events, including his annual Fisk for Footlights concert, which benefits Grosse Pointe Theatre. Last year, the event was held virtually; this year's event took place last month at Cabbage Patch Saloon in Grosse Pointe Park.



"My performances are more about giving back in some way," he said. "My way of personally giving back is to do that type of thing."

Other benefactors of his "Fisk for" concerts have included Meals on Wheels and the Grosse Pointe South High School choir.

To purchase a physical copy of "HeartArt," email info@jef-fisk.com.

The Helm packages gifts for homebound seniors

Gift bags full of non-perishable food items, toiletries and other fun gifts are being distributed to 115 homebound seniors in Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes.

For more than 10 years, The Helm has received financial donations and items to create these holiday gifts and distributed them to area residents. Each bag of food contained cans each of soup and vegetables; cans/packages of tuna; packets of oatmeal; tea bags; juice boxes; hot chocolate packets; instant coffee or tea; individual packets each of cookies, candy and fruit cups; along with puzzle and activity books, colored pencils, hand sanitizer, tissues, a 2022 calendar and a holiday card handmade by local students and young adults.

Volunteers gathered



Left, items like a calendar, snacks, canned goods, activity books and a few essentials went into each bag. Below, Heidi Uhlig, volunteer services director at The Helm, prepares to distribute 115 gift bags volunteers put together for seniors.

at The Helm to pack the bags Dec. 14, and then volunteer drivers delivered the bags.

"We are grateful for the outpouring of generosity from and for our community," said Peggy Hayes, executive director of The Helm. "Each year, it seems we receive more and more items. This community truly cares about its homebound seniors."



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HELM

Volunteers package gift bags for delivery.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Paul on the Lake

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents the following Christmas and New Year Mass schedule: 8:15 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and midnight Friday, Dec. 24; 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon Saturday, Dec. 25; 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon Sunday, Dec. 26; 6:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. Monday through Thursday, Dec. 27 to 30; 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31; and 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1. The regular Mass schedule will resume the Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 1 and 2.

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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
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4:00 p.m. (especially for family and friends)
9:00 p.m. Carols and Holy Communion by Candlelight (with full choir)

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Holy Communion at 10:00

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Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

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Masses

Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m.
Sunday — 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — Noon

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

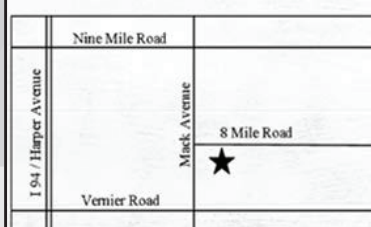
Worship Service



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Friday, December 24, 2021 at 7 p.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY
ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

www.YouTube.com/YourC3



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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Friday, Dec. 24 - 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve Services - 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 26 - 10:00 am
Sunday, Jan. 2 - 10:00 am
Everyone is Welcome!

Amanda Onoro, director preschool@feelc.org
Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor
~ "Go Make Disciples" ~
www.feelc.org

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All are Welcome!

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Habitat Detroit, Rocket Community Fund partner for home renovation, dedication

Habitat for Humanity Detroit recently welcomed the Mayers family to its list of homeowners in the Morningside community. The home dedication in Detroit took place Thursday, Dec. 9.

“The holidays are such a great time to experience joy and feel uplifted,” said Stephanie Osterland, Habitat Detroit’s executive director. “The Habitat Detroit team and I are excited for the opportunity to bring everyone together to celebrate the power of the holidays while making the dream of homeownership a reality for the Mayers family.”

Nicole Mayers began her homeownership journey after overcom-

ing several life challenges, including experiencing homelessness. She always has had dreams and aspirations about being a homeowner. Now a full-time transportation employee, Wayne County Community College student and mother of three, she is looking forward to finally providing stability for her family.

“I have always heard great things about Habitat for Humanity’s home-buying program; however, it just never seemed to be the right time for me,” Mayers said. “But now with a regular income and the amazing support of Habitat Detroit, I knew I was ready to make a change in my life.”

Now, after diligently



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Mayers family, from left, Daijon Mayers, Nzuri Harris, Nicole Mayers and Cody Harris, will celebrate holidays in new Habitat home.

working on building her credit and learning ways

to create financial stability through Habitat Detroit’s homeownership program, Mayers is more ready than ever. She is looking forward to fulfilling other life aspirations and creating financial freedom.

“I want to open a community resource center for Detroit residents,” she said. “Becoming a homeowner has given me the confidence to just go for it, look to the

future with hope and never give up.”

Sponsors of the project included the Habitat for Humanity Grosse Pointe Partners, The Habitat Habituals and the Morningside Community.

Community partners included the Rocket Community Fund, Alta Equipment Co., Ally and @properties. Through their support, Habitat Detroit was able to pres-

ent Mayers and her family a newly renovated Detroit home.

As the philanthropic partner of the Rock Family of Companies and its affiliated partners, the Rocket Community Fund offers innovative ways to make an impact in Detroit through data-driven investments in housing, employment and public life. It is committed to ensuring everyone has access to safe, affordable housing and has the opportunity to build wealth through homeownership.

“Rocket Community Fund is passionate about creating access to opportunities for Detroit residents like Ms. Mayers, so that they can realize their dream of homeownership,” said Laura Grannemann, vice president of Rocket Community Fund. “We are thrilled to be a part of Nicole’s special day as she embarks on this next chapter in her life and begins to make her house a home.”

To learn more about Habitat Detroit’s homeownership program, visit habitatdetroit.org



The Habitat for Humanity Grosse Pointe Partners members, from left, Helen Santiz, Carol Wilson, Ted Fly and Jim Garlough, assisted with the project. Habitat Grosse Pointe Partners has been around for 30 years.

PREVENT:

Continued from page 2B

Craig Bryan, Psy.D., ABPP, director of recovery and resilience, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, The Ohio State University College of Medicine; Thomas Joiner, Ph.D., Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor, Florida State University; Eric Doeh, chief operating officer, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network; Kathleen MacDonald, nationally recognized insurance advocate for Mental Health Parity; David Lloyd, senior policy advisor at The Kennedy Forum.

◆ Saturday, Jan. 29: The final day of the conference is The Saturday Program: “Surviving Suicide — Erasing Stigma” and is presented by the Joseph J. Laurencelle Memorial Foundation. It is free of

charge to all registrants. It is a journey of hope and healing dedicated to survivors of suicide loss and attempt survivors. The program also is intended for those interested in sharing and understanding the experience of surviving a suicide attempt and/or the loss and grief following the suicide of a loved one. It will discuss the challenge of erasing the stigma that suicide survivors experience.

Presenters include Jordan Burnham, director of training, Minding Your Mind; Kevin Fischer, executive director, NAMI Michigan; and Barb Smith, executive director of the Barb Smith Suicide Resource and Response Network. A panel discussion featuring four loss survivors will be moderated by Amelia Lehto, who specializes in crisis intervention and suicidology on the local, state and national levels through training, advocacy and technology. The Saturday

Program will be made available through DPTV on the virtual Hopin platform and via Facebook.

This year’s conference also will feature a virtual resource gallery, a bookstore courtesy of the Self Esteem Shop, a memorial forest honoring those who have died by suicide and a presentation Saturday morning of the 2022 Kevin’s Song “Save a Life” Award.

Early bird conference rates, which are available through Friday, Dec. 31, are \$100 to attend the three-day virtual conference and \$75 to attend the School Summit only. Beginning Jan. 1, registration for the conference will be \$150 and \$100, respectively. The Saturday Program is free of charge, however, registration is required. Student rates are available.

Visit kevinssong.org for more information about registration, scholarships or a roster of conference events and speakers.

The Christmas Season at St. Ambrose Catholic Church

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
Friday, December 24, 2021,
Mass AT 4 P.M.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
Saturday, December 25, 2021
MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12 A.M. ((••))
MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
AT 8:30 A.M. AND AT 11:15 A.M.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Sunday, December 26, 2021,
MASS AT 8:30 A.M. ((••)) AND 11:15 A.M.

NEW YEAR’S EVE
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Friday, December 31, 2021 AT 4 P.M. ((••))

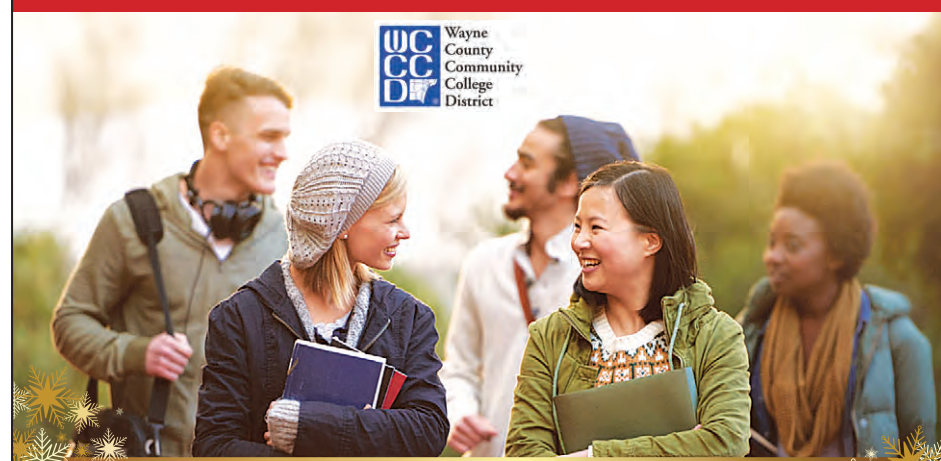
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Saturday, January 1, 2022, MASS AT 4 P.M.
Sunday, January 2, 2022,
MASS AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
Saturday, January 8, 2022,

** ((••)) - Service will be livestreamed online

St. Ambrose Catholic Church is located at 15020 Hampton Road between Wayburn and Maryland, one block north of Jefferson, just west of the Grosse Pointe Park City Hall. (313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparish)

Happy Holidays from WCCCD



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LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

2C DEAR ABBY | 3C MOMBEAU'S TABLE | 6C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 7-8C COMICS & PUZZLES

'A true Christmas story'

By Dick Ruzzin
Guest Writer

This story is of a true experience that I have never forgotten. It is written as I remember it many years later. As parents, it is important to understand that every word and action we make in front of our children is a learning experience for them that will last forever.

