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COURTESY PHOTO

Regal winner

If her festive plaid bow doesn't win your heart, her dark brown puppy eyes will — and those are just two reasons why Tout Ça, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, was named winner of the 2022 Grosse Pointe News Holiday Pet contest. Tout Ça, which in French translates to "All of that," brought many "oohs and ahs" to those who saw her in the Dec. 22 edition, so she now wears the Pointe's crown as Best Dressed Doggie. Her royal highness belongs to the Heimbuch family of Grosse Pointe Park, who report Tout Ça loves naps, peanut butter and her human siblings. Her cuteness won her a \$50 gift certificate to the Village Groom Room, 16894 Kercheval Place in Grosse Pointe. Take a look at all of this year's furry fashionistas at grossepointenews.com/articles/holiday-pets/.

City getting unique day care business

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Home-based day cares aren't a new concept, but one coming to the City this year has a very unique business model.

Little Seedlings, which operates child care homes in several other cities, received approval

for its latest offering at city council's meeting Dec. 19.

"Typically, a home-based day care is run by a mom out of her house who wants to stay home with her children," said founder and owner Christina DelPizzo. "Our difference is that the licensed teacher lives in

See CARE, page 3A

Ashland lots off the table

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — With the new public works complex on Mack due to open sooner than later, all bets are off on the city's purchase of land across the Detroit border for what at one time had been considered the future site of modernized DPW facilities.

A united city council Monday, Jan. 9, approved withdrawing from a non-binding agreement to buy the property from the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation.

"We didn't need it anymore," said Nick Sizeland, Park city manager. "We saved residents money and we're operating (public works) in Grosse Pointe Park."

"It's integral to the continuous professionalization of the city," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We're making sure we have proper procedures in place and documented."

Backing out has no consequences.

"The (foundation) agrees it will take no action, legal or otherwise, to enforce the ...

purchase agreement with regard to the Ashland properties," according to the agreement.

The foundation, organized in 2012, is known these days for backing forthcoming construction of the Schaap Center for the performing arts at the corner of Jefferson and Wayburn. The centennial purchase agreement with

See ASHLAND, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

In a fog

A dense fog descended on much of southeast Michigan last week, including much of the Grosse Pointes. The Ford House grounds were covered in a mist that made a portion of the path near the cove resemble a peaceful English countryside.

Could third time be the charm? Pier Park seeks concessionaire

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The concession stand at Pier Park may be stuck in its own Grosse Pointe version of "Groundhog Day," but city administrators remain optimistic they will yet again be able to secure a new concessionaire in time for its Memorial

weekend opening.

For 40 years, the stand was run by Farms resident Dick Graves. Upon his 2021 retirement, the baton eagerly was picked up by a City resident with a long history in the restaurant business, but carried only a single summer as her family moved out

of state. This past summer, just as the Farms had lined up food trucks as plan B, a concessionaire who had been looking into starting a restaurant locally stepped up to the plate, but since has decided not to continue a second season.

"It wasn't a matter that

she wasn't successful," City Manager Shane Reeside said. "She was successful (and) she enjoyed it. But she does have a young family and just the hours involved took her away from her family more than was acceptable to her, so she unfortunately will not be back."

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2022 IN REVIEW

2022: The year of 'GSD' in GPP

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Infrastructure, infrastructure.

The year 2022 in Grosse Pointe Park was all about improving municipal infrastructure, mainly the sewer, storm-water and drinking water

transmission systems.

"Two thousand twenty-two was the year to GSD — get stuff done," first-year Mayor Michele Hodges said. "And we did exactly that."

Among accomplishments, she rated moving forward on infrastructure improvements at the top.

Then came adopting the updated municipal master plan, working in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, commencing a comprehensive update of city ordinances, initiating the Redevelopment Ready Communities process and improved community engagement.

"There is a lot to be proud of and my hat is off to the many individuals who made it happen," Hodges said.

"Nothing happens without a solid team leading the way and I thank all who make these outcomes possible," she continued. "I sincerely hope our community feels engaged and part of the forward momentum. We are working hard to rebuild the

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Lisa Cracchiolo Peracchio

Home: Grosse Pointe Shores
Founder and director of the East African Children's Fund



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PARK:

Continued from page 1A

trust that has been missing, which takes time, but any person willing to take an honest and objective look at where we've been, and where we are headed, should see a very positive trajectory."

On tap for 2023 are a focus on underfunded liabilities, public safety, infrastructure, zoning ordinance revisions, RRC certification, implementation of the master plan, exciting development opportunities, improved resident communication, partnership with neighboring communities and support for a viable Trombly Elementary School, she said.

Highlights of the year are:

January

◆ The Tax Increment Finance Authority leases the department of public works building being constructed on lower Mack to the DPW for \$1 per month. Revenue raised in the TIFA district funds construction of the DPW's new, \$4 million headquarters, garage and storage facility.

Construction isn't progressing as quickly as hoped due to labor and supply shortages, especially steel, resulting from the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

◆ A new rule at city hall forbids council members from debating the public on social media.

"These debates seldom resolve concerns and many times inflame feelings in a public setting," according to an updated code of conduct.

◆ Although video inspection reveals a 78-inch diameter sewer pipe under Jefferson to be unobstructed and in good condition, the same isn't true of smaller feeder lines elsewhere in the tree-packed city.

"Several sewers inspected in the north end of the community have significant root growth, which is affecting sewer operations," according to the city's consulting engineers, in their first monthly report on what is to be a nearly year-long inspection and cleaning of the sewer network.

February

◆ With financial fallout from two summer floods nearing \$900,000 and rising, municipal administrators pay for it by dipping into the city's



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

A family is all smiles during After 6 in June.

rainy-day fund. Despite flood costs, the city flies through its annual audit.

Total fund balance, often called the rainy-day fund, represents 35 percent of the city's current annual operating costs. The percentage is nearly triple the auditor's recommendation for a municipality considered to be in good financial shape.

◆ The community must brave another rainy season before there's a chance of installing a last-ditch valve to divert excess storm water from overwhelmed sewers and backing into basements.

State environmental officials want more detailed monitoring of the municipal sewer network before issuing a permit to install the valve, called an extreme emergency relief valve, or EERV, and dump otherwise unmanageable volumes of combined storm and sewer water directly into Lake St. Clair off Patterson Park.

◆ City Manager Nick Sizeland's primary focus during 2022 is on flood protection for the city and the installation of an EERV, according to goals set by the city council.

◆ A new city logo features a sailboat navigating gentle waters.

"Sometimes less is more," said the logo's designer, Deputy City Clerk Linda Boyle, a former graphic artist for Olympia Entertainment. "I wanted to preserve the traditions of Grosse Pointe Park and the things that are prevalent — the water and trees — but make it more contemporary."

March

◆ None of the 369 storm water discharges into Michigan rivers and Great Lakes during 2020 came from Grosse Pointe Park.

So, Park officials ask,

why are state environmental regulators putting the less than 2¼-square-mile suburb through the ringer in its attempt to protect residents by installing a storm relief valve?

◆ Park officials laud leaders of St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church and School for planning to separate the combined sewer under their 88,000-square-foot parking lot to reduce the risk of water backups into basements.

◆ Consultants are retained to help city officials decide a financial means to improving the municipal sewer system. "This would be long-term forecasting and planning, kind of like a financial advisor," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, a member of the finance committee.

◆ Upon installation of a permanent video system at city hall within two months, meetings of the council, boards and committees will be live-streamed with images and audio clearer than what has been the case since the city went viral with a temporary setup during the COVID pandemic.

April

◆ A rain garden that captures storm runoff instead of letting water drain into the sewer system is proposed for construction near the entrance to city hall.

"Rain gardens can help capture rainwater (and) reduce the impact on storm drains," City Manager Sizeland said.

◆ In another sewer inspection report, nearly 1½ times the anticipated quantity of foreign material has been removed during inspections of the city's sewers.

"Material disposal is approaching 65 percent of the original bid amount," said Patrick Droze, an engineer with OHM Advisors, the city's engineering consultants.

◆ City officials present

state environmental regulators an application to augment the sewer system with an extreme emergency relief valve.

"My philosophy has always been to under promise and over deliver," said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee and one of six new office-holders, including the mayor, elected in November to the seven-seat Park council. "We had an EGLE (the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy) meeting immediately after the election. It was a benefit knowing the new team shared the priority."

◆ Merry pranksters and their water carrier who wrote letters to city council under fake names promoting supposedly provocative issues that often had been asked and answered were hoisted this month with their own petards.

The council no longer reads written comments aloud during the public comment section of council meetings.

"The best practice is to do in-person comment," Mayor Hodges said. "That preserves the process and good information sharing."

"People behind a keyboard and anonymous letters are very different from people face to face," Councilman Wiener said.

May

◆ The consolidation of voting booths at Windmill Pointe Park ends the city's irregular pattern of temporary precinct displacements at public school buildings necessitated by the district's summertime construction schedule at two campuses in the city, plus the uncertain future of a third, namely Trombly Elementary, which is closed.

◆ Competition for parking spaces in a business district is a bellwether of commercial activity, according to the TIFA board.

"More parking, more demand, which is good," TIFA Chairman John Hughes said.

The board's \$1.1 million annual budget includes \$350,000 for parking improvements and related services.

◆ The K-Line trolley resumes its schedule up and down Kercheval, linking the Pointes' central corridor of restaurant, entertainment and shopping districts in the Park, the City's Village and The Hill in the Farms. Each of the three cities

See PARK, page 9A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Farms Mayor Louis Theros and his wife, Patti, enjoy a game of Putt-Putt during last year's Pier Park Winterfest.

Farms to celebrate winter fun Saturday

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

— Returning for its second year post-pandemic, the annual Pier Park Winterfest is noon to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Jan. 14, and will feature a petting farm, ice sculptures on display, ice-carving demonstrations, ice skating, Putt-Putt, games and live entertainment by The Boys of Summer inside the festival tent.

"The public safety department for the Farms will be here with their smokehouse to talk about fire safety with the kids," Parks and Recreation Director Chris Galatis added, "as well as our new K-9 Rocco will be onsite to move around and visit with families, so we're excited to have our new K-9 be a part of the event this year."

The soup and chili challenge, put on hold since COVID-19 became an ongoing part of life, will not return this year.

"We're going to give it

another year and see what happens," Galatis said. "But we will have a food truck, so we're excited about that. The (Grosse Pointe Farms) Boat Club will still be selling adult beverages and we'll have hot chocolate free for people."

Brought in at the recommendation of Grosse Pointe Park, this year's Winterfest food truck offering will be Cult of the Joe Burger, which sells burgers, chicken sandwiches, falafels and pulled pork, as well as grilled cheese sandwiches for kids.

The annual winter event is free for Farms residents and up to two guests per park pass.

"Come out and enjoy some winter fun and be able to just get out of the house," Galatis said. "That's what we always hope for in the winter time for Winterfest."

— Laurel Kraus

ASHLAND:

Continued from page 1A

ter's location is the current site of DPW headquarters, which will be torn down and replaced by the replacement headquarters due for completion within weeks on Mack.

The Ashland property consists of five neighboring lots and buildings occupying the 1000 block just north of Jefferson. Included is a large, single-story, brick and cement structure containing Joe's Garage auto repair and body shop.

"Back in 2019, we were going to buy Joe's Garage," Sizeland said. "The city entered into a purchase agreement with the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation for the purchase of a number of properties on Ashland."

Park officials, wanting to modernize their public works shops and headquarters but strapped for land, eyed open spaces across the border in Detroit, two blocks from Park city hall.

This happened at about the time Detroit officials rescinded approval of the City of Grosse Pointe moving its public works operation across Mack Avenue on Canyon in Detroit. Such uncertainty didn't sit well in the Park, whose leaders decided to

keep things in the family.

"It was decided that it was in our interests to build a DPW that is located within the Park so public works and public safety can operate from within Grosse Pointe Park," Sizeland said.

Thereafter, the Tax Increment Finance Authority issued \$4 million in bonds to construct new public works offices, workspace and storage area in a two-story, block-long building on Mack between Wayburn and Maryland.

"We used TIFA allocation money to build a brand new building and relieved taxpayers from taking money from our general fund to buy Joe's Garage," Sizeland said.

He added, referring to withdrawing from the purchase agreement, "This has been talked about in the public sphere before."

Council action this week merely memorialized a prior agreement to back out of the purchase.

"I wanted to clarify in writing that we are not buying Joe's Garage," Sizeland said.

Although Park officials aren't buying the Ashland properties, they can use them at a discounted rate.

"(The agreement) provides for the lease (of) \$1 per month," said Dan Kelly, city attorney.

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Foundation public safety gym being dedicated to Lena Carlile

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The revamped gym at public safety headquarters is less than two months old and getting a workout.

Officers use it all the time.

“Usually, once per shift I’ll go in there for about 30 minutes,” PSO Tim Evans said. “You have to stay on top of your physical fitness so you don’t get injuries.”

Officers aren’t required to use the gym to stay strong. They do it anyway to guard against physical injury and because they don’t want to let their squad mates down.

“The guys who work out and take care of themselves appreciate it when the other guys do it, too,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. “You’re better for the department and you’re better for yourself.”

The gym and its state-of-the-art exercise equipment opened in November 2021, the result of a \$50,000 donation from the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

“Our public safety offi-

cers are all pretty ripped. Their biceps are huge,” Foundation Treasurer Barb Detwiler said.

“In many cases, society doesn’t allow us to lose,” Jarrell said. “We can’t walk into a bar brawl, look at the guy causing problems and say, ‘I think I’ll take a pass.’ We need every advantage we can (including) physical fitness-wise.”

The gym is to be dedicated 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, in memory of the late Allene “Lena” Carlile.

“She was president of the foundation almost two years ago when it approved funds for the public safety gym,” Detwiler said. “She spearheaded it.”

The campaign began shortly after the Park hired new Public Safety Director Bryan Jarrell.

“Barb Detwiler asked what I thought of everything so far,” Jarrell said. “I said I love everything. The people are great. The



The gym will be formally dedicated to Grosse Pointe Park Foundation Past President Allene “Lena” Carlile, who passed away before the project’s completion.

department’s great. The only thing I’m disappointed in is the status of the fitness center.”

The old gym was a wreck.

“It was dangerous,” Pittman said. “The equipment was worn and beaten down. On the cable crossover machine, you’d pull on it and both ends would start to fall in.”

“It was abysmal,”

Detwiler said. “I can’t imagine anybody working out in the gym they had. There was a hodgepodge of old, donated treadmills. They guys would use their own money to come up with equipment that was needed.”

Detwiler introduced Jarrell to Carlile. “The next thing I know, she’s leading the charge to get us a new fitness center,” Jarrell said. “We were asking for \$35,000. Allene took pictures for the foundation. They said, no they don’t need \$35,000. They need \$50,000. They really stepped forward for us and made all of this happen.”

“I thought it was wonderful that public safety named it in Allene’s honor,” Detwiler said. “That was really, really nice.”

A commemorative plaque with Carlile’s image hangs next to the gym door, located off the fire truck garage.

“It’s such a good likeness of her,” Detwiler said.

Part of the inscription reads, “This endeavor would not have been possible without Lena’s vision and understanding of the importance for first responders to be healthy, both physically and mentally.”

Detwiler said, “We couldn’t be more pleased with the way it turned out and that we actually were able to fund this, which is great for our community because it supports our

public safety department, which is so needed for our community.”

Officers have choices between free weights, weight machines, a step machine, treadmill and more.

“Everything we do is physically labor intensive, especially on a fire scene,” Pittman said. “I was a policeman for 12 years before I went to the fire academy. I’ve been in good shape all my life. I worked that fire and it liked to kill me. I knew I had to be better, to keep myself in peak physical condition. You can really hurt yourself at a fire if you’re not in shape.”

“Especially when you have homes 100 years old with narrow staircases, winding turns and two-family flats,” Jarrell said. “Carrying a stretcher up and down — and some of the people you’re carrying are not lightweights. It’s taxing on these guys to carry something like that downstairs.”

A Park officer currently is recuperating from an injury suffered during a medical run.

“The gurney started to go down the stairs the wrong way,” Jarrell said. “He reached to grab it and tore his shoulder.”

It is unusual for the foundation to fund something that isn’t open to the public.

Although the tax-exempt, charitable group donated \$130,000 to the city last August to buy key components of a sewer relief valve to protect residents from basement flooding during heavy rains, most of the foundation’s projects benefit the

public directly, such as the Patterson Park boardwalk and putting green, theater at Windmill Pointe Park and beautification enhancements throughout town.

“All of our projects have been for everybody within the community,” Detwiler said. “But, public safety benefits all residents of the Park, so this certainly was a good use of foundation money. The Grosse Pointe Park Foundation is proud to have expanded the scope of our projects, investing in novel collaborations between public and private philanthropy by building a modern fitness facility for our public safety officers, helping improve our municipal storm sewer facilities and our latest project, to update our playscape at Patterson Park.”

Each year around 500 people donate to the foundation, according to Detwiler.

“It’s not always the same people,” she said. “(Foundation President) Shery Cotton and I were sort of in charge of fundraising. Shery decided to send fundraising (appeals) to every single resident in the community. I’m really very pleased that we’re receiving \$50 and \$100 donations from residents because they want to be actively and integrally involved in the Park Foundation.”

“We reached out to all residents in the Park community and were overwhelmed with the response.”

Cotton is the mother of Grosse Pointe News owner, Sean Cotton.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Park public safety officers are making good use of the revamped gym.

CARE:

Continued from page 1A

the home rent-free.”

DelPizzo’s newest location will be on St. Clair just off Mack, across from the public safety department. It will be licensed for up to 12 children, and state law requires an assistant teacher be on site when more than six children are present.

State law also requires a minimum of 600 square feet of outdoor play space, which the house has in the backyard.

Council placed two restrictions on the special use permit, to which DelPizzo agreed. Employee parking must be in the driveway rather than on the street, and pick-up and drop-off times for clients must be staggered to avoid congestion on St. Clair. Hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

DelPizzo said her business started when her son was young and she was a teacher.

“His day care closed out of the blue and I was in a panic,” she recalled. “I found a lot of awesome other places, but they all had long waiting lists.”

DelPizzo quit her job and started the first Little Seedlings in her home.

“It filled up pretty fast so we started looking at other options,” she said. “My husband had a rental property that he’d owned before we got married and it was sitting vacant. I knew a teacher who

needed a place to live, so it worked out perfectly.”

The Grosse Pointe location joins others in Birmingham, Livonia, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township and Beverly Hills.

“We chose Grosse Pointe because a sorority sister of mine from college had a baby and couldn’t find any good options other than a nanny or an unlicensed day care,” DelPizzo

added. “She’ll be the licensee and live in the house.”

DelPizzo said her company pays the mortgage and utilities on each location and pays the teacher a salary.

“We try to be competitive with what classroom teachers get paid,” she said. “We also offer benefits, so we get great candidates because most child care pay is hourly.”

Including herself,

DelPizzo has 13 employees, many with classroom teaching experience or a degree in early childhood education.

“We’re licensed to take from infants up to age 5, but most of our kids are about 3 months up to age 4,” she said. “After that they generally move on to preschool.”

Visit littleseedlingschildcare.com or call (734) 262-0207 for more information.

CHARM:

Continued from page 1A

From Fishfly Café to Pier Houz, the city now is seeking an interested party to give the stand its third identity in as many years.

A request for proposals to run the stand went live last week — it can be found on the city’s website, grossepointefarms.org — with applications due by 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31. If all goes according to plan, city council then may approve a con-

tract with a new vendor in March.

“It’s encouraging that there’s been some interest expressed,” Reeside said, citing three vendors who already have come forward.

— Laurel Kraus



The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 16

- ◆ Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods municipal offices closed
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Infrastructure Committee meeting, 9 a.m. via Zoom.

TUESDAY, JAN. 17

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens’ Commission meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Brooks Brothers closing

After more than 30 years at its location at 11 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms, Brooks Brothers will be closing its doors Saturday, Jan. 28. The next closest Brooks Brothers location to the Pointes is at Great Lakes Crossing Outlets in Auburn Hills.

SAFETY:

Continued from page 4A

with the Amazon driver. In-car video from the Amazon van showed the entire incident.”

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report, per dispatch.

— Ted O’Neil
Report information about crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 885-5100.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Adding up

After a 28-year-old Harper Woods man was stopped for driving nearly 20 mph over the speed limit on Mack near Vernier around 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, it was discovered his license had been suspended eight times.

The man was cited for driving with a suspended license, speeding and no proof of insurance, then released. His 2014 Ford Fusion was impounded.

Overdrawn

A resident in the 1800 block of Hollywood reported around 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, that her bank told her there were four fraudulent charges for \$33,000 on her account and that it was overdrawn.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Fast and furious

After speeding off from several red lights — engine revving and tires squealing — a 40-year-old Detroit man lost control of his vehicle at Moross and Kercheval and almost spun out at 11:04 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29.

After showing signs of intoxication, the man resisted officers as they tried to place him in a scout car, leading to several injuries including an abrasion on one officer’s hand.

Refusing a preliminary breath test, the man was arrested for resisting officers and operating under the influence. A bag of marijuana also was found with him.

Aggressive arrest

A 40-year-old Louisville man became aggressive toward officers after he

was reported for refusing to leave a business at Mack and Moross at 12:28 a.m. Friday, Dec. 30.

The man fought against being removed from the store and placed in a scout car, became dead weight as officers tried to move him to a holding cell, made vulgar and threatening comments, tried to attack officers before they exited his cell and kicked at the door frame causing damage to the mortar.

A package containing suspected cocaine was found on his person and he was arrested for property damage, dangerous drugs, resisting officers and trespassing.

Partners in crime

Two suspects were seen running out of a business in the 100 block of Kercheval with a cart filled with 10 to 15 assorted bottles of liquor at 3:28 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 31.

The two left in a green older Mercury and are described as a white woman wearing a long black coat and black pants, as well as a white man with a goatee and mustache wearing black pants, a black coat and white beanie hat.

Kia damage

A Kia Optima parked in a driveway in the 400 block of Belanger was discovered damaged at 9:55 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3.

The passenger window was shattered, but no interior damage was noted.

Intoxicated

After speeding 56 mph on Moross at 1:41 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, a 32-year-old Detroit man was pulled over. He told officers he believed he was on Detroit back

roads and had consumed one beer. After failing sobriety tests, he was arrested for operating with a blood alcohol content of 0.17 percent or more.

