



Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 84, NO. 48, 34 PAGES
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NOVEMBER 30, 2023
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Still dogged by pit bull ordinance

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — City council at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 21, asked its attorneys to issue an opinion regarding a vote during an October special meeting that overturned a pit bull ban passed the previous

month.

At question is the vote and agenda of the special meeting Tuesday, Oct. 10, in light of council rules, state law and previous opinions from the Michigan Attorney General's Office.

The series of events can

See *DOGS*, page 2A



Future Farms elections to be held at War Memorial

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — “The primary reasoning is to allow for more direct supervision of the election inspectors,” Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Derrick Kozicki said of the Farms’ decision to consolidate the polling location for all five of its precincts to The War Memorial.

Passed unanimously by city council Monday, Nov. 13, the change will go into effect with the Feb. 27, 2024, Presidential Primary Election and is a direct result of Proposal 2022-2 passing the state ballot last year.

With 50 percent of Farms voters expected to vote absentee and 30 percent anticipated to

vote during the nine days of early voting, city administration estimates 20 percent — which equates to 1,506 people — will vote in person on Election Day, Nov. 5, 2024, which is used as a benchmark because it is the highest turnout. This would mean 116 voters per hour. The War Memorial has 210 parking spaces.

“Obviously, without early voting, this wouldn’t be practical,” Kozicki said of the consolidation, “but it seems like a reasonable thing to do with early voting going into effect in 2024.”

“The benefits are that Election Day is more manageable,” he added. “Errors and mistakes can be corrected quickly when I’m on site and I

See *FUTURE*, page 3A

Parade on point

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, from The Hill to The Village, Friday, Nov. 24. Above, the new Santa Claus sleigh made its debut on Kercheval during the parade. Right, the Grinch promised not to steal this present from this parade walker. See more photos from the parade on page 8A.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



USPS investigating late mail

THE GROSSE POINTES — An inquiry about mail a year or more old suddenly showing up at people’s houses was met with grim news.

Social media posts, primarily involving the Park, led the Grosse Pointe News to contact the Fox Creek Post Office on Jefferson near Conner. The following response was received from Elizabeth Najduch, strategic communications specialist with the

U.S. Postal Service: “The Postal Service condemns, in the strongest possible sense, behavior that jeopardizes the security and sanctity of the U.S. Mail or threatens to tarnish the reputation and high level of trust that the vast majority of our employees work so hard to uphold. We are currently reviewing an incident involving a letter carrier who is now deceased.”

Comments on Facebook’s GPP

Community Page indicated people recently receiving utility bills, Christmas cards and party invitations as far back as 2019. The Grosse Pointe News also received checks for subscription renewals mailed more than a year old.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

—Ted O'Neil

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Park adds more cost-tracking software

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — During what became known as the Ginger Show last August, in which new municipal Finance Director Ginger Moriarty wowed the city council with a series of administrative innovations, cost savings, streamlined operations

and revenue increases that within two months of implementation generated for the city an extra \$47,000, she mentioned there was more to come.

Her curtain call came earlier this month in the form of longer-term efficiencies through simplified but more accurate personnel and cost management.

The council on Nov. 13

approved Moriarty’s recommendation to approve a \$10,425 contract with a software vendor to provide training and support services. The action followed a \$16,000 purchase from the same vendor in August of a self-service module — a software program extension tailored to a specific function — to track payroll and related costs.

“The city’s largest cost is related to personnel,” Moriarty wrote in a memo to the council. “This software will greatly improve our ability to track and forecast personnel costs in a manner that is seamlessly integrated with our existing BS&A general ledger program.”

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Sarah Colegrove

Home: City of Grosse Pointe
Attorney enjoys challenge of open-water swimming



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City PS hops on thermal imaging drone train

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Not only have Farms officers made good use of their new drone to catch bad guys within their own city limits — the pesky car thieves it has located include one brave or ignorant man who, in August, thought it would be a good idea to rifle through an officer's off-duty vehicle while it sat in the station's parking lot — but they've already loaned its services a number of times to neighboring Pointes, including the Park and City.

Thanks to the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation fully covering the \$71,980.20 cost — which includes the necessary training for officers and staff — the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department now will have two American Air Operations drones of its own to assist with search and rescue, patrol, tracking suspects, overwatch and reconnaissance. Many of these abilities are what a helicopter would offer law enforcement, but at a fraction of the cost.

"Technology can be a force multiplier for law enforcement and I think in this case it serves a great purpose," City Manager Joe Valentine said, "but perhaps more importantly is that this technology is coming to the city at no cost of our own, through private funding, so we're able to

leverage the technology through donation sources and leverage it without spending it out of our municipal reserves."

The drones — one of which will have a docking station on the roof of the public safety building and the other which will be housed in a patrol vehicle for real-time deployment — are equipped with thermal imaging capability, speakers and lights.

"On midnight (shifts), bad guys have the advantage," Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. "It's really easy to hide from us on midnights. They can hear our scout cars. They know we're coming, (but) they can't hide from that. It gives us a great vantage point."

Every officer in the department will be trained on the drones, which conveniently are operated via cell phones and are identical models.

"More than anything, we want it to be an easy transition from one to the other, so they're set up the exact same," Alcorn said. "If one goes down or we need them both in the sky, all the officers can quickly use them just as effectively."

The drones will see dual use by the city's department of public works for rooftop surveys, marina inspections and assistance with forestry services.

"It's really a double win for the city," Alcorn said.



Sworn in

City of Grosse Pointe council members Christopher Moyer, Dr. Seth Krupp and Terence Thomas are sworn into office by City Clerk Chris Hardenbrook Monday, Nov. 20, after winning the November election.

PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

How to avoid being someone's Secret Santa

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — With the holiday shopping season drawing near, don't let the contents of your vehicle or delivered packages become someone else's department store.

Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke was notably frustrated after more than a dozen vehicles were entered in one night.

"They just went up and down the streets pulling on door handles," he said. "Why do people think automakers put locks on car doors? Why do people always lock their houses but leave vehicles unlocked?"

Reports indicate 15 vehicles were entered overnight Tuesday, Nov. 14, along Anita, Hampton and Hollywood. Most were unlocked. Two laptops, two phone chargers, two pairs of sunglasses and a small amount of loose change were taken. A credit card also was taken in the 900 block of Hampton and used to make a purchase at a CVS in Detroit.

"We tell people all the time to lock their car doors and don't leave the keyfobs inside but it falls on deaf ears," Kosanke said. "Then at the end of the year our crime numbers are up and people are asking why."

Public safety reports appear on page 5A each week and it's not unusual to see a half dozen or more unlocked vehicles rummaged through and various items taken. Recent reports show a laundry list including a \$14,000 Rolex watch, a \$600 set of golf clubs, phones, weapons, credit cards and at least one Social Security card and passport.

It's not just items inside cars that are stolen. Keyfob or not, vehicles continue to disappear, especially given the nationwide rash of Kia products — due to the relative ease of taking them — being stolen.

"We call them thieves of opportunity," Park Detective Ryan Willmer said. "Especially here where the streets are so narrow and there's a lot of on-street parking. They can go up and down try-

ing every door handle in no time."

Wilmer added the Pointes, no matter how great a community, are not immune.

"We're not immune to property crimes, but it's not singular to the Pointes, either," he said. "This is happening all over the country. We can't be everywhere every second, but technology helps."

He noted doorbell cameras have helped the situation.

"We've been able to make arrests from security camera footage," he said. "I tell people not only to keep their cars locked, but to call if they notice suspicious activity."

The Shores, however, at the other end of the Pointes, also tends to be at the other end of the spectrum.

"It's an advantage that we don't allow any street parking between 2 and 5 a.m. without permission," Shores Public Safety Director Ken Werenski said. "That limits the probability."

Werenski noted the problem seems to come in waves.

"They might hit a couple of streets, but we'll increase patrols in the area and even use other city vehicles to keep an eye on things," he said. "We'll watch for vehicles coming in, especially if we see one without a license plate."

The size of the Shores also helps.

"We're only one square mile, so we can be more proactive," Werenski said.

Officers also get a fair share of reports involving porch pirates.

"That's probably going to pick up with Christmas coming," Willmer said. "But there are things people can do to cut down on the theft."

He recommended having packages delivered to a back door or schedule drop off at a time someone will be home. Other tips include having packages delivered to work or making arrangements with neighbors to be on the lookout.

"It's all a partnership," Kosanke said. "If people keep their neighborhood safe, the thieves will go somewhere else. Don't make yourself easy pickings."

DOGS:

Continued from page 1A

seem a bit like a dog chasing its tail.

◆ Council voted 4-3 at its August meeting directing its attorneys to prepare an ordinance banning pit bulls. Councilmembers Donn Shroder, Robert Barrette,

John Seago and John Dakmak voted yes. Mayor Ted Kedzierski and councilmembers Danielle Gehlert and Sandra Cavataio voted no.

◆ Ordinance 279, which placed severe restrictions on ownership of pit bulls, was approved by the same 4-3 margin at council's September meeting.

◆ The October special

meeting saw Barrette join Kedzierski, Gehlert and Cavataio in voting to adopt Ordinance 280, which left in place provisions of Ordinance 279 regarding vicious dogs but removed references to pit bulls.

◆ During the special meeting, Gehlert made the motion to adopt the new ordinance, seconded by Barrette. Barrette at the time said he changed his mind from the previous vote because the state legislature was considering a law banning local municipalities from

enacting breed bans for dogs.

Seago opened discussion on the matter at November's meeting, noting that council bylaws only allow a member who voted in the majority on a particular issue to make a motion for reconsideration.

In opening the special meeting, which Gehlert said she requested, Kedzierski said it was called knowing there would be a long public comment period at the regular October meeting and he wanted to "carve

out the issue" from that meeting.

City Manager Steve Poloni at the special meeting told council he would be on vacation the following week — missing the regular meeting — and had prepared information for council to consider. That included Ordinance 280, which the city's attorneys drafted that day.

"You can amend the ordinance or adopt a new one, it's procedural," Poloni said at the special meeting. "If your desire is to revisit the ordinance, you can adopt a new one, repeal it or do nothing."

Seago at the November meeting said he had not seen Ordinance 280 until he took his seat at the council table shortly before 7 p.m. at the special meeting.

"Where did it come from?" he asked. "It just fell out of the rafters?"

Kedzierski said the attorneys had prepared it at his request.

Seago also questioned the validity of the special meeting. The public notice and agenda for the meeting noted a "discussion" on Ordinance 279, but did not indicate any sort of vote would be taken. Seago said he thinks the vote on Ordinance 280 would be "null and void" because of that.

"The council is not in a mindset to agree to disagree," he added, "so I think it perpetuated an illegal vote."

Shroder called the special meeting vote "disingenuous" and said bylaws state "no official action shall be transacted" unless stated in the public notice.

Poloni said council would discuss the matter further after receiving the legal opinion.

The issue stems from an incident in early June on Lochmoor, when a pit bull ran from a backyard and attacked a couple and their dog walking by. That dog needed three surgeries and had one leg amputated, while owners Dana and Mark Owen suffered bites and scratches.

The Owens have since filed a civil lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court against the pit bull's owners, Detroit Lions running back David Montgomery and his girlfriend, Tatum Causey. A hearing is scheduled for late January.



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Woods resident joins City public safety force

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Being the oldest recruit in his class made little difference when Mark Dombrowski graduated from the fire academy in early November.

“They represented our department fantastically,” City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Director John Alcorn said of Dombrowski and fellow recruit Andre Jones. “I was in touch with the director all throughout and I only got the highest praise (for) both of them.”

Dombrowski recently began training as a new hire with the City’s public



COURTESY PHOTO

Previously serving in the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office since 2008, Mark Dombrowski is a newly hired officer in the City of Grosse Pointe.

safety department, after working for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office since 2008, most recently in the rank of sergeant.

His family having moved to Grosse Pointe Woods in 1986, where he still resides, he first worked as a parking ordinance officer in Grosse Pointe Park, before transitioning to the county, which put him through the police academy.

“When I left, my goal was actually to get certified and come back,” he said.

In exchange for returning to the area and becoming a public safety officer, certification in firefighting also was part of the deal.

“I think all little boys have an interest in fire-fighting, then you grow up and you can do it,” Dombrowski said. “I’ve always thought it was very neat. I’ve always respected firefighters. Especially doing the training now, it’s not for everybody. It is a very demanding job and the training is really physically demanding.”

Because his grandfather worked for and retired from the Detroit Police Department, law enforcement served as

plan B for Dombrowski since he was 19. He first attempted to pursue his passion by earning a degree in photography.

“I’m of the generation that I was still doing traditional photography when digital was coming out,” he said. “I went to school, I got a degree and then the job field’s not good. Law enforcement’s always an excellent field. People underestimate how good of a field it is and how good of a job it really is. It can be a very rewarding job.”

Transitioned away

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Transition districts are no more.

Technically, they never were. Now, they

never will.

Municipal administrators got the message.

They recently rejected the prospect of establishing transition districts as part of an ongoing, city-wide update of municipal zoning codes.

A hint came last month.

During the Oct. 24 planning commission meeting, Mayor Michele Hodges assured everyone that the most contro-

versial aspect of proposed transition districts, so-named to serve as buffers between commercial and residential neighborhoods, was no longer a consideration.

She said the creation of parking lots in transition districts wouldn’t

SEE AWAY, PAGE 5A

Farms shells out for basement backup insurance

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — In light of the June 2021 basement backups and at the cost of \$396,265, the Farms will renew its property and liability insurance for another year with Trident Insurance through Nickel & Saph Agency.

The city switched to the carrier last year for its \$10 million in sewer backup coverage, which is not offered by other providers.

“Everybody except for the Shores is now with Nickel & Saph for the same reason: sewer backup coverage,”

Finance Director Tim Rowland said of the other four Pointe municipalities.

The renewal includes an 11.95 percent increase, which equates to \$42,365 more than last year’s contract, due to the value of the insured properties increasing by a 4 percent inflation factor, as well as premium rates increasing by 7 percent.

Premium rates have increased, according to Rowland’s report, because the reinsurance market, which insurance companies purchase to mitigate their risk, in turn has seen its interest rates affected by the number of natural disasters throughout the country, such as the

Hawaii and California wildfires.

While coverage through Nickel & Saph will cost the city about \$80,000 more than its previous service provider — the Michigan Municipal League — council considers the additional liability coverage a “cost savings in the long run,” Councilman Joe Ricci noted.

About \$60,000 of that difference goes directly toward the sewer backup coverage, Rowland reported.

“The sewer backup liability coverage is critical and I’m in favor of supporting the proposal from staff, primarily because

we don’t know what’s going to happen in the future for flooding,” Councilman Lev Wood said, before council unanimously approved the expenditure during its November meeting.

The contract is effective Dec. 7, 2023, through Dec. 7, 2024.

SOFTWARE:

Continued from page 1A

The \$10,425 contract is paid from unspent funds allocated to hire a temporary finance department employee to help Morarity prepare for the annual municipal audit, which has begun.

“We approved the purchase of payroll timesheet modules (in August),” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Both purchases are for software that enables administrators to track costs more accurately.

“All of these applications will significantly assist the finance department,”

Sizeland said.

The goal is more effective budgeting.

“One of the most important features of the program is its robust budgeting features,” Sizeland said. “When you look at an employee, not only is their salary or hourly wages (shown), there’s their healthcare, longevity and other aspects you have to add to the cost of an employee. This will significantly help Ginger when it comes to budgeting as well as looking at all departments (and) funds.”

The software provider, BS&A Software, is based in Bath Township northeast of Lansing. BS&A specializes in software for municipalities.

FUTURE:

Continued from page 1A

can provide direct supervision. Nothing spirals out of control.”

Similar to the election earlier this month being held in the Grosse Pointe South High School gymnasium, all five precincts will be housed in The War Memorial’s ballroom space.

For those who voted in the recent uncontested election, the difference will be that voters will share a bank of voting booths at The War Memorial.

“You shouldn’t be waiting around for a voting booth,” Kozicki said. “Pick one, any one and then once you’ve com-



pleted your ballot, get into the appropriate line to cast your ballot into the tabulator.”

That said, there is no risk of a voter putting their ballot in the wrong tabulator, he added.

“The machines are designed not to accept other precinct’s ballots,” he explained. “Part of

the logic and accuracy testing (is) we purposely take other precinct’s ballots and try (to) put it in the wrong machine. It spits it right out.”