We must all try very hard to always make sure they are good ones.

Have a "Merrie" Christmas ...
Always.

'A True Christmas Story'

For: *The Little Boy Who Lives Across the Street.*

From: Dick Ruzzin

Christmas was always very special and looked forward to at my house. My parents could not afford a lot of presents but Santa Claus would come and somehow we always received more than we expected. We also had Midnight Mass, a Christmas tree, turkey, cookies, nuts, Italian candy, fruit cake and plum pudding with a wonderful lemon sauce.

Oh, how great those days were.

One day after Christmas when I was very small, I woke up in the morning to a very bright sunny day. My dad and I watched through the living room window as a group of rabbits played among the clusters of long grass in the snow across the road in a big field. They ran and chased each other in circles through the snow. They were having fun in the warm sun. We talked about the rabbit that we had helped the year before, but we could not tell if he was there with the others as they all looked like ... rabbits!

'The Story of the Little Gray Rabbit'

When I was 5 years old, I had a chance to meet a wild baby rabbit. I lived on a farm with my mother,



father and younger sister out in the country. There were no other houses nearby or no other children to play with. My father had built our house with his own hands on a farm where another house had been years before. There was a big wooden barn close to the house and some other old buildings that had burned in a fire many years earlier. There were all kinds of wild animals, trees, wild flowers and plants in the fields around the house.

One cool day in the fall before supper, I went for a walk with my father on the gravel road by our house. Very few cars ever came by but on that nice sunny day as we walked, a car came down the road toward us. When it was a short distance away, a small gray rabbit suddenly ran across the road in front of it. The driver swerved but the car hit the rabbit and it was thrown into the small ditch alongside the road. The driver did not know what he had done and the car drove past us and went on its way in a cloud of dust.

We hurried to see if we could find the rabbit and saw it lying in the ditch. It was very small and still, but its eyes were open and its nose was twitching. The rabbit lay there as we came up to it and it did not appear hurt, but did not move or try to run away.

My father picked it up and carefully put it inside his coat to keep it warm and we quickly walked back to our house.

At home in our kitchen we put the rabbit in a box and I was sent to the barn to get some hay to make a bed for it. The rabbit would move but could not stand as his right rear leg was hurt. My father carefully looked and felt him and said that he seemed all right and there were no broken bones, but that he was probably bruised and very sore and scared. My mother found a little dish for water and we cut up some lettuce and carrots for him. Then we covered the box with a blanket so that he could sleep. After supper we took the rabbit to a neighbor's farm. The farmer who lived there would help his neighbors who had sick animals. He agreed with my father and said to keep the rabbit quiet and give him plenty of food and water. That made us all feel better.

The next morning we were happy to see that the rabbit had eaten some of the food and that all of the water was gone. As the days went by he soon started moving around the box, he ate well and drank lots of water. He was getting better and my sister and I found that we could take him out of the box to play and let him move around the kitchen.

He was getting better and would look at us with his shiny dark eyes and wiggle his nose. Sometimes he would run under the kitchen table or try to hide in the corner by the stove.

One afternoon my father said that the rabbit seemed much better and that we should think about taking him back to where he lived in the field along the side of the road. The next afternoon I carried him in my arms as we walked away from the house, he looked around but did not try to get away.

My father and I walked down the road to the place where we found him and put him down in the grass. He did not run away, he

stayed still and looked around, his nose wiggled and he looked up at us as we knelt beside him. Then he slowly hopped away, still slightly limping from his injury, he left us and he was going home to be with his friends. We felt happy that he had gone home.

My dad would often go for walks after he came home from work while my mother was getting dinner. He would take the time to look at the fields on our farm and probably think about how much had happened to him since he had left his home in Italy as a very poor boy. The next year one afternoon in the late fall we walked on the fresh snow toward the place where we had met the little rabbit as we had done many times before. This time to our great surprise, there on the side of the road a big gray rabbit came out of the tall grass. His dark eyes were very bright and his nose twitched very fast; he was trying to smell us in the air. He stood on his back legs looking at us and he was very still. We stopped in surprise and stared at him, then we walked slowly toward him. My dad told me to be quiet, to go slowly and not to run.

We walked closer and stopped, we watched him quietly. Then we were amazed as he hopped toward us and stopped at our feet and sniffed our shoes. His nose wiggled

and his eyes were very big. He looked up at us and we knelt down to pet him, my dad picked him up in his big arms so that I could see him up close. We petted him and were amazed at how nice he looked. His gray fur was soft and very fine with areas of white and golden brown trimmed in black. He was a big, beautiful rabbit. We quietly talked to him and after a while my dad put the rabbit down on the ground, he looked up at us and then hopped away leaving footprints in the snow. We talked quietly about him as we were not really sure that he was the rabbit that we had helped months before since he had grown so much.

Then we both saw as the rabbit hopped away that he had a very slight limp. My dad said, "It is the rabbit that we helped. He has grown up and still remembers us!"

He went on into the tall grass and we did not see him again.

We often talked at home and with our neighbors about the rabbit. We were happy that he had grown up to be so beautiful and that he was living with all of his friends in the fields near our farm.

We had helped him when he was hurt and he did not forget us.

The End.

Dick Ruzzin is a resident of Grosse Pointe Park.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Colleen Yeloushan

A lesson on mindfulness

Q: What is mindfulness and how can it help us navigate the holidays?

A: Mindfulness is a practice that gives us tools to focus on a single point and be fully present in the moment. Staying focused during the holidays can be particularly hard. Of course we want to enjoy time with our loved ones, observe family traditions and celebrate the season, but the to-do list is so long. It can be hard to quiet your mind. In fact, more than 90 percent of what we think is repetitive and that thought loop can be exhausting.

Here is an invitation to try mindfulness:

Identify a task this season, for example washing dishes. For many of us, we will have plenty of opportunities to practice mindfulness if we choose this task. While washing dishes, immerse yourself in the process. Observe the temperature of the water, the sound of the dishes clinking around in the sink, the frothy bubbles. Think to yourself, "I am washing a fork," "Now I am drying a plate."

You will be amazed at the thoughts whizzing around in your brain —

rehashing the meal, the conversation, thinking about your next task. Practice noticing the thoughts. Identify them and acknowledge them; don't try to change them or push them away. Then go back to the dishes. Notice the smell of the dish soap or a detail on the dishes.

You may want to try breathing deeply while you make these observations; as little as three deep breaths can change your brain chemistry, decreasing stress and increasing calm. Being present is best gift we can give ourselves and our loved ones.

Wishing you the gift of presence this holiday season.

Colleen Yeloushan is the founder of *It's All The Path Yoga, Meditation and Yoga Therapy*. She uses evidence-based techniques married with ancient wisdom to offer an individual plan of wellness: mind, body and spirit.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. Learn more at familycenterweb.org.

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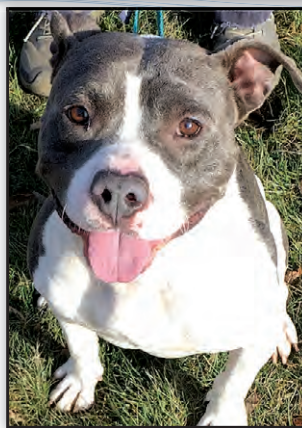
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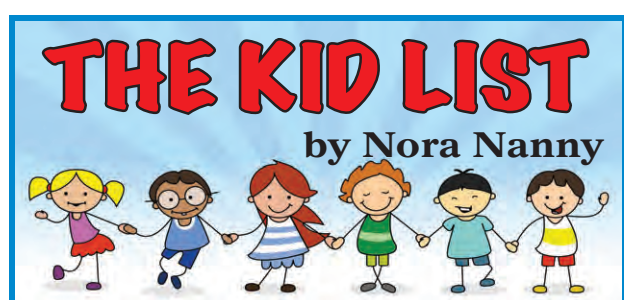
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After spending most of my days with kids, I feel like I've been to every museum, zoo and arcade in the tri-state area. With winter break coming up, I knew we would need a few new activities to fill our days.

One of my friends told me about a cool kid-friendly place she had just taken her kids called Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum. Right away, I

knew we would be taking a trip to see what this place was all about. Marvin's is an arcade filled with coin-operated machines from the early 1900s to today. The original owner, Marvin Yagoda, was a pharmacist by trade, but had a passion for arcades and machines. Marvin's son, Jeremy, currently owns and operates the museum, which is located in Farmington Hills.



After a 30-minute drive, we arrived at the museum. The kids were in awe right when we walked through the doors. Every square inch of this place is covered in coin-operated machines and arcade games for kids to enjoy. After visiting the change



machines to turn our dollars into quarters, the kids played games for hours. They received tickets for the games they won and could turn in their tickets for prizes at the end of our time there.

This place is so cool. They have a ton of one-of-a-kind machines the origi-

nal owner built himself back in the day, as well as every arcade game you could possibly imagine. They host birthday parties and events and are open 365 days a year.

One of the best things about this place is that there are games a grand-



parent and grandchild could both enjoy and play together. We had the best time there and will definitely be making the trip back to Marvin's soon for another fun day of games, fun and prizes.

For more information, visit marvin3m.com.

The Science Advice Goddess

by Amy Alkon

Truth ache

I spent an entire Sunday with a really cute guy I met through a dating app. We kissed a bit, and I stayed over at his place (though I said no sex). Things felt weird Monday morning, so I texted to see whether we were still on for dinner. He asked to push it to Tuesday, but I had a conflict and asked whether the weekend would work. He never responded. That weekend, I saw him out with guy friends, but he basically ignored me. I got him alone and asked him to go home with me. He declined. "Just for tonight or forever?" I asked. He said, "Just tonight." That was the last I heard from him, and I'm going crazy trying to figure this out.

— No Closure

If you really, really need closure, date a door.

It's normal to want closure: defined by psychologist Arie Kruglanski as "an answer on a given topic, any answer." We're deeply disturbed by "confusion and ambiguity" -- a cloudy mess of unanswered questions -- and we feel driven (and even desperate) to replace it with a solid brick wall of facts.