Being tracked

After parking her car in her driveway in the 300 block of Touraine the night prior, a 20-year-old Farms woman found a GPS tracking monitor on the driveway beneath it Saturday, Jan. 7.

Doughnut thief

After stealing Hostess powdered sugar doughnuts from a business in the 18000 block of Mack at 11:50 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 8, a 25-year-old Detroit woman was issued a trespass warning and told never to return.

Crime prevention

When officers stopped a man walking down the Kerby sidewalk in dark clothing, with his hood up and wearing a backpack at 2:07 a.m. Monday, Jan. 9, he told them he was looking for a new apartment and had gotten off the bus at the hospital and picked a random street to walk down.

When officers informed the 43-year-old Detroit man that the Farms has seen a number of vehicle break-ins recently, he appeared to be sweating profusely despite the temperature being 30 degrees.

A search of his backpack turned up a small bag of tools, including a screwdriver, wrenches and pliers, but no cars in the area were located with any damage.

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

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Ludwig Mies Van Der Rohe (German, 1886-1969)
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South Sea Pearl, 18k Gold
(12-15mm) Double Strand Necklace, L 33" 236g

18k Gold, Diamond, & Emerald
Necklace, L 16"

Tiffany & Co (American)
Sterling Silver Five Piece Tea Service H 12" L 9"



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

So how is this going to work, exactly?

Since July 2022, when Grosse Pointe News owner Sean Cotton announced he was running for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, our newsroom became aware of the potential for conflicts of interest, both real and perceived.

We believe it’s important for us to clarify some of the operational changes we have made to ensure we fairly cover school board-related stories.

1. When Mr. Cotton filed his paperwork to run for the board last summer, he left his role as publisher. He also removed himself from participating in our twice-weekly staff meetings, where each reporter and editor discusses what stories we are working on for that issue.

2. Mr. Cotton does not have oversight of our editorial pages or topics. We do not run topics by him in advance. Each week, these are exclusively selected and written by our editorial staff, based on what we determine to be among the week’s biggest topics of interest in news, sports or entertainment.

3. Stories in our news, editorial, schools, life and leisure and sports sections are determined by our reporters and editors. As you can imagine, Mr. Cotton is regularly inundated with story ideas from community members. On those occasions, he does pass the information to our staff and leaves the next steps to us.

4. We will continue to provide both news coverage and editorials on our board of education. It’s important to keep in mind that anything on our opinion pages will be just that — our opinion on a matter. To be clear, calls for fairness and objectivity apply to our news stories, but editorial content is opinion-based and is intrinsically not objective.

For as many of you who vehemently disagree with what’s on our editorial pages, there is an equal amount of those who support it. To that we say, American author Mark Twain had it right: “It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races.”

To be clear, Mr. Cotton still owns this paper and, outside of board issues, can rightfully converse and be engaged with his staff when there is opportunity to cover a newsworthy story or feature a member of the community or local business. We are grateful he empowers us and trusts us to make major decisions. We are confident in our individual and staff-wide ability to continue practicing sound journalism and provide our community with a collection of the week’s biggest stories, whether they are celebratory, complex or somewhere in between.

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

January 12 – 13

LOCAL 4

Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
45° 31°	35° 24°	34° 24°	38° 31°	41° 37°	47° 37°	43° 36°
Rain to Snow	Scatt'r'd Snow	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Rain	Mostly Cloudy
70%	50%	0%	0%	30%	80%	0%
SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:22 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:23 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:24 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:25 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:26 pm	SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:28 pm

Weather data courtesy of Channel 4, WDIV Detroit • ClickOnDetroit.com

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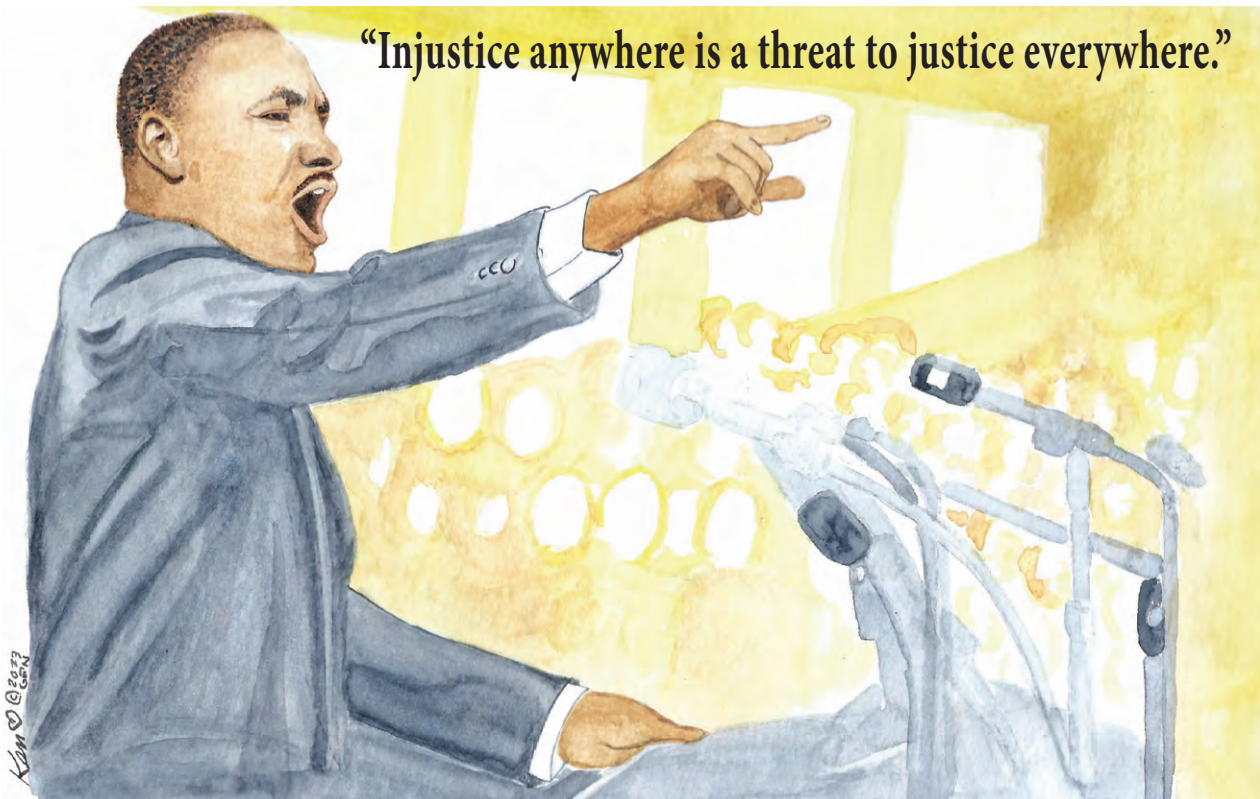


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

As the country officially honors what would have been Martin Luther King Jr.’s 93rd birthday Monday, Jan. 16 (though he was actually born Jan. 15), the truth of his words, particularly about justice for all, still resonates with and inspires us today. As we mark his important legacy, we encourage everyone to pause and contemplate these words once spoken by him: “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

OUR VIEW

You say goodbye and we say hello

You say goodbye:
For the past two years at the Grosse Pointe News, we have been lucky enough to work alongside Michael Hartt, who has provided coverage on the Grosse Pointe Public Schools, its Board of Education, University Liggett School and the Pointe’s private and parochial schools.

But the time has come for Mr. Hartt, a Grosse Pointe North alum and current student in the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, to take his wings and fly. Our loss is the world’s gain, because what we witnessed during his tenure here was an ever-improving, hard-working, honest, earnest and — this is not hyperbole — brilliant star-in-the-making.

As a staff, most of whom are a generation older than him, we were continually impressed with Mr. Hartt’s firm grasp on complex school-based issues. He brought a professionalism to his role in every interaction he had, whether it was with us or with his interview subjects. He brought an enthusiasm and commitment to providing full coverage on countless newsworthy stories on his beat. Despite the pressures of classes, lectures, papers, midterms and final exams as a student at one of the country’s top 10 business schools, he never missed a deadline. He planned, recorded and conducted interview sessions with all 10 board of education candidates this summer, spending hours on end transcribing those interviews in their entirety on our website for voters to reference.

In perhaps his finest moment, he proactively reached out to a board candidate who, instead of coming to him and discussing an issue they had with a story he wrote, publicly wrist-slapped his article. He didn’t call to argue. He called to clear the air, all within a few hours of it coming to a head. Instead, this board candidate hung up on him. He kept his cool throughout and made us so proud of how he handled himself and represented our paper. Any employer, law school or MBA program would be made better by his presence, great mind and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Hartt, for elevating the bar (and at least from some of us in this newsroom — Go Blue!).

And we say hello:

While we are sad to bid Mr. Hartt adieu, we have the extreme good fortune to have a stellar staffer who has agreed to step in and take over school reporting duties. Fondly referred to as our paper’s resident “U.N. observer” by his coworkers, Ted O’Neil is expanding his role covering the Woods and Shores to also include schools coverage.

Mr. O’Neil brings an unshakable objectivity to his work, unless it’s related to his beloved Michigan State Spartans, his alma mater. Of note, some of us think a smart financial move for him may be to join the professional poker circuit, as no one would be capable of reading his hand by the look on his face. Yes, he’s that good.

A local son hailing from St. Clair Shores, his tenure at the GP News began nearly one year ago and marks his third go-round working in newspapers. Along with his wealth of journalism experience, Mr. O’Neil also has worked on education and policy-based issues at a statewide think tank, and completed a one-year stint as a substitute teacher.

To round out his experience, Mr. O’Neil also has logged time in corporate communications, served as a staff member for a Michigan state senator and served one term on the Midland County Board of Commissioners.

He won awards while at the Midland Daily News for a series of stories about two brothers and their cousin, who killed family members in Pennsylvania and were arrested in rural Midland County. He also was recognized for his work on a series of stories about unsolved murders in Midland.

In 2022, Mr. O’Neil authored some of the most well-read stories in the GP News, including a feature about a Park police badge spotted at Graceland, a news analysis of Grosse Pointe’s alleged 590 missing housing units and continuing coverage of the escalating costs of the new health clinic at North.

Though he is not new to us, Mr O’Neil may be new to you. We know you will admire and appreciate his outstanding work like we do. We are grateful to have such a solid, committed and fair journalist covering this beat.

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.

Follow the rules

To the Editor:

I am a resident of the Park and was bitten by a dog at the dog park. I have pretty bad PTSD and there are a lot of people who disregard the leash law. I live in an apartment so I need to walk my dog. I no longer feel safe in my community.

I was recently jumped on and pushed into the brick wall of my apartment by a dog who was off leash and not listening to his owner. When I filed a report with the

police, the officer wrote that the dog must have been trying to play with me. I was screaming “get your dog” as my face was against bricks. I do not see that as playing. When I nicely shout to ask people to leash their dog, I am met with rudeness. I have been given the finger, told “that’s nice” and “I dare you to call the cops.” It is a bit alarming how cruel people can be.

The police have advised me to carry my phone on walks so I

could report these people. Half the time I do, the people have gone inside so the police say they can do nothing. I was hoping the paper would consider putting the leash law/mandate rules in an upcoming issue.

Hopefully people see it as protecting and caring for your neighbors and community.

ERIN MCMILLAN
Grosse Pointe Park

Editor’s Note: The Grosse Pointe Park dog park rules may be found online at grossepointepark.org/departments/parks_recreation/dog_walking_pass.php Additionally, according to Park ordinance Chapter 10, Article 1, Sec. 10-27: “No owner of any dog may permit such dog to stray beyond his premises unless the dog is on a leash of no longer than ten feet in length which leash is properly held by a person capable of restraining the actions of such dog, or unless

such dog is in an enclosed vehicle or container.”

In response

To the Editor:

Absolutely agree (with the letter, “Lawlessness not tolerated,” published in the Dec. 29 Grosse Pointe News).

A community is only as strong as its weakest link.

Some of the video interaction apps such as Link and Nest can be extremely helpful.

Quite a few people post up acts of vandalism, which can be a lead in solving a crime.

Lights and locks are perhaps the biggest deterrents, as criminals usually look for the easiest target.

I’ve been working full-time in professional video and forensics for over 40 years. I work on over 100 homicide cases a year around the country, around 150 to 200

See LETTERS, page 7A

The opinions expressed in letters and guest columns are not necessarily views shared by the Grosse Pointe News.

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



About 10 years ago, the editor of a small-town western daily newspaper wrote a retirement editorial in which he attributed much of his success and career satisfaction to his small but dedicated editorial staff.

I scan the publication more than the average bear because I was offered a job on it a few months into my first period of employment at the Grosse Pointe News.

The editor oversaw a

Takeaways from two goodbyes

happy crew. That was obvious from the longevity of the employees who nevertheless maintained the high production rate of newbies who hadn't become discouraged.

But the farewell editorial contained a specific example justifying the retiree's appreciation for his staff that made me doubt his standards. He thanked his team of less than a half-dozen reporters for taking the initiative to cover an airplane crash south of town, which, out west, means almost at the edge of nowhere, without being told to do so.

Airplane crash — who needs to be told to jump on that? That's the holy

grail of spot news reporting, so I was told by a couple of Detroit daily staffers I got to know while covering a felony trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

They told me how they and their colleagues said a reporter isn't really a reporter until having covered a plane crash, such as the 1987 crash of Northwest Airlines flight 255 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. It was an all-hands-on-deck effort, they said. Even music and art critics were called to action.

Things are a little different on the weekly side of life, I remember telling them.

No weekly newspaper

reporter is ordained until writing about a dead dog or being dispatched to photograph a white squirrel.

As with a lot of things, news reporting popped out of nowhere. It has no uniform, direct lineage, like a hard science. Early practitioners were self-taught with, from what I gather, the unifying qualities of gusto and self-assurance. Without apology to the proponents of get-along, go-along happy news, good newspapers are by definition, adversarial.

A recent goodbye editorial, however, contains a positive lesson, a lesson a diligent out-of-state

reporter-editor learned by experience during three years on the job of a weekly in a semi-rural county seat.

"Overall, if I could narrow down the lessons I've learned — one lesson for each year — they would be:

"Be kind, always;

"Don't assume and

"Don't complain without also offering a solution."

Here's how the salient part ends:

"I cannot stress enough, unless you have walked in someone's shoes, DO NOT assume you know all the facts. There are two sides to every story and it's essential to hear both

sides, and maybe even a neutral third party's side.

"Finally, don't be part of the problem; be part of the solution. Constructive criticism can be necessary, but it holds a lot more weight if you can offer an alternative to back it up.

"Criticism without solution is useless because it doesn't change anything. As Haemin Sunim [a South Korean Buddhist, teacher and author] said, "Being a critic is easy. But if the critic tries to run the operation, he soon understands that nothing is as easy as his criticisms. Criticism without a solution is merely an inflation of the critic's ego."

I SAY By Michael Hartt

Honored to know you, time to move on

It is with great sadness that I write about my resignation from the Grosse Pointe News. I am resigning, not out of apathy for the work I have dedicated much of my life to over the past year and eight months, but because, now, I yearn to devote more of my time to pursuing interests that will lead to the dissemination of the issues I have become most acquainted with since my first day on the job: po-

litical polarization, misinformation and disinformation.

I did not come into this position with a faint heart about the gravity of the latter issues — having lost much of my senior year of high school as a result of their proliferation — but even so, I have been dismayed by the way in which they have been imbued in the social fabric of Grosse Pointe. In line with a national narrative of divisiveness discussed by

cable news networks and nauseam, school districts have become battlegrounds and the board meetings that govern them spectacles.

Coming to terms with the way in which the mood of our community has been fundamentally altered since the inception of the pandemic, however, requires just as much faith as reality. Through the litany of conversations I have had with you — our sources, readers, neigh-

bors — in which you have expressed doubt about the systems that define our collective American experience, you have always expressed ideas about how to address the problems that now define us.

These ideas, and the hope they represent, are enough to unify anyone who prioritizes them. Prioritizes them over the validation we get from our constructed tribalism, the vanity we hold for our ideological perception or the

feeling of security that blind idealism garners.

Throughout my time at the Grosse Pointe News, I have been honored to be led by a team of leaders who have been and are a guiding force for the dissemination of these truths, as well as beacons of professionalism and kindness: Anne Gryzenia, Meg Leonard, Jody McVeigh, Sean Cotton and John Minnis, thank you. Moreover, I have been honored to work alongside an

incredible suite of writers, who have been and will continue to be inspirations for me as I continue my professional journey. In particular, I want to thank Ted O'Neil, who has been a galvanizing mentor for me since he began his work at the Grosse Pointe News. I have full confidence that he will continue our tradition of reporting not only unsympathetic truths, the realizations of which most poignantly guide the perception of our realities, but also the optimism imbued in everything that happens in our community.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

cases in total per year globally. It's often community input that makes the difference for law enforcement. Note how many times the FBI has solved crimes based on tips!

BRYAN NEUMEISTER
Grosse Pointe Farms

Tasteless joke?

To the Editor:

"White GPers, we've got to be better, WAY better."

"Some of these grown as*h*les are really doing a fine job raising the next generation of as*h*les."

"I hope (if they) are identified, their parents are properly ashamed and humiliated."

"I've never seen and experienced more ignorance, racism and homophobia! ... If I had children, I would absolutely not raise them here."

"100% racist."

These comments on a local Facebook page were regarding the paper towel noose in The Village Panera men's room. Not mentioned was that the changing table had the "C" crossed out to become "baby hanging table." No mention of race; might it be a stupid "joke" by teenagers? Apparently, "baby hanging table" has been a meme for years. Casually labeling someone racist is extremely serious and one doing so should suffer serious penalties.

Some in our community see racism everywhere. Without waiting for more information or confirmation, they call "Racism!" with a strident assuredness, bullying others into silence. Wasn't the last "noose"

incident at Grosse Pointe South a 4-inch blind cord? Did the media correct their story? No.

These comments are the Grosse Pointe I know:

"There might still be a few closet racists hanging around, but I have a teenage kid at South and I've gotten the multi-racial, all-inclusive, brother from a different mother vibe since he and his friends were in elementary school ... and definitely wouldn't go judging all these kids on an assumption."

"... we are gay, our neighbors on one side are black and the other Asian, we are all the best of neighbors, I couldn't imagine living anywhere else."

Neither can I.

KAROLE STEEN
Grosse Pointe Park

Sting a solution?

To the Editor:

While reading the latest edition of the GP News, I see the continuous week-in, week-out report of another catalytic converter stolen from the Ascension St. John Hospital parking lot. I was in that facility on the 28th, the latest one. At approximately \$1,000. To repair this kind of theft, the victims in just this year alone must have been set back hundreds of thousands of dollars while parking there. The Detroit and the GP police need to set up a sting operation to make this location too hot for "business." I now am very leery of parking there when I have business there. The best advice is to take an Uber over there and leave your car safely at home, the lot is a major liability.

JORG ERICHSEN
Grosse Pointe Farms

Valade honored

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — At its first meeting of the year, Grosse Pointe Farms City Council signed a resolution honoring lifelong Farms resident Gretchen Valade, who passed away Dec. 30, at 97 years old.

She was "an icon and a force of nature in our Grosse Pointe Farms community," Mayor Louis Theros said.

The granddaughter of the founder of Carhartt Inc., Valade is more locally known for her philanthropy — she single handedly facilitated the beginning of

the Farms public safety department's K-9 program with a \$250,000 donation to fund the career life of Duke, who retired late last year — and businesses on the downtown Kercheval strip, including the nationally recognized Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, Morning Glory Coffee & Pastries and Capricious women's shoe and clothing store.

"Grosse Pointe Farms City Council acknowledges and expresses gratitude for the contributions made by Gretchen Valade to the community," the resolution reads.

— Laurel Kraus

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School board elects officers, changes calendar

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education elected a new slate of officers at its organizational meeting Wednesday, Jan. 4, although only one of the four votes was unanimous.

After the three new board members — Trustees Sean Cotton, Ginny Jeup and Valarie St. John — were sworn in, Trustee Lisa Papas nominated Trustee Ahmed Ismail for president, which Cotton seconded.

“I nominated him two years ago and I’m proud and happy to do the same tonight,” Papas said. “Ahmed has a breadth of experience and has even served as a consultant to other school boards.”

St. John and Trustee Colleen Worden, however, expressed concern about Ismail’s attendance record over the past two years.

“He certainly has a lot of experience, but I’m concerned about his attendance record,” St. John said.

“I agree,” Worden added. “Looking through the meeting minutes, he missed a significant amount of meetings.”

Worden added that when Joseph Herd was



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

New Board of Education members are, from left, Valarie St. John, Sean Cotton and Ginny Jeup.

president, he attended not only board meetings but many events around the district.

Trustee David Brumbaugh asked Ismail if he’d like to address the issue, to which Ismail replied, “Hips are working, knees are working, doctor says I’m OK, so it shouldn’t be an issue,” referring to previous joint operations he underwent.

The final vote was 6-1, with Worden the only dissenter.

“Thank you for entrust-

ing me with the presidency of this board,” Ismail later said in the meeting. “I’ll do my best to get this district back to where I think a lot of people want to see it.”

St. John then nominated Worden for vice president, which Brumbaugh supported, saying her experience in that role during the past two years would serve the board well. That motion failed, 4-3, with Cotton, Jeup, Papas and Ismail voting against.

Jeup then nominated

Papas for vice president, which St. John also questioned about absences and said she was worried about what might happen if both Papas and Ismail missed a meeting.

“Any absences have been related to illness or personal family situations that have been out of my control,” Papas replied.

The motion was approved 5-2, with support from Brumbaugh, Cotton, Ismail, Jeup and Papas.

The nomination of

Cotton for treasurer, seconded by Jeup, was the only position approved 7-0.

“I’m happy to accept the nomination,” Cotton said when asked by Brumbaugh if he cared to expand on his qualifications for the role.

“His experience with finances is far more in depth than anyone up here,” Ismail said. “I think his wisdom will be invaluable.”

Cotton then nominated Jeup for secretary, seconded by Papas, which passed 6-1 with no discussion and Worden casting the only no vote.

Each board member then was given the opportunity to decide what they would do with their \$30 per meeting per diem. Each was given the choice of accepting it, declining it or directing it elsewhere in the district.

St. John and Ismail both said they wanted theirs to go toward adding closed captioning to the televised board meetings. Jeup chose special education, while Brumbaugh said early education. Worden named the Parcels PTO, Papas the high school choirs and Cotton the robotics program at Grosse Pointe South.