He later reported it has not yet been determined whether the city will pay The War Memorial for use of the space.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 4

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Policy & Contracts Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Communities United in Diversity, 6 to 8 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Finance & Facilities Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Curriculum Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Community Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

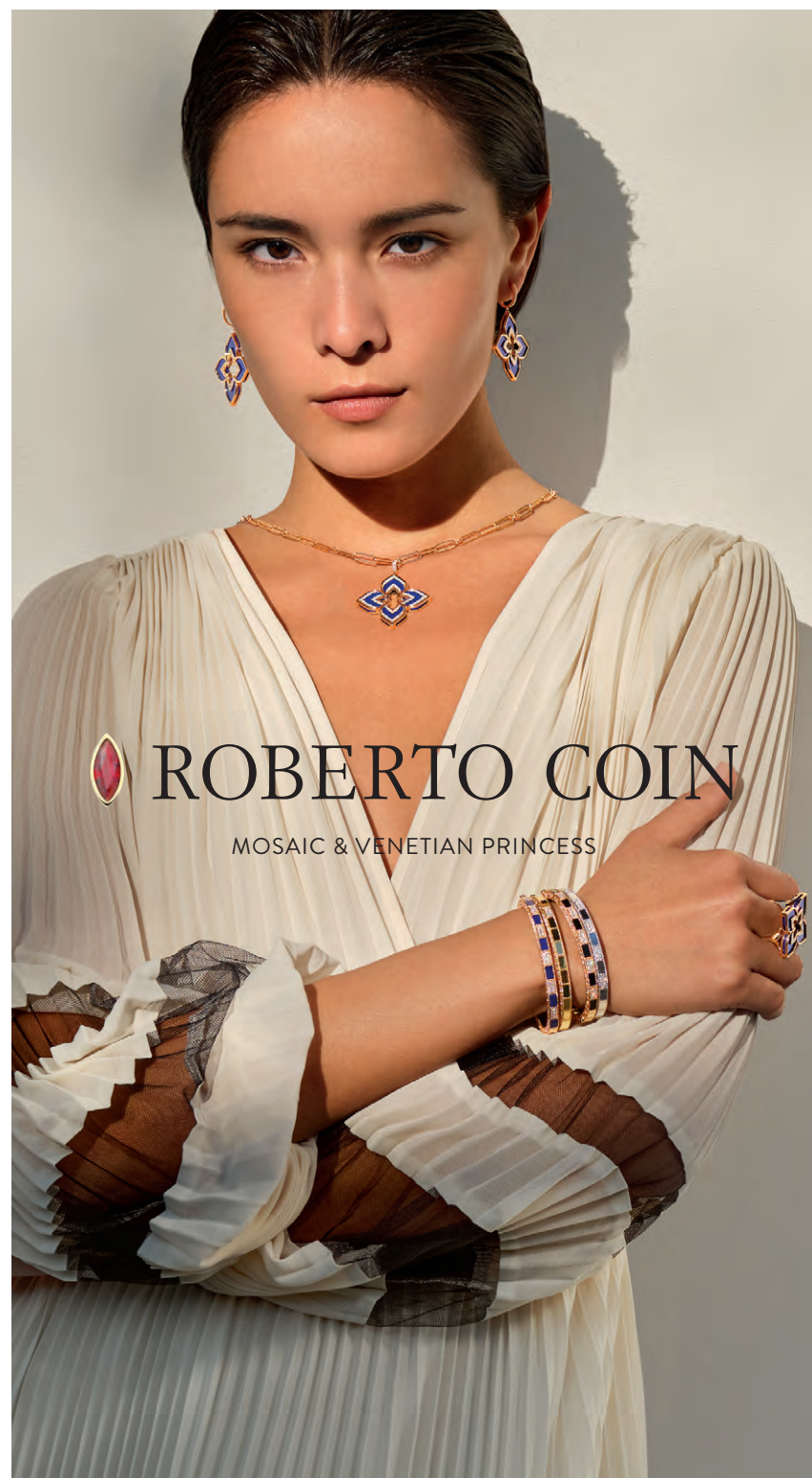
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System superintendent interviews, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Tree Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System superintendent interviews, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park TIFA Board meeting, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Holiday Social, 1 p.m.



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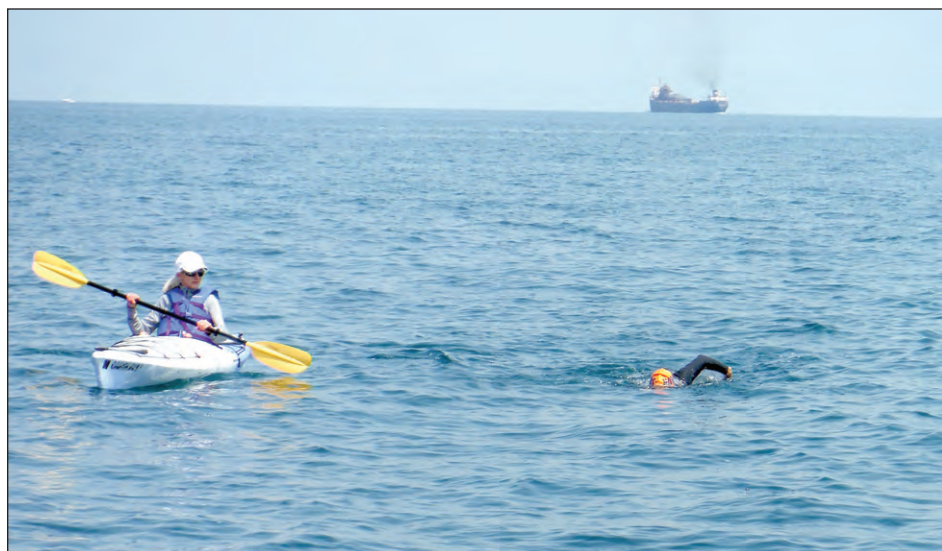
Lifelong Pointer, swimmer goes big with open-water swims

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It's been a busy few months for City of Grosse Pointe resident Sarah Colegrove. The lifelong Pointer focused much of that time campaigning for the City judgeship — a close race she lost to David Draper by a margin of just 43 votes.

She also faced a different kind of competitor — Mother Nature — during an open swim around Mackinac Island. Though it took place Sunday, Aug. 13, the weather was not in the 56-year-old's favor.

"The air and water temperatures were significantly colder than I anticipated," Colegrove said of the swim, which was sponsored by the Mackinaw Woman's Club. "The water was 55 to 57 degrees and the air was in the low 60s. There was no sun, a little wind and I wore a sleeveless wetsuit. It felt like there



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH COLEGROVE

Above, Sarah Colegrove is accompanied by a kayaker during of her open swims. Right, Colegrove is all smiles before taking to the water.

were needles in my arms and legs; I couldn't feel my feet or hands."

With support from her husband of five years, Dave Grupenhoff, who kayaked alongside her, she carried on, but not for long.

"I met with him after a mile and kept telling myself to keep pushing,"

she recalled. "It was extremely uncomfortable. At the halfway point, I was shivering. I got some fluid, but then confusion set in and I swam off in a different direction."

Once she began showing signs of hypothermia, she threw in the towel.

"It was still a great

experience," she said. "Mackinac is a special place. It's where my husband and I got married. I've swam across the Straits of Mackinac before, but never around Mackinac Island. It was beautiful."

She reflected on the boulders surrounding the island, the changing depths of the water.

"It was rocky, but when I was taking a breath I could see the Grand Hotel in the distance," she said. "It was fierce and beautiful at the same time."

Colegrove is no stranger to open-water swims. In 2014, she swam 21 miles across Lake St. Clair during a solo international swim from the tip of Walpole Island to Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park.

She also has swam in the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Lake Placid, several Great Lakes and other bodies of water in the U.S. and abroad. The five-mile Straits of Mackinac swim was a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, but more often than not, she swims for fun.

The three-mile Harbor Springs Coastal Crawl in Little Traverse Bay; Swim to the Moon 10K through the Hiland Chain of Lakes — which requires running between lakes and swimming through a tunnel — Motor City Mile in the Detroit River and Big Shoulders 5K along the shores of Lake Michigan are among other events she has enjoyed.

"To train for these, it takes an immense amount of time," she explained. "When I swam across Lake St. Clair, I swam over a million yards to train for that. That's like swimming to



Philadelphia."

One of her favorite training swims takes her from Pier Park to the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, where she completes a flip turn on the seawall and swims back to Pier Park. Colegrove has incorporated the Pointes' parks into her swims from a young age, when she joined the City swim team at age 6, while a student at Maire Elementary School. She later joined the swim team at Grosse Pointe South High School and served as a lifeguard at the City pool before swimming for Kalamazoo College.

From there, she gradually grew into open-water swimming.

"I was swimming in Greece — the only American — and I showed them a photo of Lake St. Clair," she recalled. "They said, 'You must swim there all the time.' I said no, but then I asked myself, 'Why aren't I swimming in Lake St. Clair?'"

"... I took to it easily," she added. "The water around here is such a big part of our lives, a big part of our culture. I love our lakes, the water. It's one of the main reasons I work here. We bought our house based on its location to the park. It has a lot to offer recreationally. It's sort of what makes my heart sing."

Colegrove earned a law degree from Detroit College of Law, then decided on private practice because, "I can give back and serve the most and be challenged at the same time."

She and Grosse Pointe Farms resident Todd Briggs formed Briggs Colegrove PC in 2000. The firm specializes in litigation, estate and probate matters.

"For 20 years we've been concentrating on mediation and arbitration," she said. "I do mediation for the U.S. Postal Service and arbitration for the Better Business Bureau."

Though devoted to her day job, Colegrove tends to plan vacations that involve opportunities to swim.

"I swam between the Greek Islands in the Aegean Sea," she said. "I swam across lakes in Slovenia and Italy. ... It's a nice way to spend a vacation, see something new and challenge myself."

The challenges don't stop with open-water swimming. Colegrove also has participated in triathlons and long-distance cycling, as well as three Iron Man competi-

tions.

"I like to do things that push me outside my comfort zone," she said. "That's where I learn the most about myself, when I try new things. This year I took a welding class at CCS (College for Creative Studies). It's something I've always wanted to try. Working with metals and fire — it really pushed me. It was hard. I had never used any of those tools before. And I met new people and learned a new skill."

She also has taken improvisation and acting classes at Planet Ant, and tries to fit an art class into her schedule now and then.

"One-day seminars to keep my creative side engaged," she said. "It's a different way of thinking. It keeps me young and keeps life interesting."

Colegrove, stepmother to Emma, 28, and Ellie, 26, also enjoys reading, hiking, gardening and "working on our 1912 farmhouse — a never-ending labor of love," she said; however, swimming tops the list. She still uses the City pool every chance she gets.

"Every year on my birthday, I do a birthday swim: my age plus 100," she said. "This year it was 156 laps."

It's simple for Colegrove to single out her most challenging swims — Lake St. Clair and Mackinac Island — and most memorable — in Maui with a master swim group, with whom she swam through lava tubes and among giant turtles, as well as faced her fear of sharks.

Picking a favorite swim, however, isn't as easy.

"They're all favorites of mine for different reasons," she said. "Open-water swimming is different. The underwater world is magical. Once I get going, I stop thinking. It's peaceful and Zen-like."

Though she only made it halfway on her first attempt around Mackinac, she's already strategizing next year's try.

"You can't control how your body will handle the cold," she said. "I'm disappointed, but that's the way it goes. It's part of the process. I wouldn't have predicted water in the 50s in August."

"... It's humbling; I'm used to finishing," she added. "I'm already planning for August 2024. In May or April I'll get in the water early and acclimate. I'll slowly build up tolerance to the water. ... Hopefully I'll go the distance next time."



Colegrove and her husband, Dave Grupenhoff, at Heart Rock Beach in Maine.

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Grosse Pointe News

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

16980 KERCHEVAL AVE. GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230 PHONE: (313) 882-6900

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$49.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, \$70 outside.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 16980 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday.

Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

CORRECTIONS AND ADJUSTMENTS: Responsibility for display and classified advertising errors is limited to either cancellation of the charge for or a rerun of the portion in error. Notification must be given in time for correction in the following issue. We assume no responsibility of the same after the first insertion.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Tag team

Two black girls, around 15 to 17 years old, stole approximately \$500 worth of merchandise from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16.

Karma

A 66-year-old St. Clair Shores woman thought she could get away with a hit-and-run accident in The Village parking structure at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, but was tracked down and issued a citation.

Flour power

A package containing a \$63 container for storing cooking flour was stolen off a porch in the 800 block of Washington at 4:35 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18.

Warrant

Although officers initially were called to the 800 block of Neff for family trouble at 9:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, they ultimately arrested a 31-year-old Grosse Pointe man for a felony fraud warrant out of Warren.

Sleeping while suspended

A 26-year-old Highland Park man was cited for a suspended driver's license after he was found sleeping behind the wheel at Mack and Washington at 8 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20.

Child care expenses

A black woman around 5 feet, 6 inches tall and 25 years old stole approximately \$144 worth of diapers and wipes from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at noon Tuesday, Nov. 21.

Reckless

After Woods officers broadcast a reckless driver was headed westbound on Lakeshore at 2 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, the driver was pulled over for speeding at Jefferson and Cadieux.

The 33-year-old Detroit man was arrested when

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

he was found to be intoxicated.

Two-wheel getaway

A suspect was last seen riding a bike northbound on Cadieux after stealing an unknown number of steaks and bottles of wine from a business in the 16000 block of Mack at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Finders keepers

When an employee set down his phone at a business in the 17000 block of Mack at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, it was stolen by an unknown woman.

100 percent off

A black man in a blue hooded sweatshirt stole approximately \$1,400 worth of sweatpants from Lululemon in The Village at 5:45 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, also known as Black Friday.

Fraud

An unknown person charged \$96 to a Grosse Pointer's Target charge card at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Porch pirate

An Amazon package containing a set of wicker placemats was stolen from a porch on Vendome at 3:21 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18.

The suspect is described as a young black man with brown hair and wearing a striped shirt, black jacket with gold lettering, dark pants and black shoes.

Threats

Just hours after a 39-year-old Warren man was fired for acting unprofessionally regarding a payroll disburse-

AWAY:

Continued from page 3A

receive automatic approval in the process of site plan review, during which developers present plans and renderings to municipal officials for endorsement.

This week, she went further.

"The decision to remove the transition district from the draft zoning ordinance was the result of research and due diligence conducted by the staff and the commission," Hodges said after the Nov. 13 city council meeting.

During the meeting, City Manager Nick Sizeland said the idea of establishing transition districts was "dead."

In case anyone misunderstood, he stressed, "We're removing transition districts entirely."

Many residents throughout the city, not just in and near proposed transition districts,

opposed the prospect of parking lots supplanting houses abutting the city's commercial areas, specifically bracing lower Kercheval and Charlevoix, plus lower and upper Mack Avenue.

The idea of establishing transition districts originated in a September proposal by the city's planning consultants as part of an A-to-Z conceptual update of municipal codes.

The proposal established transition districts, defined as supporting "local businesses by allowing parking lots as automatically permitted uses. In addition to parking lots, the district acts as a transition from residential neighborhood to a commercial neighborhood by either providing parking or light neighborhood commercial uses."

Another nixed concept was expanding multi-family zoning into single-family districts.

ment holiday delay, he called his employer dozens of times and sent a multitude of threatening texts Friday, Nov. 24. These included threats to burn down his home and shoot him.

Trespassing

After telling staff he would fight them if he was asked to leave a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 7:19 a.m. Monday, Nov. 27, a 61-year-old Detroit man was arrested for trespassing.

Burglary

A burglary occurred on Provencal during the evening Saturday, Nov. 26.

The homeowner returned home at 9 p.m., but didn't go upstairs until 11 p.m., when he discovered the second floor bathroom window broken.

The primary bedroom was ransacked, with an estimated loss of at least \$500,000 in jewelry. A ladder was found propped against the side of the house leading to the broken window.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

ID theft

A banker flagged and closed a Park woman's account last week because someone tried to open a credit card in her name.

Warning signs of identity theft are being billed for items you didn't buy, being contacted by debt collectors for accounts you didn't open, unusual information on your credit report, being denied a loan application and missing mail.

Law enforcement agencies advise reporting suspected ID theft to:

- ◆ the Federal Trade Commission online at identitytheft.gov or by calling (877) 438-4338;
- ◆ the fraud department at your credit card issuer or bank and
- ◆ ask the three major credit reporting agencies to put fraud alerts and credit freeze on your accounts.

Those agencies are:
◆ Equifax/credit-report-services, equifax.com, (800) 685-1111;

◆ Experian, experian.com/help, (888) 397-3742

and
◆ TransUnion, trains union.com/credit-help, (888) 909-8872.

Had too much

Police investigating a single-car wreck at St. Paul and Devonshire arrested the driver, a 37-year-old Park woman, for drunken driving at 4:18 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21.

Blower taken

A \$650 RedMax backpack leaf blower was stolen from a landscaper's truck parked curbside on Middlesex at Korte shortly after 12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24.

Bozo no-no

A 50-year-old female motorist from the Park was cited shortly after 1 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, for leaving the scene of a wreck that caused property damage.

A witness reported the alleged hit and run happened when the woman left a business in the 15100 block of Charlevoix and drove into a parked vehicle.

Clown show

A few minutes before the above incident was reported in the 15100 block of Charlevoix, a disorderly man at the location got away with threatening a business patron with a knife.

"(The) patron that was threatened with the knife refused to press charges," police said. "No injuries (were) reported."

The ruckus reportedly involved the suspect, a 61-year-old Detroit man, being kicked out of a business. Park police said they responded to the scene upon report of him refusing to leave the establishment.

"(He) was located in the area and resisted arrest," according to police. "(He) resisted officers during the booking process also. It was determined that (he) damaged property belonging to the business prior to fleeing on foot."

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Holiday cheer

A 51-year-old Warren

man faces several charges after being arrested for drunken driving on northbound Lakeshore near Crestwood around 2 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22.

Officers first spotted the man speeding and driving erratically on eastbound Vernier before making the traffic stop. After failing several field sobriety tests, the driver registered higher than 0.17 percent on a blood alcohol test, more than twice the legal limit.

He also faces charges for driving with a suspended license, possession of an illegal substance — which eventually tested positive as crack cocaine — and improper lane use. The man also had eight outstanding warrants, including one from New Mexico.

Their own backyard

Officers didn't have to go far to arrest a 60-year-old Harper Woods man for drunken driving around 4 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 25.

They noticed him asleep at the wheel of his 2021 Ford Bronco at the corner of Lakeshore and Vernier, right outside city hall and the public safety department.

The man was charged with refusal to take a Breathalyzer test and for violating his concealed carry permit for being intoxicated and in possession of a firearm. Officers found one handgun between the driver seat and console of the vehicle and another in a backpack inside the vehicle.

— Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Knew you were trouble

A woman in the 1600 block of Fairholme reported Wednesday, Nov. 15, she was

defrauded out of \$1,400 for Taylor Swift concert tickets.

She told officers she saw a Facebook post for the tickets and thought it was from a friend. She sent the person money for four tickets at \$350 each via Venmo before finding out her friend did not make the post and was not selling the tickets.

Computer hack

A resident in the 800 block of Hampton reported Friday, Nov. 17, he was scammed out of \$46,000 after responding to a message he thought was from Microsoft indicating his computer had been hacked.

He made Bitcoin purchases over three days after he was told that would solve the problem before realizing he had been victimized.