A practical (though admittedly cuckoo-sounding) solution might be trying to fire up a quirk of the mind psychologist Elizabeth Loftus calls the "imagination inflation effect": our tendency to convert events we imagine and then repeatedly recall into "false memories" we come to believe are the real deal.

These invented memories tend to be "stickier" when they include rich detail, like the guy -- reeking of BO! -- hanging his head and confessing he weened out of admitting it was "goodbye forever." Don't forget to script his explanation -- ideally something torment-avenging and wounded ego-soothing. My suggestion: Despite your radiant beauty and extreme awesomeness, he'll need approximately 65.3 years of therapy before he'll be ready for a relationship.

If, after giving this tactic a good repetitive try, your mental hellscape hasn't faded substantially, there's an alternative approach: accepting there are things we just can't know and shifting out of the "WHYWHYWHY?!" by, say,



reciting the alphabet backward or shifting into pre-planned healthy replacement thoughts.

The unfortunate reality: Closure should be considered a self-service item, as you can't control what others say or do -- though you could make serious headway by kidnapping and torturing them till they talk. Of course, I'm not advising this -- though, to be fair, it can lead to some major benefits: both in the form of answers and in being rewarded for your troubles with an all-expense-paid cozy new home...uh, in SuperMax.

Barking Bad

I read your response to "Conflicted" (the woman dating a guy so needy he wanted her to ditch all her friends and spend every minute with him). I suggest you tell her it'll never work

out and she should date someone else.

— Advice From 60-Something Male

Telling people what to do is necessary in certain situations, like when it's a more successful battle strategy than "You do you!": dispatching the troops to engage in the military version of interpretive dance.

However, in general, direct advice -- "Do this!" or "Do that!" -- tends to backfire big-time, revving up a state psychologist Jack Brehm calls "psychological reactance." "Reactance" describes our fear-driven freakout -- our reaction -- when we perceive a threat to our freedom to do as we choose. We go on the defensive -- rebel against being controlled -- typically by doing whatever we were doing...only longer, stronger, and louder.

Understanding this is why I'm an advice colum-

nist who specializes in NOT giving advice. I use hedgy-wedgy language like "you might" and "you could" that leaves big wide-open spaces for personal choice. Accordingly, instead of telling this woman, "Dump Mr. Needypants pronto!" I offered reasons the two MIGHT be a bad match.

I also identified potential stumbling blocks -- like being a "My needs last!" habitual "pleaser" -- and suggested practical steps she could take to kick them out of the way.

My ultimate goal is helping people help themselves: giving them the psychological and behavioral chops they need to render me unnecessary! I typically retell the story they've told me in ways I hope will help them gain perspective -- that is, understand what they're going through and why.

I then lay out a set of tools -- ways they might

tweak their thinking and behavior -- in hopes of empowering them to dig themselves out.

Basically, my column is the advice version of that well-worn fish saying -- uh, as I like to rewrite it: Give a woman a fish and she'll have dinner. Teach a woman to fish and she'll have dinner for a lifetime...OR -- let's be honest -- because my column and I are big on realism: She'll order her fish dinner in a Paris bistro, poring over photos of a fabulous Chanel fly-casting suit and sketching out her plot to rob the Louvre to pay for it.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com. @amyalkon on Twitter. Weekly podcast: blogtalkradio.com/amyalkon.

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Relationship with daughter seems superficial at best

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I were divorced six years ago. Our 26-year-old daughter has always been close to her mother and my former in-laws.

When my ex and I separated, she was 20. When we divorced a year later, she sided with her mother, which I expected. Since the divorce, I have seen my daughter only at Christmas and on Father's Day. She does not visit me or communicate with me otherwise.

I have continued to be open and generous with her, and she sends me a list of items I can choose for her birthday and Christmas. I have bought her the jewelry, electronics and other higher-end items she requested. She doesn't seem to want my involvement in her life unless it satisfies her material desires.

Should I continue to be so generous with her because she's my daughter, or does a time come when it needs to end? I would hate to lose her, but it is obvious that she has let me go. Should I do the same? -- DAD OF DIVORCE IN CANADA

DEAR DAD: I think so. In fact, I think you should have become less generous when she started distancing from you. Not knowing the reason for your divorce, I can't guess why she "sided" with her mother and her mother's parents.

If the reason was infidelity on your part, rather than a mutual agreement that the marriage wasn't working, I could understand the dynamics of what has been going on. But relationships are supposed to be reciprocal -- at least on some level. This one clearly isn't, so under these circumstances, I wouldn't

blame you for closing your wallet. Send her a card with a small gift of YOUR choosing this Christmas and see how that goes.

DEAR ABBY: I have decided not to socialize with anyone in my apartment building. We are a community, but I have lost two so-called friends because I wasn't "flexible enough" to make shopping trips on a whim. Another person complained that I knocked on the door too early or phoned too early. I didn't do these things with malice. I just didn't know.

I have always had problems interacting with others. And now, as always, it is better for me and others that I isolate. Abby, I am writing this letter to vent. Relationships are harder for some of us. What do you think? -- ALONE FOR NOW

DEAR NO REGRETS:

Relationships are about two-way communication. If someone dropped you because you called or knocked on their door too early, all they had to do was say, "I'm never up before 10, so please don't try to interact with me before then." The people who were angry because you couldn't (I assume) drive them on their errands were looking for a ride, not friendship. Please stop blaming yourself for this. And please do not allow others to judge you or make you isolate yourself. Someone may move into that "community" who would love to have you as a friend, so please stay open-minded.

DEAR ABBY: My 52-year-old twin brother -- whom I'm close to -- is getting married soon for the first time. His fiancée, who divorced after 18 years of marriage, is



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

doing all the planning. She has not included me or my kids (my brother's only niece and nephew) so far, nor are we included on the wedding day except as guests at the ceremony and reception.

My brother was a groomsman in my wedding 17 years ago. I feel hurt being excluded and I want to say something, but I don't know what to say or whether I should talk to my brother or his fiancée. And I don't know, at this point, how the kids or I could be included.

Any advice would be appreciated. -- ANGUISHED SIS IN ARIZONA

DEAR SIS: This show

is being run by your brother's fiancée. She may not be aware he was a groomsman at your wedding, and frankly, I'm not sure what bearing it would have on their own. You and your children should attend your brother's wedding, welcome his bride into the family and have a good time, which should be easy since there will be no responsibility on any of your shoulders.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Sane consumption

Year-end parties usually are liquid-y, so even before we reach the height of the celebratory season, which includes Christmas and New Year's Eve, a bit of planning may avoid hangovers -- and could well be a life-saving tactic.

The suggestions that follow may sound like wet-blanket advice, but anyone who has ever suffered the worst after-effects of a night of boozing and regretted it knows what I'm talking about. A few precautions can do wonders.

spouse's remedies like hair o' the canine. Most of which don't work and can have their own side effects.

Let's clear up one thing now: Mixing drinks is not a cause of intoxication. It is a result of over-consumption of alcohol, regardless of what kind it is.

Since we're all different, the degree of intoxication is related to various factors including body size, the length of time the ingestion lasted (many hours versus a few minutes), the kind and strength of alcohol con-

in persons who consume carbohydrates over other similar drinkers. Ingesting carbs appears to slow the movement of alcohol into the bloodstream.

Test subjects who ate carbs were compared with groups of fasting drinkers and those who ate protein-based meals. All test subjects received carefully measured doses of alcohol. The carb consumers had lower blood-alcohol levels than either of the other groups.

(Impairment also was tested, and there appears to be little impairment difference between carb and protein eaters and those who fasted.)

This explains why a friend, decades ago, told me to eat a potato and white bread before going to parties where a lot of alcoholic drinks would be served. (Thus, a plate of pasta, or foods using flour help to create a buffering effect.)

Moreover, the body dislikes large amounts of alcohol being ingested in short periods of time, so guzzling contests are a formula for disaster. Slowly sipped lower-alcohol beverages, such as beer (6% to 10%) and wine



(10% to \$14%) are far easier for the body to deal with than, say, 40% alcohol whisky.

Avoiding alcohol completely is a certain way to avoid a hangover. And for some people, such as those on certain medications, even moderate alcohol consumption can be risky.

One good rule of thumb for alcoholic beverage consumers that's not only accurate but simple to include in most festivities is to consume one six-ounce glass of water for every glass of alcoholic beverage consumed.

As for what constitutes the size of a "glass" of an alcoholic beverage, there's much debate. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) lists a standard 12-ounce beer as one drink -- if that beer has 5% alcohol.

However, most beers today have between 5.5% and 7.5% alcohol, and many craft beers, such as

traditional IPAs, start at 7% and many range close to 10% alcohol. Specialty beers can go even higher.

As for wine, the NIAAA chart lists a standard glass as five ounces. However, many restaurants pour six-ounce glasses. And the agency's chart says a standard wine has 12% alcohol -- but that hasn't been true for more than 40 years! I estimate the average alcoholic content of most domestic white wines today is about 14%, and most reds are about 15%!

(Alcohols in European wines are typically lower.)

Also, be cognizant of the kinds of wines or beers that are being served. Some excellent German rieslings weigh in at 7% or 8% alcohol. Compare that with many of today's heavier red wines at 15% to 17% alcohol.

In such cases, riesling is a better option. It's usually easy to sip and works well with the multitude of flavors find in various hors

d'oeuvres.

Wine of the Week: 2020 Vinho Verde, Portugal (about \$15 or less) -- This light, simple, refreshing white wine is imported by several producers. Some are \$20 or more, but most Vinho Verdes sell for half that, and a few sell for less than \$10. This light, delicate wine is a blend of local Portuguese grapes and it's appealing because it almost never has more than 10% alcohol. In the past I recommended a wine from importer Bartholomew Broadbent, with his last name on the label, but I couldn't find a bottle in time to suggested for this column. It's usually excellent and worth looking for.

To find out more about Dan Berger and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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And then the morning after, it's distinctly possible to escape searching for hangover cures, painkillers, and an old

sumed and the sorts of foods consumed.