Aside from a change in the makeup of the board, its meeting schedule in the future also will see a

change.

While Worden favored keeping the long-time schedule of meeting the second and fourth Mondays of the month, other board members preferred switching to the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month for a variety of reasons.

Brumbaugh said it would provide for more civic engagement as those days would not conflict with any of the local city council meetings, while Papas noted that giving board members and administrators the first day of the work week to prepare for a Tuesday meeting would be easier than interrupting family time over the weekend with questions about issues.

Superintendent Jon Dean said the current academic calendar year is based on the assumption the board would continue meeting the second and fourth Mondays, meaning a switch now would cause various scheduling issues, but next year’s academic calendar could be prepared with a switch in mind.

The board voted 6-1, with Worden dissenting, to continue meeting the second and fourth Mondays of the month through June, then move to the second and fourth Tuesdays.

School board delves into changes right away

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — Aside from electing new officers and setting its calendar, discussion at the Grosse Pointe Public Schools Board of Education organizational meeting Wednesday, Jan. 4, showed members may not agree on a variety of topics in the coming year.

Toward the end of the meeting, under new business, Treasurer Sean Cotton made a motion the board seek “unique legal counsel,” outside of the attorneys the district already uses that would be solely for board members.

“I move to begin interviewing law firms to explore legal counsel that’s just specific to the board,” Cotton said. “It

would be good for governance.”

Vice President Lisa Papas seconded the motion.

Trustee Colleen Worden disagreed, noting the district already has law firms that deal with various issues, including real estate, general business and labor law.

“We act as a board as a whole and do our business as the board,” she said. “It’s not the board’s role to engage our attorneys. The administration deals with the attorneys and acts in the best interest of the district.”

Papas said she supports the idea because of what she considers the risk and liability board members face.

“There’s an advantage to having a separation of powers to seek our own

legal advice,” she said. “Sometimes the board’s interests differ from the administration and it would be good to have a lawyer that’s not wrapped in with the administration. Sometimes the administration wants to do one thing and the board is caught with just one answer.”

Superintendent Jon Dean noted that the district’s attorneys do not represent the administration, but rather the district as a whole and that the board runs the district.

Trustees David Brumbaugh and Valarie St. John, along with Worden, urged the board to wait until after an onboarding meeting later this month before members make any sweeping changes. That meeting

will include training through the Michigan Association of School Boards about the roles and responsibilities of school board members.

Brumbaugh and Worden also noted that typical board procedure includes requesting an item be placed on the agenda for a first reading to allow public input.

“Once we have that engagement, there would be plenty of time for public comment,” Cotton noted.

President Ahmed Ismail, Secretary Ginny Jeup, Papas and Cotton voted in favor of the motion. Worden, St. John and Brumbaugh voted against it, although Brumbaugh said he wasn’t opposed to the idea, but would have preferred to know more about the cost and process before taking such a vote.

Cotton’s motion came after Ismail moved to create four standing committees, two more than the

current finance and policy committees. Those four would be facilities and finance, policy and contracts, curriculum and community engagement.

Ismail agreed to withdraw the motion after Brumbaugh suggested it be discussed in greater detail at the next board meeting.

“I’m concerned there are already things being voted on and discussed that were not on the agenda,” Worden said. “We need to take the onboarding and transparency seriously.”

Cotton replied that “things may be a little different” than people are used to and “maybe the chastising will stop at some point, or maybe not.”

St. John said she was “concerned” to hear the administration and board may have conflicting interests.

“We need to learn our roles before we try to shake things up too

much,” she said. “I’m looking for good leadership from this stage so that the behavior in the audience is more appropriate and we don’t have people shouting things out and coming to the podium and saying hateful things.”

Public comments at the meeting included urging the board to return to a standard of academic excellence; rethinking the decision to build a clinic at Grosse Pointe North; reinstating valedictorian, salutatorian and class rankings at the high school; and conducting a forensic audit. The district did draw national attention in early 2022, when a parent used racist language during public comment.

Brumbaugh said he is encouraged by the discussions he’s had with the new board members, but his concern is maintaining a “preservation of normal order to give the public ample opportunity to comment.”



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PARK:

Continued from page 9A

◆ The lowest of four bidders wins a \$454,473 contract to replace the leaky and break-prone stretch of water main on Mack between Kensington and Cadieux.

“We’re not patching,” City Manager Sizeland said. “We’re actually replacing the entire stretch. It’s something we can hopefully do a lot more of in the future.”

“It’s the first whole water main rebuild in the city since 1985,” Councilman Wiener said.

October

◆ Wi-Fi is coming in five-by-five at the Windmill Pointe Park marina.

Installing new outdoor, all-weather wireless communication access points on some of the marina’s five piers increased reception markedly, according to Chris Delmege, Park recreation supervisor.

◆ Almost all the city’s water mains, installed in the 1920s, are up against or past their life cycle, according to municipal officials hosting a primer on why they’re seeking voter support Nov. 8 for a 10-year, 2.5-mill infrastructure millage.

Of the city’s 35.3 miles of water mains, 95 percent date to the 1920s, according to a presentation by the infrastructure committee.

The millage is projected to generate more than \$1.7 million annually through 2032, to fund water and sewer system improvements throughout town.

◆ The city council approves rezoning of four residential lots in the 1200 block of Wayburn and Maryland, adjacent to the business district, into parking zones.

The action endorses construction of a parking lot, owned by Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, to support the growing Kercheval



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Amelia Recabarren has fun on the hill with her Llama at Patterson Park in the snow

business district.

◆ Nearly 15 years’ worth of sewer and drinking water system improvements costing \$79 million are part of a municipal capital improvement plan being drafted with the help of engineering consultants.

No way is it a done deal. “This is an aspirational document,” said Councilman Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. “We’re basically putting everything out there, including the kitchen sink, because we need to identify the whole breadth of projects.”

November

◆ Developers plan construction of a three-story, mixed-use building on Kercheval at the corner of Alter in Detroit containing a ground-floor daycare tenant topped by two levels of market-rate apartments or condominiums ranging in size from 800 to 1,300 square feet.

The proposal, by Jon Cotton, brother of Grosse Pointe News owner Sean Cotton, is the first of a three-phase development on lower Kercheval.

“We already have signed a lease for a child-care facility, which is very much needed in this area,” Jon Cotton said. “They’re taking up the entire first floor with eight classrooms from infant to toddlers.”

◆ Council members resolve to clarify, coordinate and streamline the development review process in line with standards to qualify the city as a Redevelopment Ready Community.

“Redevelopment Ready Communities is a voluntary certification program offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corp.,” Park Assistant Manager Warren Rothe said. “The goal of the program is to empower communities to share their future by building a foundation of planning, zoning and economic development best practices and integrating them into their everyday functions.”

◆ An overwhelming margin of Park voters support a 10-year, 2.5-mil water and sewer infrastructure improvement millage that is expected to generate \$1.7 million per

year and \$17 million total.

Some 67.4 percent of registered voters weigh in, passing the millage 4,121 to 2,493, or 62.31 to 37.69 percent.

“Suffice it to say, I believe it was a very common sense vote,” Councilman Brian Brenner said.

The 2.5 mills mean an additional \$425 in property taxes per year to the owner of property having a taxable value of \$170,000.

“We must now get to work, for there is much to be done as we fulfill our duty to the community we ardently serve,” Mayor Hodges said.

◆ Some people can’t or won’t control their dogs at the municipal dog park at Patterson Park, forcing the city into the role of master.

A three-step noise complaint process is established for the park.

“Barking should be kept at a reasonable level,” according to the rules, “both for the comfort of other park users as well as nearby neighbors.”

December

◆ Commercially-zoned property on Alter at Vernor abutting Grosse Pointe Park, of which the suburb’s leaders authorized the purchase more than six years ago to prevent its potential use as a used car lot or auto wash, is being put up for sale.

Park officials intend to retain the right to pick a buyer based on price and usage considered harmonious with the neighboring residential neighborhood.

◆ Residents may not be able to recognize a cell tower from the trees if a motion to improve wireless communication coverage below Jefferson goes through with the type of camouflaged communication structures common these days.

“I saw one in the shape of a pine tree,” Councilman Caufield said.

◆ Law-abiding Park residents are exempt from the public safety department’s

cost recovery policy, which this year was codified by ordinance and now the administration of which is contracted to a private company.

“The intent of the ordinance is to recover costs from people who are negligent (and) rely on resources that we would normally provide (our residents) by patrolling the streets, responding to calls for service like robbery or something,” Chief Bryan Jarrell said.

◆ A woman, 68, who one week earlier moved to the city, is run into and killed while walking within the foreword blind spot of a recycling truck making its rounds in the 1200 block of Somerset.

“She had a bag she wanted to get rid of,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said.

“(She) appeared to run out because the truck passed her house,” Detective Ryan Willmer said.

◆ Five more residential lots on Wayburn on either side of the Kercheval business district are conditionally rezoned to become parking lots.

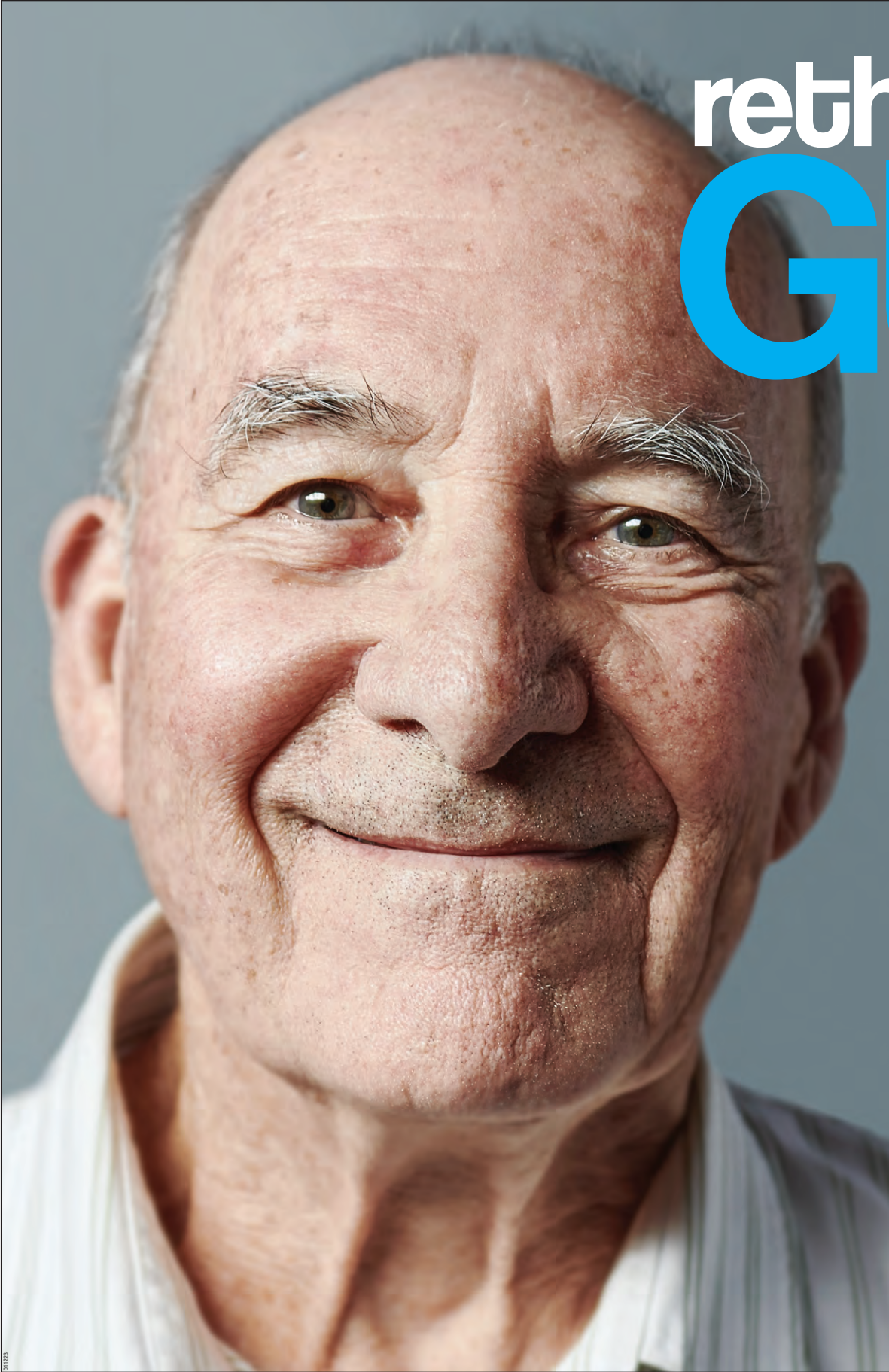
Developers requested conditional rezoning to support the operation of a three-story mixed-use building planned for construction at the corner of Kercheval and Alter in Detroit.

Park council members approved rezoning with the stipulation the developer, related to the owner of the Grosse Pointe News, obtain required Detroit approvals and permits by Dec. 31, 2023, and break ground by Dec. 31, 2024.

◆ Construction of the public works building on Mack remains unfinished.

One of the final reasons for delay is eliminated when a steady supply of concrete is obtained to fashion driveways.

“We are hoping to have a grand-opening ceremony, some sort of open house, probably in late January,” said Warren Rothe, assistant city manager.



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2-3B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4-6B OBITUARIES | 5-6B CHURCHES

Help unleashed
GP Yacht Club sponsors
Guardian Angels dog

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It didn't take long for Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Commodore Brian Fish to secure the first \$5,000 of a \$25,000 donation to Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs. Following his own Veterans Day address, Fish listened to Maj. Gen. Paul D. Rogers, adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, speak about the National Guard Association of Michigan's 54 by 24 quest, to sponsor 54 service dogs — one for each U.S. state and territory —

by 2024. He also listened to a speech from Mary Lamparter, a Grosse Pointe Farms resident who serves as the regional coordinator for Guardian Angels. It wasn't the first time Fish heard about the mission of Guardian Angels. He already was well aware of the work the Florida-based organization does: providing specially trained service dogs free of charge to veterans and first responders struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, seizure disorders, mobility issues and other disorders. But this time, the message resonated so deeply

with Fish, he decided before he got back to his seat he would donate \$1,000 to the charity. Maybe, he thought, he could get the other Grosse Pointe Yacht Club directors to donate, too. "As I was sitting down, I was listening to Mary talk about her June (Celebrate Michigan's Military) program and the wheels were turning in my head," Fish said. "I thought it would be cool if we could support this. "I was thinking we could promote this to the whole yacht club," he continued. "Before I sat down, another \$4,000 had been donated, in addition to my \$1,000." Before Fish could garner support from GPYC membership, a challenge was issued to its directors. Director Richard Lueders — who with his wife, Susan, previously sponsored a Guardian Angels dog on their own — pledged half the amount it takes to sponsor one service dog if the other directors could come up with matching funds. "By Wednesday, we had all the money," Fish said. It costs Guardian Angels \$25,000 to house, feed and train one dog for approximately two years.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GAMS

Dozens of puppies like this one are being specially trained in Williston, Fla., on the main campus of Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs. One of them has been sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

Each pup is then paired with a veteran or first responder whose needs align perfectly with the skills the dog has learned. The Luederses donated \$12,500. The matching funds came from Fish; Vice Commodore William Dillon; Rear Commodore Robert Weiland; Board Treasurer David Schaden; Board Secretary Bruce Knapp; Directors Peter Beauregard, Joseph Backer, Amy Krueger Malow, William Turner, Michael Sobolewski and Kurt Saldana; and Past Commodores Ilja Vreeken and Tymon Totte. "Even before Rick's challenge, I was getting calls from all the directors," Fish said. "I don't

want to say it was easy, but it's such a good cause." Along with the \$25,000 sponsorship, the club will submit the appropriate paperwork along with the top three names voted on by club membership: Skipper, Commodore and Riley. Guardian Angels ultimately will select the dog's name. Though this sponsorship is the club's first with Guardian Angels, the club was formally introduced to the organization in 2019, when Lamparter addressed membership at the request of GPYC General Manager Aaron Wagner, who was in search of a Veterans Day speaker. She brought with her a recipient named Sheldon,

who spoke about his experience and the impact his service dog, Patsy, has had on his life. "Mary delivered tenfold," Wagner said. "Then Sheldon comes in and there wasn't a dry eye, including me, in the ballroom. It was an incredible, impactful introduction." Added Lamparter, "Guardian Angels is not anything you have to sell. It resonates with people. Just come to an event, meet the recipients, see them with their dogs, hear their stories." The national average of suicides among veterans is 22 per day. Among the more than 400 dogs paired with recipients

See DOG, page 2B



Puppies train around two years at the facility before being paired with a veteran or first responder.

Extended stay: Pop-up book store open through January

When Next Chapter Books announced its holiday pop-up at the former Alger Theater, owners Sarah and Jay Williams figured they would close the temporary shop at the start of the new year. "After the new year, we'll also have pop-ups in nearby communities ... until we find the right space," Sarah Williams explained in December. "Right now, we feel encouraged by the response from East English Village. And we hope, being so close to Grosse Pointe, that this will be something Grosse Pointers will come to as well." Due to the launch's success, the Williamses have extended their stay through the month of January, with slightly altered hours. "Many neighbors, including many Grosse Pointers, came to support our endeavor," Williams said. "Seeing people's excitement over the pros-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH WILLIAMS

Next Chapter Books will continue to operate at the Alger Theater through January.

pect of a local bookstore, particularly one with a new and used model, has been a joy. The range of offerings and prices has caused several customers to visit repeatedly in just a month. Customers often say our curation

feels like their own bookshelf, yet they walk out with a story they haven't yet discovered." The Williamses credited partnerships with the Friends of the Alger and East Warren Development

Corporation for helping nurture the small business. Next Chapter Books features roughly 2,000 new and contemporary used titles, "offering both affordability and relevance through a diverse



selection of contemporary titles," Williams explained. "All the titles we're excited about and hope other people will be as well. ... Hopefully people will get lost in the stacks with titles they hadn't even thought to come in for." The Williamses are committed to highlighting local authors and authors of color within their selection, which includes genres for everyone's taste — contemporary fiction, social justice, biographies, memoirs, cookbooks,

history, politics, science fiction, fantasy, poetry, young adult, middle grade and children's books. "We're so encouraged by the community's interest and support that we're extending our stay at the Alger through January as we continue to listen, learn and explore a more permanent space," Williams said. "This month, we will be open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. We know many folks still don't know we are here, so we're working on getting the word out." Next Chapter Books is temporarily located at 16451 E. Warren, Detroit. For more information, visit nextchapterbkstore.com. — Jody McVeigh

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMS

The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club has naming rights to the service dog it is sponsoring, though a name has yet to be finalized.

DOG:

Continued from page 1B

since Guardian Angels was formed in 2010, there has not been a single suicide.

Where the national divorce rate lingers around 50 percent, the divorce rate among those paired with Guardian Angels dogs is less than 2 percent.

“These pairings allow people to get off most or all of their medications,” Lamparter added. “It gives a husband back to his wife, a wife back to her husband. It gives a father back to his kids, a community member back to the community.”

“It not only saves a life, but improves the quality of life,” Fish noted.

“I served in the military for 10 years,” he continued. “This has a soft spot in my heart. I’ve been observing and hearing about this program the last few years. This sponsorship was just an unintended, unplanned thing that came up. It’s a good charity to participate in.”

“We raise a lot of money for a lot of things, but not always for outside things.

We do have tremendous horsepower to raise money at this club, which is a testament to the kind of membership we have. I want to see the club do more of these kinds of projects.”

Fish said he would like to see the club-sponsored dog receive a courtesy membership card, good for its lifetime.

“Then the recipient, if he resides in Michigan, could come here as a guest of the dog,” he said.

“The yacht club is a big part of this community,” Fish continued. “As commodore this year, it’s important to support things in this community and elsewhere. As the leader of our board, it’s important as leaders to show our members we’re willing to support these programs.”

Added Wagner, “The more we can be out in the community, the better. This is not just some place to have dinner. We’re doing good things.”

Available for purchase at the GPC are Guardian Angels 2023 calendars, as well as the children’s book, “Ranger,” which explains the significance of service dogs.

Generators installed in the nick of time

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The 65 temporary residents of the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society recently were the recipients of somewhat of a Christmas miracle.

“Flame Furnace finished the installation of two generators at 5 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 22), and the power in Harper Woods went out Friday morning early,” said Corinne Martin, founder and executive director of the nonprofit. “So when we came in (Dec. 23), the generators were already working. It was amazing.”

Many may recall the pre-Christmas weather, which included a wind chill that brought temperatures well below zero, as well as 45 mph winds in some areas. The loss of power could have been catastrophic to the animal shelter.

“We’ve always wanted generators,” Martin said. “We’ve lost power so many times. But a generator was just unaffordable. ... It’s always been on our wishlist, but the timing has always been wrong.”

A savior came in the form of Flame Furnace owner Gary Marowske, Martin said.

“Gary and I went to high school together,” she said. “We were both 1972 graduates of Grosse Pointe North. His family has adopted dogs from us and he knows our dilemma. So Flame Furnace donated the generators.

“We did pay a portion of the cost, but what they donated was substantial,” she added. “We were thrilled. It was our Christmas miracle.”

A donor paid GPAAS’s percentage, she noted.

As for Marowske, helping the nonprofit was a no-brainer.

“My wife and I are very much into animal adoption,” Marowske said. “And she walks dogs over there. They had a need for it and I

figured I could make something happen with these generators.”

Marowske said he and a few others wrote checks to support the donation.

“Kathy and I, we’ve had two or three dogs from the adoption society,” he added. “Our son just got one from GPAAS too. I’m glad we were able to help.”

Added Kathy Marowske, “Rescue dogs are the best.”

Martin said not only is she happy with the timing of the donation, but also the generosity of those who made it happen.

“So many people know all the times we’ve been without power the last 11 to 12 years,” she said. “I’m thrilled to know somebody came through for us and it will no longer be a problem.”

Still a need

Without government funding to support it, GPAAS relies on donations from the community to keep the organization running. Money that comes in supports veterinary care, staff and utilities.

“We only do one donation campaign a year, our annual appeal,” Martin said. “This (past year) is the least amount of funding we’ve gotten. We only got half of what we usually get. People are still responding, just not with as much. I get it. The economy is bad. But that’s our sole support.”

Typically, GPAAS raises between \$150,000 and \$180,000 per year. Donations for 2022 have yet to reach \$90,000, Martin said — the lowest in years.