Stolen vehicle

A gray 2018 Chrysler 300 was stolen from the parking lot at Ascension St. John Hospital between noon and 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26. Security footage showed it being driven away with a broken rear window.

Bad connection

A resident in the 1600 block of Bournemouth reported she believes an internet installer stole jewelry from her bedroom in October 2021.

She filed a report around 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26, telling officers the installer insisted a router be placed in her bedroom, rather than in the basement in case of flood. The woman said he then asked her to go downstairs to check the connection, leaving him alone in her bedroom. She also remembered he was in a hurry to leave once the install was finished.

The jewelry, worth \$50,000, was insured.

— Ted O'Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.



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POINTES OF VIEW

GROSSE POINTE WOODS / GROSSE POINTE SHORES / GROSSE POINTE PARK / GROSSE POINTE FARMS

Grosse Pointe News

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC
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OUR VIEW

Help wanted: The ideal superintendent

Seeking: Current public school superintendent who will enthusiastically embrace the same position in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The ideal candidate should have expertise in 1.) curriculum development 2.) budget development and 3.) contract negotiations. The candidate should hold specific skills, including the ability to develop and oversee an effective management team, proven success at raising student achievement and demonstrated ability to develop creative solutions to complex problems. The candidate also must be honest and ethical, transparent and approachable.

The above description is based on the top responses from roughly 850 stakeholders in the Grosse Pointe Public School System who filled out the district's recent superintendent survey. Jay Bennett, assistant director of executive search services with the Michigan Association of School Boards, presented them at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Schools reporter Ted O'Neil also wrote about them in his story, "Superintendent survey results in," for the Nov. 23 issue of the Grosse Pointe News.

It may seem like an oversimplification to summarize them like a classified ad, but truth be told, these survey results give a clear directive as to what assets the community wants in its next superintendent.

Bennett, who is overseeing several superintendent searches throughout Michigan, remarked on the survey's high level of community participation, calling the 846 respondents "one of the higher numbers I've seen." It's important to note respondents represented a variety of backgrounds, including parents, grandparents or guardians of current or former students, as well as alumni and members of civic organizations. Some 25 were current students. Three board members also filled out the survey.

In addition to the survey, Bennett held several listening sessions around the district and met with teachers, staff, administrators, students and community members.

In other words, decision-makers can reliably use these findings as their compass to identify GPPSS's top target for superintendent. The district must use this information to put its best foot forward to ensure they nail this hire.

And it appears the district has a sizable pool from which to choose. As seen on page 9A in today's Grosse Pointe News, 39 people applied to be GPPSS's next superintendent, far more than anticipated. Bennett termed it "considerable interest" and had previously told the district's BoE he expected 20 to 25 applications.

With several superintendent positions open in the state of Michigan, including in Bloomfield Hills, Ann Arbor, Midland, Oxford, Rochester and Grand Rapids Forest Hills, we recognize competition is stiff. But that doesn't mitigate the importance of finding who's best for this job, not just who's available.

Familiarity may feel safe in times of change, but that is not what the community voiced. That mentality is especially not necessary now that



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe Park played host to the West Park Winter Social on Kercheval between Wayburn and Maryland, giving attendees a picturesque sunset on beautiful but chilly Saturday, Nov. 25. The market opened at noon with a tailgate for the Michigan vs. Ohio State game, and included 15 vendors in the Holiday Market tent, as food trucks, fire pits, a kids tent, DJ and three bands lined Kercheval until 10 p.m.

we know the depth of the candidate pool. In fact, it backfired on the district when it hired someone from within among two dozen applicants in 2021, despite knowing he was actively seeking to leave the district. The candidate went so far as to publicly declare another superintendent job was his first choice over Grosse Pointe's open position.

The former board hired him anyway. That decision adversely affected the district's financial health and various national and state rankings, not to mention the resulting community discord and distrust from ground zero of that tenure.

One of the most valuable outcomes of the survey and listening sessions is that respondents created consensus on the district's strengths: its teachers, schools, parents and students. They also identified challenges facing the district, including funding and enrollment — common themes within countless districts.

We call on the district and board to find the best candidate who can deftly manage the good and the bad. Hire a leader who respects and values teachers. Find the candidate who treasures our schools, including each building's unique history and special contribution to the district. Identify the candidate who keenly understands the value of the district's involved and active parents. Identify the person who seeks to tap into the infinite poten-

tial of every GPPSS student — and is committed to never lowering expectations and standards of what they are capable of achieving. Strong financial literacy and creative problem-solving skills also are a must.

On top of all that, let's bring in someone who sees this district not as a career stepping stone or holding spot until retirement.

Bennett said the results of the survey would be added to the job posting and those who applied before Wednesday, Nov. 15, would be given a chance to update their resume and cover letter.

The board finalized interview questions and narrowed the field of candidates at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 28, after press time, with interviews scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 6 and 7. Two finalists will be brought back for second interviews Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The community has set the bar high for finding the next superintendent. In a local sports context, it has asked for someone with passion and pride for their team like a Dan Campbell, an experienced captain like a Steve Yzerman or Isaiah Thomas, the affability of a Miguel Cabrera and the championship mentality of a Tom Izzo or Tom Brady.

Does that exist? That remains to be seen. But GPPSS is sure worth the time, effort and commitment to find it.

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.

Staying (dis)connected?

To the Editor:
I write this at a most conspicuous time

of year, especially on behalf of our so-called "yutes" (see "My Cousin Vinny"). That time where, year after year, after most of us have consumed vast quantities of food stuffs, get prepped to and vow to be more discerning prior to spending vast sums on behalf of local merchants who count on us to assist them to achieve a healthy bottom line. But even more so on behalf of "all those good boys and girls."

"Survey says" what our kids will yearn for with their insatiable appetites is what other surveys have been telling us for years: In the midst of an ongoing mental health crisis, the children and teens of today, while living in an age of super-connectivity, report they could not feel less connected. As in missing out on real connections, longing for deeper intimacy.

It's no secret. I'm protected here from the HIPPA "naughty list," as I'm not naming names. What they really long for, what they've been telling me for decades in the safety of my office, sworn to secrecy, these same "yutes" who initially told their parents, "That sounds so boring ... board games," only later whisper, "Don't tell my friends, but I kind of hope my parents bring it back out."

To add another layer of good news, it's not so much the playing of the game, but the time spent playing together. So, before going out spending, "Hey, big spender, spend a little time with me!"

A sharing gift: Connectivity. Got it?
WILLIAM C. IRVING, PH.D.
Grosse Pointe Woods

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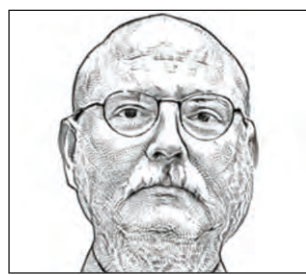
GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

November 30 - December 6

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
46° 33°	41° 28°	40° 33°	46° 37°	48° 33°	39° 29°	42° 29°
Rain Returns 50%	Chance for Rain 40%	Mostly Cloudy 20%	Rain 70%	Scattered Showers 50%	Wintry Mix 40%	Scattered Snow 40%
SUNRISE 7:40 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:41 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:42 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:43 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:44 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:45 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:46 am SUNSET 4:59 pm

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

I SAY By Ted O'Neil



Thanks for the memories

No, I'm not leaving, although I'm sure some readers would be overjoyed if that was the case.

Growing up, I read The Detroit News religiously, cover to cover every day. Well, the sports section at least. Every game story, every column, every statistic on the agate page. That was the one with small print that had all the standings, statistical leaders, trades, etc.

And every year around this time, Joe Falls would write a column about the things he was thankful for. At the time, I found it pretty silly. Being thankful for his wife bringing him a grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup while he watched whatever game was on TV? C'mon.

But now that I'm older, I look back and can see exactly what he meant. So, corny as it may be, here are some things I'm thankful for.

I'd be remiss if I didn't start with my son, Thomas, who turns 24 today. His sister, older by three years,

just happened to be born on Father's Day, so naturally I've always told her she's the best Father's Day gift ever. So as not to make him feel left out, I started telling Thomas he was the best early Christmas present ever, a running joke that continues to this day.

I'm thankful he followed in my footsteps and earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was very proud when he signed to play college basketball. A bad back injury forced him to give up the game, but it was a fun process. While he and I don't see eye to eye on everything, I love the big lug

just the same.

I'm also thankful for my daughter, Erin, and her new husband and the life they've created together. Visiting them recently in Traverse City, we actually went bowling and laughed until our faces hurt. It's the little things that matter.

And thankful for their mother. Didn't work out in the long run, but I have them and that's what counts.

Then there's the rest of the family. Shared memories, good or bad, nicknames — and how they were earned — that will never be outlived, and just the general sense of

belonging.

My faith. The beauty that is the Mass and comfort in the Eucharist. With a name like O'Neil, that was probably an easy guess.

Certainly can't forget about three particular buddies who I've known since first grade. Shared ups and downs, bragging about kids, recommending arthritis relief. But our group text chats or getting together for a few cold ones can be downright vicious. That's how non-blood brothers know they care about each other; a reminder that we knew each other "when" and won't ever let anyone live

those moments down.

A good nap on a Sunday afternoon watching golf and waking up in time to catch the last few holes.

Michigan State basketball. Yes, rough start this season, but that's part of Izzo's genius. Play tough games early instead of cupcakes to get ready for March.

And last but not least, my co-workers. Back-to-back Michigan Press Association Newspaper of the Year awards and we're working hard for a three-peat!

So hopefully everyone had a thankful Thanksgiving and here's to an early Merry Christmas.

GUEST VIEW By Sherry Betcher

Who's building who? A lesson in FIRST Robotics

“It's not about the robots. We're not using kids to build robots — we're using robots to build kids.”

— Dean Kamen, founder and president of FIRST (For Inspiration of Recognition of Science and Technology)

The above words from Dean Kamen best summarize the pure magic of the world of student robotics teams. And we're not talking about using just a few robots to build a handful of kids, as the number of students involved with FIRST Robotics might just shock you: 668,000 students participated in the 2022-23 inaugural season of For Inspiration of Recognition of Science and Technology.

FIRST students range from pre-K to 12th grade and hail from more than 100 countries. Students work alongside over 320,000 adult volunteers who serve as coaches, mentors and judges.

These wide-scale participation statistics might lead you to wonder, what's the lure? How do you convince nearly 700,000 students worldwide that learning about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), alongside some seriously hard work is ... well ... fun?

The world of FIRST Robotics combines the thrill of competitive sports with our innate desire to learn. FIRST divides students by age groups beginning with Lego League at pre-K, early and late elementary, moving up to

FIRST Tech Challenge for middle school and culminating with FIRST Robotics at the high school level. The valuable skills and knowledge required of students grows at each level. At the high school level, the competitions are a lightning-fast, banging, strategic combination of high-tech science fair and March Madness. Matches are played by 4-foot-tall, 125-pound robots operated by students with a thirst for victory. Robots compete in alliances of three-vs-three on a volleyball-sized playing area in multiple two-and-a-half minute matches. Alliances during the qualifying matches are randomly selected — this means teams can be allies in one match and opponents in another. Gracious Professionalism and Coopertition elevate the entire experience for students as they compete fiercely, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process.

“We created a sport as exciting as every other — but the only one where every kid on every team has the chance to turn pro,” which are the lifelong benefits of robotics, according to Kamen. Some of the fundamen-

tal skills students learn through robotics sound like any prestigious job posting: project management, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, collaboration and problem solving, just to name a few. And of course, robotics provides all students, no matter their background or physical ability, the opportunity to become a STEM professional.

FIRST has proven its value and impact in preparing the next generation for the future. Consider this:

- ◆ 81 percent of FIRST alumni declare majors in STEM by their fourth year of college.
- ◆ 83 percent of FIRST alumni have confidence to take leadership roles in school.

In Grosse Pointe, I am the head coach of our local all-girls robotics team, the Botmasterz, which has been working hard since 2016, thanks in part to the team's founding sponsor, the Grosse Pointe Branch of the American Association of University Women. The team has grown rapidly since beginning at Defer Elementary School, expanding to Pierce Middle School and finally last year, reaching Grosse Pointe South High School.

As a community-run team, the high school Botmasterz welcomes girls in eighth through 12th grades from any Grosse Pointe school. During their first season last year, the girls

proudly took home the rookie award trifecta: the Rookie All Star Award, Rookie Inspiration Award and Rookie High Seed Award. They ranked high enough at their first two events to captain two alliances and qualified for states to compete with other high-ranking teams across the state. Their first amazing season ended ranking 112 of 635.

We are preparing students for future jobs that might not even exist today. The future

is bright for students fortunate enough to



Sherry Betcher is the head coach of Grosse Pointe's all-girls high school robotics team, Botmasterz. For more information, email the team at botmasterzfr9255@gmail.com or visit Botmasterz FRC 9255 High School Team on Facebook or Instagram. The team is currently recruiting eighth- through 12th-grade girls for its upcoming season, which runs January through April. Betcher is a resident of Grosse Pointe Park.

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8A | NEWS



Above, the Detroit Jazz Festival float is a returning favorite. Right, a Parade Company float depicted "The Wizard of Oz," with Dorothy leading the way on her bike. The float was sponsored by Coreander's Children's Bookshope.



PHOTOS BY RENE LANDUYT

Here's to the holidays

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade, which took place Nov. 24, included six floats from the Parade Company, along with several banners, golden retrievers, police horses, Detroit Ghostbusters and a brand new sleigh for Santa and Mrs. Claus.



A still walker with the Michigan Entertainment and Talent Group wowed the crowd.



Detroit Ghostbusters, left, returned to the parade this year, as did a group of reindeer, right, having fun before taking to the sky on Christmas Eve to help Santa deliver presents.



This contest-winning Parade Company float was designed by a Detroit elementary school fourth grader. Paulina Jayne, a 2014 Grosse Pointe South grad, played music and sang on the float as it rolled down Kercheval. Jayne is a touring country artist who has opened for headliners such as Rascal Flatts, Sheryl Crow, Brad Paisley and more.



The Redford Township Unicycle Club of Michigan was part of the parade.



The Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South marching bands walked together in the parade playing holiday music.

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Ice rink depends on other things

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The dwindling number of ice skaters at Patterson Park are assured the rink will open as soon as weather and stormwater sewer construction allow.

Chad Craig, municipal recreation director, intended to open the rink this week. First weather and now installation of the flood-protection extreme emergency relief valve at Patterson caused delays.

He now anticipates skating to start Friday, Dec. 8.

“Due to the EERV project, some of the mechanical equipment was

damaged and needs to be repaired,” Craig said.

Opening day still requires cooperation by the weather.

“It will be dependent upon weather and temperatures so we can run the (refrigeration) system,” Craig said.

He’s also thinking about delaying the start of next year’s skating season until deeper into cold-weather months.

“It is a lot of electricity to operate the compressors,” Craig said of the rink’s refrigeration components. “Talking to some of the (park) staff, probably eight to 10 years ago, when 8 p.m. hit, we were trying to get 40 to 50 people off the ice rink. Now, we still

have some weekends that are popular and the first month of activity is nice, but after that, it’s kind of hit or miss.”

The refrigeration system is something Craig wants updated for improved performance and operational cost savings.

Michael Hindelang, chairman of the recreation commission, called Craig’s upgrade proposal a “great idea,” but wants details before the board decides.

The present compressor uses freon as a refrigerant. Freon costs \$125 to \$150 per pound, he said.

“We are looking to

See RINK, page 10A

GPPSS receives 39 applications for superintendent

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — More than three dozen people applied to be the next superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, which is far more than expected.

The district received 39 applications through the deadline at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21.

Jay Bennett, assistant director of executive search services for the Michigan Association of School Boards, called that “considerable interest,” and had previously told the GPPSS Board of Education he expected

20 to 25 applications.

Board President Ahmed Ismail said the district received about two dozen applications in 2021 when Jon Dean was appointed superintendent. Dean retired in August.

“I’m very satisfied with the results,” Ismail said. “MASB did a good job of getting the info out there and now it’s up to us to whittle it down for interviews. I’m sure a lot of them aren’t from districts that are comparable with ours or don’t have central office experience.”

The board at its meeting Tuesday, Nov. 28,

after press time, finalized interview questions and narrowed the field of candidates, with interviews Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 6 and 7. Two finalists will be brought back for second interviews Tuesday, Dec. 12. Visit grossepointe.com for updates to this story on applicants selected for interviews.

Ismail said last week there would probably be five or six candidates chosen to interview. Only the names of those selected for interviews who accepted the invitation are being made public. A closed session was scheduled for Tuesday

ahead of the regular board meeting to discuss any internal candidates.

Of those who applied, 55 percent have a doctorate, 28 percent have a master’s degree and 17 percent have an education specialist degree, which is an intermediate step between a master’s degree and doctorate.

A stakeholder survey MASB conducted found 429 respondents out of 846 people who took the survey said being a superintendent in another district would prove most valuable in the new hire, followed closely by building principal (409) and teacher (407). Another

385 chose assistant superintendent.

The job posting, which opened in late September, listed a starting salary range of \$275,000 to \$350,000, with start date and allowances for things like an annuity and retirement to be negotiated. Bennett previously told the board a current superintendent probably would not leave their job midway through the school year and a July 1 start date is more likely.

Some 71 percent of applicants are Michigan residents, while 29 percent listed an address outside of Michigan. Several other high-pro-

file districts also are currently searching for a new superintendent, including Bloomfield Hills, Ann Arbor, Midland, Oxford, Rochester and Grand Rapids Forest Hills. According to the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators, the state has seen a turnover of around 90 to 100 superintendents annually for the past few years and said that number was about 50 to 80 before COVID. Bennett said MASB currently is involved with superintendent searches in 40 districts.

Icing on the cake and other goodies

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — It’s no surprise high school students like to eat. Just ask any parent.