It's been shown in laboratory studies that blood alcohol levels are reduced

Holiday delight

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table



I'm sharing another holiday staple in our family. Pecan Bark is one of my favorite treats. My mother-in-law makes it every year. When we can't see them over the holidays, she will promptly ship it to us. And, now the kids request it for their birthdays.

This is the kind of thing where you wait for everyone to go to bed and then sneak down to eat some more. Trust me, I've done it

several times. The recipe calls for unsalted butter but I prefer salted butter to really get that salty, sweet combination. It has few ingredients and comes together pretty quickly. It's sweet, salty, buttery and crunchy and everything to make your holidays that much more special.

My advice? Make a double batch and hand it out to your neighbors. They'll love you for it.

- Pecan Bark**
- 16 graham crackers
 - 1 cup butter
 - 1 cup tightly packed brown sugar
 - 1 cup chopped pecans
- Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil and lightly grease. Place the graham crackers on the bottom of the cookie

sheet. Sprinkle the crackers with the chopped pecans.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, melt the butter and sugar until boiling. Evenly pour the mixture over the pecans and graham crackers.

Place in a 350 degree oven for 10 minutes. Take out and put in the fridge for 1 hour. Break up the bark and try not to eat it all in one sitting. I dare you!



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN FERGUSON

Classic Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I recently married "Jim," a man 20 years my senior. It was a second marriage for both of us. Jim's first marriage lasted 22 years, and there were no children. Since his divorce (which was before I met him), Jim and his ex-wife have maintained a very close relationship. Last week, Jim lost a dear friend, whom I knew briefly. I comforted him as best I could, and he was most appreciative. He said there would be no memorial service and that his friend would be cremated.

While listening to our answering machine, I heard a day-old message giving details of the funeral service. I asked Jim about the message, and he admitted there would be a service but said he hadn't invited me to attend with him because his ex-wife planned to go. He said if she saw us there together, it would upset her.

I am not the type of person to inflict pain on anyone, so I told Jim to go to

the funeral without me. Jim and his ex-wife attended the service, which was followed by a reception. I feel pain in my heart that he did not ask me to go with him and feels no remorse about the incident. What do you make of this? -- Bewildered in Texas

Dear Texas: I think Jim may still be emotionally attached to his ex-wife, and apparently, she has some feelings for him. Don't make an issue of this. Be warm and comforting. Remember, if a man is fed well at home, he will not be inclined to go to restaurants.

Dear Ann Landers: This is in response to "Greensboro, N.C.," whose 17-year-old son left home after refusing to get a job or go to school. Those parents should check with a legal expert to find out if

they are responsible for the boy's expenses.

I have friends who were presented with huge bills run up by their minor child who no longer lived at home. These parents found themselves responsible for trashed living quarters, wrecked cars and expensive clothing -- and they didn't even know where

the kid was living.

Parents in this position need to be assured of legal protection no matter how much they love the child or how he will come home. If their minor child has moved out, they should see a lawyer before things get more complicated. They could be liable for a bundle. -- Been Down That Road in Holland, Mich.

Dear Holland: Excellent advice to those parents. I hope they see this and pay attention.

I also hope the boy you wrote about agrees to move back home and get some counseling before he ends up in serious trouble.

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Rudolph the **Red-Nosed** Reindeer

Twas the day before Christmas, and all through the hills the reindeer were playing... enjoying the spills of skating and coasting, and climbing the willows... and hopscotch and leap-frog (protected by pillows!)



While every so often they'd stop to call names at one little deer not allowed in their games: - "Ha ha! Look at Rudolph! His nose is a sight!" "It's red as a beet!" "Twice as big!" "Twice as bright!" While Rudolph just wept. What else could he do? He knew that the things they were saying were true!



Where most reindeers' noses are brownish and tiny, poor Rudolph's was red, very large, and quite shiny.

In daylight it dazzled. (The picture shows that!) At night-time it glowed, like the eyes of a cat. And putting dirt on it just made it look muddy. (Oh boy was he mad when they nick-named him "Ruddy!")

Although he was lonesome, he always was good... Obeying his parents, as good reindeer should! That's why, on this day, Rudolph almost felt playful: - He hoped that from Santa (soon driving his sleighful

Of presents and candy and dollies and toys For good little animals, good girls and boys) He'd get just as much...and this is what pleased him... As the happier, handsomer reindeer who teased him.

So as night, and a fog, hid the world like a hood, He went to bed hopeful; he knew he'd been good!



While way, way up North, on this same foggy night, Old Santa was packing his sleigh for its flight. "This fog," he complained, "will be hard to get through!" He shook his round head. (And his tummy shook, too!) "Without any stars or a moon as our compass, This extra-dark night is quite likely to swamp us.

To keep from collisions, we'll have to fly slow. To keep our direction, we'll have to fly low. We'll steer by street-lamps and houses tonight, In order to finish before it gets light. Just think how the boys' and girls' faith would be shaken, If we didn't reach 'em before they awaken!



Come Dasher! Come Dancer! Come Prancer and Vixen! Come Comet! Come Cupid! Come Donner and Blitzen! Be quick with your suppers! Get hitched in a hurry! You, too, will find fog a delay and a worry!

And Santa was right. (As he usually is!) The fog was as thick as a soda's white fizz Just NOT-getting-LOST needed all Santa's skill... With street-signs and numbers more difficult still.

He tangled in tree-tops again and again, And barely missed hitting a tri-motored plane. He still made good speed, with much twisting and turning, As long as the street lamps and house lights were burning.

At each house, first noting the people who live there, He'd quickly select the right presents to give there. By midnight, however, the last light had fled. (For even big people have then gone to bed!)

Because it might wake them, a match was denied him. (Oh my, how he wished for just one star to guide him!) Through dark streets and houses old Santa fared poorly. He now picked the presents more slowly, less surely.

He really was worried! For what would he do, If folks started waking before he was through? The air was still foggy, the night dark and drear.

When Santa arrived at the home of the deer. A ledge that he tripped on while seeking the chimney Gave Santa a spill, and a painfully skinned-knee. The room he came down in was blacker than ink, He went for a chair, and then found it...a sink!

The first reindeer bedroom was so very black, He tripped on the rug and fell flat on his back. So dark that he had to move close to the bed, And squint very hard at the sleeping deer's head,

Before he could choose the right kind of toy. (A doll for a girl, or a train for a boy.)

But all this took time, and filled Santa with gloom, While slowly he groped toward the next reindeer's room. The door he'd just opened...when, to his surprise, A dim but quite definite light met his eyes. The lamp wasn't burning; the glow came, instead, From something that lay at the head of the bed.



And there lay...but wait now! What would you suppose? The glowing (you've guessed it) was **RUDOLPH'S RED NOSE!**

So this room was easy! This one little light Let Santa pick quickly the gifts that were right. How happy he was, till he went out the door... The rest of the house was as black as before!

So black that it made every step a dark mystery. And then...came the greatest idea in history! He went back to Rudolph and started to shake him (Of course, very gently) in order to wake him.

And Rudolph could scarcely believe his own eyes! You just can imagine his joy and surprise At seeing who stood there, so real and so near, While telling the tale we've already told here: -

Poor Santa's sad tale of distress and delay... The fog and the darkness, and losing the way... The horrible fear that some children might waken Before his complete Christmas trip had been taken.

"AND YOU," he told Rudolph, "may yet save the day! Your wonderful forehead may yet pave the way For a wonderful triumph! It actually might!" (Old Santa, you notice, was extra-polite To Rudolph, regarding his "wonderful forehead." To call it a "big, shiny nose" would sound horrid!)

"I need you," said Santa, "to help me tonight... To lead all my deer on the rest of our flight." And Rudolph broke-out into such a big grin, It almost connected his ears and his chin!



A note for his folks he dashed-off in a hurry. "I've gone to help Santa," he wrote. "Do not worry." Said Santa: - "My sleigh I'll bring down to the lawn. You'd stick in the chimney." And flash...he was gone.

So Rudolph pranced-out through the door, very gay, And took his proud place at the head of the sleigh. The rest of the night...well, what would you guess? Old Santa's idea was a brilliant success. And "brilliant" was almost no word for the way That Rudolph directed the deer and the sleigh.



In spite of the fog, they flew quickly, and low, And made such good use of the wonderful glow From Rudolph's...er...forehead, at each intersection That not even once did they lose their direction!

While as for the houses and streets with a sign on 'em, They merely flew close, so that Rudolph could shine on 'em. To tell who lived where, and just what to give whom. They'd fly by each window and peek in the room.

Old Santa knew always which children were good, And minded their parents, and ate as they should So Santa selected the gift that was right, While Rudolph's...er...forehead gave just enough light.



It all went so fast, that before it was day, The very last present was given away... The very last stocking was filled to the top, Just as the sun was preparing to pop.

This sun woke the reindeer in Rudolph's home town. They found the short message that he'd written down... Then gathered outside to await his return. And were they excited, astonished, to learn

That Rudolph, the ugliest deer of them all, (Rudolph the Red-nosed...bashful and small... The funny-faced fellow they always called names, And practically never allowed in their games)

Was now to be envied by all, far and near. For no greater honor can come to a deer

Than riding with Santa and guiding his sleigh! The number-one job, on the number-one day!



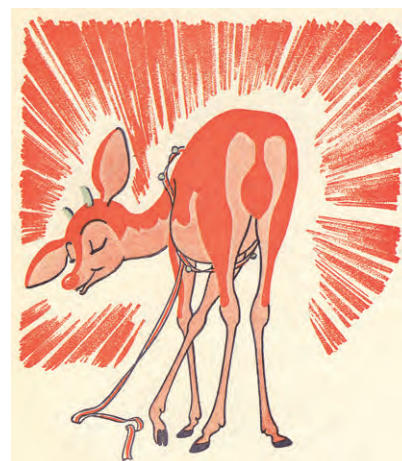
The sleigh, and its reindeer, soon came into view. And Rudolph still led them, as downward they flew. Oh boy, was he proud, as they came to a landing Right where his handsomer playmates were standing!