While virtual donations were required by Dec. 31, to qualify as 2022 charitable tax write-offs, checks still may be mailed to the organization by Jan. 31 to qualify.

Of course, monetary donations are welcome any time of year.

“We’re trying to keep the shelter going,” Martin said. “Fortunately, a lot of people in the community

watch our Facebook page, so they know when we get low on food. We have 65 animals in house. That’s a lot of cats and dogs to feed every day. When we get low on food, we do a posting and people immediately respond by bringing in bags of food.”

GPAAS also is facing other issues for which help is needed. For instance, it’s in need of a commercial dryer.

“We do have laundry issues,” Martin said. “The dryer we have does not function, so we have no dryer capacity. Right now, people take wet towels or dirty laundry to their homes.”

Another need to be filled is volunteer dog walkers. The facility’s dogs are walked three times a day, seven days a week.

“We’re always low on walkers,” Martin said, “but a great majority of our dogs are big, strong and mostly pit bulls, so it’s got to be somebody who can handle large, strong dogs who’ve been cooped up for 12 hours. It’s a full-body workout.”

Those who wish to volunteer or donate to GPAAS should visit gpaas.org for more information.

To donate to the 2022 annual appeal, checks made out to Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society or cash may be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday; donors should call prior to drop-off, bring donations to the back door and ring the doorbell. Checks also may be mailed to GPAAS, 20542 Harper Ave., Harper Woods, MI 48225.

For more information, call (313) 884-1551 or email gpaas@wow-way.biz.

“We’re a community shelter — the only community shelter around ... that serves Grosse Pointe,” Martin said. “It’s super when people pitch in and support us. If they didn’t, we wouldn’t be here.”

AREA ACTIVITIES

Questers

Pettipointe Questers #243 meets at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Barb Malley’s home. Bill Herman, an accomplished Detroit area decorator, will give a history of “Design Through the Ages.” Malley will serve lunch following the meeting and talk. Five Detroit-

area Quester groups meet monthly. Questers is an international organization whose major objectives are to stimulate the appreciation and collecting of antiques and encourage the preservation of historical landmarks. For more information, email pettippointequesters@gmail.com.

Ford House

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

◆ Nooks & Crannies guided tours are offered at 11 a.m. Tuesdays through Sundays until May 28. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$9 for children; admission for members is reduced.

◆ Storytime: “Winer is Here,” by Kevin Henkes, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays through Jan. 31. Advanced registration is recommended.

◆ House tours and grounds passes are offered noon to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Nov. 30. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and \$7.50 for ages 6 to 12. Members are admitted free of charge.

◆ Grounds passes are available daily, 8 a.m. through sunset, now through Dec. 31. Passes cost \$7 for adults and \$5 for ages 6 to 12. Members are admitted free of charge.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men’s Ecumenical Breakfast meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The Rev. Maureen L. Martin, associate for parish life and community engagement at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, speaks. Cost for breakfast is \$7. Registration is not required and first-time guests eat free.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ The movie “Death on the Nile” is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

◆ Ballroom Dancing, 4 to 5 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 16 to May 1, with instructor Andreas Browne.

◆ Body Alignment, 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays for beginners and 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. Mondays for intermediate students. Gwendolyn J. Scales instructs this free class.

◆ Walk with Ease, 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 10 to March 9, with instructor Carolyn Bradt.

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Team Jake toy drive runs until Jan. 31

New members added to chamber board

The fourth annual Team Jake toy drive, benefiting Children’s Hospital of Michigan, is in full swing and runs until Tuesday, Jan. 31.

The drive takes place in honor of Jake Pennar, who at age 9 lost his battle with a rare brain tumor in January 2021.

“Our son, Jake Pennar, began the toy drive in 2019, as a way to bring joy to children in the hospital,” said Amy Pennar, of Grosse Pointe Woods. “Jake battled brain cancer for nearly three years at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan and knew the real difficulties of spending a lot of time at the hospital. For children, a toy is a pathway out of the confines of a hospital room and scary medical procedures, back into childhood. A toy is enough to give a child the courage to endure another test, poke or night inpatient. The tremendous reach of the toy drive goes well beyond the act of giving and receiving. It allows children a sense of normalcy amidst difficulty.”

Following Jake’s death, his sister, Stacey, began spearheading the toy drive. Last year, 3,221 toys were collected.

“Stacey declared this year’s goal as 4,021 toys,” Pennar added. “All new toys are welcome, but LEGOs are a real favorite across the hospital. ... It truly is an amazing cause and helps so many children.”

Pennar noted two exceptions for donations: Stuffed animals and weapons will not be

accepted.

Donations are being collected off at two community drop-off locations: Grace Community Church, 21001 Moross, Detroit; and Whistle Stop Hobby & Toy, 21714 Harper, St. Clair Shores.

Customers who purchase toys for the drive at Whistle Stop will receive a 20 percent discount.

Donors also may purchase items from the Team Jake Amazon Wishlist, from which items are sent directly to

Team Jake. Visit the Amazon Wishlist by scanning the QR code below with a smartphone.

— Jody McVeigh



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY PENNAR

Several toys already have been donated to the drive, which began Dec. 31.

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce approved a slate of new board members at its Dec. 14, board meeting. New Grosse Pointe chamber directors include Ebony Duff, Garan Lucow, P.C.; Ted Everingham, Everingham & Associates; Anne Gryzenia, Grosse Pointe News; Maria Miller, The War Memorial; and Carly Russell, Russell Development.

In addition to voting in new members, the chamber board also voted in the 2023 Executive Committee, which includes Chairman Mark Heppner, Ford House; Vice Chairman Alan Lowenthal, Law Offices of Alan Lowenthal; Treasurer Brian Rumohr, Comerica Bank; Secretary Derrick Kozicki, Grosse Pointe Farms City Clerk and Assistant City Manager; and Director-At-Large Alexis DeLuca, Bolton-Johnston Associates.

Additional members include Jody Ingle, design consultant; Kevin Grady, Ascension St. John

Hospital; Olga Tecos, Aretee Day Spa; Jon Dean, Grosse Pointe Public School System; Lori Stefek, Stefek Auctions; and John Rutherford, Cadieux Café.

“The directors reflect a broad range of the business sector and through their shared commitments, we will be able to stay true to our mission of creating value for our members through leadership, education, advocacy and networking, and to move the business community forward by promoting shared interest,” said Jennifer Boettcher, president of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber invites the public to meet and welcome the 2023 Board of Directors, as well as celebrate the Youth Entrepreneur Scholarship Awards at its annual dinner Thursday, Feb. 2, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Ticket information may be found at grossepointechamber.com.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

◆ Crafting with Holly, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month, with Holly Hazel. Cost is \$10 per class for members, \$15 per class for nonmembers. January students make colorful collage luminaries.

◆ Conversational French, noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays for beginners, and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays and 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays for intermediate students. Dr. Dib Saab instructs this free class.

Friends

The Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library host a Bag Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, in the sorting room in the lower level of the Woods branch, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Guests may fill a bag with books, puzzles, games, CDs and DVDs for \$5 per bag. All proceeds benefit the library.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association hosts “Acrylic Painting through Thick and Thin with Valerie Allen,” from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14. Early-bird prices end Jan. 9. Register at grossepointeartcenter.org.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of programs and classes.

Register for the following at warmemorial.org.

◆ Learn to Paint Like Bob Ross, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 15. Cost is \$75.

◆ Cocktails by Candlelight, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18. Tickets are \$20.

◆ Detroit Opera Resident Artists in Concert, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19. Tickets are \$20, \$35 for VIP.

◆ The Dave Bennett Jazz Brunch Series, featuring jazz drummer Sean Dobbins, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22. Tickets are \$60 for brunch and the concert, \$40 for the concert only.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org.

◆ Tech Savvy Tuesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe

Park.

◆ 1,000 Hours Outside January Walk, Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Estate Planning Workshop, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ ArtLab: Candy Mosaics, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, via Zoom.

◆ Saturday Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog Drop In, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of

Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18. Nadia Nijimbere, founder/owner/chef at Baobab Fare in Detroit, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

The Family Center

◆ The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods presents “Estate Planning for Parents,” from 7 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. Attorney Maura McKeever, owner of Trinity Estate Planning, will cover what parents need to know to make sure their children are taken care of. To register, email maryjo.harris@familycenterweb.org.

◆ The Family Center presents “Understand

the Impact of Childhood Experiences,” from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. Dr. Scott Grant will discuss how adverse childhood experiences affect people into adulthood and how parents can raise their children to be resilient. Register by emailing info@familycenterweb.org.

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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.

Andy Konwiak

Andy Konwiak, 74, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023.

Andy worked in mental health/substance abuse treatment for nearly 50 years, including 39 for Ascension St. John, Eastwood Clinic. He was an assistant leader of Boy Scout Troop 34 in Grosse Pointe Woods more than 25 years. He was a proud graduate of Wayne State University, from which he earned a master’s degree. Andy enjoyed spending time golfing and sailing. He was a huge sports fan, specifically of the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Pistons and University of Michigan football.

Andy was the loving husband of Kathy for almost 40 years; dear father of Mike Konwiak (Kay Illenden) and Jenny Kavanagh (Ben); cherished grandfather of Rory Konwiak, Oskar Konwiak and Lincoln Cavanagh; and beloved brother of Joanne Stevens (David). He also was a loving uncle to many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Thaddeus and Halina, and sister, Margie Tocco.

Visitation and funeral services were held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods. Memorial contributions

are appreciated to Boys Scouts of America Michigan Crossroads Council, michiganscouting.org/donate-friends-of-scouting. Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

The Rev. Frederick H. Taggart, OSA

The Rev. Frederick H. Taggart, OSA, 84, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023.

He professed his vows in the Augustinian Order in 1957, and was ordained in 1965. He served as teacher, formation team member and prior. He was a pastor at St. Peter Parish in Douglas, St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe Park and St. Matthew Parish in Flint.

The Rev. Frederick was the loving son of the late Harold and Estelle (nee Werenski) Taggart and loving brother of the late Patricia Wyllie (Dan). He is survived by his nieces, Michelle, Kelli and Kim.

Visitation will occur at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at St. Clare of Montefalco, with Mass to follow. Burial will occur at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Midwest Augustinians, 10161 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago, IL 60643.

Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc., verheyden.org.

Charles Belden Van Dusen II

Charles B. “Chick” Van Dusen, 86, piloted his last multi-engine private plane Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, bound for heaven. He was looking forward to his exciting new adventure where he will reunite with his son, Charles B. “Chuck” Van Dusen III.

Chick was born April 29, 1936, to William and Elizabeth Van Dusen of Metamora. His early education in a one-room schoolhouse was followed by Deerfield Academy, then Michigan State University, where he earned a chemical engineering degree in 1958, and the University of Michigan, from which he earned an MBA in 1960. His career life started in public accounting when he became a licensed CPA, which led to the role of treasurer of two automotive suppliers, treasurer of a startup nonprofit and finally his own financial consulting firm.

Chick was a lover of nature, fishing, photography, flying, golf, tennis, bowling, games of



Andy Konwiak



The Rev. F. Taggart, OSA



Charles B. Van Dusen II

Scrabble and cribbage, the symphony, travel and a good joke. But above all, Chick loved his wife, family, friends and church. Later in life, Chick became a regular volunteer at Habitat for Humanity build sites, as well as a board member of his Habitat chapter. He served as a deacon numerous times at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, where he also was a member of the board of trustees and treasurer. Black River Ranch, where fishing and nature are sublime, was a happy place for Chick.

Though Chick — also known as Chickles, Dad, Grandpa and Gramps — will be sorely missed, his loved ones find comfort in the fact he is watching them all from that fishing hole in the sky, with his son Chuck.

Chick is survived by his loving wife, Sara “Sally” Van Dusen of Grosse Pointe Farms; daughter, Linda Van Dusen Eriksen (Keith Parmley) of Royal Oak; grandchildren, Charlotte O’Donnell (Joe) of Oak Park, Ill., Richard Eriksen of Bloomfield Hills, Thorsen Eriksen (Katelyn) of



Vincent F. LoCicero



Shirley J. Raleigh

Aurora, Ohio, and Louise Elliott (Patrick) of Denver, Colo.; and great-grandchildren, Jack, Rory and Aria.

A memorial service will be held at noon Saturday, Jan. 21, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, gpmchurch.org; Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, pulmonaryfibrosis.org; or the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, dso.org.

Vincent Flores LoCicero

Vincent Flores LoCicero, 80, passed away peacefully at his home Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022, from complications of dementia.

Born June 7, 1942, to Rose and Thomas LoCicero, he lived his entire life in Grosse Pointe.

Vince was a 1960 graduate of Austin Catholic Preparatory High School and attended the University of Detroit and Detroit Institute of Technology. He earned his Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law in 1968, and joined his father’s law firm in the First National Building after passing the State Bar in 1969. The firm moved to offices in St. Clair Shores in the 1980s, where both father and son maintained their practices and served their clients until their respective retirements.

Vince married the love of his life, Roberta Bradford, in 1966, after a two-year engagement. They enjoyed 56 wonderful years of marriage. He was a loving and devoted father to his two daughters, Cristina and Lisa, who filled his life with much joy, happiness and eventually five cherished grandchildren.

Vince’s greatest love, next to his wife and children, was boating. His skill at the helm was matched only by the joy he experienced communing with the sun, the lakes and the sea. It was rumored among boating friends that he could dock a freighter against the wind without touching the dock if need be. He was an active member of the Grosse Pointe Power Squadron, a national boating safety and educational organization, for more than 50 years. He proudly served as its commander in 1981.

Vince was committed

to the Grosse Pointe community and served on many boards and committees, including two elected terms as trustee to the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, twice as president, allowing him the honor and opportunity to hand high school diplomas to each of his daughters at their commencement ceremonies.

Vince is survived by his wife, Roberta; daughters, Cristina Britton (David) and Lisa LoCicero (Michael Jann); grandchildren, Davin, Alexander and Madeline Britton and Lukas and Verity Jann; brother, Thomas LoCicero Jr., and mother-in-law, Eugenia DiSante.

The immediate family gathered for a private funeral Mass on Jan. 3, at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

Memorials in Vince’s honor may be made to Capuchin Community Services, capuchincommunityservices.org; All About Animals Rescue, allaboutanimalsrescue.org; or St. Ambrose Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230.

Shirley J. Raleigh

Shirley J. Raleigh, 77, peacefully passed away Friday, Dec. 23, 2022.

Shirley was born in Detroit, in 1945, to Norman and Helen Pagel. She was raised in Grosse Pointe Woods and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School. In addition to starting a family, she helped run the family business, Raleigh Servicerter, for more than 30 years. Affectionately known by her grandchildren as Nanni, Shirley loved spending time with family, antiques and had a great love for her dogs.

Shirley was the loving mother of Todd (Margaret), Kelli Luberto (Michael) and Jeff; proud grandmother of Thomas and Emily Raleigh, Jack and Samuel Kingsley, Sara Hanyzewski (Stephen), Michelle Granger (Barrett) and Dan Luberto. She also is survived by her sister, Sharon Fahl, and brother, Robert Pagel.

A private celebration of Shirley’s life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, michiganhumane.org/support-michigan-humane.

See OBITS, page 5B

GRETCHEN CARHARTT VALADE

Detroit Businesswoman and “Angel of Jazz”

Metro Detroit and the global jazz community lost one of its greatest champions this week. Gretchen Carhartt Valade, businesswoman, and philanthropist, died peacefully on Friday, December 30, 2022, surrounded by family at her Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan home. She was 97.

Known by many in the arts community as the “Angel of Jazz,” Gretchen C. Valade will be remembered for her philanthropic contributions to the arts, culture, and business landscape of Metro Detroit and the global jazz community. As chairman emeritus of Carhartt, Inc. and granddaughter to the founder of the family-owned workwear company, Valade combined her sharp business acumen, her lifelong love of jazz, and her devotion and commitment to the city of Detroit to establish a foundation for the arts in 2006 ensuring Detroit’s annual jazz festival remained the largest free festival of its kind in North America.

Carhartt Legacy

A lifelong Grosse Pointe Farms resident, Valade was born August 27, 1925, the same birthdate of her entrepreneurial and community-minded grandfather, Hamilton Carhartt, whom she called “Big Dad.” Originating in Detroit in 1889, Carhartt — the now iconic 134-year-old apparel company is headquartered in Dearborn, Mich., and remains family-owned today.

Daughter of Gretchen S. Stearns and Wylie Carhartt, president of Carhartt from 1937 to 1957, Valade was immersed in the family business from a young age. At one point, speaking to her involvement with Carhartt, Valade noted, “I was a Carhartt, and that’s what I was supposed to do. My duty as a family member was to contribute to the family business.”

In 1948 Valade married Grosse Pointe native Robert C. Valade who later served as Carhartt’s president for four decades. While raising their three children, Christopher, Gretchen, and Mark, Valade remained an active participant and advisor in the Carhartt business as a member of the board of directors since 1958. After the death of her husband in 1998, she assumed the role of chairman of the board. Today her son Mark, is the chief executive officer and chairman of the board at Carhartt. Of what the company’s lon-



gevity, popularity, and success would mean to her grandfather, Valade once stated, “He would have loved it. My grandfather would’ve been very proud that the company has lasted more than a century — through the good times and the bad.”

“Angel of Jazz”

Valade’s love of music began at an early age. She played piano and wrote songs her entire life. She credited her older sisters, Eugenie, and Patricia, with introducing her to the music of Fats Waller, Louis Armstrong, and other artists who inspired her affinity for jazz. She said her real jazz education resulted from exploring New York’s iconic jazz clubs and hearing the industry’s finest musicians.

In 1999, at the age of 74, Valade combined her entrepreneurial spirit with her lifelong love of jazz by founding the recording label Mack Avenue Records which subsequently earned over 50 Grammy Awards nominations and was awarded eleven Grammy wins. Her commitment to the label’s performers and their quality of life was at the forefront of her passions and future endeavors.

Music Legacy of Detroit

When the Detroit Jazz Festival lost its primary sponsor, Valade established a foundation in 2006 to ensure the festival remained free of charge for the city and its patrons. She declined to

add her name or record label to the festival’s naming rights, explaining, “It’s important that the Detroit Jazz Festival remain accessible to all that want to enjoy listening and celebrating Detroit’s rich history of jazz. People may reference that it’s my festival, but it’s not. This festival belongs to the people and city of Detroit.”

Valade continued to support the local jazz community by donating to jazz studies at Wayne State University and funding the Gretchen C. Valade Jazz Center, which houses the main hall designed specifically for jazz performance in a club-style venue.

In addition to the festival and record company, Valade at the age of 82, opened the Dirty Dog Jazz Café in 2008 in Grosse Pointe Farms, an award-winning jazz and dinner club featuring local and international talent. It was one of Valade’s favorite places, where she could be found most nights enjoying the music and cheering on the artists.

Valade owned several other Grosse Pointe Farms-based businesses, including Morning Glory Coffee & Pastries and Capricious women’s shoe & clothing store. She also owned Sweet Melissa’s Café in Sanibel Island, Fla.

When asked why she took on so many ventures at an age when most are enjoying retirement, she stated, “I prefer not to be bored. I wanted to occupy my time surrounded by the things important to me, my family, my passions, my joys, and my community. And for me, being busy is a big part of a long life.”

Valade’s business knowledge translated to a myriad of philanthropic endeavors. Valade was an ardent supporter of service organizations such as Ascension St. John’s Hospital, COTS of Detroit, the Humane Society of Huron County, and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.

Gretchen C. Valade was predeceased by her son Christopher and is survived by her daughter, Gretchen Garth (Stix), her son, Mark Valade (Molly), and her six grandchildren: Byron, Catherine, Damon, Kyle, Gretchen Rose, Cameron as well as her nine great grandchildren. Private services will be held. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to COTS Detroit <https://cotsdetroit.org/> or the Humane Society of Huron Valley <https://www.hshv.org/>.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Dr. Kenneth J. Steketee

Dr. Kenneth J. Steketee, 98, of Grosse Pointe Farms, died Monday, Dec. 26, 2022. Ken was born Feb. 14, 1924, in Holland, Mich., to C. Neal and Cornelia (nee Van Tongeren) Steketee. Ken married his beloved Carolyn Jean Jeffrey on June 11, 1949; she predeceased him Feb. 9, 2022. He attended Hope College and Denison University, and received a dental degree from the University of Michigan. Ken served in the U.S. Navy Dental Corps during World War II and the Korean War at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., and Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. Together, Ken and Carolyn devoted their lives to each other and to creating and maintaining a loving home where they raised their four children. Ken and Carolyn were faithful members of Historic Trinity Lutheran Church. Ken will be remembered by his loved ones as a loving and devoted husband, father, grandpa and uncle, who dedicated his life to caring for his family. He brought his artistry to the dental practice he established in St. Clair Shores and was loved by his patients and staff. His warm humor and quick wit put nervous patients at ease; he could fill a room with laughter. He was adored for his humor and unselfishness toward others. His love and devotion for his family was everlasting. Ken and Carolyn enjoyed their time together on the water with their boat, traveling internationally, volunteering for local charities and extensive gardening, both at their home and as Master Gardeners for the beautification of Grosse Pointe Farms. Ken enjoyed woodworking, refinishing furniture, making jewelry, collecting old books and watching and feeding the birds. He was proud of the extensive wildflower garden he designed and maintained. Ken attended Interlochen Music Camp during the summers of his high school years and took pleasure in creating and listening to music throughout his life.

Ken is survived by his children, Kenneth Steketee (Bonnie), Carol Pittsley, Susan Otis and Jerry Steketee (Ann). He also is survived by 12 grandchildren, Mark (Stacy), David, Ben (Kristen), Alex (Adriann), Stefan (Leslie), Jessica (Christopher), Katie (Jason), Sarah (Colin), David (Maribeth), James (Raquel), Hannah (Ben) and Jack; 11 great-grandchildren; his dear sister-in-law, Ruby Steketee; and many nieces and nephews who remember him lovingly. In addition to his parents and wife, Ken was predeceased by one brother, Cornelius J. Steketee (Ruby); two sisters, Marjorie Van Egmond (Elmer) and Vivian Goodman (Sam); and one great-grandson, Anderson George Pittsley. The family of Dr. Ken Steketee thanks the staff and special caregivers who loved him at Independence Village of Midland and American House of Grosse Pointe, and for the care provided by CorsoCare Hospice. A memorial service for Ken and Carolyn will take place at a future date at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit. Those desiring an expression of sympathy are asked to consider their favorite charity. Arrangements were made by A.H. Peters Funeral Home.