But for culinary arts students at Grosse Pointe South High School, it goes beyond that.

“We’ve got about 190 students across six classes per day in the entire program,” according to Nick Lopez, who has been teaching culinary arts at South for a year. “We’ve got some who plan on applying to culinary schools and want to pursue it as a career, but the others still take it very seriously.”

Eight of those students participated in a day of preparation earlier this month at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi ahead of the Michigan Hospitality Foundation ProStart competition scheduled for next March in Kalamazoo. The day



Grosse Pointe South culinary arts students, from left, Maggie Houk, Allison Novak, Nate Bearman, Wolf Busch, Landon Trombley, Mere Arendoski, Audrey Larson and Gabby Vosburg at a Michigan Hospitality Foundation interactive training event to prepare for the statewide competition next March in Kalamazoo.

COURTESY PHOTO

included sessions on plating, recipe and costing and cooler packing.

More than \$100,000 in scholarships will be available at the March competition and winning teams move on to the national competition scheduled for April in Baltimore.

“The March event will be fun,” Lopez said. “Each team gets a square

10 feet by 10 feet and it involves a pasta dish, cake decorating and a three-course meal. No electricity, no running water and just two butane burners and they have to make a turned-out meal.”

The variety of classes in the program, however, should have the students well prepared by then.

Those include food and pastry, global cuisine, desserts and advanced instruction.

The classes cover everything from knife skills to time and temperature control to food safety.

“A lot of what we do covers general employment skills,” Lopez added. “How to think

critically, be productive and dependable. Those are things that apply to any job.”

Lopez, who has been teaching 15 years, said

he took similar classes in high school.

“My first job was at a restaurant back then, so after I got out of the military I got my teaching degree and here we are.”

South students generally are in the kitchen, or lab as they call it, Tuesday through Friday.

“Monday is usually for foundational work,” Lopez said. “That might be reviewing what we did the week before or talking about things like spices or food safety. Then we usually make one or two meals per week.”

For students planning to pursue culinary arts as a career, there are several different paths.

“It can be as fast as a one-year certificate to an associate’s degree to a bachelor’s degree,” Lopez said. “Being a chef, a lot of what you learn happens in the field. It’s about building on your experiences.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Liggett students to perform with Detroit Opera Youth Chorus

University Liggett School students Catie Juip, right, and Madeline Taylor-Schirmang will perform in the Detroit Opera Youth Chorus performance of “A Winter Fantasy” holiday concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Children 5 and younger are free. See detroitopera.org for more details.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BENZ

Pierce hosts 49th annual Turkey Trot

Pierce Middle School ran its 49th annual Turkey Trot Friday, Nov. 10. The half-mile race included boys and girls in fifth through eighth grades. It was made even more special by the attendance of Jerry Keith, the gym teacher who began the tradition 49 years ago and who started the race this year. First- and second-place finishers each won a Butterball turkey. The best time of the day was run by Everett Wood, who finished in 2:42. Pictured front row, from left, are Charlott Bond, Emma Ford, Nyla Burrascano, Avery Miller, Blake Denner, Owen Nowicki, Calvin Decker and Jordan St. John. Pictured back row, from left, are Paige Garbo, Dalina Kokoshi, Eleanor Pilsner, Lydia Thomason, Wyatt Roberts, Oscar Resnick, Everett Wood and Jack Stewart.

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PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak presents 16-year councilman Donald Parthum Jr., with a resolution of appreciation Monday, Nov. 20.

Parthum honored

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — “I just want to thank the citizens for the privilege and the opportunity to serve you for 16 years,” said Donald Parthum Jr., at his first council meeting as a member of the public in almost two decades. “(I) look forward to keeping an eye on my former cohorts and making sure they continue the good that we’ve done.” Parthum lost his seat to newcomer Chris Moyer in the November election and last week was honored with a resolution of appreciation for his four terms on council.

“Council member Parthum’s efforts over these many years to keep the City of Grosse Pointe the safe, economically vital and inviting community it is known to be, are truly appreciated,” the resolution reads. “His professional expertise as a talented attorney and

his contributions as a city council member have made a positive impact on the City of Grosse Pointe for years to come. “Council member Parthum will retire from council in November 2023, but will always be known for his logical thinking, thoughtful insight, consideration of issues and commitment to Grosse Pointe.”

Since joining council in 2007, Parthum has had a hand in steering the City through the Great Recession with no reduction in services, several master plan updates, the creation of the Grosse Pointe Downtown Development Authority — now Main Street Grosse Pointe — the construction of a new City parking structure, public safety building and public service building and the renovation of the municipal court and city council chambers.

In recent years, Parthum gained a reputation for his generous

onboarding help to a number of new council members.

“Thank you so much to Don for your years of service,” said Maureen Juip, who joined council in 2020. “I have learned so much. You have been very generous in your guidance and your mentorship, so thank you for your service to the city and for all that you’ve given to me as I came on as a new council person.”

Parthum also served as the treasurer and city council representative to the Grosse Pointes-Clinton Refuse Disposal Authority.

“The mayor, city council and the citizens of the City of Grosse Pointe do hereby extend their most grateful appreciation to Donald J. Parthum Jr., for his outstanding and devoted service to Grosse Pointe,” the resolution reads, “and wish Donald, Elizabeth and their family much happiness, good health and continued adventures.”

Empty gesture on parade

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city council intends next month to take another swing at making the public school system reopen Trombly Elementary School as a place of learning.

Councilwoman Christine Gallagher brought up the idea toward the end of the Nov. 13 council meeting, the first since the Nov. 7 election of two new councilmen, the re-election of an incumbent, the re-election of Mayor Michele Hodges and Gallagher’s failed campaign to replace Hodges.

“I feel it’s really important that this body as a whole show support for Trombly,” Gallagher said as the meeting wound down into a routine segment just prior to adjournment designated “council comment.”

The segment typically features officials chitchatting about upcoming community events or praising past ones.

Gallagher used her time to motion for passage of a resolution she wanted the council to send to the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

“I’d like it to state, ‘This Grosse Pointe Park City Council recommends as a priority a return of Trombly to its prior status as a Grosse Pointe Public School System elementary school and the school board make every effort to accomplish this goal.’”

Councilman Brent Dreaver, elected the week before and wearing a blue and gold striped bow tie befitting his University of Michigan MBA, seconded the motion.

The meeting immediately descended into verbal wrangling about adhering to the letter and spirit of council procedures, “Roberts Rules of Order,” constructive teamwork and unproductive grandstanding.

Councilman Max Wiener told Gallagher she should have introduced the resolution as an agenda action item earlier in the meeting, if not before, so others would have time to consider its concept and wording.

“We want a professional council,” Wiener said. “Is this going to be the norm now — that we start council comment by putting up resolutions? All of us want Trombly as a school, but we should have an effective, efficient way of running meetings that benefits everybody, residents as well.”

“I think we would support it,” Councilman Tom Caulfield said. “We can support that we want to see Trombly as a school, but we have no authority to control (the property).”

Trombly resolutions have precedent. Hodges served on the 2019 council that unanimously passed a resolution

opposing Trombly’s closure. “For myself, I certainly agree with the sentiment,” Hodges said of Gallagher’s proposal. “I will be voting ‘no,’ not because I disagree with it, but because I would like an opportunity for us all to properly deliberate the item.”

“Usually, we don’t just make a resolution at a council meeting,” said Councilman Marty McMillan, re-elected with the most votes Nov. 7. “Let’s write it, look at it and look through the words before we vote on something.”

“Let me make this very clear,” newly elected Councilman Tim Kolar said. “This is not something I’m proposing, but if we wanted to do a resolution every single month from now into perpetuity on this topic or any other topic, is that allowable?”

“It’s allowable, but it doesn’t have any substance to it,” answered Morgan McAtamney, assistant city attorney. “All you’re (the council) doing is stating your opinion.”

“When I look at Councilmember Gallagher’s resolution, I’m in favor of it,” Kolar said. “Perhaps we can come in the next meeting with a more elaborate resolution that properly gathers and gives notice to the community.”

Gallagher agreed to withdraw her motion to pass the resolution and have it placed on the agenda for the Dec. 11 meeting.

Her decision kicked off a new set of parliamentary procedures.

“You can do it a couple of ways,” McAtamney told Gallagher. “You can withdraw your motion. Then, it would be up to the city manager to put it on the agenda for the next meeting, which I believe the city manager stated he’d be happy to do.”

“Yes,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

“Alternatively,” McAtamney resumed, “you can move to amend your motion and request that this resolution is put on the agenda at the next meeting. You would have to amend your motion and Mr. Dreaver would have to second that amendment. Then, we’d have to vote on the amendment of the motion, whether or not anyone agrees with that amendment. And then, you would vote on the amended motion itself, if we amended the motion. Ms. Gallagher, what is your will on this?”

“I will amend it for it to be on the agenda for the next council meeting for discussion,” she said.

Everyone agreed.

“We will entertain this item on our next agenda,” Hodges said. “City Manager Sizeland, you’ll be charged with making sure we have this. Any other council comment item?”

Not much. Adjournment.

RINK:

Continued from page 8A

switch to an R-449, which would be more like \$20 to \$25 per pound,” Craig said.

R-449 is an alternative refrigerant rated highly for energy efficiency and environmental safety, including no ozone

depletion potential, according to various industry sources.

Another problem with the current refrigerant is scarcity.

“The current one we have is one they stopped making,” Craig said.

Scarce supply translates into higher costs.

“On the market, it becomes more expen-

sive to use,” Craig said. “Regardless, on a 40- to 50-degree day with the sun out, even the top-notch stuff isn’t going to hold up. You can’t beat Mother Nature.”

He said the switch can be made within the recreation department’s current budget.

“We should be just fine,” Craig said.

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Your Old Mansion series kicks off with 'Guardians' lecture

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

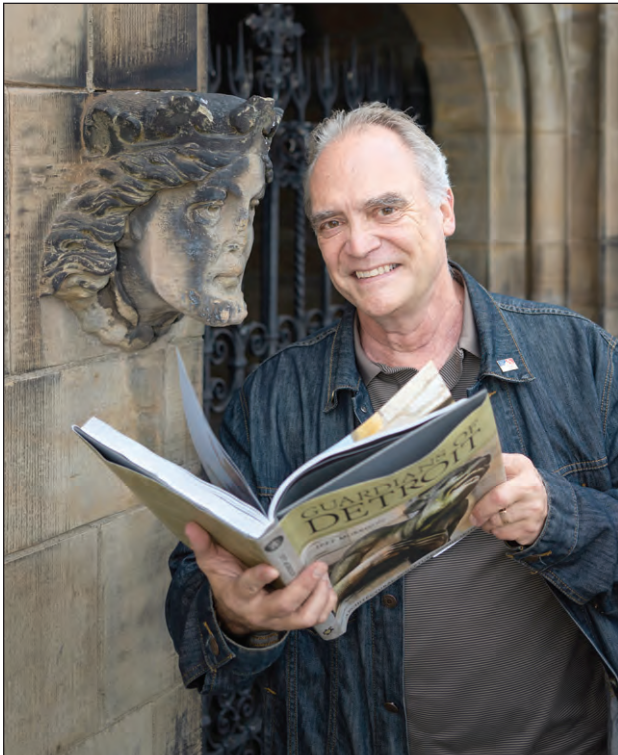
Following in the footsteps of his “hobby photographer” father and grandfather, Oxford resident Jeff Morrison got his first camera at age 9, and fell in love with the art form. While nature photography piqued his interest, he eventually became fascinated with architectural photography.

“I would look at a building and see a sculpture and wonder, ‘What does it mean?’” he said, citing the pelican sculpture that adorns Metropolitan United Methodist Church, which caught his eye on the way to a Detroit Tigers game.

After more than 30 years in graphic design, Morrison combined his love of photography with his degrees in history and art from Eastern Michigan University and set off on a new venture: photographing architectural sculpture.

Morrison will kick off the Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s 2023-24 Your Old Mansion lecture series with a presentation about architectural sculpture in Michigan. The program takes place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

After amassing a collection of photographs of architectural sculptures, Morrison toyed with the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jeff Morrison will discuss Detroit’s and Michigan’s architectural photography during his Dec. 3 lecture.

idea of putting together a pamphlet of around 50 pages, but soon realized his collection would fill a much larger space.

His book, “Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City,” was published in 2019, by Wayne State University. His 336-page debut earned a State History Award for Outstanding Michigan History Publication from the Historical Society of Michigan and a Midwest Book Award from the Midwest Independent Publishers Association and was named a 2020

Michigan Notable Book by the Library of Michigan. It features 770 original photos captured through a telephoto lens that document Detroit’s architectural sculptures. Each photo is complemented with Morrison’s research about the sculptors and artisans who created the works.

After finishing the Detroit book — and keeping it to a manageable length — Morrison quickly became aware of the vast amount of architectural sculpture throughout Michigan.

In September this year, his follow-up work, “Guardians of Michigan: Architectural Sculpture of the Pleasant Peninsulas,” was published by the University of Michigan Press. The 466-page publication features 1,200 photos and was listed as a 2023 Michigan Notable Book by the Library of Michigan. It also received the Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature presented by Saginaw Valley State University.

“It’s amazing how much architectural sculpture there is to be found in Michigan,” he said.

During his Dec. 3 lecture, Morrison will present nearly 250 photos featuring architectural sculpture from buildings throughout the state, including the Upper

Peninsula, The Thumb and other areas.

“I like to talk about the sculptures on the buildings, what it means, why it’s there,” he said. “I’ll share stories about the architects and entrepreneurs who helped build the buildings and a few other interesting tidbits I came across along the way.”

“... I’ll also talk about process,” he added, “the work required, hurdles to overcome.”

For example, gaining access to sculptures that can’t be seen from the street and are difficult to photograph. Through his efforts, he captures details that are barely visible to the naked eye and makes them available for up-close appreciation.

There will be time for questions and answers following the presentation.

Among Morrison’s favorite architectural sculptors is Corrado Parducci, whose body of work includes the Buhl, Penobscot and Guardian buildings downtown, as well as Detroit Masonic Temple, Meadow Brook Hall, Detroit Federal Building and The Players clubhouse, among many others.

“There’s so much work in Detroit that was done by Corrado Parducci,” Morrison noted. “It’s always fun to find pieces by him. And I’m fond of Marshall Fredericks’ work as well. He did ‘The Spirit of Detroit.’ A lot of his sculptures can be found all around Detroit and Michigan — and around the world.”

Parducci’s Fisher Building is among Morrison’s favorite works, as is Trinity Episcopal Church, an English Gothic building in Detroit designated as a Michigan State Historic Site in 1979, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

“Usually when people ask which one is my favorite, I say the next one,” Morrison said. “It’s really exciting when I find a building I haven’t seen yet.”

“... Finding these buildings, I can do a lot of research online or in books, but there’s no sub-

stitute for driving to and walking around towns,”

he added. “I went to every big city and small town in Michigan I could think of. It’s time consuming, but it’s a lot of fun.”

Currently, Morrison is working on a book about architectural sculpture in Ohio.

He encouraged anyone interested in architecture, architectural sculpture, history or art in general to attend his lecture.

“I call it ‘everyday art,’ because it’s out there for the public to see,” he said. “You don’t have to go to a gallery. You don’t have to pay admission. It’s out there for everyone to see and appreciate.”

For more information about Morrison or to purchase copies of his books, visit guardiansofmichigan.com. His books also will be available to purchase at the lecture.

More to come

The GPAA’s Your Old Mansion series continues in 2024, with monthly lectures January to April.

◆ Sunday, Jan. 14 — Jonathan Quint, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, will talk about defining moments and influential figures in Colonial Detroit.

◆ Sunday, Feb. 11 — The team from Planet Detroit will talk about environmental issues

impacting metro Detroit, with a focus on Eastside neighborhoods like Jefferson Chalmers.

◆ Sunday, March 10 — Ken Colman of Michigan Advance and Free Press contributor John Gallagher will discuss how Detroit and the Michigan Department of Transportation plan to use federal grant funds to restore neighborhoods that were torn apart by highways.

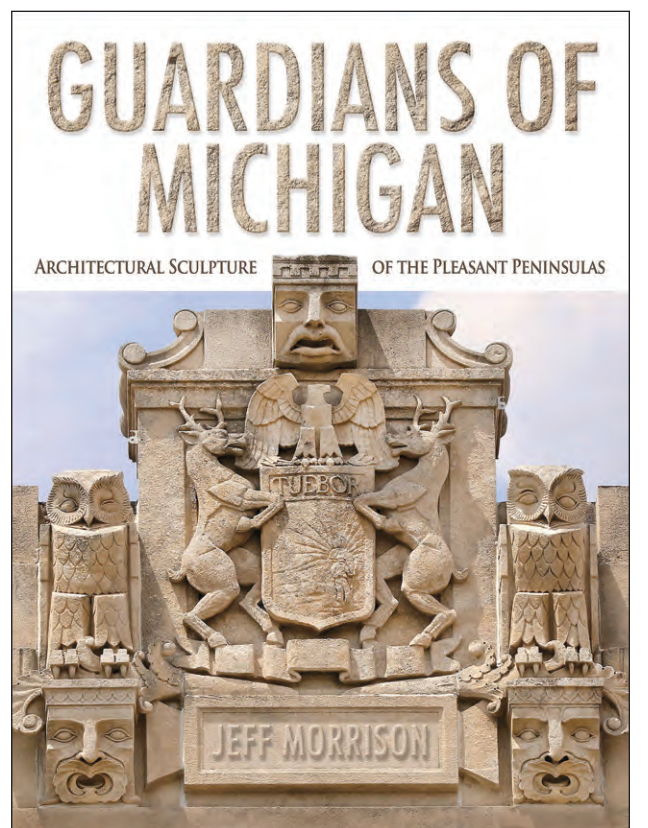
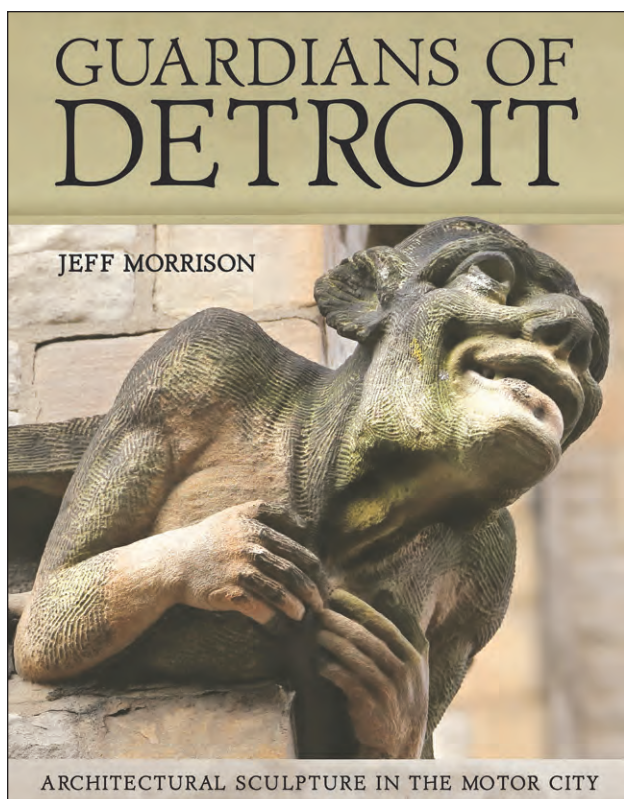
◆ Sunday, April 7 — Art historian Deborah Kawsky will interview Peter Forguson about his book, “Detroit Modern: 1935-1985.” Forguson, who owns a landscape business, has worked around many of the 73 homes featured in his book.