These bad deer who used to do nothing but tease him Would now have done anything...only to please him! They felt even sorer they had been bad When Santa said" - "Rudolph, I never have had

A deer quite so brave or so brilliant as you As fighting black fog, and at guiding me through. By YOU last night's journey was actually bossed. Without you, I'm certain we'd all have been lost!

I hope you'll continue to keep us from grief, On future dark trips, as **COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF!**"

But Rudolph just blushed, from his head to his toes, Until his whole fur was as red as his nose!



The crowd first applauded, then started to screech: - "Hurray for our Rudolph" and "We want a speech!"

But Rudolph was bashful, despite being a hero! And tired! (His sleep on the trip totaled zero.)

So that's why his speech was just brief, and not bright: - "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night" ...

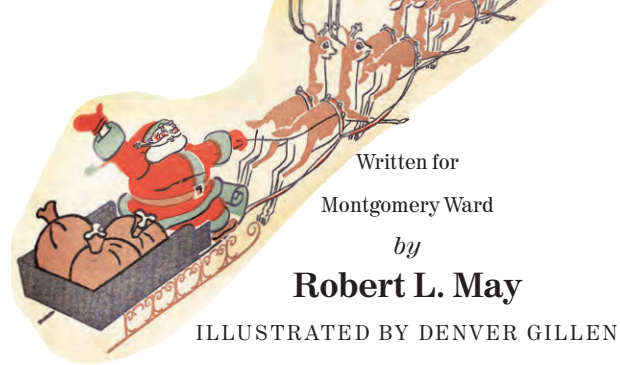
and THAT'S why...whenever it's foggy and gray, It's Rudolph the Red-nose who guides Santa's sleigh. Be listening, this Christmas! (But don't make a peep... 'cause that late at night, children should be asleep!)

The very first sound that you'll hear on the roof (Provided there's fog) will be Rudolph's small hoof. And soon after that (if you're still as a mouse) You may hear a "swish" as he flies 'round the house,

And gives enough light to give Santa a view Of you and your room. And when they're all through,

You may hear them call, as they drive out of sight: -

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!"

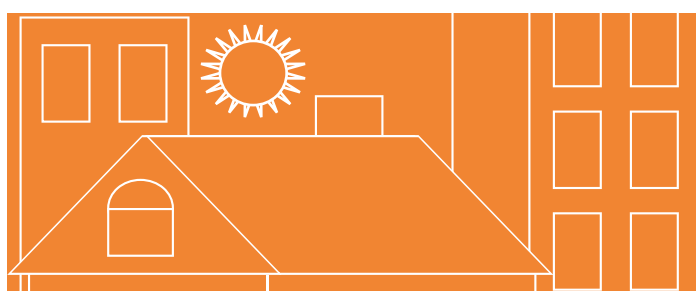
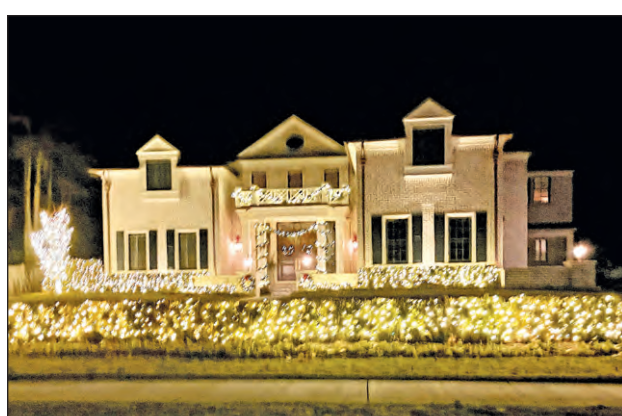


Written for
Montgomery Ward
by

Robert L. May

ILLUSTRATED BY DENVER GILLEN

Holiday lights in Grosse Pointe



EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

THURSDAY DECEMBER 23

» **Free Improv Classes Online**
4-4:30 p.m. 457 Online Avenue, Detroit.

» **Little World Explorers**
11 a.m.-12 p.m. Ready To Learn Circles, 2470 Collingwood St #227, Detroit.

» **Mike Zaporski at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
6-8:30 p.m. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.

» **Monroe Street Drive-In Powered by Emagine**
7-10 p.m. Monroe Street Drive-In, 32 Monroe St., Detroit.

» **Open Jam - Max Dugans**
9 p.m.-1 a.m. Max Dugan, 844 E 10 Mile Rd, Hazel Park.

» **Open Mic - Corktown Tavern w/ Erica**
8-11 p.m. Corktown Tavern, 1716 Michigan Ave, Detroit.

» **Pokemon Go**
1-2 p.m. Hazel Park. facebook.com/groups/PokemonGoTheCenter/

» **The Polish Muslims with The Redones**
7 p.m. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave, Ferndale.

» **The S'Aints**
8 p.m. The Colosseum at Caesars Windsor, 377 Riverside Drive East, Windsor.

» **Salim Washington Quartet**
7:30-11:30 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.

» **Starry Lights**
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24

» **Hot Sale with Teezonus**
7:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Teezonus Camp, 1300 Rosa Parks Blvd, Detroit.

» **Live Blues at Beale Street Smokehouse & BBQ**
7 p.m. Beale Street Smokehouse & BBQ, Detroit.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25

» *Merry Christmas!*

SUNDAY DECEMBER 26

» **The Attic Dwellers Acoustic Music Club**
12-4 p.m. PLAV Post #6, 9545 McDougall St, Hamtramck.

» **Beauty and the Beast**
2 p.m. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit.

» **Indoor Snowball Fights and Indoor Prize Fishing**
12 p.m. Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater Street, Detroit.

» **Kwanzaa with The Wright!**
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E Warren Ave, Detroit.

» **Leslie DeShazor**
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.

» **Mobile Fish Sushi Pop-up**
5-9 p.m. Motor City Wine, 1949 Michigan Ave, Detroit.

» **PuppetART presents Banana for Turtle**
3 p.m. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St, Detroit.

» **Sky Covington at Woodbridge Pub**
7:30-11 p.m. 5169 Trumbull, 1970 Yemans, Detroit.

» **Starry Lights**
5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.

MONDAY DECEMBER 27

» **Ashley Wey Trio w/Louis Rudner**
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.

» **Monday's The New Monday!**
7:01 p.m. Motor City Wine, 1949 Michigan Ave, Detroit.

» **Quick Lane Bowl**
11 a.m. Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit.

» **WWE Monday Night RAW**
7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 28

» **Grosse Pointe Badminton Association**
6:30-8 p.m. 20600 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods.

» **Jason Janas: Touch Bass feat. The Marion Hayden Trio**
7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.

» **Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom**
10:30-11 a.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. grossepointelibrary.org

» **Ron English : Tuesday Nights at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
6-8:30 p.m. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.

» **Trans-Siberian Orchestra-Christmas Eve & Other Stories**
3 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.

» **What the Constitution Means to Me (Touring)**
8 p.m. Fisher Theatre, 3011 West Grand & Fisher, Detroit.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29

» **Dave McMurray at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.

» **Detroit Pistons vs. New York Knicks**
7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.

» **Motor City Cruise vs. Delaware Blue Coats**
7 p.m. Wayne State Arena, 1290 West Warren Avenue, Detroit.

» **New Year's Eve Gala**
7-11 p.m. Aretha's Jazz Cafe at Music Hall, 350 Madison Street, Detroit.

Check out the online calendar on our website for more details & registration links



6C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



The holidays are a wonderful time of the year. An abundance of great food, getting together with friends and family, and plenty of time off to spend in front of the TV getting caught up on shows and watching favorite holiday-themed films.

So for this week's column, I thought I'd feature a couple of my go-to Christmas movies. I'll also include a selection of my other seasonal faves.

in fact, Jonathan is to be married in just a few days.

Here is where things get fun. The two soul mates spend their time searching for each other, convinced that their relationship was meant to be.

They keep missing each other in an amusing series of events, which is exasperating to witness. It's almost Shakespearian in nature.

Will they eventually find each other and

solves to reveal the story live as it unfolds.

It seamlessly jumps back and forth in time, like an imaginative adventure story. It's a beautifully nostalgic look at Christmas in a bygone era. It's so charming and delightful, you'll want to watch it again when it's over!

Currently streaming on IMDB TV, BritBox, Tubi, and other services.

★★★★★

I'm amazed at how many Christmas movies have been made over the years. I've found sites that feature the 100 best Christmas movies! A hundred? Who knew? Here are a few of my other holiday favorites, not in any particular order: "A Christmas Story", "The Holiday", "Love Actually", "A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas", "Home for the Holidays", and "Joyeux Noel". Happy Holidays from this movie (chest)nut!

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

About this column:

My main focus is on films that I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition. They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix and Kanopy, as well as theatrical releases.

For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com. Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://www.moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).



John Cusack and Kate Beckensale in the 2001 Christmas Love Story "Serendipity".

MOVIE REVIEW
"Serendipity"

2001 - 1hr 30min

This charming movie stars John Cusack as Jonathan and Kate Beckensale as Sara. It begins with the words "A few years ago..." and we witness them at the glove counter of a New York department store just before Christmas.

They're negotiating who gets to purchase the last pair of leather gloves.

While they both have significant others, they're immediately smitten with each other and end up spending the entire evening together.

Cusack and Beckensale have remarkable chemistry and we root for them right from the start. However, they decide that if they were truly meant to be together, they'd find each other again in the future and they go their separate ways.

"A few years later..." we catch up with the couple. They're both engaged to their respective mates, and

live happily ever after? You'll just have to check it out and find out for yourself.

Currently streaming on Netflix, Epix, Hulu, Pluto, Plex and other services.

★★★★☆

MOVIE REVIEW
"A Child's Christmas in Wales"

1987 - 55min

An absolutely enchanting adaptation of the classic Dylan Thomas poem. I read it out loud to the family every year and it's become a Christmas tradition.

Several years ago I discovered this version, which stars Denholm Elliott. If you're not familiar with him, let's just say he played the quintessential Sherlock Holmes back in the day—smart, but also kindly and warm—something lacking in most of the other interpretations of this famous character.