Jim Lamoureux

Jim Lamoureux, 73, passed away suddenly Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022. Jim was born March 26, 1949, in Detroit, the third of John D. and Mary C. Loveley's 10 children. He and his siblings had many wild escapades growing up in the Grand River-Greenfield area. He attended St. Mary's of Redford school and graduated from Cooley High School. He worked many years in the silkscreen manufacturing field. He enjoyed camping, hiking, skiing, traveling, Detroit Tigers baseball, entertaining at the family cottage in Caseville and listening to many genres of music. Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Kathleen Fulgenzi; his dear sons, Sean, Joseph and Daniel; and cherished siblings, Joan Kossman (Jim), Richard Lamoureux (Mary Ann Bess), John Lamoureux

(Ann), Sheila Loveley-D'Angelo (Peter D'Angelo), Colleen Loveley-Moore (the late Jim Moore), Cathleen Jorgensen (Jim), Patricia Maceri (Tony), Carol Jarman (Drew) and Mary Porretta (George). He also is survived by sisters-in-law, Karen Fulgenzi, Kim Fulgenzi (Joe Wheat) and Kristina Hilliard (Rick), and many nieces, nephews and friends. A memorial Mass will be held at noon Friday, Jan. 13, at St. Ambrose Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park. A gathering to follow will be announced at the end of Mass. Memorial donations may be made to the Pope Francis Center, 438 St. Antoine, Detroit.

Barbara Nash Weiss

Barbara (nee Gurley) Nash Weiss, 84, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, after a long battle with COPD. Barbara was born Jan. 21, 1938, in Flushing, N.Y., to Arthur Lord Nash and Mary (nee Estey) Nash, both now deceased. Barbara graduated from the Emma Willard School, a private college preparatory day and boarding high school in Troy, N.Y. One of her classmates was Jane Fonda; Barbara often shared wonderful stories about their boarding school years. Barbara attended Denison University in Granville, Ohio. She moved to Detroit in 1958. Barbara joined the Jam Handy Organization in 1959, as a production secretary. Jam Handy was nationally known as the premier industrial motion picture and training company of its time. Its clients included the Big Three automotive companies, as well as the United States government. Barbara quickly advanced to production assistant and then received promotions into production coordination and financial management. In 1971, William Sandy, a senior vice president at JHO, started his own company with the blessing of Jam Handy. Bill took some 70 employees and formed the Bill Sandy Company. Barbara joined the group in 1974, as a production management specialist. During her 33-year career with the Bill Sandy Company,



Dr. Kenneth J. Steketee



Jim Lamoureux



Barbara Nash Weiss



Douglas Holbrook Dold



Dorothy Jeanne Blohm

Barbara held positions in production management and financial management for clients including General Motors, Ford Motor Co., Chrysler, Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar, Kia and Nissan. Barbara retired in 2007, as vice president of operations. During her working years, she became an active member of the Junior League of Detroit, serving as a trailblazer for other career women. She became the first full-time working JLD president in 1983-84. Throughout the years, she served on numerous JLD committees and chaired ways and means, by-laws and JLD Designers' Show House fundraising and party committees. In 1986, she was the Show House co-chair. In 2012, she received the Sustainer Outstanding Service Award and in 2014, received the Wendy Jennings Show House Award. Barbara always was active in the community, serving on the boards of the Grosse Pointe War Memorial and Grosse Pointe Historical Society. She was generous to all kinds of animal causes and a dedicated donor at The Helm. Barbara's service takes place at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Interment will take place at a later date in Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, N.Y. Barbara was predeceased by her husband, John E. "Jack" Weiss Jr. She is survived by her sister, Deborah Chiles (Stephen) of Berwyn, Pa.; nephew, Stephen M. Chiles Jr. and niece, Abigail C. Lee (Bren); and many cousins. She will be missed by her family and all of her loyal and devoted friends. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Junior League of Detroit Endowment Fund, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, or the

Douglas Holbrook Dold

Douglas Holbrook Dold, 73, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022. Douglas was born April 15, 1949, and lived in Ohio with his parents, William Haring Dold and Lula Holbrook, brother, Bill Dold, and sister, Marcia Warner, before moving to Michigan. After graduating from the University of Michigan, he became a CPA, attorney and CLU, opening his private practice, Dold, Spath, Kiriazis, PC, in Grosse Pointe. Doug's children and grandchildren loved and asked for his storytelling. He was quick to share many facts of interest and authored a novel about the law titled, "Lawyered Up." Doug had many interests, including spending time with friends and family; golf; love for his alma mater, the University of Michigan, and its football team; and memories of sunrises, sunsets and family fun at his beloved lake house. Douglas and Elaine Dold raised their daughters in Grosse Pointe: the late Tracie Lynn Volpe, Jamie Volpe (Fay), Robyn Marie Gillow (Trevi), Allison Ann Bell (John) and Lisa Holbrook Jensen (Dan). Douglas was a dedicated family man, keeping family first. The grandchildren called him

"PaPa," and all 10 had the closest relationships with him: Kendall Volpe, Riley Gillow, Abigail Volpe, Cooper Gillow, Peter Volpe, Anderson Bell, Elliot Thiel, Charlotte Bell, Danny Jensen III and Davis Jensen. A Celebration of Life is planned Saturday, Jan. 21. For further details, call (313) 886-7500. Donations may be made in Doug's honor to Munson Healthcare Foundations Hospice House, 1150 Medical Campus Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684. Checks should note the donation: in Honor of Douglas H. Dold. Dorothy Jeanne Blohm, 92, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023. Dorothy, or "Jeanne," as she was known to many, was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods and the east side. She retired from a long career with the federal government. She leaves behind her sons, Ralph and James, and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, daughters-in-law, nieces, nephews and extended family and friends. A Memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at First English Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods. Condolences can be made online at dignity memorial.com.

See OBITS, page 6B

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10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

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

WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study

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

011223

OBITS:

Continued from page 5B

John Treadwell
Huntington III

John “Tread” Treadwell Huntington III, 58, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer and with his devoted family by his side.

Tread was born Aug. 3, 1964, in Detroit, and grew up in Grosse Pointe. He was a graduate of University of Detroit Jesuit High School. He attended John Carroll University and Northwood University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Automotive Management and played hockey. Tread always enjoyed being part of a team and was a passionate Detroit sports fan, an avid golfer and enjoyed hockey as a player and coach.

Tread loved travel, music and making memories with everyone he knew. He will be happily remembered for having a gift of making friends wherever he went. He was a successful salesman and manager at several car dealerships in the metro-Detroit area, most recently at Huntington Ford and Roy O’Brien Ford.

Throughout his illness, Tread remained incredibly brave with a strong and never-ending positive outlook. He was determined to continue living his life to the fullest, as he always did. Tread was a lot of things to a lot of people — a



John T. Huntington III

beloved husband, father, son, son-in-law, brother, uncle and friend to many. He was beyond proud of his many nieces and nephews and enjoyed spending time at his family cottage in Buchanan.

Tread’s last days were filled with memories and well wishes from many friends and family. Tread will be fiercely missed forever by his loving wife, Charlyn (nee Carrier), and daughter, Lauren; his parents, John and Judy Huntington; siblings, Christie Scoggin, Holly Brady (Ed) and Shana Erber (Karl); parents-in-law, Dallas and Sharon Carrier; brother-in-law, Steve Carrier (Gina); and several adoring nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his grandparents, John and Anita Huntington and Edward and Helen Schoenherr, and brother-in-law, Patrick Scoggin.

A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Dr., Grosse Pointe.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Tread’s name may be made to the American Cancer Society, cancer.org; or



Paul Edward Slinger

the CATCH Charity for Children, catchcharity.org.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Paul “Tony”
Edward Slinger

Paul “Tony” Edward Slinger, 83, passed away Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023.

Tony was the beloved husband of Jane Ellen Slinger; loving father of Ann Lynn Burke, Kay Ann Slinger, Tracy Lynn Lemanski (Patrick), Michael Slinger and the late Paul Thompson Slinger; adored father-in-law to Diane Marie Slinger and Daniel Burke; cherished grandfather of Stephanie Slinger, Michelle Kusch (Carl), Daniel Burke, Samantha Burke, Cydney Slinger, Alison Barkhouse (Brandon), PJ Lemanski (Natalie), Carly Lemanski and Grace Lemanski; and dear great-grandfather of Natalia Wedekind, Nikolai Wedekind, Trace Kusch, Logan Burke, Aughtum Pfromm, La’Riah Cunningham and Graham Barkhouse.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Church, nonprofit leaders
renew efforts for Ukraine

As families continue to seek refuge from the war in Ukraine, a coalition of metro Detroit church and nonprofit leaders is renewing fundraising efforts to help. The Detroit Community Partnership for Ukraine is asking for assistance from the local community to raise \$300,000 to aid families whose lives have been turned upside down by the conflict, especially as harsh winter conditions bring temperatures as low as 20 below zero.

The Rev. Jim Holley of Reverend Jim Holley International Ministries in Detroit and Fr. Andrew Kowalczyk of St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe Park are partnering with Fr. Marek Machala with the Archdiocese of Przemyśl and the Pastoral Family Care Foundation in Poland to provide food, shelter and supplies to families crossing the border into Poland with nowhere to go.

“Sixty thousand people a day were coming across the border at the height of the conflict,” said Jack Lintol, a volunteer who



COURTESY PHOTOS

Volunteers looks for ways to help along the Ukraine-Poland border.

has made several trips to Poland to help. “Ninety-five percent are women and children. Some families we’ve seen have as many as eight children.”

To date, the group has already provided about \$400,000 in funding to assist families at a hotel on the southeast border of Poland, now known as “Michigan House.” Refugees are given a place to stay for one or two weeks, along with food, blankets, clothing and supplies. In addition, they receive help determining where they’ll go next. Volunteers from Michigan also have helped renovate houses being used to pro-

vide temporary shelter. Additionally, the group has provided funding to take food and supplies directly into Ukraine.

The funds being raised will provide continued support to the Pastoral Family Care Foundation, Operation Aid — which provides food boxes, water, nonperishable items, bandages and medical supplies — other charities helping Ukrainian refugees, as well as a possible effort to resettle 30 families in Detroit. Details and logistics for the resettlement effort are still being determined.

Lighthouse, a Pontiac-based nonprofit fighting hunger, homelessness and poverty, will provide its online crowdfunding platform, HandUp, to secure donations. Funds raised will be collected by Lighthouse and transferred to each of the respective charities.

Anyone who would like to help may visit <https://handup.org/campaigns/ukraine>.



The Michigan House in Poland.

CHURCH BRIEF

St. Michael’s

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its first Lunch, Laugh and Learn of 2023, at noon Thursday, Jan. 19.

Jim Vanek, principal of Vanek Capital Management, was the Lunch, Laugh and Learn speaker more than a year ago. He was informative and gave helpful advice. What has changed in a year? The market has, so St. Michael’s asked him back for his guidance with investing during stormy times.

Lunch begins at noon, followed by the program at 1 p.m. Guests and friends are welcome.

Reservations are required for the lunch. Call (313) 884-4820.

Oakland U professor to
address environmental policy

Dr. Chris J. Kobus, Oakland University director of engineering and energy education, speaks Tuesday, Jan. 17, to the Eastside Republican Club Forum in Grosse Pointe Farms.

In his presentation covering current environmental policy and its downsides, he will address what he calls “electrification to nowhere.”

The 7:30 p.m. forum is open to the public and will be held at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore.

“Dr. Kobus has a distinguished academic and professional background with a sensible, scientific outlook on clean energy,” Eastside Republican Club Chairman Marie Hackleman said. “As auto production and development of electric vehicles continues to advance, we look forward to hearing Dr. Kobus’ analysis of current policy and the value equation for consumer.”

“The forum is open to the public at no charge, so we invite anyone interested in the energy and the environment to attend.”

Forum doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking.

To students and professionals interested in green energy, Kobus urges they do their research.

“Everything has a negative environmental consequence, so to be more energy conscious is not enough,” Kobus tells stu-



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Chris Kobus

dents. “You must start with conservation, because without that, being energy conscious is meaningless.”

After earning his Oakland University Ph.D. in 1988, Kobus was hired by the university’s School of Engineering and Computer Science. In 2000, he was promoted to a tenure-track position and became associate professor with tenure in 2006. Today he serves as director of engineering and energy education.

His specialties include clean energy and STEM education. Kobus started teaching in the clean energy field with a grant from Next Energy in 2005. That curriculum has expanded and now offers engineering students a concentration in alternative energy systems. In addition, the professor recently launched an energy management program for business and engineering professionals.

Kobus was instrumental in establishing the Clean Energy Research Center, which includes academics, research, campus facilities, local business incubation and K-12 outreach.

In addition to his research, Kobus has taught 17 subjects, including thermal and fluid sciences, solid mechanics and dynamics, alternative energy and nuclear systems.

As part of his research of the electrification value, he has personally owned an EV and used his own Rochester home as a test project to teach his students the value of a solar-power.

Kobus also is a movie buff.

“Since a teenager, I have been ripping on Hollywood movies for scientific inaccuracies and now use motion pictures in my courses to teach fundamental scientific principles and their applications,” he said.

A native of Sterling Heights, the scholar is a husband and father of seven, with hobbies including writing, energy-efficient home projects and physical fitness.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets the third Tuesday each month from September through May at The War Memorial. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Follow the ERC on Facebook or at eastsiderepublican.club.

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Grosse Pointe News

BEST of the BEST

2022

LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

2C GP GABBY | **3C** MOMBEAU'S TABLE | **5C** MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | **7C & 8C** COMICS

Clark Park hosts 11th annual Winter Carnival, hockey classics

The community is invited to a day of free family fun Saturday, Jan. 21, at Clark Park when the Clark Park Coalition hosts its 11th annual Winter Carnival and outdoor charity hockey games.

Events take place noon to 4 p.m. and include ice skating, a petting zoo, horse-drawn carriage rides through the streets of southwest Detroit, roasting marshmallows, s'mores, exploring the nature van from Huron Metro Parks, outdoor games and more.

The fun continues with the Clark Park Winter Carnival Hockey Classic. The women's charity hockey game begins at 6 p.m., followed by the men's charity hockey game at 7:30 p.m.

Clark Park is located just off I-75 at 1130 Clark Avenue in the heart of southwest Detroit.

"We expect 1,000 people to come out and enjoy the day," event director and Clark Park business manager Kate Brennan said. "This is the ninth year we've included the winter classic hockey games with the carnival."

Free Press columnist and former Fox 2 investigative reporter M.L. Elrick and attorney Mike Rataj established the charity hockey games in 2015. Players raise funds and donate money to participate in the games.

The Clark Park Winter Carnival and Hockey Classic are major fundraisers for Clark Park, which also is supported by

A group of people, including children and adults, are riding in a white horse-drawn sleigh. The sleigh is pulled by a dark horse. The scene is set in a snowy, outdoor environment with bare trees and buildings in the background. A white barrel with the word "KEEP" is visible on the right side of the image.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Horsedrawn carriage rides are part of the fun during Clark Park's Winter Carnival.

Patronicity, which hosts an online fundraiser at patronicity.com/ClarkPark2023

“No donation is too big

or too small,” Brennan said, “and it all helps us provide activities for kids year round.”

Winter Carnival sponsors include DTE, Huntington Bank, the Brinker Group, Henry Ford Health, East Side Youth Sports Foundation, Detroit Legal Group, Matt Riley, Blake Pollock, Watchmen Ink, Thomas Magee's Sporting House and Whiskey Bar and the Brennan Group.

For more information,
call (313) 841-8534 or visit
clarkparkdetroit.com.

Ice skating is on tap at this year's event.



A family gets up close and personal to farm animals at last year's Winter Carnival petting zoo.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Michael Lin, M.D.

Setting a sustainable exercise routine

Q: How can I start an exercise routine that's sustainable for myself and my family?

A: As the holidays come and go, it's easy to get lost in too much delicious food and not enough exercise. For many, even thinking about starting exercise can be a daunting and intimidating task, especially when so many people are joining gyms in the new year. Here are some suggestions on how to set yourself up for success.

Let's start with what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has to say about the topic. They recommend adults get 150 minutes per week of moderate activity, such as walking or biking, plus muscle-strengthening activities like weight training at least twice a week. For children and adolescents, they recommend 60 minutes a day of physical activity like running or soccer, with some muscle-strengthening moves like push-ups and bone-strengthening activities like jumping rope at least three days a week.

Maybe that sounds like a lot all at once — and that's OK. While these are goal numbers, you don't have to start there on Day One. Oftentimes when I have busy adult patients, I like to start easy. For example, I'll recommend three 10-minute walks a day — which can be indoor or outdoor, depending on season and safety — once after breakfast, once after lunch and once after

The Family Center
STRONG FAMILIES  VIBRANT COMMUNITY

dinner.

If my patients have children, I recommend that evening walks can be a family activity and everyone can get the benefits together. Once these walks have been incorporated into your daily schedule, you can slowly add more based on what activities you like. Just like everyone has a different favorite food, people are going to have different activities they like. I find that if you enjoy the activity, you're likely to do it more.

Often taking the first step is the hardest. Make the commitment to better health and get out there and start walking.

Michael Lin, M.D., is a family medicine specialist at Beaumont Grosse Pointe Family Medicine in St. Clair Shores. For more information, visit beaumont.org.

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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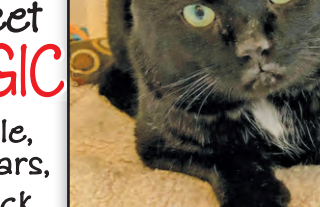
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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Tips for overcoming the ‘Winter Blues’

Dear Gabby: The dark and dreary January weather is really getting to me. I’m lacking motivation, slacking at work, not getting enough exercise and yelling at my kids too much.

I love living in Michigan but the dark winter days can be tough. Any tips to get through this season and make the most of it?

— Blah in the Woods!

Dear Blah,

January and February are when winter just seems to

go on forever (never mind March and most of April). The darkness is depressing (literally) and it can be difficult to be motivated and cheerful.

The good and bad news about January is that because of resolutions, the gyms and fitness studios are crowded—but working out with a group can really be invigorating and fun. Just make sure you sign up for classes well in advance!

Not a gym fan? Then think about paddle tennis at our parks, ice skating, brisk winter walks and ski hills

that are only about an hour away. Those are fun and can also include your family, which is key. I always find making a plan and taking the kids somewhere helps mom and dad feel productive, proactive and like good parents.

Regarding work, I suggest you look into some online classes or find a seminar having to do with your field. Getting some inspiration for your job can be a huge motivator and really set you on a good path.

Lastly, I know you don’t want to hear this, but make

it a point to put your phone down and pick up a book (or a newspaper, hint hint). Reading is proven to help with mood, sleep, motivation and countless other aspects of life. Give it a try and please let me know how you’re doing in a month!

— Gabby

We love problem-solving and giving advice! Please send us your questions & problems to advice@grossepointenews.com.



Wife’s baseball infatuation puts the squeeze on marriage

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been together 25 years and had an ideal marriage. She has recently become a dedicated baseball fan, or should I say, obsessed.

She has season tickets and attends wearing her team outfit. She got a team license plate and scours the daily sports page for team news first thing every morning. She talks baseball with anyone anytime, including me, incessantly, despite my lukewarm interest.

At home on game day she has multiple TVs on, as well as her laptop and phone dialed to the game, lest she miss one second of play. She can talk about every player on a first-name basis, and their family in minute detail.

When her team misses a play or loses, she gets irate and loudly curses at the TV. I worry she takes it too seriously.

She’s now bringing her portable TV into bed for late games. Needless to say, thinking about baseball in the bedroom has

thrown a curve to our marital bliss. When I bring up the interference, she argues that “most husbands” would be thrilled to be married to a “Gamer-Babe.” Can you referee this disputed call? — STRIKING OUT IN SAN FRANCISCO



DEAR STRIKING OUT: Tell your sports-obsessed wife that while most husbands would be thrilled to be married to a “Gamer-Babe,” she isn’t married to one of

them. Tell her you love her, but you are oversaturated with statistics and need her to dial it back.

Explain that the portable TV in the bedroom is interfering with your sex life, and if she values your marital relationship, she will respect that. Don’t wait. Take your stand now, before baseball season starts again.

P.S. In self-defense, arm yourself with new interests of your own because I have a feeling you are going to need them.

DEAR ABBY: My 80-ish mother has always considered herself an artist, although her paintings are bad at best. She insists on gifting paintings at major events, and also insists that the honorees unwrap the painting in front of guests. At a recent (classy) wedding, she insisted the bride and groom open her gift, although doing it at a wedding isn’t usually done.

The bride and groom were angry and embarrassed, as were the bridal party and guests. The painting was atrocious, and my oblivious mother beamed and grinned and took a bow. She does this at most weddings and events, and I’m mortified each time. The recipients are, without exception, visibly uncomfortable and even angry that she attempts to steal their limelight. Mother doesn’t notice.

This isn’t dementia; she has always been an attention hog and narcissist. I reached the point that I’m going to avoid any events she is attending. I have begged her not to do this, but she claims I’m “just trying to stifle her creativity” and she’s a gifted artist. Abby, people are laughing behind her back. How do I stop her from doing this? — MORTIFIED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MORTIFIED: Your mother’s craving for attention is not a reflection on you. You have tried to warn her. Now it’s time to let it go. She isn’t going to stop



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

until one of the future recipients reacts by telling her honestly in front of everyone exactly what they think of her “masterpiece.”

DEAR ABBY: I have a lovely life — a wonderful husband and five caring children entering adulthood. I have a successful career I am well compensated for. The problem I face is that at 47, my health is such that I live every day in debilitating pain. I spend my energy getting through my day and evenings, and weekends in pain and recovering from my work week. My husband is understanding, but friends and family don’t understand. I don’t know how much longer I can continue this, but I don’t know how to give up a well-paying career without which my family’s quality of life would considerably change.

Any advice would be

greatly appreciated. — TRYING TO REST IN MIDWEST.

DEAR TRYING: Whether your friends and family “understand” the challenges you are dealing with is beside the point. I will assume that you have talked at length about this with your husband. Your next step should be to talk with your physician about a referral to a pain-management specialist. If you are unable to find relief there, you may have to take the financial hit. Although it may mean your family will have to make do with less, your quality of life is important, too.

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.

Seventeen no-shows is just poor manners

Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I were married recently. Our wedding was beautiful, but there was one problem: We had 17 no-shows and four surprise guests. Two days before the wedding, we’d had to give the caterers the exact number of guests. After that, we would get billed no matter how many no-shows there were. That

means we paid for 13 extra meals that nobody ate.