Individual lecture tickets are \$25 for GPAA members, \$30 for non-members.

For those who buy tickets for the entire series — \$100 for members, \$120 for nonmembers — the fifth lecture is free.

All Your Old Mansion presenters donate their services, so all lecture proceeds support GPAA’s free programming for senior citizens, veterans and students in art programs at area high schools.

To register, for tickets or more information, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.



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Langsford Men's Chorus takes the stage Dec. 9

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It's been a few years since Grosse Pointe has been treated to a concert by the Langsford Men's Chorus, a 42-member outfit based in Birmingham.

The group is returning next month to present "Yuletide Fires" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The chorus will perform a mix of holiday music sure to inspire glad tidings of great joy.

"This year's Christmas concert features 13 pieces, ranging from the sacred to popular favorites," said Andy Walker, a Woods resident and a member, along with his wife, Sue, of the Our Lady Star of the Sea Chorus. "Along the way, you will be treated to rich choral pieces, calypso,



COURTESY PHOTO

The Langsford Men's Chorus will perform at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church on Dec. 9.

gospel and maybe even a little doo-wop."

The concert will feature a mix of a cappella, as well as songs accompanied by pianist Stanley Waldon.

"For those of you who have never experienced men's choral music, our 42-member-strong chorus from all over south-

east Michigan is certain to put you in the Christmas spirit," Walker said. "We have been practicing since early September and can't wait to have you join us."

The chorus is conducted by Steven SeGraves, with Roger Smith as associate conductor. It was founded in

1999, and named for Dr. Harry Langsford, founder of the Wayne State University Men's Glee Club.

"We have performed at the International Eisteddfod Choral competition in Llangollen, Denbighshire, Wales; with the United States Men's Army Chorus in

Washington, D.C.; at the House of Blues in Chicago and at venues all across Michigan," Walker said of the chorus, of which he's been a member six years.

"We have our roots from Wayne State, but the men who sing with us are from all over the Detroit area," he added.

"There are very few men's choruses around now. I don't want to say we're unique, but with a large group of men, it's a different sound."

The group will host a concert at 4 p.m. the following day, Sunday, Dec. 10, at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1800 W. Maple, Birmingham.

All ages are welcome to both shows.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, and may be purchased online at langsfordmenschorus.org/get-tickets or by scanning the QR code below.

For more information, call (248) 592-7455.



Transplant recipient's efforts lead to landmark legislation

Henry Ford Health doctors and patients joined lawmakers and advocates Friday, Nov. 17, to celebrate the passage of a bill preventing health insurers from denying or restricting coverage for living organ donors in Michigan. Sponsored by state Sen. Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, Senate Bill 384 successfully passed through both the Michigan House and Senate before being signed into law by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer earlier this month.

"Senate Bill 384 is an important step in ensuring that those who are willing to be living donors are protected and covered," said Bob Riney, president and CEO of Henry Ford Health. "By legally fortifying these protections, we pave the way for a remarkable increase in organ availability — an incredible prospect where more individuals are empowered to bestow the profound gift of life upon others. It is truly the greatest gift of all and those willing to give it shouldn't be penalized or discriminated against."

This legislation empowers individuals to collaborate with Michigan transplant centers, like Henry Ford Health's Center for Living Donation, to facilitate kidney or liver donations to those awaiting lifesaving transplants. According to Gift of Life, more than 2,400 Michiganders are waiting for lifesaving organs.

"Passing this law was truly a grassroots effort," said 54-year-old David Galbenski, a Grosse Pointe Shores resident, living liver recipient and advocate of the bill. "This legislative journey is a testament to the power of good policy, passionate advocacy and dedicated legislators. It's a celebration of paying it forward and ensuring that every future living donor in Michigan can step forward without hesitation knowing that the system supports and protects their altruistic act."

In July 2022, after a successful liver transplant surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Galbenski found himself immersed in a conversation at the Transplant Games of America with state Sen. John Albers of Georgia, who is a living kidney donor. Albers had recently passed living donor protection legislation in Georgia. Hearing about his success gave Galbenski the confidence he could change the law back home, so when someone contemplates becoming a living donor, intimidating questions about the impact on life insurance, disability or long-term care could be definitively answered.

Galbenski reached out to advocacy groups to build support for the proposed legislation. Hertel proved to be a natural ally as chairman of Michigan's Health Policy Committee.

The bill, which passed the House and Senate with resounding support, aims to prevent insurance compa-



Dave Galbenski

nies from denying coverage, canceling coverage or increasing premiums related to life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance for living organ donors. The legislation not only eases the financial burden on living donors, but also provides assurance to potential donors.

"As the wait list for an organ transplant continues to expand, it's incumbent upon lawmakers to do everything we can to promote and protect donors," Hertel said. "When a Michigander takes the selfless step to donate a part of themselves to improve the health of another, they deserve protection from discrimination at the very least. I'm proud that the Legislature was able to come together in a bipartisan fashion to enshrine these well-deserved protections for living organ donors into law, so they can access insurance coverage without undue burden."

"Living organ donors are heroes who selflessly give organs and tissues to help others live and thrive," Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II said. "Thanks to Senate Bill 384, Michiganders won't have to fear higher premiums or canceled or denied insurance because of their status as a living organ donor, and more people will make the decision to become living organ donors, saving lives and shortening waitlists. State government is leading by example with paid leave for state employees to become living organ donors and we will continue standing tall to help Michiganders support their families and loved ones and save lives."

The journey has been marked by emotional highs, with Galbenski's living liver donor and brother-in-law, Mark Dybis of Grosse Pointe Woods, fighting with him through the bill's passage on the House floor.

"It gave me chills and brought tears to my eyes thinking about what this means for future donors and recipients, because that's what we want to do with our second lives as

See EFFORTS, page 3B



Project Smart

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sherrie Jones and Stephen Ahles of Project Smart addressed club members Nov. 14.

Project Smart has been developed to address the drug addiction crisis just as Rotary has worked to eradicate polio worldwide.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

AREA ACTIVITIES

Library

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

◆ Teen Board Game Club, 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Meet Up and Make: Snow Globes, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1st Tuesday Book Discussion, 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Coldwater Kitchen, 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Windmill Pointe Park, 14920 Windmill Pointe Dr., Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Freedom to Wander: A Memoir with Pasta, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ Noon to 6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 30, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 1, Grosse Pointe Woods Parks & Recreation Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 4, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Posterity Gallery

Posterity Gallery, 17005 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe, hosts The Artist Holiday Market at Posterity open house from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30.

GPAA

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association offers a variety of classes at its studio, located at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. To register for the following, visit grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Imitating the Masters with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. The focus is on the landscapes of Camille Pissarro.

◆ Watercolor with Marilyn Thomas, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9 and 10.

◆ Watercolor Workshop with Nancy Philo, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers Comedy and Cocktails: The All-Star Showdown with Go Comedy! from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30. Show-only tickets are \$25; tickets for the show and a pre-glow reception are \$45. Register at warmemorial.org.

Questers

The Pear Tree Questers will meet at noon Friday, Dec. 1, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for their annual Christmas luncheon. Members will bring unwrapped toys for donation. Bernadette Lindquist is the event chairperson.

Parcells

Parcells Middle School, 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its holiday art and craft bazaar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, featuring more than 170 vendors. The 48th annual event — the school's largest fundraiser of the year — includes food, unique pieces and items, gifts for

See EVENTS, page 3B

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

the holidays and more. Visit parcellsbazaar.com for details.

Sunrise Rotary

The Grosse Pointe

Sunrise Rotary Club hosts its next meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. The Regina High School girls choir will sing a medley of Christmas carols.

Guests are welcome.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Renata Conger

will speak about the work camp summer program sponsored by First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Chamber

The Grosse Pointe

Chamber of Commerce sponsors a networking event from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at Capricious, 74 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves MS, in

partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

ENGAGEMENTS



Sarah Galbenski and Patrick McCabe

Galbenski—McCabe

David and Lynn Galbenski of Grosse Pointe Shores announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Grace Galbenski, to Patrick Hidalgo McCabe, the son of Michael McCabe and Rosie Hidalgo McCabe of Washington, D.C.

Miss Galbenski earned bachelor's degrees in Spanish and global affairs from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in international relations from the IE School of Politics, Economics and Global Affairs in Madrid, Spain. She is an international environmental program specialist for the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

Mr. McCabe earned bachelor's degrees in political science and Arabic from the University of Notre Dame. He is a program assistant with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance in Washington, D.C.

A June 2024 wedding is planned.

WEDDING



Rachel and James Wujcik

Martinez—Wujcik

Rachel Lynn Martinez and James Michael Wujcik were married Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, at Hart Meadows Ranch, Johns Island, S.C. A longtime friend of the couple, John Lind, an ordained minister, officiated the wedding ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Maureen Martinez of Grosse Pointe Farms and Bob Martinez of Grosse Pointe Park. The groom is the son of Dawn and Brian Wujcik of Oaklawn, Ill.

Co-maids of honor were the bride's friend, Ariana Corney, and the bride's cousin, Kate Wacker. Bridesmaids were the groom's sisters, Becky Wujcik and Dana Wujcik; and the bride's friends, Emily Spanos, Chelsea Samyn, Autumn Riggerbach and Payton Messner.

The best man was the groom's friend, Harley Miller. Groomsmen were the bride's brothers, Rob Martinez and Alex Martinez; and the groom's friends, Jason Callan, Joe Dauod, Nick Ciannella, Johnny Pachomski and Eric Hall.

Ushers for the ceremony were the groom's cousins, R.J., Jake and Kyle Dilcher, and the bride's cousin, Thomas Wacker.

The bride graduated from Miami University in supply chain management and works at the Medical University of South Carolina.

The groom graduated from the University of Indianapolis and works as a firefighter in Charleston, S.C.

The couple traveled to St. Lucia for their honeymoon and reside in Charleston, S.C.

Prebelich—Bennett

Ellen and Tom Prebelich of Troy announce the engagement of their daughter, Katie Prebelich, to Dr. Collin Bennett, the son of Jeannie and Bill Bennett of Colorado Springs.

Miss Prebelich earned a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree from Central Michigan University and currently is a third-year law student at Wayne State University Law School.

Dr. Bennett earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and an M.D. from Wayne State University School of Medicine. He is a family medicine doctor.

A December 2024 wedding is planned.



Katie Prebelich and Dr. Collin Bennett

Balcirak—Fox

David and Christine Balcirak of Grosse Pointe Woods announce the engagement of their daughter, Mackensie Nicole Balcirak, to Lewis Connor Fox, the son of Bradley and Josephine Fox of the City of Grosse Pointe.

Miss Balcirak earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Miami University in Ohio. She is an account director with LinkedIn.

Mr. Fox earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business economics from Miami University in Ohio. He is an investment analyst with RMB Capital.

A September 2024 wedding is planned.



Mackensie Balcirak and Lewis Fox

EFFORTS:

Continued from page 2B

recipients — just pay it forward," Galbenski said. "And this is just another way Mark and I have bonded on behalf of every future living donor in the state of Michigan."

In a celebration of the signing at Henry Ford Hospital, Marwan Abouljoud, M.D., director of Henry Ford's Transplant Institute, presented Galbenski and Hertel with Transplant Advocacy Awards in recognition of their commitment to championing the rights of transplant patients and promoting living donation in the process.

"Dave came to us with an incurable liver disease and found his second chance in living donor liver transplant," Abouljoud said. "After recovery he didn't just say 'thank you' and go on his way. He saw an opportunity to use his skills and as an expert in the law, as an influencer and as a compelling public speaker, he is making it possible for more people to have a chance at life through living organ donation."

Looking ahead, Galbenski hopes to introduce tax credits for living organ donors, further eliminating financial barriers and encouraging more Michiganders to save lives.

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JINGLE BULBS



Spread holiday cheer with festive celebration ornaments

By Olivia Monette and Donna Zetterlund

Every milestone in our friends' and families' lives deserves to be celebrated, and what better way to honor these amazing achievements than with a unique, handpainted ornament that will be displayed on the tree for years to come? For growing families, new jobs, and all of the events in between, beautiful ornaments are a great way to commemorate life's best moments.

The Grosse Pointe News design team visited a few local shops this week to select some of our favorite commemorative holiday ornaments. If you're ever stumped for what to get that hard-to-buy-for loved one, check out some of these charming gift ideas.

As always, Grosse Pointe's small businesses are a great place to shop this holiday season. From clothing to home decor to tableware, our community is incredibly fortunate to have so many unique shops – and the devoted business owners who continue to make them so special.

A YEAR OF FIRSTS



The first holiday season as a married couple is an exciting and joyful time. While this first Christmas ornament makes a great Christmas gift, we also think it would be super for a wedding shower, hostess gift or holiday party. Hand-painted by Coton Colors from **Small Favors**.

POP THE CORK!



Break out the champagne for a toast to the newlyweds! The pretty ornament above is the ideal keepsake gift for the recent marriage of a family, friend or co-worker. By Coton Colors, from **Small Favors**.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Created as the perfect housewarming or Christmas present, this Coton Colors ornament with a glittering house key celebrates the excitement of the first holiday in a new home. A gift like this may travel from new home to new home in the future and be handed down to one of the children someday. From **Small Favors**.

RED OR WHITE?



LOVE BIRDS

A sweet take on a gift for a loving couple, wedding or engagement, this blue and white ornament featuring a pair of cardinals in a traditional Delft blue look is a pretty keepsake for the tree. From **The League Shop**.



For the wine connoisseur on your gifting list, these ornaments feature pretty faux cut-crystal stemware with a golden rim and wine charm. The clear ornament is filled with either ecru or red resin that looks just like wine. So cute! From **The League Shop**.



SPARE ROOM

The kids are all grown up and Mom and Dad finally have the house to themselves. Gift your favorite couple this cute ornament to honor their latest milestone and their newfound craft room or man cave. From **Small Favors**.



WARM THE HEART

What's more romantic than sharing a cup of delicious hot cocoa on a cold winter's day? This adorable light-up hot cocoa truck ornament is almost as good as the real thing. A cute gift for the person who gives you the warm fuzzies all year long. From **Anchor & Olive**.



BUNDLES OF JOY

Welcome home, baby! There is no better Christmas gift than a brand new baby boy or girl. You'll soon create a whole new lifetime of holiday memories and traditions together. Celebrate baby's first Christmas at home with an adorable keepsake ornament he or she will cherish forever.

Choose from blue or pink styles at **Small Favors**.

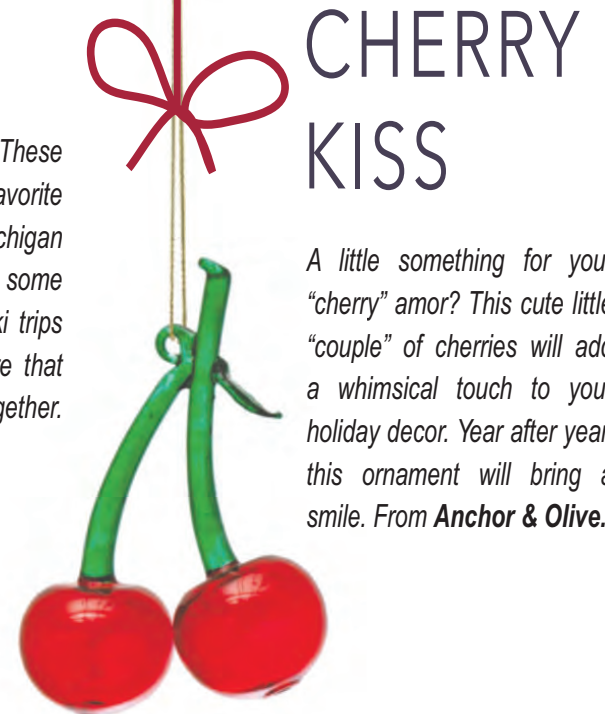
HANG PRECIOUS MEMORIES ON YOUR TREE



SKI FUN

Is your honey a snow bunny? These little skiers remind us of our favorite days on the Northern Michigan slopes, where you may share some fond memories of romantic ski trips past. So fun to gift a treasure that nods to special times shared together.

Skier ornaments from **Anchor & Olive**.