Here he plays a sweet grandpa, spending Christmas Eve babysitting his young grandson Thomas (Methonwy Reeves). He starts telling the story of his childhood Christmases, growing up in a small Welsh village. He recites the classic poem and the scene then dis-



Left, Methonwy Reeves as Thomas and Denholm Elliot as Old Geraint in the Dylan Thomas Christmas story "A Child's Christmas in Wales."

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today until 10:30 p.m. PST. The Moon is in Leo.

Happy Birthday Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021

You are multitalented and can excel in many fields. Ever the optimist, you have a strong sense of purpose and are not daunted by challenges. You are an excellent communicator. This has been a year of hard work and construction for many of you. Next year you will face exciting changes, which means you have to keep an open mind.

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)

Something might happen that creates a difficulty, a quarrel or perhaps even a break with an old friend. Perhaps this challenging situation will take place with someone older, in a group or an organization. It might cause you to give up or change some important goals. Tonight: Patience with others.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)

This is a challenging time with parents, bosses and people in authority. Situations that you always thought would be the same might suddenly change. A boss or parent might leave. Or you might feel that you can no longer toe the party line. Tonight: Be respectful.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)

Plans regarding future travel or dealing with a foreign country, or plans related further education or something to do with the law and medicine -- whatever they might be -- are seriously challenged now. Tonight: Steady as she goes.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)

You might feel pressure to respond to changes that affect shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt or insurance issues.

Something that you thought was solid and dependable might suddenly seem shaky. Or perhaps a sudden change will affect your shared assets. Tonight: Do nothing.

LEO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Something sudden and unexpected might impact a relationship with a spouse, partner or close friend. The degree to which change is taking place will relate to the degree to which you resisted any kind of change. Relationships require flexibility because they are always changing. Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You are facing a major change with your job, your health or possibly a pet. This change will challenge some kind of structure in your life. If it's with your health, it might literally be a challenge to your bones or your teeth. (Hopefully, a change for the better.) Tonight: Be stoic.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

A sudden change that relates to your kids, vacation plans or sports might be taking place now. Ideally, this change might create greater freedom for you. If there is difficulty with the change, it could be because you're resisting what is inevitable. Tonight: Accept what is.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Some aspect of structure related to family or your home itself will be challenged now. For some, this could be as minor as a family quarrel. For others, it

could be a big shake-up. What is possible is something liberating for you. Tonight: Wait and see.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This might be a challenging time for you because certain ways of thinking and acting, especially with siblings, relatives and neighbors, are challenged for some reason. The status quo is changed or is changing, which, in turn, might require a response on your part. Tonight: Tolerance.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You always take a long-range view of things because you are a practical sign. Right now, some things are changing with respect to cash flow, earnings or possessions that you own. Perhaps a burden will be lightened. Keep your eyes open. Tonight: Remain flexible.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It appears that the status quo with how things run and work in your life are changing. If you have been flexible, this change could be minor. If you have resisted this change, it could be major. Ironically, the only thing in life that is certain is change. Tonight: It is what it is.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)

Some deep-rooted ideas are undergoing a change in your mind or even your subconscious at this time. Perhaps it involves the fact that you are giving up things -- people, places and possessions -- because this is the natural thing for you to do now. Just relax. Tonight: Go with the flow.

BORN TODAY

Actor Finn Wolfhard (2002), actress Estella Warren (1978), actor Harry Shearer (1943).

Contract Bridge

NEVER SAY DIE

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	J 9 3	♥	K Q 6 4
♦	A K 8	♣	J 7 4
WEST			
♠	6	♥	A Q 10 8 7 5 2
♦	J 9 7 3 2	♠	10
♥	Q 10 7 5 2	♦	J 9 6 3
♣	A 6	♣	2
SOUTH			
♠	K 4	♥	A 8 5
♦	4	♠	K Q 10 9 8 5 3

The bidding:
East 3♠ South 4♣ West Pass North 5♣
Opening lead — six of spades.

Adjectives such as "brilliant" are used far too often in bridge. After all, if someone makes the correct play, one that everyone should make, he is hardly deserving of unbridled adulation. All he has done, really, is make the right play.

Take this case where South wound up in five clubs after East had opened with three spades. West led the six of spades to East's ace, and the contract seemed destined to go down one, since West could ruff the spade return.

But South, who was perfectly aware

that West could ruff the second spade, was not about to give up without a fight. And so, when East took the ace of spades at trick one, South casually dropped the king!

This left East in a quandary. From where he sat, South appeared to have started with the singleton king of spades and West with the doubleton 6-4. It therefore seemed pointless to return a spade, particularly with the jack in dummy.

So East turned his attention instead to his singleton heart. If West happened to hold the ace — certainly not an impossibility — a heart ruff would sink the contract. Accordingly, East shifted to the heart ten.

Having gained a reprieve, South won the heart, cashed the A-K of diamonds — discarding his remaining spade — and then led a club. West won with the ace, but when East was unable to ruff the heart return, declarer had the rest of the tricks.

South's play at trick one is certainly worthy of admiration. East was highly likely to have a seven-card spade suit, and a ruff was imminent. East would have had no trouble diagnosing the situation if declarer followed to the ace with the four, so the only chance was to try to fool East by dropping the king.

But was this play brilliant? Hardly, because it was the right play under the circumstances.

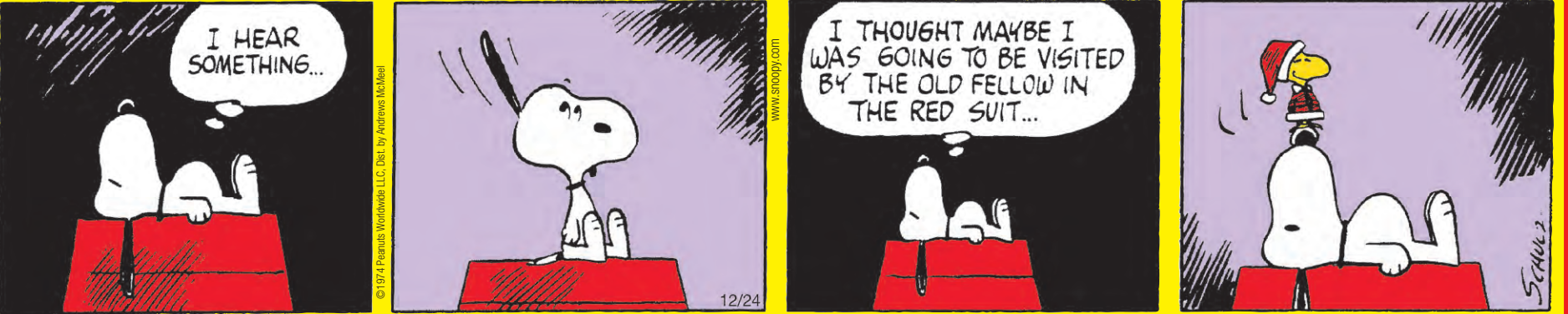
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by Steve Becker

Comics

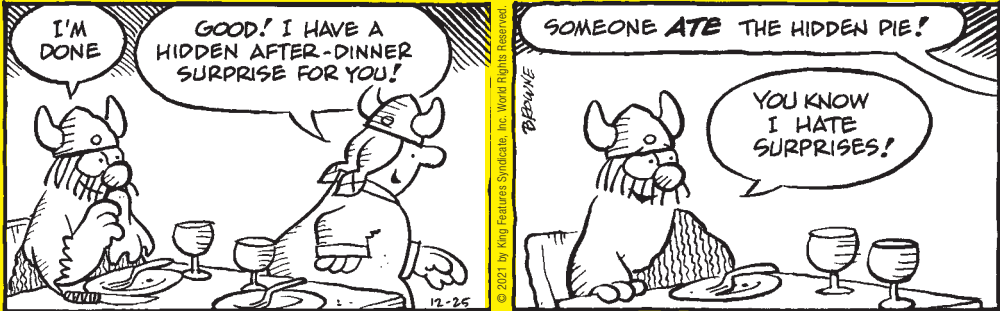
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



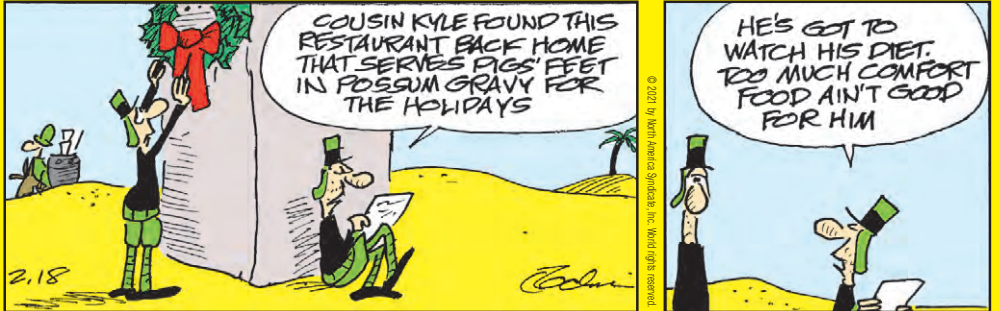
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



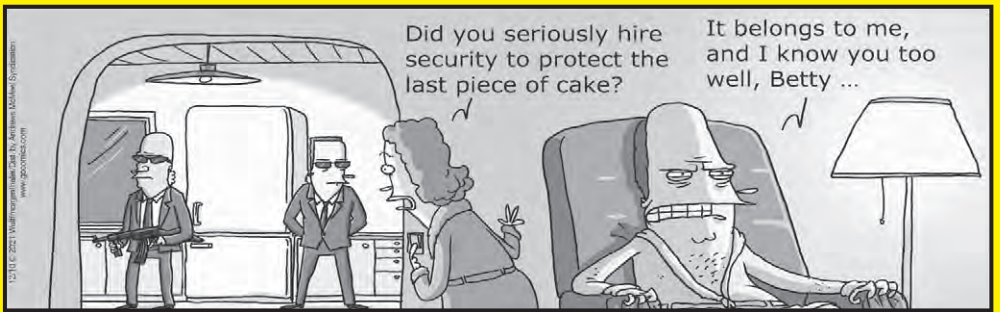
F Minus

Tony Carriolo



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



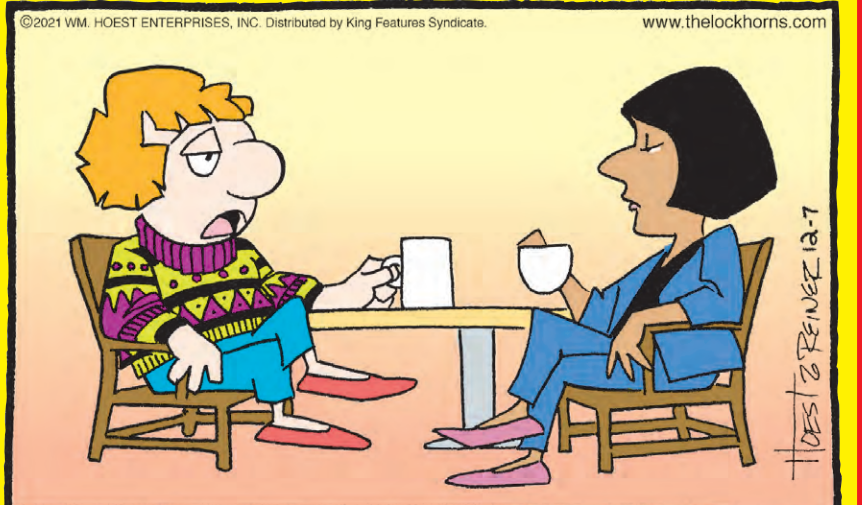
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



To prevent Christmas gift opening from being over in a flash, the Wagner kids were required to use only their feet.