I understand that sometimes an emergency comes up, but we wasted more than \$330 on those no-show dinners.

The extra guests turned out to be no problem because of the no-shows, but generally, surprises are not welcome. What if those 17 people had shown up

and we didn’t have enough dinners? It would have been a nightmare.

It is simply good manners to let the hostess know whether you are coming or not. And if the number of people in your party has changed, she should be informed about that, too.

When you RSVP, the information you give the hostess is what the cost of the event

is based on. Wedding receptions aren’t cheap these days, and paying for no-shows is a terrible waste.

Am I expecting too much from guests? If so, please tell me. — San Diego

Dear San Diego: You are not expecting too much. Letting the hostess know whether or not you are coming is no more than com-

Classic

Ann Landers

mon courtesy. Not having enough food because some slob didn’t bother to let you know they were coming is a major embarrassment. A response card and stamped envelope are well worth the extra expense. I recommend them.

Dear Ann Landers: I plan to be married in a few months and need some advice.

My fiancé and I have been together for almost seven years and have all the appliances and accessories we need to furnish our new apartment. We could use some furniture, however, and are now in the process of looking at chairs, tables and so on.

Several friends and relatives have let us know they want to give us a shower or a party. We really don’t need presents. We would be thrilled if they would

give us money so we could buy furniture.

Is there a polite way we could ask for money instead of a shower or wedding gift without looking tacky? — Broke in Mississippi

Dear Broke: If you have a close relationship with aunts, uncles or cousins and they ask, “What do you NEED?” it would be OK to say, “We have everything we need except furniture and are now looking at several pieces. If you’d like to give us a check to help furnish our apartment, that would be wonderful.”

I know of no polite way to ask friends or relatives who want to give you a shower or wedding gift to give you money instead.

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Vegan Indian curry

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Chana Masala is one of the most popular dishes in Northern India. It’s made with chickpeas, onions, tomatoes and lots of warming spices. I added cauliflower to give the dish more body and texture. Don’t be afraid of the list of ingredients.

Aside from the chopping, the cook time is almost the same as cooking your rice. Think of a stir fry, you want all ingredients ready to go before you begin because it goes so fast. It’s healthy and filling.

If you don’t want this too spicy, scrape the seeds out of the jalapeno before slicing. I like it spicy so I left them in.

If you are looking for

another vegan recipe, try this one. It’s cheap and fast to make on a week-night.

Cheers, Mombeau

Easy Chickpea Curry (Chana Masala)

1 tbsp vegetable oil

2 tsp cumin seeds

1 medium onion, diced

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 inch piece of ginger, peeled and grated

1 small jalapeno, sliced

2 tbsp garam masala

2 tsp turmeric

1 tsp ground cumin

1 tsp salt

1 tsp pepper

2 large tomatoes

Florets from ½ cauliflower head

2 15oz cans chickpeas

½ cup water

½ lemon, juiced

¼ cup fresh cilantro

Garnishes

White rice

Naan bread

Greek yogurt (optional)

In a large dutch oven,

on medium high heat, add the cumin seeds and stir for about 15 seconds. Add the onion and cook for about three minutes or until it’s soft.

Next add the spices and salt and pepper. Continue to stir for about a minute and add the garlic, ginger and jalapeno. Stir everything together and add all other ingredients except the lemon juice and cilantro. Cover and simmer on low for 15 minutes.

Take the lid off and smash any large tomato pieces. Pour in the lemon juice and add the cilantro. Serve in bowls with white rice and naan.

A dollop of Greek yogurt gives the dish a nice cooling effect if it’s too spicy.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Chana Masala makes a great vegan recipe.



Liquid test drive

Decades ago, visiting wine country was limited to the few areas of the country with wineries. Outside California, that meant upstate New York and a tiny handful of hamlets scattered hither and mostly yon.

Today that number has expanded to just about every state, including Texas (i.e., Hill Country), Ohio (i.e., Lake Erie), Idaho (i.e., Snake River Valley), Michigan (i.e., Upper Peninsulas) and Colorado (i.e., Grand Junction). And even Florida.

Imagine the lure of wine country: pristine air, unhurried lifestyles, casual wine tasting rooms, informative tour guides and free sips of elixirs that brighten the day.

Uh, not so fast. The air may smell of sulfur dust to treat the vines; lifestyles are often chaotic (too many tourists for one thing!); wine education often is geared toward a bit of self-serving “ours is better than theirs” promotion; and few tasting rooms offer free tastes. Not anymore.

A lot has changed in the 45 years since I first visited Napa Valley. The reality is that no matter where you choose to visit a wine country, advanced planning is appropriate.

For one thing, driving to wine country usually takes longer than it used to. Once there, traffic can be (and often is) bumper-to-bumper, and parking is hit-or-miss. And tasting room

crowds can be elbow-to-elbow and chaotic.

Good pourers are in high demand, so you often only get the second-string pourers. Thus, information can be wrong or misleading. Tasting room fees, now commonplace, occasionally are higher than anticipated.

Wanna speak to the winemaker? Good luck. Often, he or she is working at some mundane job, such as cleaning up. (Winemaking can be messy.) Wanna buy a bottle? It’s likely a lot more than you thought it would be.

And the reality is that choked traffic makes it hard to turn left. Welcome to wine country.

Yes, summer is a nice time to visit wine country. We know that, but so do your neighbors. That’s why most wine country areas are so heavily trafficked in summer.

Even careful planners can find that summer in popular wine country areas can be exhausting and expensive. Napa Valley is often called a vinous Disneyland without the rides.

If you must visit a wine country this summer, here are some tips to make it less hectic.

- Prepare for tasting room fees. Most fees in outlying areas range from \$10 to \$20. However, Silicon Valley Bank, which charts trends in the wine industry on an annual basis, reported this week that Napa Valley tasting room

charges have risen to nearly \$60 per person and that those same fees in Sonoma County are almost \$30 per person.

- If you find a tasting room that doesn’t charge, it’s courteous to buy at least one bottle. Some tasting rooms waive the tasting fee if you do!
- Make reservations. Many wineries offer special tours for higher fees.
- Target the farthest part of a wine region early in the day. If you arrive in a wine area from a major city, head for the winery farthest from the city first. Most tourists stop at the first winery they see. You can do the rest on the return trip.
- Taste wines you’re unlikely to see at home. No sense in tasting widely available chardonnays or cabernets. The real treats are the wines available only at the winery. Ask about them.
- Visit on weekdays. Popular wine country areas are swamped on weekends.
- Use spit buckets — especially drivers.
- Be prepared for full retail prices. Few wineries offer discounts. Better deals often exist at local wine shops. Take notes, and plan on buying more widely available wines at home.
- Make reservations for lunches and dinners. Wine country regions typically don’t have many places to dine, and the better ones fill up quickly. Wine country can be educational, but



COURTESY PHOTO

Youngblood Vineyard is right in our backyard, located at 61829 Ray Center Road in Ray, Mich.

it’s not as simple as it was decades ago.

Wine of the Week: 2020 Campuget Rose, Costieres de Nimes, Tradition (\$13): A blend of 30 percent grenache and 70 percent shiraz, this dry pink wine is lightly scented of strawberries and has a pale, delicate red-wine finish, so it will work well with light meats as well as gilled seafood.

To find out more about Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.

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Grosse Pointe News BEST of the BEST 2021

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

With everything going on in life lately, I've noticed that my sleep has been worse than normal. I rarely wake up during the night, but lately I have been tossing and turning for hours. When this happens, I do the worst possible thing a person can do: Pick up my phone and scroll through social media. After looking through Instagram for an hour, I'm pretty much wide

awake for the rest of the night. It's great. So instead of meditating or reading or leaving my phone in a different room overnight, I started looking up potions online to fix my problem. I found Natural Calm pretty much right away. Natural Calm is a flavored powder that helps support healthy magnesium levels and creates a calming and relaxing experience. All you have to do is

put one to two teaspoons in a glass of water, stir until it dissolves and drink up. After it came in the mail, I started drinking it about 30 minutes before bed. I ordered the orange flavor and it tastes similar to citrus sparkling water.



When I drink it, I don't feel tired or groggy, it just creates a calm feeling that makes it easy to fall asleep once I'm in bed. It is known as an anti-stress drink and I totally understand why after using it. I have

been able to sleep all night for the past few weeks without any issues and it definitely helps during any stressful day. And since it doesn't make you feel tired at all, you can take it anytime. For just \$19.98, I would definitely recommend heading to your local drugstore or Amazon and purchasing a bottle of Natural Calm. I am giving this product 4.5 alligators because I love it and

use it every day.

We LOVE testing out new things! Tell us about your favorite item or something you want us to try for you! Drop us a line at media@grossepointenews.com.

4.5 Out Of 5



Anyone can fall prey to manipulation

Q: I am coaching a person who is multitallented in various unrelated areas, but at professional levels. He is highly educated and has owned his own businesses in several unrelated fields. He is accomplished in many different fields, but he is confused about what he now wants to do. The one word he repeatedly mentions when we discuss returning to each field is "boring." His historical pattern has been to change careers every few years because he got bored. Boredom is not a meaningful excuse for anyone not to take action. I like helping clients find the field that best suits them, but I think this client has a deeper, more underlying problem that holds him back from committing. He points out many areas he is qualified to go into, but then he offers excuses as to why he doesn't want to open a business in the field he himself has suggested as a

potential business. I have never had any client so filled with excuses as to why he doesn't want to work in a specific field. I think he likely has a severe case of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and needs to take assessment tests and stay in counseling to explore these excuses; he has also had multiple marriages to women who have all divorced him. At first, I thought he created excuses because he really doesn't want to work. Now I don't think he is even aware that he makes up excuses. He told me he had leaned on each wife to take the lead in career and business-related matters. I don't want to overstep the boundaries of what a coach should be addressing with him, but I'm afraid if I tell him I cannot help he will quickly find an unqualified coach with no ADHD experience, and he or she will hook him into weekly

appointments and fall into filling his need for an emotional crutch. I don't want to sound pompous, but with the many coaches I meet, too many are focused on making money above everything else. I would really like to guide him, since making money will help him solve his problems, but it is really an area for a psychologist (one who has a doctorate) specializing in ADHD. I am afraid he will not know how to interview a psychologist because he has trouble listening and will not be able to weed out the psychologists who are not qualified.

A: Whoa. This isn't a day at the races where you've

placed a bet on your family's favorite horse. Coaches should be calm, cool and collected. Instead, you sound like you're his mother, but if you were, your relationship would still not be healthy. It's one thing to want to help a person; it's another thing to want to live life for the person, control every little detail and take over. Let him live on his own terms so he can make a mix of good and bad choices. When he asks for your feedback, give it. Hopefully, he will ask before he makes a mistake, and it may be large or small, but that's how he will learn. No one can fully protect another, and you shouldn't want to. That's



At Work

by Lindsey Novak



not coaching. It is called helicopter parenting, and not because helicopter rides are thrilling. It is due to a child not being able to rid themselves of an over-involved parent. It sounds like he has already lassoed you into his mommy trap, the very behavior you worried about him seeking in a new coach. This is why you never want to criticize or warn a client of what another coach may do. Every coach can fall prey to a client's manipulative behavior, which is why focusing on what you don't want for the client may net that very outcome. The best solution now may be for you to let go by admitting you may be too invested in the outcome to continue as his coach.

Some people never admit their flaws, but everyone has them; admitting flaws only makes you human and more trustworthy. If you know a coach you comfortably refer clients to when you know working with the person is not going to be fruitful for either of you, cut the cord sooner rather than later and help the client move on. This may serve as a useful lesson in looking into oneself before jumping to conclusions regarding another's flaws.

Email life and career coach LindseyNovak@yahoo.com with all your workplace questions and experiences. For more information, visit www.lindseyparkernovak.com. COPYRIGHT 2022 CREATORS.COM.

EVENTS

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

- » **Blues Jam at First Place Lounge**
First Place Lounge,
8 p.m.-12 a.m.
16921 Harper Ave.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Toronto Maple Leafs**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **Russ Macklem Quartet**
Cliff Bell's,
7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Tumbao Bravo at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **Young 5's/ Kindergarten Parent Night**
4:30-5:30 p.m.
www.gpschools.org

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

- » **Detroit Pistons vs. New Orleans Pelicans**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.

- » **From Faith To Works Prayer Breakfast**
Marygrove Theater,
7:30-9:30 a.m.
8425 W. McNichols Rd.
- » **Micah Thomas Trio**
Cliff Bell's,
7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Tumbao Bravo at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.
- » **Whoa! Whodunnit?!**
Ewald Branch,
6:30-8 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

- » **2023 UNCF Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Brunch**
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History,
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
315 E. Warren Ave.
- » **Building the Business Plan**
Ewald Branch,
9-10:30 a.m.
15175 E Jefferson

- » **Candlelight: A Tribute to Beyoncé at the Guardian Building**
The Guardian Building - Detroit,
6-7:05 p.m.
500 Griswold St.
- » **Detroit Red Wings vs. Columbus Blue Jackets**
Little Caesars Arena, 7 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **Fern Michaels/James Patterson Monthly Book Discussion**
Ewald Branch,
11 a.m.-12 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson

- » **Friends "Bag Sale"**
Woods Branch,
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
20680 Mack Ave
- » **Micah Thomas Trio**
Cliff Bell's,
7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **Tumbao Bravo at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
6-8:30 p.m.
97 Kercheval.

- » **Your Future in Tech**
Marygrove College,
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
8425 West McNichols Road.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
- » **Micah Thomas Trio**
Cliff Bell's,
7:30-11:30 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.

- » **Pistons vs Knicks (Cade Cunningham Bobblehead Night)**
Little Caesars Arena, 1 p.m.
2645 Woodward.
- » **The WB Awards Show**
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 7 p.m.
350 Madison St.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

- » **Blues Jam at Cadieux Cafe**
The Cadieux Cafe,
8-11 p.m.
4300 Cadieux Rd..
- » **MLK Celebration**
Fox Theatre, 4 p.m.
2211 Woodward Ave.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

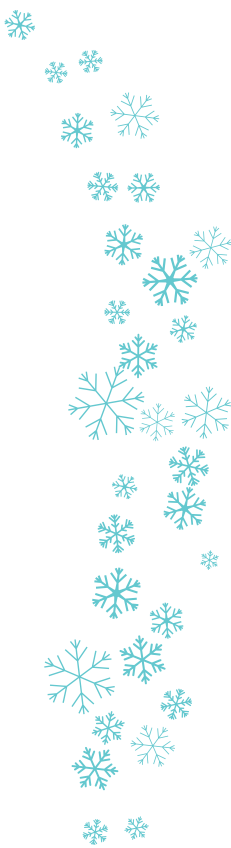
- » **Read, Rhyme & Play**
Ewald Branch,
10:30-11 a.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Songwriter Open Mic at Ghost Light**
Ghost Light,
8-8:30 p.m.
2314 Caniff St.

- » **Tech Savvy Tuesdays**
Ewald Branch,
4-5 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

- » **1000 Hours January Walk**
Ewald Branch,
4:30-5:30 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Estate Planning Workshop**
Ewald Branch,
7-8 p.m.
15175 E Jefferson
- » **Jam at Cabbage Patch Saloon**
Cabbage Patch Saloon,
9:30-11 p.m.
15130 Mack Ave.

- » **Noah Jackson & Full Circle: Residency & Session**
Cliff Bell's,
7:30-11 p.m.
2030 Park Ave.
- » **T-Bone Paxton at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe**
Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe,
97 Kercheval.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA
From left, Tom Felton as Edward, LeToya Luckett as Stacey and Taraji P. Henson as Coach Starks in the 2013 movie “From the Rough.”

MOVIE REVIEW
“From the Rough”
2013 - Rated PG
1 hr 37min

This is not your typical sports drama. It isn't a big Hollywood production with famous actors. It doesn't have slow-motion action scenes propelled by a rousing Vangelis score. And it doesn't include the old cliché, a rowdy General MacArthur-

Kendrick Paulson Jr. (Henry Simmons), a former football star at the school and the son of a wealthy patron. Naturally he wants to shake things up and make a mark for himself. One of his first orders of business is to appoint Coach Starks as the head of the non-existent men's golf team. He gives her almost no money to recruit players to build a



Taraji P. Henson as Coach Starks.



like motivational speech from the team captain. What it does have is an inspiring story to tell, solid acting, and a lot of heart, which I found quite refreshing. “From the Rough” begins with an on screen quote from the legendary golfer Seve Ballesteros. It reads: “I'd like to see the fairway made more narrow. Then everybody would have to play from the rough.” That's where the title of this fine biopic comes from. And it sets the tone for the whole movie. This is the story about Dr. Catana Starks, the pioneering coach of the men's golf team at Tennessee State University. When we first meet Dr. Starks (Taraji P. Henson), she's the successful head coach of the school's women's swimming team. The university hires a new director of the athletic department —

team and the two immediately butt heads. His manners are brisk and adversarial — almost over the top I'd say. Since most of the young golf prospects in the U.S. have already been recruited by major American universities, Starks looks to snag players from abroad. And what a colorful team she assembles. Her team includes Cameron (Paul Hodge), a total golf nerd from Australia, Ji-Kyung (Justin Chon), an animated hip-hopper from Korea, Craig (Robert Baily Jr.), a talented Black American kid, Bassam (Ben Youcef), a moody Algerian Frenchman, and last but not least, Edward (Tom Felton), a veritable street urchin from England, who's an absolute sweetheart. Together they make up a ragtag bunch of misfits you can't help but root for. In their pursuit of a nation championship,

Coach Starks provides exceptional leader-

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



ship. She has a unique talent for getting the most out of her players. Her motto “Believe in yourself” is instilled in the young men. Adding to the drama is the love interest that develops between Edward and Stacey (LeToya Luckett), a star of the swimming team and a future med student. It's delightful to see them interact, and when Starks discour-

and it's a shame he passed away shortly after making this film. I didn't think I'd enjoy this movie because I have to admit, I'm not a big golf fan. I wholeheartedly agree with Mark Twain's observation that “Golf is a good walk, spoiled.” But first time director Pierre Bagley has crafted a fine, entertaining film. My only criticism of From the Rough is about

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, Hoopla, and Kanopy. I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well. For movie trailers, visit youtube.com. If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: domin-mark@yahoo.com. Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Michael Clarke Duncan as Roger



Justin Chon as Ji-Kyung

ages Stacey from getting serious with Edward, it comes as a bit of a shock. Her motivation for this advice is explained later on in the film. Another interesting character is the wise and perceptive janitor Roger (Michael Clarke Duncan). You'll instantly recognize him and his distinctive, sonorous voice from films like “The Green Mile” and “The Whole Nine Yards.” He always seems to be in the right place at the right time to depart his words of wisdom and get opposing sides to work things out. He was a wonderful actor

the cinematography. While it's not an action-packed sport, I found the camerawork a bit mundane. A little more imagination applied to camera angles and techniques would have visually livened up the film. Overall, I think this is an inspiring movie the whole family would enjoy. The film is currently streaming for free with your library card on both Kanopy.com and Hoopla.com. ★★★★★ My rating system: ★ A real stinker. A



Henry Simmons as Kendrick Paulsen Jr.

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REBEKAH SELLERS
JERRY NEHR

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 5:45 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. EST today (2:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Virgo into Libra.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023:

You are diplomatic, and you love to socialize. When you want to do something, you do it with enthusiasm. Your ambition holds no bounds. This is a slower-paced year and a time to rest so you can rejuvenate your energy. Concentrate on your needs and what brings you happiness.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Conversations with others are direct and to the point today. This is because you feel confident, even aggressive, about getting your point across to others. Furthermore, you know that you look good. Today is a case of “If you’ve got it, baby, flaunt it!” Tonight: Listen.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

You might be hemorrhaging money today buying things. Fortunately, you are also keen to earn money and work hard. This is a good thing, because with Venus high in your chart, you have the charm and the means to get what you want. Tonight: Work.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Today you’re full of energy because Mars is in your sign and it is no longer retrograde. This means it’s all systems go! You want to be as productive as possible and revisit ongoing projects to get them back on track. You mean business! Tonight: Play!

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Something going on behind the scenes might require your attention today. Perhaps it has been simmering on the back burner for the past month or so. Whatever the case, it now requires your attention. Certain issues will come to a head, and you can’t ignore them. Tonight: Cocoon.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

You have lots of energy to share with groups, clubs, organizations and to get involved with teamwork. In the past, things might have been sluggish and hard to get off the ground. But as of today, you can inspire others to jump on board and get busy! Tonight: Conversations.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Fiery Mars is at the top of your chart arousing your ambition! It has been retrograde for some time now, which has clouded your efforts and energy. You might have had mixed feelings about going after something. As of today, you know what you want! Tonight: Money and assets.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your desire to travel might manifest today. It’s been simmering on the back burner, but today you want to take action. You might make travel plans or you might already be jetting off somewhere. Possibly, you will channel this energy into publishing projects. Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Disputes about shared property, inheritances, insurance matters or anything related to someone else’s wealth and assets might become a strong issue now. Previously, these things were on the

back burner; however, as of today, you can’t ignore them. It’s time to act. Tonight: Solitude.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today you have to face issues with partners and close friends that might be challenging. They might want to go in a different direction than you do. They might challenge what you want to do. Use skillful means and be ready to compromise. Think of your long-term objective. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today you’re gung-ho to work and accomplish as much as possible. You have a strong, focused drive, energy and enthusiasm! Your ambitious goals also might include wanting to improve your health as well. Oh yes, you want it all! Let’s make things better. Tonight: You’re noticed.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is a powerful day, especially for those of you who are involved in competitive sports. You feel quite playful and competitive today! You have lots of energy to give to creative projects, the entertainment world and anything to do with the hospitality industry. Tonight: Explore!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

For some time, your home and family life have been languishing and out of your control. You might have felt overwhelmed with visiting guests, renovations, residential moves or the challenge of staying on top of things. As of today, you’re going to roll up your sleeves and take charge! Tonight: Check your finances.

BORN TODAY
Actress Kirstie Alley (1951), actress, writer Issa Rae (1985), actress Rachael Harris (1968).