CHERRY KISS

A little something for your "cherry" amor? This cute little "couple" of cherries will add a whimsical touch to your holiday decor. Year after year, this ornament will bring a smile. From **Anchor & Olive**.

COURTESY PHOTOS



HOLIDAY MAGIC

Above, the ornament selection at **The League Shop** is like a stroll through a Christmas village. So many elegant and creative ornaments to choose from, you'll want to find a gift for everyone on your list! The beauty of an ornament gift is that it will bring joy every year as part of a family's treasured tradition.

WHERE TO SHOP:

ANCHOR & OLIVE

15005 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe Park • (313) 926-6394
anchorandolivegp.com • Instagram: @anchorandolivegp

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16847 Kercheval Ave. • Grosse Pointe • (313) 882-6880
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6B | OBITUARIES

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.

Robert James Yaklin

Robert James Yaklin, 84, a lifelong Grosse Pointe resident, passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in Naples, Fla., surrounded by his loving family, after an eight-month courageous battle with glioblastoma brain cancer. Bob was born Jan. 13, 1939, in Grosse Pointe, the son of Albert and Alice Yaklin.

Bob was a loving husband, devoted father and cherished grandfather and great-grandfather. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Katy (nee Andries); daughters, Susan Tremaine (Kelly) and Mary Jo LeFevre; grandchildren, William "Will" LeFevre, Ashley Tremaine and Alexis Lasel (Daniel); great-grandson, Wesley Lasal; and brother, Michael.

Bob attended St. Paul School and Austin Preparatory High School. After high school, he joined the U.S. Navy. Following his military service, Bob returned home, joined the family business, Remke, Inc., and attended Walsh College. An entrepreneur at heart, Bob left Remke, Inc., in 1977, and started his own business, All-Type Truck Body, Inc., a full-service repair facility for the Michigan and Ohio Beer Association's fleets.

Bob always enjoyed excellent health, robust exercise and a good round of golf. He was regularly recruited as a partner for his prowess in both tennis

and golf. His diagnosis was a sudden and difficult ordeal he accepted with a quiet dignity, but he never lost his quick wit. Bob was a gentle man of high character and integrity. Throughout his life, he treasured his family and many friendships and reached out to help others in need. He enjoyed a well-earned sterling reputation by all who knew him.

An inveterate traveler, he enjoyed a variety of leisure pursuits traveling throughout Europe and Central America with family and friends. Bob was a voracious reader of history and Indian lore. His most cherished travel experiences were visiting Civil War battle sites as an amateur historian. Bob was particularly pleased that he instilled in his grandson, Will, a love of history.

Bob was a man of great faith with a particular devotion to Blessed Solanus Casey. It was his faith that sustained and guided him throughout his life, most notably in his battle with cancer, which he accepted with admirable grace. He enjoyed daily Mass and supported the Catholic parishes of St. Paul on the Lake in Grosse Pointe and St. Ann Church in Naples, Fla.

Bob belonged to Gowanie Golf Club, having served on its board of directors, and was a member of Wilderness Country Club in Naples.

A memorial Mass will take place at 11

a.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Ann Catholic Church in Naples. A private family burial will take place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliott, Detroit MI 48207, solanuscasy.org/help-us-serve/donate; or the American Cancer Society, donate.cancer.org.

For online condolences, visit Robert's tribute page at fullernaples.com.

Jack Ely Leibee

Jack Ely Leibee, 79, died Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carol Curtiss; their children, Julie and Rob; his dog, Nikki; his brother, Alan, and his family; and many other family and friends whom he loved dearly.

Jack considered himself lucky to have been born and raised in Ann Arbor. His mother, Helen (nee Kelso) taught Latin and thus his parents were affectionately known as Mate and Pate (short for Mater and Pater). His father, Howard, was a phys-ed professor at the University of Michigan. A highlight of Jack's childhood was playing in the gymnasiums with his big brother Alan on Sundays. He also enjoyed sleeping on piles of coats at the Ann Arbor Square Dance Club, where Pate was a square dance caller.

After college at the



Robert James Yaklin

University of Michigan, Jack spent a few years in California, where he worked in the emerging field of satellite operations, acquired a Triumph 650 motorcycle and saw The Stones at Altamont — he was near the back and safely hitchhiked home.

In 1970, he traveled to Germany and bought a new red VW camper bus. Back in Michigan, he and Carol married. They moved to Maryland in 1977, first to Silver Spring, where they had twins. The family moved to Derwood in 1989, where Jack lived the rest of his life.

Jack took great pride in his work on ground systems and satellite developments, including the Hubble Space Telescope, EOS Terra, NPP, Fermi, DSCOVR and the Roman Space Telescope, which is expected to launch around 2026. He received the Distinguished Service Medal at NASA, where he is remembered as a friend and teammate who was not afraid to confront problems.

Jack also loved Michigan football, golf, all animals, books about true survival stories, cafeteria food, listening to "Gunsmoke" on Sunday nights and traveling as often as he was able.

A memorial gathering will be held at the family residence.



Jack Ely Leibee

Anne Marie Stricker

Anne Marie Stricker, 94, died peacefully Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, with her family by her side.

At her core, Anne was a voracious learner. She was an eternal student of art, music, literature, poetry, theater and crossword puzzles. Chief among her pursuits was the ceaseless search for the humanity in each person she encountered. Deliberate in her questions, she strove to understand the soul. Her dogged curiosity and capacity for compassion grew alongside her age.

Born Oct. 6, 1929, Anne spent the majority of her childhood in Detroit. She graduated from the Wayne State University College of Education in 1952. Anne married the love of her life, Emanuel Raymond Stricker, D.D.S., in 1952, and they raised their children in Grosse Pointe Shores. The two shared a fiery zest for life and a mutually beneficial love of dancing.

Anne also will be remembered for her long-lasting contributions to Detroit's arts and education community. For Wayne State University, Anne established the Emanuel Raymond Stricker, D.D.S. and Anne Barrett Stricker Endowed Scholarship to expand opportunities for students to receive a quality education in the city she loved so much.

Anne was blessed with Roy Vorhees, a cherished friend who shared growing old together. Calling each other every morning to make sure the other was OK, Roy was a beautiful addition to her family and brought her love and laughter in her golden years.

She was predeceased by her cherished husband, Emanuel Raymond Stricker, in 1999. She is survived by her three children, Stephen Emanuel Stricker, D.D.S. (Cristine), Kimberly Anne Alle (James), her "bonus son," Torben Ole Lerche Winther (Linda) and youngest son, Hans Joseph Stricker, M.D. (Lori, M.D.). Anne often beamed with pride for her wealth of grandchildren, William Poirier (Caitlin), Julia Poirier, Analisa Winther, Ryan Poirier (Ashley), Tyler Winther, Noah Stricker (Danielle), Luke Stricker, Maxwell Stricker, Olivia Stricker, Calvin Stricker, Mitchell Stricker, John Stricker, Emma Stricker and Joseph Stricker. She adored her great-grandchildren, Henrik and Emmett Poirier.

Anne Stricker will be forever in her loved ones' hearts.

A service was held at Bethel Lutheran Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Innocence Project, innocenceproject.org/donate; Planned Parenthood, plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southeast/get-involved/donate-locally; or Clean



Anne Marie Stricker



Gilbert J. Pendolino

Water Action of Michigan, cleanwater.salsalabs.org/clean-water-action-donate/index.html.

Gilbert J. Pendolino

Gilbert J. Pendolino, 89, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, surrounded by his family.

Born in Detroit to Lucy (nee Arena) Pendolino and Angelo Pendolino, Gil grew up with a deep passion for jazz and began playing the trumpet at an early age. He played in his high school and college marching bands where his talents won him many awards. However, he was most proud of his own band, Gil Pendol & His Orchestra. Gil attended St. Joseph's High School, where his friendships led him to meet his beloved wife of 65 years, Barbara (nee Stein) Pendolino.

After high school, he continued his education at the University of Detroit and Detroit School of Business, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in management. After graduating, he began his career at Ford Motor and Rouge Steel, where he worked nearly 50 years before retiring. He enjoyed many trips with Barbara, their four children and family friends traveling throughout Michigan, the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee and the coast of Florida. He was a remarkable husband, father and grandfather and loved his friends and family dearly.

He is survived by the love of his life, Barbara; their four children, Anne (Rudy), Jim (Nadine), Lisa (Mark) and Katy (Dan); and 12 grandchildren, Rudy (Lindsay), Donna, Katherine, Grace, Gigi, Angelo, Eric, Lucia, Lucas, Jack, Stella and Sonny.

A funeral service will be held in his honor at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Visitation begins at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207, thecapuchins.org/donate; or the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Detroit Harmony Youth Program, 3711 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48201, dso.org.

See OBITS, page 7B

Flynn Michael MacKrell



Flynn MacKrell, 18, whose immense spirit and abundant love will forever animate and elevate the lives of all who were blessed to know him, passed away suddenly Friday, Nov. 17, 2023, from injuries sustained in a car accident.

It is impossible to capture in words the profound sense of loss surrounding his passing and the awesome magnitude of Flynn's kindness, generosity and grace. He stood 6 foot-4 inches tall, and his sweet face was topped with a raucous crop of gorgeous red hair. But what made Flynn stand out above all was the easy, soft smile that spoke of his incredible inner store of joy and good will.

Flynn had a capacity to find the best in everyone. He was uniquely devoid of malice, instead spending every moment of his tragically brief life as a force of pure goodness and light, chasing away shadows and gloom wherever he went. He earned the nickname "Pied

Piper," because his enormous cohort of good friends and young children he'd care for and counsel were mesmerized by this fun-loving, gentle giant. He put you first; his time was yours. God receives him in Heaven as a child at heart, forever young.

Born July 11, 2005, at St. John Ascension Hospital in Detroit, Flynn spent a happy childhood in Grosse Pointe, a close-knit community stretching along the Western shore of Lake St. Clair. At age 9, he lived abroad and attended school in London, England, his family taking that opportunity to show him more of the world in frequent jaunts across Europe. He and the family traveled extensively across the U.S. in his youth, bound by their love of adventure and of their time together.

Flynn graduated in June 2023 from Grosse Pointe South High School, where he was an accomplished member of the varsity swim team. He excelled on the trampoline and off the diving board, with acrobatics that seemed impossible given his considerable height. Growing up, he'd played football, lacrosse, baseball and several other sports, but his lanky frame and powerful upper body found their home in the pool. His mother, a formidable and record-setting swimmer in her own right, was extremely proud of her sons' achievements in the rigorous back-and-forth of competitive swimming. He then turned pro-- lifeguarding at the Grosse Pointe City park.

Flynn had entered the University of Dayton in September. There, his compelling personality and easy manner earned him instant friendships with

a sizable group of fellow "Flyers," who will regret his absence keenly.

Most of all, Flynn was in his element with his family and friends. A natural and fearless entertainer, he was quick with a joke, a fascinating tale, a Nerf dart and a throw pillow--be ready, because you never knew which he was about to send your way. He spun stories out of his vivid and expansive imagination, inventing mythical beasts, complex plots and characters and evocative settings on the fly. He had ambitions to be a filmmaker, a writer, a creator, sharing his gifts and shedding his light to enrich and illuminate our own experience of this life.

He is survived by his loving parents, Anne Vanker and Thad MacKrell; adoring sister and brother, Lily and Thad; maternal grandmother, Elaine McCollum; paternal grandfather, Thaddeus; dear cousins, Johnny and Lauren, Brendan, Marie and Joseph, Molly, Grace, Liza and Jack, Katie, Nolan, John Patrick and Daniel; and 13 aunts and uncles, all of whom are better for having known him. He was preceded in death by his grandfather, John Vanker; grandmother, Margaret "Peg" MacKrell; and cousin, Jack Vanker.

A vigil and funeral Mass was held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Flynn's father has been on the board of Mariners Inn in Detroit for seven years, and in lieu of flowers, donations in Flynn's name can be made to the "Open More Doors Campaign" at marinersinn.org/capital-campaign. Online condolences may be shared at ahpeters.com.

OBITS:

Continued from page 6B

Bruno Francis Domzalski Jr.

Bruno Francis Domzalski Jr., 84, passed away peacefully at home Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023.

Born Nov. 27, 1938, in Detroit, he is survived by the love of his life, Mary Kay "Katie" (nee Garvey); and his children, Patti (Bernie Van Antwerp), Michael (Paige) and Ellen Clark (John Fauster). Bruno was the proud "Papa" to Nicholas, Michael and Eleanor Van Antwerp, Owen and Henry Domzalski and Katherine, Elizabeth and Beau Clark. He also is survived by his former son-in-law, Chris Clark; sister, Elaine Umlor; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter, Julie; and son-in-law, Bernie Van Antwerp.

Bruno was the only son of Bruno and Helen Domzalski. He grew up in Grosse Pointe and attended St. Ambrose High School, where he met many lifelong friends and first encountered Mary Kay Garvey. Mary Kay was beautiful, graceful and intelligent and was the second of 10 children. Bruno was immediately smitten with Mary Kay and quickly grew to love her large family. He was drawn to the activity of the Garvey household and learned early that if he was still lingering at the house around dinner-time, he would inevitably receive an invitation to the already-full table. Those dinners created the foundation of what would be lasting ties with all the Garvey siblings and their eventual spouses and children.

Bruno attended the University of Michigan and later University of Detroit Law School. He eventually took over the insurance agency that was founded by his great-grandfather, Michael Domzalski, and ran it until his retirement in 2003, when his son Michael took over stewardship of the 137-year-old agency.

He married Mary Kay Garvey April 22, 1961. They eventually established their home in Grosse Pointe Park and raised their four children there. Family was his number one priority and family dinners and church on Sundays were imperative. Everyone on

**Bruno F. Domzalski Jr.**

the block knew when Bruno whistled his unmistakable whistle from the front porch, it was time for the Domzalski kids to move it home for dinner. He instilled in his children a sense of wonder and the importance of education, and was a source of unconditional love and support to all of them.

Being "Papa Bo" was his greatest pleasure. He loved spending time with each of his eight grandchildren and made every one of them feel like they were his favorite. He was omnipresent at their many sporting events and concerts over the years and made a point to attend all their graduations. One of his favorite things to wear was a sweatshirt from one of his grandchildren's universities. He was so proud of every one of them.

Bruno had a quick wit and a wonderful sense of humor. He had a gift for connecting with people and his presence was always felt when he was in the room. He was curious and loved to engage in conversation to understand "why" and "how." He loved to read and was an avid puzzle worker, often having one in process on the dining room table. He was a born problem solver and never missed the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle.

Bruno loved to travel and made it a priority to get out of town with Mary Kay at least a couple times a year. He loved taking family trips to Florida, across the country, to the East Coast and all places in between. His favorite place to be, though, was at his cottage in Au Gres with extended family surrounding him. He often could be found on the deck sipping a Coke, deep in conversation with one of his many nieces, nephews, grandchildren or in-laws and often ended the day with a competitive game of euchre or pinochle.

Bruno was a devout Catholic and avid sup-

**Peter Boniface Palen**

porter of St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Nativity Catholic Church and St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, his parish for 57 years. He was an active parishioner at St. Clare and served on many committees over the years. He was a mentor and board member at Detroit Cristo Rey High School and was on the board of Christian Financial Credit Union for many years.

A funeral was held at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Clare of Montefalco School, 16231 Charlevoix, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Peter Boniface Palen

Peter Boniface Palen, 74, formerly of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, after a courageous and tenacious battle against Parkinson's disease.

Peter was born Jan. 14, 1949. Throughout his life, he touched the hearts of many with his resilience, kindness and unwavering love. He was the eldest child of Adolph and Leona Palen; the beloved brother of Frank, Cecilia, Ursula and the late Paul Palen; and the beloved husband of Elizabeth, his high school sweetheart to whom he was married for 44 years. He also was the loving father of Rebecca, Laura and P.J. Palen. His grandchildren, Jack and Ella Colson and Lola and Lily Palen, were a source of immense joy.

Peter was a devoted member of the St. Michael's Episcopal Church community and served on the vestry. He graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1968.

In 1975, he married Elizabeth Borthwick and they raised their family on Kerby Road in Grosse Pointe Farms. Together

**Curtis Thomas Pedersen**

they were active members of the community. Peter had a passion for helping others and a willingness to lend a helping hand. His passion for life, love of swimming and sense of humor endeared him to friends and neighbors alike. Peter was a devoted family man and will be dearly missed by his family and community.

A funeral service will occur at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods. Guests may meet with the family at 10 a.m. Peter will be buried at Greenhill Cemetery in Kingsville, Ontario, Canada.

Krysten Wambold Swan

Krysten Wambold Swan, 55, passed away Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023. She was the beloved mother of Aubrey Swan. Krysten was predeceased by her loving parents, Eugene F., Jr. and Joyce Oetjens Wambold.

Krysten was born in Detroit and lived in Grosse Pointe Farms throughout her childhood. Upon graduation from the College of Charleston, Krysten remained in Charleston until her recent return to Grosse Pointe Farms.

Krysten was a unique woman who enjoyed community stewardship, cooking fabulous meals, traveling and walking her corgis. She was a member of Christ Church Grosse Pointe and the Country Club of Detroit, a sustainer in the Junior League of Charleston, a regular volunteer at St. Michael's Church in Charleston and had a passion for teaching the disadvantaged to read.

Krysten will be greatly missed by her devoted son, Aubrey; as well as her lifelong friend, Robin, and many other close friends and family.

Funeral services will be held at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse

**Susan Jane Lickfold**

Pointe Farms, with arrangements by Wujek-Calcuterra.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ACLU of Michigan, live-aclu-michigan.pantheonsite.io/en/donate, or National Public Radio, npr.org/donations/support. Share memories with the family in the online guestbook at wujekcalcuterra.com.

Curtis Thomas Pedersen

Curtis Thomas Pedersen, 66, of Fenton, died Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, in Detroit.