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Marmaduke wants to know if you're always watching dogs, too."

SPORTS

SPORTS

Drama on ice

Gudenau's late goal wins tournament for Liggett. PAGE 3D

2D GIRLS HOCKEY | 4D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Strong start lifts Norsemen over South

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With just one matchup between crosstown rivals on this year's regular season schedule, the boys basketball teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South knew they had one shot at winning bragging rights. The Norsemen hosted the Blue Devils Thursday night in a game that had almost everything a fan could ask for in a rivalry matchup. Through all the action, scoring and drama, North was able to prevail 68-64.

With energy filling the gym before Thursday

night's game even tipped off, the first quarter brought up the intensity even more. Both teams came out firing and traded baskets in the first couple of minutes, but it was one hot hand early on for the Norsemen who made the difference.

North's Adam Ayrault was nearly unstoppable throughout the night and it all began with his strong first quarter. The junior scored 14 points in the quarter with 12 of those points coming from behind the three-point line. At the finish of a wild first eight minutes, Ayrault's 14 points helped the Norsemen

jump out to a 28-14 lead.

"Our bench tonight really was our sixth man," North coach Andy Ayrault said about his team's fast start. "When you get a hot hand, it'll cool down a bit and you've got to sit back and enjoy that while you can, but also keep the pressure on the other team because they're going to come back."

The Blue Devils were left facing an uphill climb after that first quarter, but Anthony Benard led the charge for South to begin closing that gap. However, three consecutive three-pointers made by North's Kyle Armbruster helped the Norsemen seize back the momentum and keep the lead at double digits going into halftime with the scoreboard at 42-31.

The pace of the game slowed down a bit in the third quarter after the high-scoring first half. The Blue Devils continued fighting hard to mount a comeback, but North was able to do enough to stay in front somewhat comfortably. A make from beyond the arc right before the buzzer at the end of the quarter by South's Tom



Anthony Benard had 25 points for the Blue Devils against North.

Maccagnone cut North's lead to single digits with the Blue Devils trailing by just seven going into the final quarter.

South continued to get closer throughout the fourth quarter until the game was within four points going into the final minute. The drama continued as a controversial timeout call by North led to a technical foul against South with just over 40 seconds left, putting the Norsemen at the free throw line.

Ayrault made just one of the two free throws after the technical and South was still very much in the game. North

was able to emerge with the victory by four points and hold off the Blue Devils' push to come back, something Ayrault was surprised and proud his team could do.

"That's sort of been our Achilles heel in the first few games when we were turning the ball over way too much," he said. "You have to get the kids to relax while they're playing and that comes with time. Usually, later in the season, they get better at that ... getting them to fundamentally do what they need to do."

On the other side, South coach Stephen

Benard liked the intensity and fight his team showed throughout the game despite falling into an early deficit.

"We've been starting slow in our first quarters and haven't been winning too many first quarters," Benard said. "They knocked down some threes and hit some big shots in the first quarter and we were playing catch-up the rest of the way. In the second half, we had the intensity and made it a game. ... We're still trying to figure out our team."

North's Adam Ayrault led all scorers with 31 points in the win for the Norsemen. Teammates Armbruster and James Phillips each had 11 for North. The leading scorer for South was Anthony Benard, who tallied 25 on the score sheet. Alex English was the only other Blue Devil to reach double digits with 11 points.

The Norsemen get a break for the holidays before getting back into action Monday with a road game at L'Anse Creuse North. South is off until Dec. 30, when they face West Bloomfield in the Round Ball Classic.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

North's Adam Ayrault led all scorers with 31 points in the win over South.

Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Surrounded by family and friends at the Parc Detroit restaurant in Campus Martius last Wednesday afternoon, Will Johnson officially became a Michigan Wolverine. The Grosse Pointe South senior signed his National Letter of Intent to join the football team at the University of Michigan in what was one of the most highly anticipated signings in recent Michigan football history.

It became official last week, but Johnson has been a Wolverine for a long time. One could say he has been a Michigan man his entire life. Johnson announced his verbal commitment to Michigan in February, but signing his name and putting on the hat to officially become a Wolverine during National Signing Day was the culmination of years of hard work.

"I've been waiting on this moment my whole life," Johnson said. "I worked for it and finally

was happy to just seal the deal."

As the No. 1 player in the state of Michigan, according to multiple recruiting outlets, Johnson had a wide array of top-tier college football programs from which to choose. Alabama, USC, Michigan State, Texas A & M, Ohio State, Notre Dame and several others made offers to the star cornerback from South. With his father, Deon, being a former member of the Michigan football team, Johnson chose to move just down the road to Ann Arbor and continue his family's legacy.



Continuing the family tradition is not the only thing Johnson is focused on maintaining at U of M.

This year, the Wolverines won their first Big Ten Conference championship in nearly two decades, earned a bid to play in the College Football Playoff and, most importantly, defeated rival Ohio State for the first time since 2011.

There is a lot Johnson is looking forward to as he gets ready to be a part of the team at Michigan soon. Making beating Ohio State a yearly occurrence might be at the top of the list.

"All we've got to do is come in and work hard," Johnson said. "They've got a blueprint there since they beat them this year, so now it's about staying together to keep doing it every year."

Signing his letter last week truly was years in the making for Johnson. Growing up as the son of a Wolverine and following the program his entire life, knowing Michigan was interested in having him be part of the team was a special feeling for Johnson.

"It was my freshman

year in winter or spring when I first got the offer from Michigan and it meant a lot," he said. "My dad went there and a lot of people I grew up watching played there, so it really meant a lot and brought me to where I am today."

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication that drives Johnson on and off the field. As family and friends spoke at his signing event, his passion and work ethic were praised by all who know him well.

That hard work landed Johnson a spot on this year's Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Dream Team and attention from college programs throughout the years. His dad knows anything is possible for Johnson as long as he keeps that mindset.

"He has willingness to make sacrifices and work on his craft," Deon Johnson said. "All he really talks about is what he can do to make himself better on and off the field. ... If he continues to focus on what he needs to focus on, it can really carry him a long way."

All of his coaches and teammates from South were not forgotten amid the excitement surround-



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Will Johnson

ing Johnson's signing. Those who were with him during his four years on the varsity football team with the Blue Devils played a huge role in helping him become the player he is today.

"The players before him were great leaders and really sold him to the team," Johnson's dad said. "Coach Brandon had him as part of the leadership team in 10th, 11th and 12th grade, so it really forced him to step up and be a leader. A lot of the time before last year he was leading by example, but this year he had to be more of a vocal leader and that really helped him out a lot and helped him mature."

His high school coaches and teammates called on him to lead and Johnson always stepped up to the task. It was the opportunities the program at South gave him that Johnson believes helped really prepare him for the next level.

"They've helped me out a lot ever since they brought me in because I was a freshman on varsity," Johnson said. "They believed in me and had faith in me throughout my career. They put me in places where I had to perform and it really got me ready for college."

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.

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2D | SPORTS

Defense helps Liggett to victory

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Before an extended break for the holidays, the University Liggett Knights boys basketball team took the court at home Wednesday looking for its first victory of the season. The Knights seemed to finally find their footing after an 0-2 start as they hosted Detroit East English Village Prep. Liggett rode a strong effort, especially on the defensive end, to a 58-42 win over the Bulldogs.

Both sides came out of the gate a bit slow to start. A low-scoring first quarter ended with the Knights in front by just three at 10-7.

The second quarter saw Liggett pick up the pace a bit more. However,

it was the work on defense for the Knights to close out the first half that really made a difference throughout the remainder of the game.

Liggett's scoring stayed mostly on par with that of the first quarter, scoring 12 in the second to end the first half with 22 points on the board. The Knights held the Bulldogs to just three points during the quarter in a tremendous defensive effort to make it 22-10 going into half-time.

Coming out of half-time, both the Knights and Bulldogs ramped up their scoring to nearly double the entire first half. Everything seemed to be falling for Liggett, who was able to keep a steady lead in front to end the third quarter

with a 43-27 lead.

The Bulldogs kept fighting until the end, but never managed to pull to within single digits. Some late big shots, including a three by Alex George, kept the Knights in front comfortably as they cruised to a 16-point win.

Liggett had three players score in double digits during the win. Jarren Purify led the Knights with 12 points. George and Joshua Pierce had scored 10 each, while Carson Roose was close behind with nine points.

The Knights enjoy a holiday break after collecting their first victory of the young season. They will be on the court again after the new year, taking on St. Clair Shores South Lake Jan. 5.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Alex George had 10 points for Liggett as the Knights defeated the Bulldogs.