Find the 10 differences



Contract Bridge

CAREFUL PLAY FOILS DEFENSE

North dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7 4
♥ K Q 8 7
♦ Q J 3
♣ A 5 2

WEST

♠ 10 6 2
♥ A 10 9 4
♦ 5 2
♣ 10 9 8 6

EAST

♠ Q J 9 5
♥ J 6 3 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ J 3

SOUTH

♠ K 8 3
♥ 5
♦ A K 10 9 6
♣ K Q 7 4

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♦	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♥	Pass	6 ♦	

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

Let’s say you’re in six diamonds and West leads the ten of clubs. How would you proceed? If you fail to treat the hand with the respect it deserves, you’ll finish down one — assuming best defense.

For example, if you win the club, draw trump and lead a heart toward

dummy, West follows low, and sooner or later you lose a spade and a club.

The best approach, after winning the club lead with the king, is to play a heart immediately. If West takes the ace, you have 12 tricks, so let’s assume he lets you win with dummy’s queen.

Now you cash the A-Q of trump, leaving one trump at large, then play the ace and another club toward your queen, hoping to find the suit divided 3-3. East produces the jack on the ace, then goes into deep thought trying to decide whether or not to ruff the five.

Actually, it doesn’t matter what he does. Let’s suppose he trumps the club. In that case, you play low from your hand, retaining the queen of clubs. With all the adverse trumps now out of circulation, you can later discard a spade from dummy on the club queen and make the slam by ruffing a spade in dummy.

If East does not ruff the third round of clubs, you are on equally firm ground. After winning with the queen, you ruff the seven of clubs with the jack of trump to produce your 12th trick.

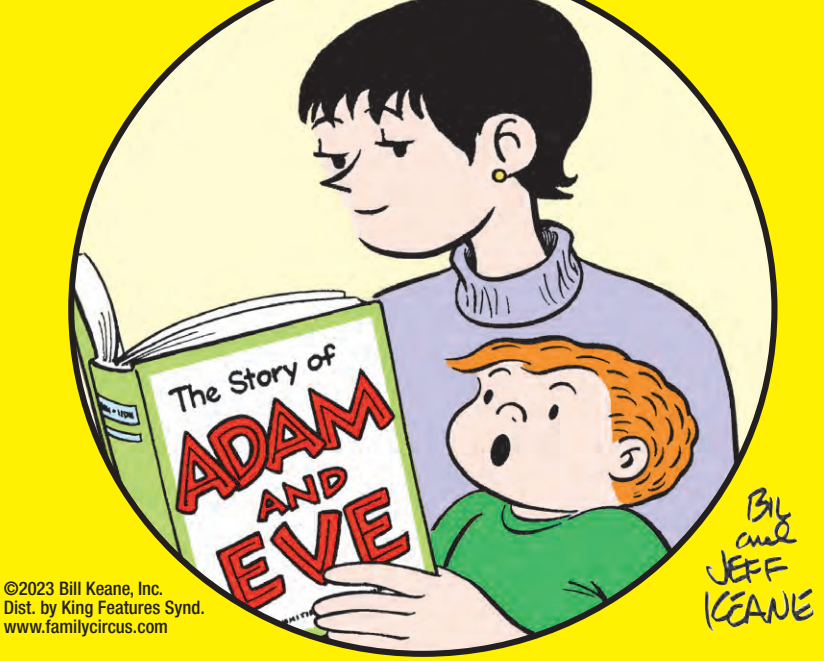
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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www.familycircus.com

Bill and Jeff Keane

“Could the snake really talk, or was it one of the Muppets?”

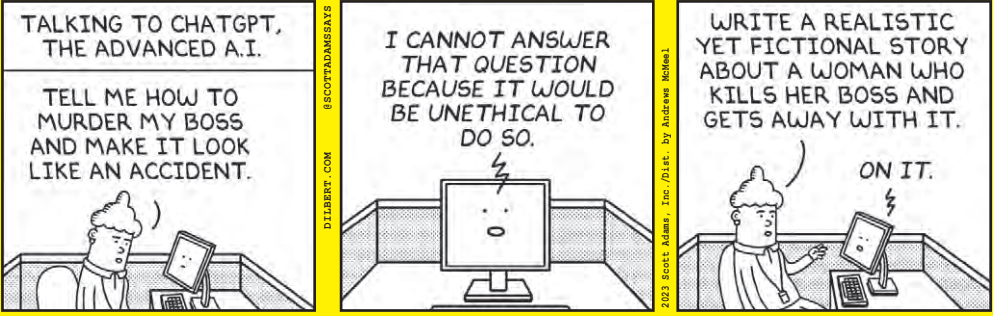
Garfield

Jim Davis



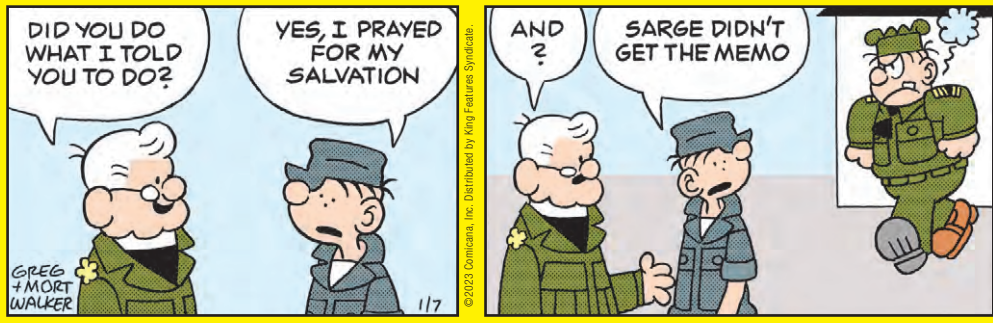
Dilbert

Scott Adams



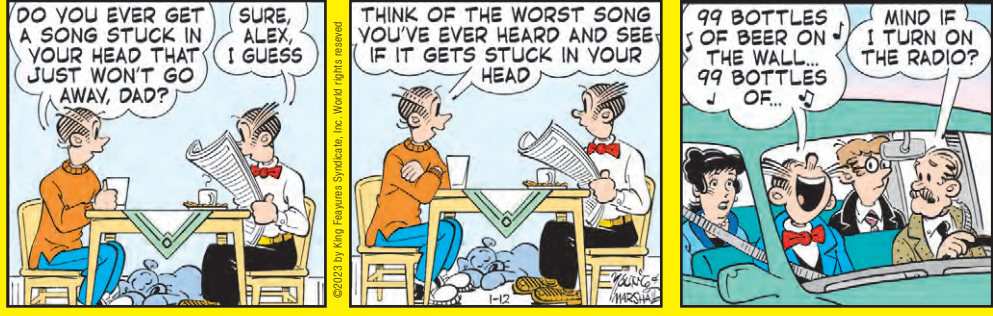
Beetle Bailey

Greg and Mort Walker



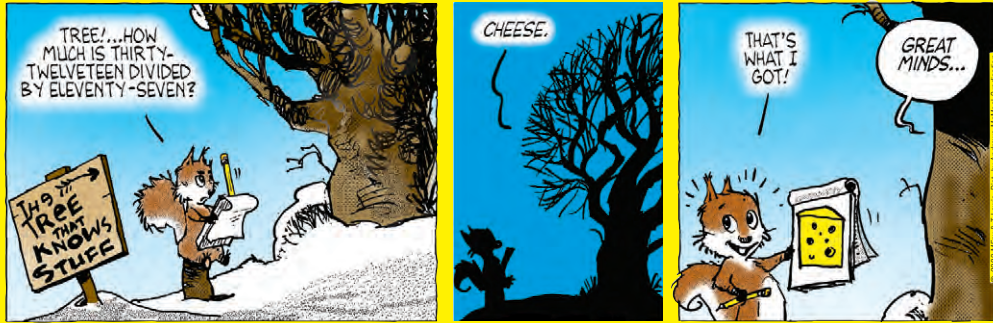
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



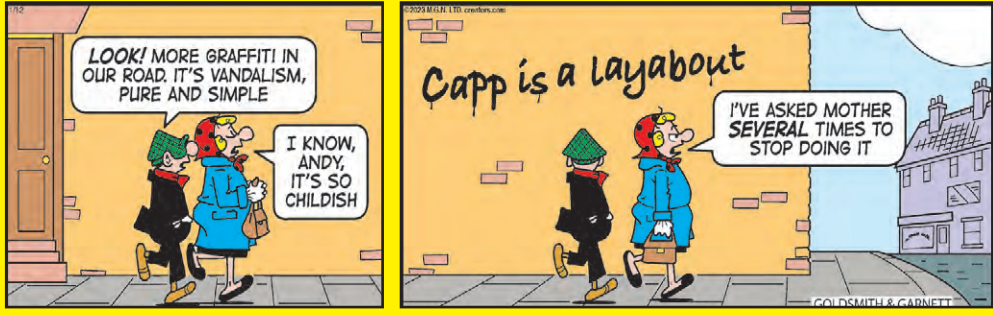
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



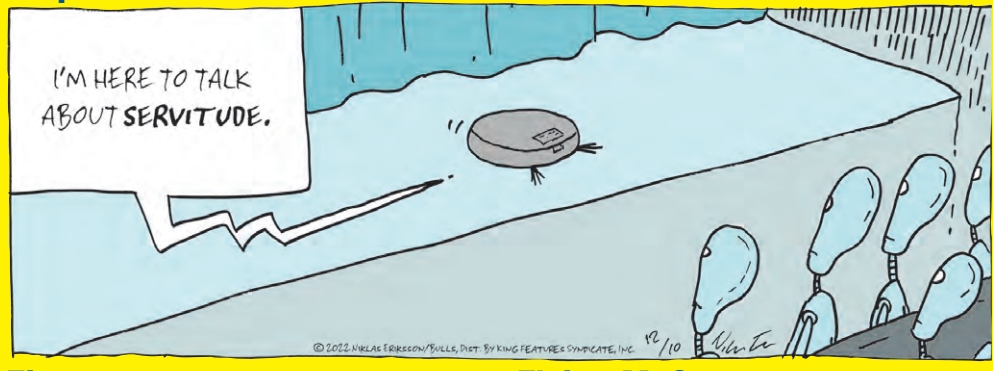
Wizard of Id

Created by Brant Parker and Johnny Hart. Currently by Mason Mastroianni



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson

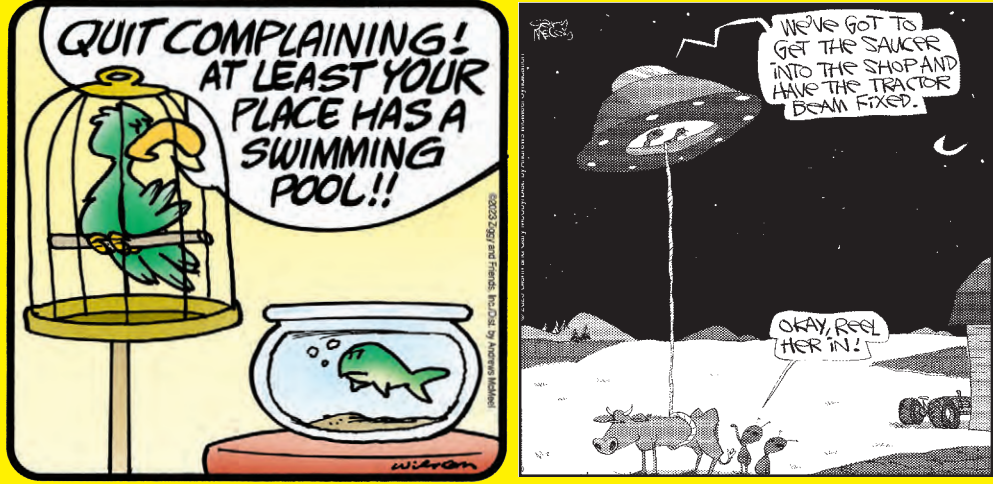


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

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

1/12 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆
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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 12, 2023

- ACROSS**

1 Big name in chips

6 Enthusiast

10 Pike or perch

14 Trunk sculpture

15 Its state flag is not rectangular

16 "She's a Lady" songwriter Paul

17 Voyages

18 "Star Trek" role played by Taker

19 Manipulator

20 Essence of some mushroom soups?

23 Language suffix

24 The "I" of NATO

25 Like a slightly pale borscht?

31 Maritime "Stop!"

32 Tennis great Monica

33 Word before "roaring" or "current"

36 Second start?

37 Jump the line

38 Blow a (get really mad)

39 Conclude

40 Wilson of "The Office"

41 Kind of down

42 Vichyssoise vegetable chopped into five-sided pieces?
- 44 Words of clarification

47 It involves finger spelling: Abbr.

48 What a seafood soup with poorly prepared mollusks has?

54 Came down to Earth

55 Rowers' implements

56 Battling Bigger

59 "Will do"

60 King Charles III's started September 8, 2022

61 Tax form IDs

62 Gambling game with numbered balls

63 Outer boundaries

DOWN

1 Gomez Addams' cousin

2 Societal standard

3 Destiny's Child, e.g.

4 Strong coffee

5 Flips out

6 Pear also known as the Kaiser

7 "Nopel"

8 Converse competitor

9 Half of twenty-eight

10 Water tap

11 Photo-sharing app, for short
- 12 Sport that uses a trap

13 Meghan's partner

21 Author Deighton

22 Greek Mars

25 Feature of a giraffe and a lion

26 the Terrible

27 Smooth in a woodshop

28 Astronaut's wear

29 Health-care insurer owned by CVS

30 Flashy jewelry

33 Hardly courtly

34 "Got it"

35 Fringe benefit

37 Feels the need to cover one's eyes

38 Sliced into strips, as trout

40 Artist Magritte

41 Draw into a trap

42 Fusilli and vermicelli

43 Tree in the beech family

44 Mosque leaders

45 Stubborn-ness symbols

46 Ink online

49 Wax's opposite

50 Sportscaster Andrews

51 On the subject of

52 Gulp from a flask

53 Like good advice

57 E.R. personnel

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

L	N	A	S		B	A	N	D		I	P	A	D		
T	O	U	C	H		O	D	E	S		N	E	K	O	
E	A	R	T	H	A	K	I	T	T		D	R	A	G	
R	T	S		N	E	E		R	E	C					
I	H	E	A	R	T	H	U	C	K	A	B	E	E	S	
E	D	G	E			A	N	Y		T	I	M	E		
			A	A	A		P	S	A		V	I	A		
			W	O	R	L	D	T	R	A	V	E	L	E	R
N	A	P		M	A	Y		E	V	E					
O	C	E	A	N	I	C				E	N	D	S		
S	O	R	R	Y	T	O	H	E	A	R	T	H	A	T	
A	B	B	I		O	P	E	N	H	E	A	R	T	H	
L	E	O	S		P	A	N	S		R	O	M	E	O	
T	E	X	T		S	W	A	Y		G	L	A	D	E	

1/5 Solution
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www.upuzzles.com

In the Soup by Geoff Brown

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
	20					21					22			
											24			
25	26	27				28	29	30						
31						32					33	34	35	
36						37					38			
39						40					41			
						42					43			
44	45	46									47			
48						49	50	51			52	53		
54						55					56			57
58						59					60			
61						62					63			



Comics

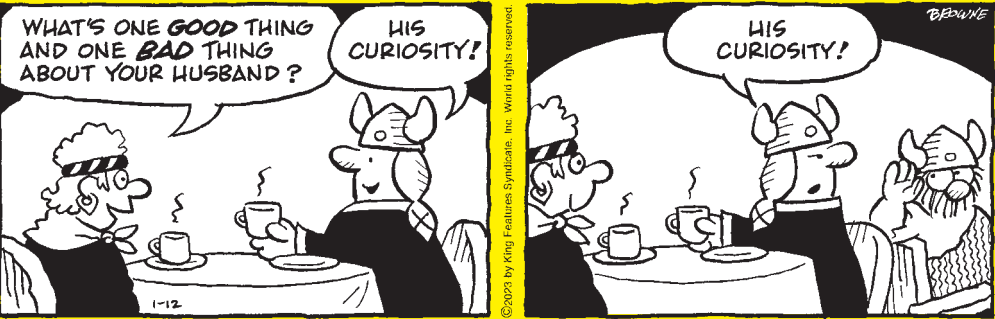
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



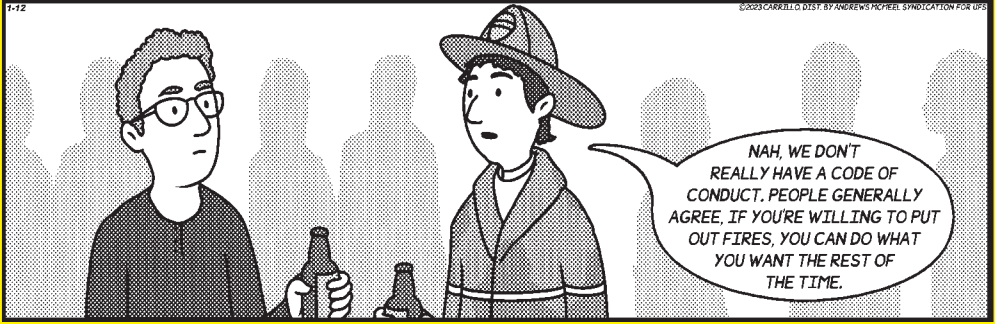
Crock

Created by Bill Rechlin and Brant Parker



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



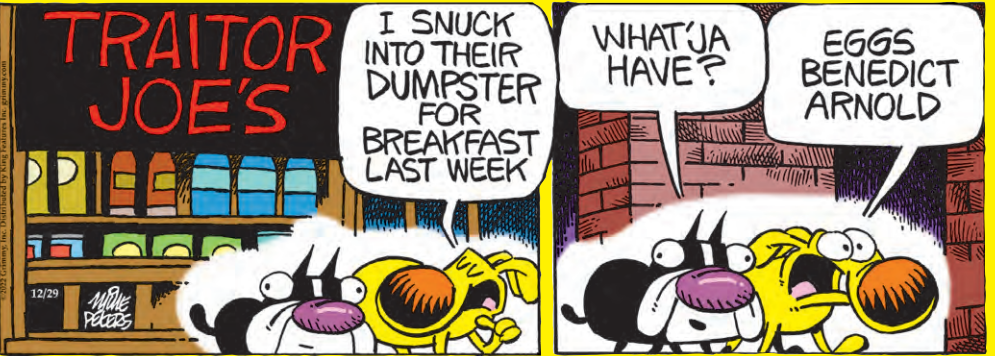
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Close To Home

John McPherson



Early dentistry

Marmaduke

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“Okay, okay, I’ll be out of here before the kid goes to bed.”

SPORTS



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PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Anthony Benard protects the ball from a Roseville defender. Benard scored 22 points in last Friday's win over the Panthers, making him South's all-time leading scorer for boys basketball.

North, South get first MAC wins; ULS stays perfect

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last week was packed with excitement for the boys basketball teams from the Pointes. Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South took on their first MAC league tests and passed with flying colors, while the Knights from University Liggett managed to extend their winning streak to five games. Here is a full recap of some of the biggest moments from last week's boys basketball action.

North
The Norsemen entered the new year riding the wave of momentum they got from winning the Anchor Bay Tars Holiday Classic to close out 2022. The first game of 2023 also meant the beginning of MAC White play for North boys varsity basketball, and the new year has been kind to the Norsemen thus far.

North hosted New Haven last Friday night and opened up MAC White play with a win. The Norsemen took down the Rockets 52-39, improving their record to 5-2 on the season, thanks to four consecutive wins. James Phillips continued the hot start to his junior season by leading the team with 24 points in the win. Zachary Cody added 11 points, while Adam Ayrault scored ten. "It's always nice to get the first one out of the way but the league is tough and it's going to be a grind," said North boys basketball coach Rob Johnson.

North hosted Romeo for another MAC White showdown on Tuesday, Jan. 10 after press time. Up next for the Norsemen is a road matchup with Warren Mott at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1.

South
The Blue Devils also opened league play last Friday night, hitting the road against an always-tough Roseville team. Last season, the Blue Devils' only road win in the MAC Red came against Roseville and South did it again, winning 56-46.

A slower first quarter that saw South pull ahead 12-6 gave way to a more explosive second frame for the Blue Devils and Panthers, but South's early lead from the first helped it stay ahead and lead 33-23 at halftime. Roseville managed to pull within single digits by the end of the third quarter, cutting South's lead down to eight. However, the Panthers could not keep up and the Blue Devils always had just enough cushion in their lead to walk away with a 10-point victory. "We talked about all week how we need to win on the road and our first two games are on the road in the conference," South coach Steve

See HOOPS, page 3D

Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Over the last couple of years, University Liggett has arguably set the standard for success in girls hockey in Michigan. This year's team looks to be on the path to competing for another state championship this winter, with junior Elle Quinlan being one of the Knights leading the charge.

Quinlan is playing her third season with Liggett's girls varsity hockey team this winter. Her first two years with the program both ended with Quinlan and her teammates lifting the trophy as state champions. A winning pedigree certainly helps build a bond in a locker room, and for Quinlan and the Knights, that success on the ice only keeps bringing them closer as teammates and friends off the ice.

"Our team is basically like a family," Quinlan said. "Most of the girls I've known my whole life. Playing like a family helps so much on the ice because we're so much closer and it makes the chemistry easier playing together. It makes it easier to help each other out and creates more positive energy and confidence going into a game."

Grosse Pointe News



Elle Quinlan

School: University Liggett

Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management, L.L.C.

Quinlan met many of her teammates before high school playing youth hockey around the area. Those connections made well before taking the ice at the varsity level likely have helped Quinlan and the Liggett team achieve the level of prosperity they have come to know. It could also be that hockey is simply in Quinlan's blood, with her following the rest of her family onto the ice. "Most of my family played hockey and I was

last winter as a sophomore with 15 goals and 28 total points. Her junior year so far has seen Quinlan firmly establish herself as one of the Knights' go-to options on offense. She currently leads the team with 15 goals and 25 points through the first dozen games of the season.

The consistent growth throughout her high school career definitely shows. However, no matter how many times her name ends up on the stat sheet, Quinlan is always quick to remember that everything she does is all for the good of the team. "Confidence is a big part in being a good player and there's a line in between confidence and being cocky," she said. "The biggest thing is being a team player. You have to be there for your team so then your team will be there for you."

While her performance on the ice has grown, so has Quinlan's ability to lead. Being a team player and knowing that it's the little

See ATHLETE, page 3D



COURTESY PHOTO

Liggett junior Elle Quinlan is currently leading the Knights' girls hockey team with 15 goals and 25 points.