Life, according to Curt, was a game to be played, not won; a song to sing and dance to with the many people he loved. Curt was boldly himself, sharing his unique and fun-loving heart to all who crossed his path. He made everyone he met feel truly accepted and appreciated. He will be greatly missed, but his joyful spirit will live forever in his loved ones' hearts.

Curt was born Nov. 11, 1957, in Detroit, to Gordon and Nancy Pedersen. He attended Linden High School, where he was a varsity hockey player. He graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in civil engineering. While working at ANR Pipeline he met his future wife, best friend and love of his life, June Huff (nee Ottevaere). They were married May 27, 1984, and remained head-over-heels in love every day of their marriage. In 2015, he retired from Trans Canada and continued to work in commercial real estate development. His retirement years were devoted to having fun with family and friends; playing squash at the Detroit Athletic Club and golf at Country Club of Detroit; traveling the world, from Hawaii to Quebec to France with June and Las Vegas every March Madness with his brothers and friends; and passing down his best

riddles, jokes and magic tricks to his grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Curt was never far from a book, rock 'n' roll music and his faithful dogs, especially on sunny summer afternoons in his backyard on Lake Shannon.

Curt was the beloved stepfather of Donison Huff and grandfather of Madison, Carter, Tyler and Dylan Huff. He was the beloved brother of Jeffrey (Michelle), Scott (Shari) and Gary (Kelli). He is further survived by his former daughter-in-law, Tiffany Huff; as well as many nieces, nephews and friends.

Visitation will take place from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. He will lie in state Friday, Dec. 1, from 11:30 a.m. until his funeral Mass at noon at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. A Committal Service will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. John Cemetery in Fenton.

Susan Jane Lickfold

Susan Jane Lickfold, 83, passed away Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

Born Feb. 29, 1940, in Evanston, Ill., Susan attended Northwestern University and was involved in the Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club. Susan loved painting, piano, sailing on Lake St. Clair, listening to her beloved Detroit Tigers on the radio and supporting her four children in their many sports and activities. She also was part of the Christ Church Grosse Pointe Choir.

Susan is survived by her daughters, Linda Leigh and Leslie; sons, Rich and Charlie; grandchildren, Grace, Megan, Shea, Katelyn, Daniel, Alex, Andrew, William and Piper; and brother, Lee.

She will be interred at Fort Barrancas Cemetery in Pensacola, Fla., with her late husband, Fred Lickfold, who passed away in 2018. Her service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell, Ga.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, alz.org/donate.

Worship Service

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Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — Noon

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9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
Sunday School - During Service
WEDNESDAY
10 a.m. - Bible Study
7 p.m. - Worship Service

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

8B | FEATURES

From left, MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration; Diane Strickler, founder; Jennifer Bingaman, executive director and Marianne Langlois, board president.



Hollyfest raises funds, ushers in holiday season

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods hosted its 23rd annual Hollyfest at The War Memorial Nov. 16.

Supporters of The Family Center, whose mission is to build happier, healthier families, were invited to bid on a variety of silent auction items during an opening cocktail reception, then had several chances to raise their paddles during a post-dinner live auction featuring auctioneer Christopher Aslanian.

In addition to a successful first-year raffle — prizes included a gold and diamond pendant donated by LaLonde Jewelers and Gemologists; a \$1,000 cash prize or tropical vacation for two; and a \$500 Apple gift card — this year's event saw a record-breaking response to sponsorship opportunities.

All proceeds will support the variety of programming The Family Center offers to the community throughout the year. Its impact includes offering Preschool Playtime, designed to provide social and learning opportunities for toddlers and their families to combat isolation and pandemic-related developmental delays; establishing a Special Needs Resource Alliance and hosting the first



From left, Immediate Past President Chip Rohde, Tish Colett, Gary Colett, Susie Rohde, Mary Berschback and Rick Berschback were among Hollyfest attendees.



Tony and Beline Obeid look over the auction items up for bid.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



From left, Gary Miller, Leslie Miller, Louise Gallagher and Mike Gallagher read the Hollyfest program.

Special Needs Resource Fair; co-hosting the seventh annual Suicide Prevention Walk and Mental Health Fair; mobilizing a crisis team in response to the shooting at Michigan State University last February; assuming responsibility for the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition; as well as working with students in Grosse Pointe Public School System, Harper

Woods Public Schools, The Grosse Pointe Academy, University Liggett School, Chandler Park Academy, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School. In the year ahead, The Family Center will continue to increase its reach by collaborating with local schools, hospital systems and partners to meet the diverse and emerging needs of the community.



The Family Center board member Sierra Donaven, who also serves on the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council, stands with Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle.

Lakeshore Optimist Club presents scholarships

The Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe hosted its 41st annual Youth Appreciation Awards Nov. 16, at The War Memorial. The ceremony, which included a keynote address from Robert Boyle, executive director of The Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan, honored 12 students with scholarships.

This year's scholarship recipients are:

From Grosse Pointe North — Juliette Aouad, Theodora Katakis, Sloane O'Neill and Lauren Shipe

From Grosse Pointe South — Richie Barnwell, Kiz Isas-Garcia, Kendall Moorhead and Vivian Rizer

From University Liggett School — Nick Greene, Olivia Jacque, Victoria Nugent and Avery Slanec

Lakeshore Optimist



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From left, Nick Greene, Richie Barnwell, Lauren Shipe, Avery Slanec, Olivia Jacque and Victoria Nugent. Not pictured are Juliette Aouad, Theodora Katakis, Sloane O'Neill, Kiz Isas-Garcia, Kendall Moorhead and Vivian Rizer.

Club members volunteer their time and fundraising efforts to contribute to various youth-related activities such as the Old Newsboys' Goodfellows Fund, The Arc of Grosse

Pointe & Harper Woods, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods and Wigs4Kids.

Aside from its Youth Appreciation scholarships, the club sponsors

the annual Optimist Oratorical Contest for middle school students and honors local public safety departments during Respect for Law Week.



Louis Moro and Marla Ruhana-Moro share a moment during Hollyfest.

Detroit Concert Choir presents holiday concert

The Detroit Concert Choir, under the direction of Michael A. Mitchell, presents "Christmas with the Detroit Concert Choir," featuring the 100-voice choir, brass and percussion presenting music from throughout the ages.

Performances take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township; and 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, 4440 Russell, Detroit.

The Detroit Concert Choir is an international award-winning premier vocal ensemble that features several Grosse Pointe residents. Now in its 37th season, DCC is celebrated for diverse programming and distinctive performances.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and \$10 for students.

For tickets to the concert at



Macomb Center, call (586) 286-2222 or visit macombcenter.com. Tickets for the Sweetest Heart of

Mary concert may be purchased online at detroitconcertchoir.org or by calling (313) 882-0118.

'A Conversation with Lisa Ludwinski' is Dec. 7

Next Chapter Books, 16555 E. Warren, Detroit, welcomes Sister Pie founder Lisa Ludwinski at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 7, for a conversation facilitated by Sarah Williams, journalist and co-owner of Next Chapter Books.

Ludwinski will talk about the making of her cookbook, "Sister Pie: The Recipes and Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit," her favorite recipes and what's on the horizon for the Detroit bakery.

Ludwinski launched

Sister Pie in her parents' Milford kitchen in 2012, and began to build the business piece by piece with community support. She and a small crew opened the doors to the Detroit pie shop in April 2015, and have been baking ever since, with a focus on the "Triple Bottom Line" — people, planet, profit.

Ludwinski currently lives in the West Village of Detroit. She will sign copies of her cookbook, available to purchase at Next Chapter Books, during the event.

LIFE & LEISURE



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Group effort

Life skills students from Parcels and Brownell middle schools recently cooked and carved 48 turkeys — 24 per school — for Motor City Mitten Mission's Homelessness Awareness Week. This was in addition to students from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools, as well as Pierce Middle School, contributing cornbread muffins, vegetables, dinner rolls, stuffing and brownies to complete the meals.

Their combined efforts helped feed 150 people through community outreach meals and an additional 150 people at the MCMM shelter service.

MCMM founder and executive director Gail Marlow gave a shout out to students, thanking

them, their parents and their teachers, for all their hard work. "It's become a tradition for the past few years and it means so much to the Motor City Mitten Mission and our folks that are struggling with homelessness," Marlow posted to Facebook. "Between our street outreach and the MCMM M a c o m b County Winter Shelter that we run, we were able to feed 300-plus people that are currently struggling with homelessness in our nearby

communities. Our folks were very appreciative and many said how blessed they were for the meal. (I'm) super proud to be partnering with you and please know that your efforts are making a direct impact on our community."



Above, Cecelia Schubert holds two of three large bags filled with winter hats knit by her grandmother, Nancy Friedline. Left, Dr. Taylor Barczyk, family and consumer science educator, and some of her Brownell life skills students prepare turkeys for the Motor City Mitten Mission.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Dr. Barczyk and her Brownell students pose with the Motor City Mitten Mission representative after preparing over 150 meals for the homeless.

Aden Stennis adds turkey to a container while Chandler Smith waits to take it to another station to fill it with more food.



Annalia Weidenbach hands a box to Joseph Burks, MCMM lead peer-to-peer employee, to add to the van. Behind her is Parcels teacher Andrea Gruenwald with another box of meals.

Food Gossip

By Nina Taormina
Guest Writer

In the heart of Grosse Pointe Woods, you'll find "a little corner of Italy on Mack Avenue" in Licavoli's Market. Opened in 2015, it didn't take long to realize this neighborhood gem was exactly what this area needed.

While I'm biased to all things Italian given my heritage, Licavoli's Market instantly won me over. A different concept than the famous Bommarito's in St. Clair

Shores, owners Phil and Jill checked their first box of making their dreams come true.

Phil Licavoli was raised in his father's Italian restaurant, Villanova, which proudly stood for 45 years on McNichols in Detroit. He always knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and feed the community with fresh, flavorful, homemade Italian favorites.

Step inside the market and you'll be hit with an unbelievable aroma. I suggest doing a lap first to soak it all in. With the



Nina Taormina

original scone light from Villanova at the entrance, walls adorned with family pictures and hand-painted Italian murals, your first stop will feature a variety of imported cheeses.

Then you'll find a grab-n-go pre-made entree selection that makes dinner quick and easy. Made fresh in house, options include lasagna, chicken parmesan, pasta carbonara and Italian favorites like arancini and spiedini.

The market menu features a variety of made-to-order eight-inch submarine-style sandwiches, including a classic Italian with prosciutto, mortadella and all the best Italian deli meats, eggplant parmesan and my favorite, breaded steak with ammoglio (tenderloin siciliano).

Freshly made salads are big enough to share. If I'm in charge of bringing a salad somewhere and have no time to make it, I'm grabbing their antipasto.

More than five different calzones are made daily, delicious soups during the colder seasons and obviously, some of the



COURTESY PHOTO

Original light from Phil's father's restaurant shows two crosses when lit.

See FOOD, page 2C

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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Insisting kids help out teaches responsibility

Dear Gabby: My kids have no interest in helping around the house. When we ask them they sort of just pretend to help for a few minutes and then slowly slink away — back to whatever they were doing. Or worse — they scream and yell about how unfair we are. How can I get them to take part and to help out the family?

—Forlorn in the Farms

Dear Forlorn,

Sometimes it seems easier to just do it yourself, than to ask, ask again and sometimes pester the children to help around the house. **MAKE THEM DO IT ANYWAY!**

No matter how irritating it gets, they need to do

what they are asked to do.

One of the most important parenting “rules” (in my opinion) is always following through. If you allow the children to get away with not doing, without consequence, then what is the lesson learned?

They will continue to ignore your requests, and the respect continues to decline. And trust me, it will only get worse

as they get older and the stakes are higher.

An easy way to get things done is to withhold all the wants (usually phones or some type of screen) until the chores are complete. You won’t believe me now, and maybe not even the first few attempts — but ultimately the complaining will wane and they will start to feel accom-



plished and learn their responsibilities and boundaries.

Stick to your guns — have them set the table, do the dishes, sweep the floor, clean up their room, put away their clothes — whatever it is that you feel is age-appropriate. Be sure to

praise a job well done. Best of luck to you!

— Gabby

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

How far would you go for an animal?

DEAR ANNIE: I have had dogs my whole life and treat them like members of my family. When they are sick, they go to the vet and get the medicine they need. I have spent thousands of dollars on surgeries for my dogs and recently hundreds more on blood tests and evaluations for separate issues.

My husband thinks it is ridiculous to spend this much money on the care of animals and thinks there is a limit to what we

should spend on our “pets” before we basically allow them to die. Do you think we should have limits on what we spend on veterinary care for members of our families?

How do you make a decision to stop spending money on them when they have so much more life to live? Thanks for your advice. — **LIMITLESS LOVE**

DEAR LIMITLESS: Every person has a different threshold for the dol-

lar amount they are willing to spend on a pet. In the future, it probably makes sense to discuss what that number is before getting an animal with a partner. Consider your financial situation and your pet’s odds of recovery when having these conversations.

DEAR ANNIE: This is in regard to your advice to “Sweet Tooth.” My husband has diabetes. I had gestational diabetes when

I was pregnant. I would not recommend honey or maple syrup or dark chocolate for people trying to cut down on sweets. If you eat quantities of *anything* sweet, and you are at risk, you can get diabetes, even if you are eating “healthy sweets.” When I had gestational diabetes, I could have two pieces of fruit a day. That was the extent of my sweet allowance. “Sweet Tooth” should get herself to a nutritionist or a dietitian to get sound advice. Cutting down is



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

hard; she will get a headache for a few days. And the cravings are real. But it’s better than getting a chronic illness. — **ALSO LOVES SWEETS**

DEAR ALSO LOVES SWEETS: Thank you for your letter. I hope it inspires others in similar situations to cut down on sweets.

DEAR ANNIE: My husband has an old and trusted friend; they go back many years. The problem is not his friend but his handicapped grandson.

This child has been “acting out” since he was a toddler. During a visit to

See ANNIE, page 3C

FOOD:

Continued from page 1C

best stone-fired pizzas around.

Place your order at the kitchen counter window, grab yourself a San Pellegrino from the beverage cooler and a seat at one of the wooden tables, then enjoy once you hear your ticket number called and have checked out. A carryout option is always a plus when you’re in a hurry to get the kids to practice or grabbing lunch for the office as I usually do. Call ahead with a 15- to 20-minute window and you’ll be all set. What kid doesn’t love a fresh slice or a pepperoni roll on the go?

The market aspect is a great neighborhood go-to for all your Italian cooking and charcuterie needs. A variety of every noodle you can think of, sauces, breads, crackers,

chips, dips, cheeses, olives and relishes wrap around the entire store and in every nook you can find. Aside from old-fashioned candies and imported specialty sweets that surround the checkout counter, there’s a dedicated area for your sweet tooth too. While you may catch Philip Jr., in the kitchen making your pizza, Phil’s daughter, Josie, has a talented gift as well. Her specialty is sweets. She now has her own section of the market to call her own: Licavoli’s Sugar Coated Designs by Josie. This section truly is the sweetest set up. I absolutely love her snickerdoodles! Baby and bridal showers, office events, graduation parties — any party, any theme, she’s got you covered — and your guests will be amazed by her delicious designs. They make great gifts, too, when you don’t want to

show up empty-handed. Place custom orders at the market or contact her via personal message on her business Facebook page.

With the holidays upon us, I highly recommend Licavoli’s Catering for all your entertainment needs, from trays of pasta with five different sauces to choose from, to half and full trays of lasagna, to holiday and party faves like Italian sausage and peppers, chicken piccata, marsala and my personal favorite, lemon breaded chicken. They make it easy on the host with all the side fixings and cooking/heating directions too.

Family meal? Yep! Choice of chicken, pasta and salad for \$60, and it’s enough to feed six. Pizza-making night at home for the kids? Chef Jake pizza kits are always available. One kit makes one large cheese and pepperoni pizza and \$2 gets donated to a children’s charity. Jake Pennar loved his Licavoli’s “family,” especially their pizza. What an amazing way to keep this little chef’s memory alive.

As we Italians always say, “Sundays are for family.” Market hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Saturday. You can view market and catering options online at licavolismarket.com or visit Licavoli’s Market, 20915 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

In 2022, Phil and Jill checked their next box of dreams. A sit-down Italian restaurant located on Jefferson’s Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores. Keeping the family tradition from 1960 going, Licavoli’s Villanova Pizzeria opened in August 2022. This is the only Italian restaurant on the Nautical Mile, a fare

this area of town was missing. It sits at the corner of Jefferson and Downing, the same street Jill’s grandparents lived on and where her mom was raised. She has many childhood memories of cooking with her grandmother here and her parents met at the Steak & Eggs restaurant on the next block, where her mother worked as a teen.

Previously Steve’s Back Room, this location was meant to be for these two. Villanova offers an eclectic atmosphere designed to make you feel like you’re in Florence, Italy, or on the Amalfi Coast. There’s a different Italian flair in each of three dining spaces, one of which includes a bar with excellent cocktail and wine options, including their very own house blend. You might even catch Jill’s son, Dominic, making sure everything is fully stocked. In this space you can reserve “The Godfather” booth, which seats eight to 10 and is definitely a favorite spot. You can even sign your name on the wall.

Another special table is the “Pennies from Heaven” table. Handmade by a childhood friend of Jill’s, this table is covered in pennies and 10 percent of your bill gets donated to a local charity each month. This table also seats eight to 10 diners.

The full menu offers delicious shareable appetizers like fried ravioli, arancini and calamari, as well as excellent entrees, pastas, seafood and, yes, pizzas you won’t find at the market. Wind down your visit with a frothy cappuccino and homemade-in-house desserts. I could indulge on their



COURTESY PHOTO

“Pennies from Heaven” table at Villanova.

tiramisu daily. It’s the best I’ve ever had from a restaurant outside of Italy. They offer weekly specials like “2 for Tuesdays” with the option of two entrees for \$30 — either two pasta, ravioli or gnocchi with your choice of sauce, or two stone-fired pizzas. Both come with soup or salad.