Blue Devils play hard against crosstown rivals

By Alexis Bohlinger
Staff Writer

The Grosse Pointe South girls varsity hockey team met its crosstown rival, the University Liggett Knights, Saturday, Dec. 18, in the annual holiday tournament at McCann Ice Arena. This was the second time the Blue Devils saw the Knights this season and although South tightened the scoring gap, they were unable to defeat the defending state champions, who took the 4-2 victory in the end.

Scoring started at 2:50 in the first period with a goal from Liggett senior Maddie McKee, assisted by Elle Quinlan and Sofie Ancona. South answered to tie the game 1-1 with a goal from senior captain Liv Livingstone, assisted by Molly Ryszewski.

Heading into the second period, Liggett took the 2-1 lead with a goal from Ancona, assisted by Quinlan and Ava Jacob. A few minutes later, the Knights scored again. This time by Quinlan, assisted by Giuliana Luffy. Liggett continued to dominate the play and scored one

more early in the third by Allyson Dopcke, assisted by Morgan Hamilton, to widen the gap 4-1.

Nearing the end of the game, it was clear the Blue Devils had become exhausted by the ferocious Knights, who were playing a very physical game. However, the Blue Devils took advantage of a Knights penalty and put in a power play goal from Ryszewski, assisted by Livingstone, with 1:32 remaining in the game. The Blue Devils fought back for the remaining minute and half, pulling the goalie, but were unable to cash in on any more goals. The final score was 4-2.

"Our coaching staff was very pleased with the outcome of Saturday's game," said South head coach Hailee Craig. "We have already improved substantially from the last time we played Liggett and that was only from one month of practice, which includes some holiday time off."

Craig is optimistic her team will continue to improve and compete with the top contenders in the league.

"I think we definitely

match up with the top competition," she said. "We already played and beat Mercy, who has been a top contender, and have had close games with Liggett. No question we have some work to do and areas to clean up, but we are well on our way."

The South girls hockey team has a history of carrying a crew of talented players and this year is no different. Ryszewski currently leads the team with 21 points (11 goals and eight assists). Livingstone has 11 points (five goals and six assists). The remainder of the points are evenly distributed amongst the team.

"We have a great group of leaders from our upperclassmen down to our sophomores," said Craig. "With that being said, the talent on our team is pretty evenly distributed from upper- to lower-classmen, which gives us depth. We have the perfect mix of experience and raw talent."

Grosse Pointe South currently has a league record of 4-1-0 and will play its next league game Jan. 5, at ESH against Walled Lake.



PHOTO BY TOM GEBECK

Molly Ryszewski had a goal and an assist for the Blue Devils against Liggett.

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Grosse Pointe News

South and Knights play thriller to end tournament

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was a weekend packed with hockey action at McCann Ice Arena as the University Liggett Knights boys hockey team hosted a tournament with three other schools, including Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South. With the M-1 United Griffins from Royal Oak and Berkeley getting in on the action too, it was the Knights who emerged victorious at the end of their own tournament Saturday night.

The weekend's games in the boys tournament began Friday night. First

up on the slate was a rivalry showdown between the Norsemen and the Blue Devils. The first matchup between the two teams in November was a one-sided affair, with South winning 5-0. This weekend's rematch was not much different.

South found the scoreboard early and often in what ended up being a blowout win. Sam Adams was first to light the lamp just over a minute into the game to put the Blue Devils up right out of the gate. Jack O'Keefe found the back of the net later in the period to make it 2-0 in favor of South after the opening 17 minutes.

O'Keefe added another

to start the second period and extend the Blue Devils' lead to three goals. Liam Mathieson scored to stretch the advantage even more for South. After two periods, the scoreboard read 5-0.

Jake Spitz and Anderson Tigges each scored in the third period to seal the commanding win for the Blue Devils. For the second time this season, South shutout North, winning this time 7-0.

Friday's second game saw the host team University Liggett taking on the M-1 United Griffins. The Knights were able to jump out to an early advantage and use it to help fight off a potential Griffins comeback as Liggett went on to a 6-3 victory.

Stephen Wheatley put the Knights on the board first with the opening goal of the game just over 10 minutes into the first period. Doug Wood added another for Liggett before time ran out in the first 17 minutes to make it 2-0.

In the second period, Ethan Schlenker found the back of the net early to put the Knights up by three. The Griffins were able to finally crack the

scoreboard after that, making it a 3-1 game.

M-1's first goal did not seem to rattle the Knights one bit. Wheatley scored again to put Liggett back in front by three and then added another before the end of the period to complete his hat-trick and make it 5-1 Knights.

The Griffins struck twice within the first five minutes of the third and final period to make things interesting. Liggett's defense was able to hold strong after that and an empty-net goal by Ryan King late in the game wrapped up the win for the Knights.

M-1 United went on to defeat North 8-2 in the third-place game Saturday. After that, the table was set for the exciting final matchup of the weekend's tournament between South and Liggett.

South got an early power-play, but it was the Knights who ended up taking advantage of the best opportunity. Liggett captain Doug Wood blocked a shot at the blue line and ended up with a clear breakaway down the ice. The senior put the puck into the top shelf for a shorthanded goal to give



PHOTO BY BRIAN MCKENNA

South's Hayden Crane scores against the Knights to tie the game 1-1.

the Knights a 1-0 lead.

Wood's goal ended up standing as the only one of the opening period. However, it took just under five minutes in the second frame for South to pull back to even. Sophomore Hayden Crane received a golden opportunity with a rebound in front of the net and took full advantage to put the Blue Devils on the board and tie the game 1-1.

The teams continued battling back and forth as they went through the rest of the second period without another goal. The score remained tied 1-1 well throughout the third as it looked as though the weekend finally might be

decided in overtime.

A couple of days filled with great hockey deserved an exciting finish and that is exactly what happened. With just one second left in regulation, Liggett's Ian Gudenau launched a back-handed shot on goal and the crowd erupted as it found the back of the net to give the Knights a 2-1 victory.

South is back in action after the holiday break Jan. 6, hosting Catholic Central. The Knights return to the ice that same day as they hit the road to face Riverview Gabriel Richard. North returns from its break Jan. 7, with a road game against U of D Jesuit.



PHOTO BY BARBARA JOHNS

Liggett celebrated Ian Gudenau's game-winning goal against the Blue Devils.

College commitments Liggett girls hoops gets second straight win



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KLUNDER FAMILY

South's Joey Klunder signed his letter to play college football at the University of Michigan.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Seven athletes from North signed their college letters earlier this month. Back row, from left: Bryan Carney (Olivet College, baseball), Ian Donahue (University of Delaware, swimming), James MacAuley (Wittenberg University, baseball), Luke Babcock (Madonna University, baseball). Front row, from left: Ella Maltby (Concordia University Wisconsin, field hockey/lacrosse), Maraina Smith (Oakland University, softball), Diane Muccioli (Wayne State University, swimming).

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After starting the new season 0-3, the University Liggett girls basketball team is starting to get back on the right track. The Knights got their first win last Tuesday against Bloomfield Hills Roper and took the court the very next night hosting Detroit East English Village Prep. It was a low-scoring affair between the Knights and Bulldogs, but a strong start for Liggett helped carry the team to a 32-22 victory.

The Knights began the first quarter on a scoring run that would end up lasting through the entire

first eight minutes of the game. Liggett got its scoring from a variety of places to start and took an 11-0 lead at the end of the first.

In the second quarter, the Bulldogs were able to finally break onto the scoreboard but were not able to mount enough offense to start catching up to the Knights yet. Liggett was able to stay in front with a 19-6 lead going into halftime.

After halftime, the Knights continued to build on their lead. It took East English three quarters to match the number of points Liggett scored in the first as the Knights led 29-11 going into the final frame.

The offense started to pick up more for the Bulldogs in the fourth quarter, but it was too late to make Liggett feel uncomfortable about its lead. The Knights were outscored 11-3 in the fourth, but still managed the 11-point victory to put two in a row in the win column.

Hallie Marcero led the Knights with eight points in the win. Avery Slanec and Samantha Krasnicki each scored six for Liggett.

The Knights get a break for the holidays before getting back into action in the new year. Liggett takes the court again on Jan. 4 against Sacred Heart.

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY

Regular Meeting	Monday December 13, 2021	7:00 p.m.
<p>A regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms was held at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road and called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 2021, by Mayor Pro Tem Gillooly.</p> <p>Present: Mayor Pro Tem John J. Gillooly, Councilmembers Sierra Leone Donaven, Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Neil Sroka, Joe Ricci and Lev Wood.</p> <p>Absent: Mayor Louis Theros (Excused).</p> <p>Mayor Pro Tem Gillooly led the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Council excused Theros' absence.</p> <p>Council approved the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on November 8, 2021 with minor changes.</p> <p>Council amended the order of the agenda and added an item regarding Public Safety Director Daniel Jensen.</p> <p>Council presented Public Safety Director Daniel Jensen with a proclamation recognizing his 50 years of service to the City and wishing him the best of luck in his upcoming retirement on December 30, 2021.</p> <p>Council appointed Public Safety Deputy Director John Hutchins to the position of Public Safety Director.</p> <p>Council temporarily adjourned it's meeting and reconvened as the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).</p>		
<p>The BZA took no action regarding a dimensional variance for 89 Lake Shore Road because the applicant withdrew their request.</p> <p>The BZA held a Public Hearing and approved a dimensional variance for 142 Muir Road to construct a non-conforming structure.</p>		
<p>The BZA adjourned and reconvened as the City Council.</p> <p>Council approved the 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Schedule. City Council meetings take place the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 90 Kerby Road.</p> <p>Council approved the Consent Agenda.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Consideration of a request from Administration to approve November 2021 invoices.</p>		
<p>Council approved the 2022 Administrative Fee Schedule.</p> <p>Council received the November 2021 Public Safety Report.</p> <p>Council held public comment.</p> <p>Council went into Closed Session and never returned to open session.</p> <p>The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.</p>		
<p>Respectfully submitted, Derrick Kozicki, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk</p>		
<p>Published: Grosse Pointe News 12/23/2021</p>		

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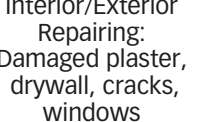
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