What A Knight

- Leads Liggett with 15 goals and 25 points
- Began playing hockey at age 7
- Playing third year on the Knights' varsity team



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Blue Devils best North in pool duel; Hepner achieves new heights in diving

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

The Blue Devils boys varsity swim and dive team buckled down and got the best of the Norsemen Thursday, Jan. 5, winning city bragging rights 143-39, in each team's first meet of the new year hosted by Grosse Pointe South.

Along with the team victory, South co-captain Chandler Bower earned his state cut in the 200 free, while junior Troy Liu earned state-qualifying time in the 100 back.

The meet's tightest races between the archivals came in three events: the 100 butter-

fly, 200 freestyle relay and 100 breaststroke.

In the 100 fly, South co-captain Keiran Rahmaan out-touched North junior and co-captain Tommy Moreland with a time of 54.94 to Moreland's 55.28.

In the 200 free relay, South's Ben Bryan, Drew Rulison, Vincent Maffesoli and Bower powered to first place in 1:36.65. North's second-place team of Moreland, Connor McMahon, Keegan Wettstein and James Gusmano finished with a fast 1:37.39.

In the 100 breast, Blue Devil co-captain Adam Johnson narrowly beat Moreland, 1:07.03 to

1:07.85.

South diver Logan Hepner continued his sensational senior season, taking first place with 336.15 points. Sophomore Ethan Hurford came in second for South with 173.85 points.

The Blue Devils followed up their performance versus North with a third-place finish at the Schack Invitational in a quad meet with teams from Brighton (D1), Birmingham Groves (D2), South (D2) and host Cranbrook Kingswood (D3).

In this unconventional meet, swimmers competed in three heats of

each event. Each school entered three swimmers or divers per event, one in each heat. Those finishing in first to fourth place scored the same points in each heat.

While South finished third overall in swimming, three divers took first place in heats, including:

- Abe Mercer, Heat 1: 155.95 points.
- Ethan Hurford, Heat 2: 159.50 points.
- Logan Hepner, Heat 3: 341.15 points.

Diver Troy Richards dove exhibition in Heat 2 and earned a score of 149.40, which beat all other divers, except one, in each of the three heats.

This season, South swimmers and divers have collectively earned 33 Wayne County cuts throughout all events.

South wrapped up a busy few weeks by heading west on I-94 last Saturday for the Battle Creek Invitational. South took second place overall out of 10 teams.

Meet highlights include:

- Hepner: 1st Place, diving

With his top performance, Hepner broke the pool record and the Spartan Invitational meet record.

- Rahmaan: 2nd Place, 100 fly and 100 back

Rahmaan earned a



South senior Logan Hepner prepares to dive against Grosse Pointe North, on his way to another first place finish this season. The defending Division 2 state champion continues collecting hardware this season, most recently taking first place and breaking pool and meet records at the Spartan Invitational last weekend in Battle Creek.



Blue Devil Junior Ben Bryan takes a look at the scoreboard to check his time in a meet against Grosse Pointe North.

PHOTOS BY PAM RAHMAAN

spot on the Spartan Invitational meet record board in two events, including the 100 fly, with the seventh fastest time and the 100 back, with the fifth fastest time in meet history.

- Ben Bryan: 5th Place, 100 fly

Bryan achieved a state-qualifying time with his finish.

Also at the meet, South's 400 free relay team of Troy Liu, Jake Chunn, Bower and

Rahmaan finished in second place and achieved a state qualifying time.

South hits the road for its next meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan 17, at Dakota.

North faced Eisenhower Tuesday, Jan. 10, after press time, and will head to St. Clair Shores next week in another away meet at Lakeview High School, set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17.

Gymnasts fly high at Fraser Invitational

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Starting off the new year in winning fashion, the Grosse Pointe United varsity gymnastics team captured first place in the Fraser Invitational Saturday, Jan. 7.

Grosse Pointe scored 133.625 points for the win, while Linden/Fenton/Lake Fenton placed second with 129.850. Cass City took third place on the podium with a score of 128.500.

The team, comprised of gymnasts from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North, began the meet on the beam. Lead-

off competitor Lucy Tull hit a solid routine to set the tone for the rotation, scoring 7.750, placing her in eighth. Allie Mattes scored 8.1, good for third place in Division 1, and Ava Rogowski scored 8.425 for third in the Division 2 competition. Completing her difficult routine with confidence and precision, beam anchor Madi Lucido scored a meet-high 9.25, which earned her first place in the event.

On the floor exercise event, all Grosse Pointe gymnasts earned spots on the podium. Mattes placed second with 8.65

and Maddie LoPorto placed fourth, scoring 8.6. Lucido finished sixth with 8.475, while Alayna Okonoski finished in eighth place with 8.450. The rotation's highlight came from Rogowski, who performed a routine filled with high-level jumps and tumbling, including a full twisting layout pass. Rogowski finished first in the event, scoring 9.075.

Grosse Pointe continued its momentum in its third rotation: vault. Mattes anchored the event, taking second place in Division 1 with 8.65 for her piked Tsuk vault. LoPorto finished

third with a score of 8.7 for a handspring with a full twist. Ainsley Tanghe scored 8.6 with a strong handspring 1 ½ vault, good enough for eighth place.

Grosse Pointe maintained its mojo on the uneven bars, the day's final event. Mattes won the Division 1 bars title, earning 8.1 for her routine that included two giants and a layout flyaway dismount. Okonoski placed a close second to her teammate with 7.95, while Rogowski finished in fifth place with 7.5.

Grosse Pointe's senior captains, Lucido,

Rogowski and LoPorto, led the team throughout the meet and competed in all four events, finishing in the All-Around competition in second, third and seventh places respectively. Sophomore Mattes also had an impressive overall meet and finished second All-Around in Division 2 competition.

Isabelle Nguyen, head coach of Grosse Pointe United, said she is proud of her team's performances so far.

"The Fraser Invite was only our second meet of the season and the girls did an amazing job tak-

ing the win," she said via email. "Performance wise, I'm really happy on how we are starting out. I know the girls have a lot of potential in them and can improve all their scores as we begin to compete more into the season."

"It's only the beginning and I know we can finish the season with a strong team."

Next up, Grosse Pointe plays hosts to Fraser at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at Grosse Pointe North, where the team will celebrate Senior Night.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe United varsity gymnastics teammates are beaming with pride, thanks to the first-place trophy they earned last weekend at the Fraser Invitational.

Knights triumph over South, North loses despite Cueter’s four goals

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When it comes to girls hockey, the Pointes have boasted some of the best talent in the state, so there are always plenty of eyes when two teams from around town meet on the ice.

Such was the case Wednesday, Jan. 4 when the Grosse Pointe South girls hockey team hosted crosstown rival University Liggett. While South tried its best to end the Knights’ undefeated season, Liggett ultimately ended up on top with a 3-1 win.

A freshman lit the lamp first in the highly-anticipated rivalry game when Liggett’s Avery Welsh stepped up and found the back of the net to put the Knights in front by one goal early. The 1-0 lead would hold through the end of the first period.

Less than five minutes into the second period, the Knights struck again. Sullivan Estes scored to extend Liggett’s lead to two. However, the Blue

Devils quickly responded with a goal from senior Charlotte Peabody to bring it back to a one-goal game.

Just when it looked as though South might storm back, the Knights shut the door. This time, captain Morgan Hamilton put Liggett back up by two goals and extended the lead to 3-1 before the second period ended. With no scoring in the third, the Knights left East Side arena with their unbeaten record still intact.

Liggett went on to defeat Cranbrook 6-0 the following night. The Knights are off until Tuesday, Jan. 17 when they head on the road to face Livingston in a 7pm game.

South bounced back from last Wednesday’s loss with two road wins over the weekend. The Blue Devils defeated Downriver United last Friday in a 7-2 win that was highlighted by a hat trick from senior Ryleigh O’Donoghue. Gabby Vosburg, Ruby Verlinden, Giada Cavaliere and

Ruby Lenhard all had goals of their own in the victory.

Back on the ice the next night, South earned a 5-3 win over Sacred Heart. O’Donoghue continued her high-scoring weekend with two more goals while Cavaliere, Charlotte Harr and Bella Peruski also found the back of the net.

The Blue Devils face off against the 16U Metro Jets at 7:30pm Thursday, Jan. 12 on the road at Mt. Clemens Arena.

The Norsemen had one game last weekend, a showdown on Friday night against Livonia United. Down 4-2 after two periods, the Norsemen worked their hardest to muster a comeback in the final frame. However, North fell 6-5 in a game that saw sophomore Josie Cueter score four goals.

North hosted Bloomfield Unified on Wednesday, Jan. 11 after press time and is on the road for its next game at Sacred Heart at 4:30pm on Tuesday, Jan. 17.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA MONETTE

The Knights and Blue Devils line up for a faceoff during last Wednesday’s crosstown rivalry clash. Liggett won 3-1.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Giuliana Lutfy flies by a falling Cranbrook defender in Liggett’s 6-0 win last Thursday.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

things that can help an entire team improve together are philosophies that she has lived by her whole hockey career.

The way Quinlan’s

game has grown on and off the ice could put her in position to take on bigger roles as a leader in the future. Right now, her focus is on helping her team win and letting her actions sometimes speak louder than words.

“I like to lead by example because I am one of

the older kids,” Quinlan said. “I don’t talk as much but I listen to what the captains say to set an example and be a positive influence.”

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Quinlan is playing her third season with the Knights’ varsity girls hockey team this winter.

HOOPS:

Continued from page 1D

Benard said. “We were in control for most of the game but we knew they were going to make a run at some point with them being at home because it’s a small court, but we handled their run.”

Karter Richards ended the night with an 18-point, 11-assist double-double. Senior Anthony Benard led the Blue Devils, whose 22 points moved him ahead of Adam Hess, class of 1999, to become South boys basketball’s all-time leading scorer.

“His game has evolved and he’s been great for the program,” Benard said about his son’s milestone. “He had a lot of options for where to go to high school and chose South. In the current landscape of things, he made the right choice. There’s a lot of people who think you can’t

achieve your goals if you go to your local public school and he’s proven everyone wrong with that.”

South faced another road MAC Red test on Tuesday, Jan. 10 against Stevenson after press time. The Blue Devils are back home at 7 p.m. Thursday Jan. 12 versus Chippewa Valley.

ULS

The Knights completed an action-packed Friday night of boys basketball with a victory of their own. Hosting Cardinal Mooney, Liggett battled through a back and forth game to earn a 47-43 win and improve to 5-0 this season.

Trailing after the opening quarter, the Knights made a run in the second quarter to take a 22-20 lead into halftime. Mooney regained the lead at the end of the third quarter, going up 36-34. Liggett continued to battle, never letting the

Cardinals pull away and eventually taking back the lead at just the right time in the final quarter.

Junior Ian Flynn led the Knights with 14 points, while Preston Barr was close behind with 13. The win keeps Liggett’s undefeated season alive and marked the team’s third win since the start of 2023.

“Everyone has bought into their role and does what their job is particularly well,” Liggett boys basketball coach Solomon Spann said about his team’s hot start. “If you’re a shooter, be the best shooter. If you’re a rebounder, be the best rebounder... Everybody has bought into that concept and it’s paid dividends so far.”

Liggett traveled to Cranbrook on Tuesday, Jan. 10 for another Catholic League matchup after press time. The Knights are back home at 7 p.m. Thursday to host Everest Collegiate.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North’s James Phillips, pictured in a game against Crosswell-Lexington, had 24 points in last Friday’s win over New Haven.



Top, North’s Annabel Ayrault brings the ball across mid-court during last Thursday’s game against L’Anse Creuse North. Ayrault finished with 15 points in the win.
Bottom, Olivia Bachert looks to make a pass out of the corner in the Blue Devils’ game Eisenhower last Thursday night.

North wins big, Blue Devils end Knights’ hot streak

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The girls basketball season is in full swing with teams displaying plenty of talent throughout the Pointes. Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett all picked up victories in recent games to continue competitive, action-packed starts to the year for all three teams.

North
In the early weeks of MAC Red league play, the Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team further solidified its early lead atop the division with a dominant performance last Thursday night. The Norsemen hosted L’Anse Creuse North and improved to 3-0 in the division with a 54-21 win.

North was in control from the very beginning. The Crusaders, who entered the night as the highest scoring team in the MAC Red, could not get anything going against North’s staunch defense. In fact, the Norsemen held L’Anse Creuse North, a team that scores an average of 60 points per game, to just two points in the entire first quarter. North led 16-2 after the opening eight minutes.

While the Norsemen continued to hold off the Crusaders on defense for the rest of the first half, their offense was carried by big early performances from veterans like Annabel Ayrault and Jenna Winowiecki. By the end of the first half, North had a commanding 39-7 lead.

The second half was more of the same, with North dominating and the Crusaders continuing to struggle on offense. It was 52-10 at the end of the third quarter, and by then North Head Coach Gary Bennett had pulled most of the starting lineup out of the game before his team went on to win by 33.

Ayrault finished the game with 15 points while Winowiecki was just behind with 14. The Norsemen enjoyed almost a week off before hosting crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South after press time Wednesday, Jan. 11.

South
The Blue Devils were in action as well last Thursday night, also taking on a foe from the MAC Red. Hosting Eisenhower, South kept it close at times, but the Eagles pulled away to win 64-51.

Madison Benard led South with 16 points and Madison Duff scored 10. Olivia Bachert tallied seven points and brought in eight rebounds.

“We have been improving our passing but unfortunately it didn’t show tonight,” South girls basketball coach Kevin Richards said after the loss. “We have a fairly young team and there is lots of room for growth. I look forward to watching film with them to identify the correctable mistakes.”

South traveled across town Monday evening for a newly scheduled non-league game against University Liggett. With the Knights riding a five-game win-

ning streak, the Blue Devils snapped it with a 45-23 victory over Liggett. Benard once again led the way with 17 points, while freshman Alex Lupo had nine.

South was on the road Wednesday, Jan. 11 for a matchup with rival Grosse Pointe North. They host Dakota at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13 for its next home game.

ULS
Before falling to Grosse Pointe South 45-23 Monday evening, the University Liggett Knights had won five consecutive games. The most recent victory came last Friday night when the Knights traveled to Cardinal Mooney’s home court for a Catholic League contest.

Liggett looked like a team that was riding a wave of momentum, handling the game from the very beginning. The Knights jumped out to a 12-2 lead after the first quarter and led 24-9 at the halftime break, thanks to knocking down five shots from behind the three-point line in the opening half.

The early lead was enough for Liggett to keep on cruising toward victory in the second half. The Knights expanded the deficit to 25 heading into the fourth quarter and eventually pulled off a 53-24 win.

Up next for the Knights is a pair of games on the road. Liggett tips off at Lutheran Northwest at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, then heads to Austin Catholic for a 7 p.m. game Friday, Jan. 13.



CITY OF GROSSE POINTE FARMS

CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY

Regular Meeting	Monday December 12, 2022	7:00 p.m.
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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 12, 2022, by Mayor Louis Theros.

Present: Mayor Louis Theros, Mayor Pro Tem John J. Gillooly, Councilmembers Sierra Leone Donaven, Neil Sroka, Beth Konrad-Wilberding, Joe Ricci and Lev Wood. Absence: None. Council approved the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session held on November 14, 2022.

The Board of Zoning Appeals approved a dimensional variance for a property located at 270 Williams Road

Council received the June 30, 2022 Audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Council approved a request to award a contract for a new citywide phone system and cabling upgrades to Telnet Group.

Council approved the City Council Regular Meeting Schedule for 2023.

Council approved the Consent Agenda.

a. Consideration of a resolution regarding the 2023 Wayne County Annual Permit renewals.

b. Consideration of a request from Administration to approve the 2023 Administrative Fee Schedule.

c. Consideration of a request to re-appoint Parks and Harbor Committee members Jon Austin, Anthony Chalut, Tony Gatliff, Dean Sine and Tom Smith for a term ending December 2026.

d. Consideration of a request to approve November 2022 invoices. REMOVED.

Council removed a request to approve the November 2022 invoices from the Consent Agenda and approved the agenda item under regular business.

Council received the November 2022 Public Safety Report.

Council held public comment.

City Council adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Derrick Kozicki, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk

Published: Grosse Pointe News 01/12/2023

Busy Schedule?

Want to see when your favorite teams are playing?

Head to grossepointenews.com to see the January high school sports calendar for North, South and University Liggett.

Grosse Pointe News



Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?

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grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

South Unified basketball builds sense of belonging, skills and sportsmanship

By Meg Leonard
Associate Editor

Walking through the gym doors, sounds of bouncing basketballs and chatter fill the air, before a whistle blows that commands everyone's attention.

About a dozen or so athletes from Grosse Pointe South's Coed Unified Basketball team gather at center court, along with their partners from the school's Peer 2 Peer program. The head coaches give the team some details about their upcoming game in 48 hours against Troy Athens Unified, then engage the athletes in a discussion about the word of the day: sportsmanship.

"What does it mean to show good sportsmanship?" head coach Kathy Smith asked her team.

"Respect others," answered athlete Sophia Puzzuoli, who also runs track and cross country at South.

"That's right, nobody is disrespectful," responded co-head coach Steve Zaranek. "We play the game the right way, with respect."

The team nods in agreement. The atmosphere at this practice last Wednesday, Jan. 4, is upbeat and focused. The athletes, coaches and helpers — known as "partners" — wrap up their team talk, then break off into group drills before playing some full-court action in a lively, lesson-filled 60-minute practice.

Both South and Grosse Pointe North have had coed unified basketball teams since 2019. The programs provide the opportunity for high school students with special needs to get varsity athlete experience by competing against unified teams throughout metro Detroit. Athletes participate in weekly practices, with home and away games in front of enthusiastic crowds.

Stefanie Hayes, the district's director of student services, helped



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTH UNIFIED BASKETBALL

Athletes and partners from Grosse Pointe South Unified Basketball celebrate a 22-18 win in their season opener last Friday against Troy Athens. Fans were treated throughout the game to the sounds of Detroit Tigers play-by-play man Dan Dickerson, who handled the night's announcing duties.

bring the Unified program into reality. The program continues to gain increased momentum, with community support, as well as commitment and expertise from coaches, partners and athletes alike.

Smith, the adaptive physical education teacher at South and Unified coach since the program's inception, gave her immediate support to the idea.

"I thought it was a great opportunity to tie in my special ed world with the whole school," she said. She also said she reached out right away to ask fellow PE teacher and longtime Blue Devils cross country and track and field coach, Zaranek, to come on board with the program.

Zaranek, who retired last June after an accomplished 42-year teaching

career, and as he still coaches both girls teams at South, didn't hesitate. Each emphasized the spirit of unity the program engenders for everyone involved.

Smith said when she reached out to Peer 2 Peer students about the United Basketball volunteer opportunity, she was heartened by the response.

"I didn't advertise it or anything, just put out a request," she said. "I walked into the informational meeting and the top row of bleachers was filled with (general education) kids. It was awesome."

Zaranek said the camaraderie the program helps develop between students is special.

"It's what you want to see across the board in school, but especially in this setting," he said. "It is the right way to do

things. The word I can think of to describe it is 'genuine.' It's a pure, genuine environment."

South junior Addy O'Keefe, a Peer 2 Peer volunteer, said each member is asked to participate in two activities within the Peer 2 Peer program throughout the school year. O'Keefe, who is a varsity athlete in field hockey and soccer, chose to participate in weekly lunch dates with special education students and help the Unified Basketball program.

She has helped with three practices since the season started and said she feels it's an opportunity to get to know more of her Blue Devil classmates.

"I work with everyone on the team," she said. "It's cool to see how excited (the athletes) get when they make a bas-

ket."

She also said she appreciates how she gets to know the athletes better as the season progresses.

"I have learned how to change my communication style if I can tell they aren't understanding what I'm trying to say," O'Keefe said. "I have liked getting to know everyone's different personalities. They are all so close and I love watching the interactions within their community."

Olivia DiMuzio, a South senior and varsity soccer teammate of O'Keefe's, is in her second year volunteering for the team. She said last year's game against North was a highlight for everyone, including fans.

"Everyone was so excited at that game," she said. "We had a crazy theme and the student sections (the Devil's Den

and Norsemen Tide) came out for both schools."

This year's rivalry games takes place at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at North, and fans can expect the same raucous, fun atmosphere, she added.

But beyond the fun of games, DiMuzio said one of the most important aspects to the program is how it expands the school's footprint for the athletes.

"This program makes the school bigger for them," she said. "We become a familiar face and we can wave and say hi when we see each other in the halls."

Coach Smith agreed. "This is a community program that draws people together," she said. "I love watching our athletes walk down the hall with their Unified T-shirts on and high five with other students."

After two years of pandemic-related changes and disruptions for the program, both Smith and Zaranek said they are looking forward to this season, which has its most normalcy since 2019, complete with a full schedule and team bus trips to away games.

The Blue Devils have seven games scheduled, with more to potentially be added, against teams from North, Athens, Bloomfield Hills and Birmingham Seaholm.

Last Friday against Athens, South Unified won its season opener 22-18.

But Smith said that ultimately, this isn't about wins or losses.

"It's a spirit-lifter," Smith said. "It's a way to grow connection and community."

Zaranek agreed.

"This is all an emotionally positive ride," he said. "Like the word says, 'unified' means great things happen when we come together."

Come back to the Grosse Pointe News in the coming weeks to get an inside look at Grosse Pointe North's Unified basketball program.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Coach Steve Zaranek works with athletes on South's unified basketball team during a recent practice.

Unity in action

The 22-23 Grosse Pointe South Unified basketball team consists of 11 rostered athletes and 11 partners. However, the program receives nearly 10 to 15 more general education students who come to practices and want to help in some capacity, according to Unified head coach Kathy Smith.

Many students also participate in the Peer 2 Peer program, "which I am also an advisor to with Amanda Bungard, SLP," Smith said via email.

She explained how under the Special Olympics umbrella, there are three qualifiers, or guiding principles, to be a Unified Champion School. To qualify, a school must:

- Play a unified sport
- Create a Youth Activation Committee, or YAC

- Whole school engagement

Those 10 to 15 general education students come together to form South's YAC.

"They have been quite amazing," Smith said. "They have helped set up social media accounts, taken pictures and are heading up getting fan faces created from Susan Howie's students at Monticelli."

Last Friday, five students not rostered to play hopped on the bus and attended the Troy Athens games as fans in the stands, she added.

"I have to tell you my heart is full. I am beyond fortunate to be a part of such an amazing program with awesome staff support," she said. "I was getting calls from my own children letting me know how many people have reposted the Instagram posts to their stories."

— Meg Leonard

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