Walk-ins are welcome anytime after 3 p.m. and reservations are suggested for groups larger than four, especially on weekends. They fill up fast this time of year and time slots for holiday gatherings are already open. Call (586) 585-1989 to get your name on the list.

It’s open 2 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 2 to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Dine in, carry out or get delivery via Door Dash to accommodate your preferences. You can view menu options online at [\[zeriavillanova.com\]\(http://zeriavillanova.com\) or stop by Licavoli’s Villanova Pizzeria, 24317 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.](http://piz-</p>
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Family means everything to Phil and Jill and that’s how they treat every person who walks through their doors. Their generosity to our local communities speaks volumes and feeds souls.

Their check of dream box No. 3 is coming soon to The Village. The GP Eats & Treats page on Facebook will surely have all the updates. You won’t be disappointed, I promise.

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



COURTESY PHOTO

Josie’s sugar cookies.



Arancini appetizer at Villanova.

A beautiful holiday side

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I noticed that the Brussels sprouts in our local grocery markets are plump, green and fresh. 'Tis the season to amp up the usual roasted version and make it exceptional.

This recipe was devoured before I even could get a second helping. I was shocked.

The Brussels sprouts are roasted at a high temperature to ensure caramelization and semi-crispy exterior. Pomegranate seeds are added for crunch and a great sour sweetness which offsets salty feta that is a needed addition.

Hazelnuts feel special. I don't typically use them but they're another layer of crunchy texture just to make things interesting. It's finished with a sweet balsamic glaze. This combination pairs perfectly together and looks so festive.

I used a fig white balsamic vinegar in the glaze which was delicious but you can use regular balsamic as well. It needs to be reduced and will thicken once it cools off a bit.

This is a must for your holiday table. Mombeau's family gave all thumbs up!

Cheers, Mombeau

Glazed Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Pomegranate and Feta

2 lbs brussels sprouts

2 tbsp olive oil

1 tsp salt and pepper each

½ cup balsamic

2 tbsp honey

¼ cup pomegranate seeds

½ cup feta, crumbled

A big handful of hazelnuts, roughly chopped

Preheat your oven to 425. Trim, wash and cut the Brussels sprouts in half. I don't like to clean up so I like to use a parchment paper lined baking tray. Place the Brussels on the tray and add the oil, salt and pepper.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

While the oven is preheating, start on the glaze. Add the balsamic to a small saucepan along with the honey. Bring to a slight boil and then reduce the heat to a simmer. Simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally so

you don't burn the bottom of your pan. It should reduce by half.

Cook the brussels sprouts in the oven for 12-15 minutes or until browned and caramelized, stirring halfway through so they don't burn.

You can purchase pomegranate seeds. But if you want to buy a whole pomegranate, start by cutting the top off with a paring knife.

You'll see four sections of seeds. Make four slits in the pith of the fruit and peel apart. Use your

thumbs to extract the seeds. Snack on any leftovers while finishing the dish.

Serve on a platter. First layer is Brussels sprouts, then sprinkle the seeds and feta over top.

Finish by drizzling the glaze over top.

Sparkling wine

It's one of the world's great wine paradoxes: a delicate, subtle, food-oriented wine calling for introspection most often is used to toast horse and auto race victories, weddings, New Year's Eve and World Series Winners.

It's Champagne, the wine of fireworks and celebration. But really, there's little excitement in the best Champagnes, which come from that French district.

Unlike famed red wines, there's little alcohol in bubbly, rarely any oak and no concentration. Most are made with underripe grapes and the wines they make aren't ostentatious. They're sublime and crisp.

Most real French Champagnes aren't action movies; they're drawing-room dramas — quiet, reserved. And for various reasons, Champagne is expensive, partly due to expensive grapes from low-yielding vines and arduous, time-consuming production methods.

The greatest Champagnes I've tasted all were with solemn wine lovers who chatted quietly. Because Champagne is expensive, many wine lovers pour it only when its subtleties will be appreciated: at quiet times.

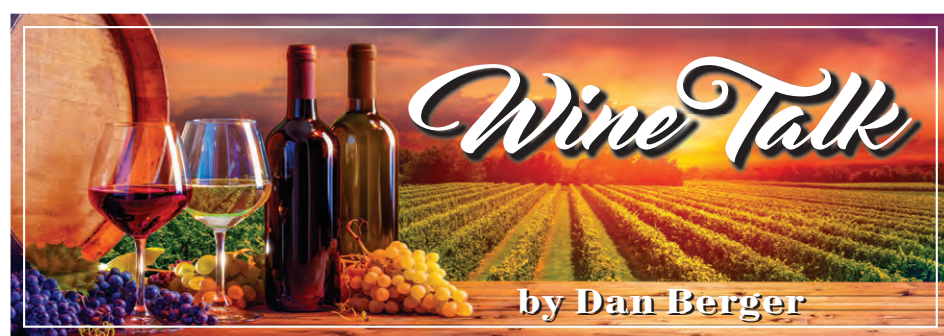
Only the image-conscious spray it around locker rooms amid people cheering. Better

choices are alternatives that are cheaper and less sublime.

All great Champagne houses (including Moët, Salon, Bollinger, Ayala, Krug, Taittinger, Perrier-Jouët, Henriot and Roederer) have styles that define them. Champagne is unique.

But many cheaper alternatives, like California sparkling wines, can be also, like Italian prosecco, Spanish cava and German sekt. Alternatives can be good values, but few ever make it to even modest Champagne-style quality.

However, without fanfare, California bubbly houses (some French-owned) now make great strides toward the style



of Champagne, albeit without some of Champagne's complexity. A dozen California sparkling houses now make such stellar bubbles that I'm amazed.

It began 58 years ago when Jack and Jamie Davies released their 1965 sparkling wine at then-nascent Schramsberg in Napa. Until the Davies's efforts, nothing domestic ever came close to Champagne.

Lately we've seen amazing sparkling wines from California priced about \$40. Quality French Champagnes start about \$50 and go up to a C-note or more for the best.

If you care about quality at a fair price, try a domestic sparkling. Good ones will be about \$25; a few at \$15-\$20 can be found at discount stores.

In the last three years, a successful company based in Healdsburg, Calif., offers to the wine industry the ability to make quality bubbles that can be sold for \$10.

The contract bubbly maker produces some spectacular bubbles for clients like wineries,

retailers and restaurants. Rack and Riddle in Healdsburg now makes top-rate French-method sparklings for those without the equipment or expertise.

Some of the products actually say "Rack and Riddle" on their back label; others just use the bottling location, Healdsburg. Either way, the wines are excellent. Many are fairly priced.

As we enter the holiday season, sparkling wine sales are increasing. And if prices for Champagne seem daunting, try California bubbles. You'll be surprised how good they are.

Wine of the Week:
Non-vintage Roederer

Estate Brut, Anderson Valley (\$30) — This Mendocino property is owned by Louis Roederer of Champagne. It has long made sparklings with a classic French style. Louis Roederer French Brut Champagne is well over \$60 a bottle. This reliable and striking domestic version has citrus and brioche notes, perfect balance to go with food, and a classic aftertaste. Nationally available, it's often seen at less than \$25, a great value in an upscale bubbly.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023



Champagne became the beverage of choice for toasting in the late 19th century and has been the staple of joyous and prestigious celebrations ever since. It was initially only used in royal courts before it became more affordable and thus more accessible.

ANNIE:

Continued from page 2C

our home, the grandson physically assaulted me, and I was in extreme pain for days. The incident was basically swept under the rug.

Here's the problem: I refuse to visit this man and his wife because I am deathly afraid of their grandson. He was 7 when the incident

occurred and is now 12 and can probably do even more damage.

My husband says this is insulting to his BFF and his wife and that I am being a witch to not go to their home. I would go if their grandson were not there, but my husband refuses to ask for this concession.

Am I being unreasonable? Is there any other way to handle the situation? Thank you. —

SCARED AND UNCOMFORTABLE

DEAR SCARED AND UNCOMFORTABLE: It's not unreasonable to feel frightened after this child directed a violent outburst toward you. I'm surprised your husband doesn't seem to be validating your feelings around this trauma in the slightest.

It sounds like your husband is close enough with his friend to gently but

candidly share how you feel. If this other couple knew how that episode continues to impact you, they might be more understanding of your absences and willing to commit to adult-only, public plans moving forward, child care permitting.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM.

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4C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PIKI FILMS AND DEFENDER FILMS

Above left, Sam Neill as Hec Faulkner, Rima Te Wiata as Bella Faulkner and Julian Dennison as Ricky Baker in the 2016 movie "Hunt for the Wilderpeople," directed by Taika Waititi.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Hunt for the Wilderpeople"
 2016 -Rated PG-13
 1 hr 41 min
 ★★★★★

It's refreshing when a filmmaker like Taika Waititi comes along. The New Zealander is a writer, actor, producer and director and is certainly hard to categorize. He's funny, quirky, talented and a natural storyteller — a bit of a misfit in Hollywood, reminiscent of Wes Anderson or the Cohn brothers. I guess the best way to define him is by the wide range of movies he's given us. They include "Eagle vs. Shark," "What We Do in the Shadows," "Boy," "Jojo Rabbit" and "Thor: Love and Thunder."

My favorite film of his has to be 2016's "Hunt for the Wilderpeople." It's a combination of buddy film, road trip, grumpy guy turns nice and wilderness adventure all rolled into one whacky, laugh-out-loud, charming movie the whole family will enjoy.

It's full of comic moments and one-liners that operate on so many levels. A few of the gags

will go over the younger kids' heads, but that's what makes it worth watching more than once. I saw it when it was released and loved it. I just rewatched it and must say, it's gotten even better over time.

We first meet Ricky Baker (Julian Dennison) as he's being delivered to his new parents. He's a chunky, precocious 13-year-old who's obsessed with rap music and all things gangsta.

His social worker Paula (Rachel House) describes him as a "bad egg" because he's committed such atrocities as stealing, smashing stuff, throwing rocks and writing graffiti. Oh, the horror!

He's introduced to the sweet and kindly Aunt Bella (Rima Te Wiata), and the crusty, cantankerous Hector (Sam Neill), who eventually becomes Uncle Hec. The two live a quiet life out in the country. While Aunt Bella is patient and understanding, Hec wants nothing to do with the young boy.

When Ricky tells her he wants to run away, she says, "Why don't you eat your breakfast first,

then you can run away."

Just when the three seem to be falling into an easy existence, Aunt Bella unexpectedly dies. Since Hec is incapable of raising Ricky, he knows he's going back to being a ward of the state and ultimately into the dreaded juvenile home. So Ricky packs a couple sandwiches and some snack foods and heads out into the bush.

It's here where the bulk of the movie takes place. And what a place it is. You can understand immediately why director Peter Jackson chose New Zealand as a setting for his "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. One location after another is absolutely jaw-droppingly beautiful.

Knowing Ricky is totally unqualified to survive on his own out in the elements, Hec ventures out to join him. It isn't long before the authorities erroneously suspect that Ricky has been abducted and begin searching. At one point, the two encounter some hunters at a cabin in the bush. After a hilarious mix up of words, the hunters decide Hec has malicious intentions and report him to the police. Then the entire

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



country begins a manhunt for them.

As you'd expect, while traipsing deeper and deeper into the bush, they meet several interesting characters. These include "Psycho Sam (Rhys Darby)," a slightly deranged conspiracy theorist who's been living on his own for far too long, and a sausage-obsessed girl and her brother. You just never know what's going to happen next, and that's what makes this movie such a joy to watch.

Sam Neill is spot on playing the stoic old uncle. But his character also has quite a bit of depth and he slowly warms up to Ricky. The young Julian Dennison is also a formidable actor.

Both characters share a sense of loss, due to Aunt Bella's untimely demise, and we can feel their pain. They're damaged individuals and together, they help each other heal. Ultimately, that's what this film is all about.

I feel "Hunt for the

Wilderpeople" has all the elements for it to become a timeless classic in the family movie genre.

It's an entertaining and unpredictable story, has lots of action, great acting and a gorgeous setting. What's not to like? No, make that, love!

Note to parents: The film is suitable for the whole family.

Currently streaming on Netflix, Tubi, The Roku Chanel, Plex, Pluto TV, Crackle and to rent on Prime Video.

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd

recommend to friends.

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

About this column:

My main focus is on films that I feel have gone under the radar and deserve more recognition.

They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy. I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

For movie trailers, visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com).

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](https://www.moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).



Aunt Bella (Te Wiata) gives Ricky a shooting lesson.



Hec & Ricky at Psycho Sam's place.



Ricky & Hec enjoy the majestic view.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



The holiday season is upon us and there's truly nothing better than this time of year. I love catching up with old friends who are in town, spending game nights with cousins and getting dressed up for a fun night out.

Being that my hair is generally uncontrollable and has a crazy natural texture, getting ready for a night out usually means lots of heat styling. Blow drying, straightening and curling my bleached hair creates some major damage that even the best heat protectant on the market can't fix.

I've purchased a few expensive hair mask products over the past few months to try and reverse hair damage. Unfortunately, I didn't notice much of a difference aside for a shelf of half-full products and a lot of wasted money.

After doing some

research on Sephora's website, I found a hair mask with more than 7,000 five-star reviews. I ordered a trial size of the K18 Molecular Repair Hair Mask for \$29 and decided to give it a try.

The K18 hair mask claims to work on a molecular level to reverse hair damage in just four minutes. Its signature K18 peptide is proven to repair damage from bleach and color, chemical services

and heat. The results are immediate and lasting with hair that has restored strength, softness, smoothness and bounce.

The directions are so simple. All you need to do is shampoo your hair, skip conditioning and apply four pumps of the serum to towel-dried hair. Wait four minutes and then apply any other hair products like usual and heat style.

After using this mask a few times, I am singing its praises! I repurchased the full-size bottle and have added this product to my regular hair routine.

First of all, I love that this mask doesn't need to be rinsed out. Typical masks are applied to clean hair and then have to be washed out after a certain amount of time. This means you have to get back into the shower and rewash your hair, which is frankly kind of annoying.

Secondly, the cream format of the products detangles and softens hair effectively. Being that you don't condition your hair before using this mask, I was concerned my hair would feel dry and dehydrated.

After using this product, that wasn't the case. I noticed great results after two or three washes and have consistently used this product every other wash since. My hair looks noticeably smoother, hydrated and healthy. The breakage in my hair looks like it is repairing itself wash by wash, which has never happened with any other mask I've used before.

The K18 peptide is the reason the repair is occurring. The peptide is able to reconnect broken polypeptide chains in the hair at the molecular level. As a result, disulfide bonds are reconnected for reinforced strength along the length

and width of hair. This offers comprehensive, lasting and progressive repair.

I can honestly say I would recommend this product to anyone and everyone. I love it so much and am always excited to use it because it works so well. And because you only use a tiny bit during each wash, the bottle seems to last forever.

I am giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators for effectiveness, price and overall amazingness.

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.

biotech-powered K18PEPTIDE™ reverses hair damage in 4 minutes

after bleach after bleach + K18



Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Cancer.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, November 30 2023:

You are an enthusiastic go-getter who is passionate, intense and focused. You want personal success. This is a playful, fun-loving year for you. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Have fun but don't lose sight of your goals. Old friends might reappear in your life again.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You might entertain unusual friends or groups today, or a spontaneous gathering might take place where you live. Meanwhile, you will feel "tuned in" in an almost psychic way to family issues and relatives today. Kinda trippy. Tonight: Support family.!

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This is a high-energy day, which means you will be mentally turned on. Trust your intuition. You are imaginative and capable of visualizing things, especially for the future. Clever ideas might suddenly occur to you. Why not write them down for future consideration? Tonight: Strong imagination.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Unexpected events might impact your earnings or your assets today. For example, you might find money or you might lose money. Trust your moneymaking ideas, because they might be imaginative and futuristic. After all, the future is where you will spend the rest of your life. Tonight: Save your money.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Your moods can change easily, and today you will really notice this. Don't be surprised if this occurs, because it's just what's happening. Meanwhile, you might meet new friends today. You certainly feel independent and self-reliant, which is why you're full of inventive, original, spontaneous ideas today! Tonight: You're confident.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

You might feel a bit restless today. Although you want to make things happen, you actually prefer to keep a low profile. Nevertheless, surprise invitations might come your way. If so, say yes, because you will relish some adventure. If there is friction at home, be sympathetic with family members. Tonight: Solitude.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

A friend might surprise you today. Or perhaps you will meet someone new who is a real character. Home and family continue to be a strong focus, especially due to family discussions and home repairs. One thing is certain, you're very convincing and persuasive right now. Tonight: Friendships.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today you're high-viz, which is why people notice you more than usual. Incidentally, some will even know personal details about your private life. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control. You have a glamorous, unusual image today, which you might use to your advantage. Tonight: You're admired.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Unexpected opportunities to travel might fall in your lap today. You also might work on behalf of a group that wants to help children, especially children who are suffering in another

country. With Mars in your Money House right now, you're motivated and prepared to work hard for what you want. Tonight: Explore!

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might do fundraising or see ways to use the wealth and resources of someone else to help a needy cause. This could be why you make an admirable impression on someone. Very likely, you will be asked for your advice about how to improve something or make it look better. Tonight: Caution.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Listen to partners and close friends today. Someone close to you is quite "tuned in" today. Their ideas might initially sound impractical. However, upon reflection, you might realize that although these ideas are futuristic, they are doable. Keep an open mind. Tonight: Listen.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You are one sign that appreciates the power of collective thinking. Today you might see how to apply this to your job or where you work. You have imaginative ideas that are future-oriented. (Of course, all Aquarians are born 50 years ahead of their time.) Tonight: Be practical.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Social events are unpredictable today. Stay light on your feet, because a surprise invitation might come your way. You might feel tenderhearted toward children today. In fact, protect children against accidents. Meanwhile, romance might surprise you in an exciting way! Tonight: Socialize.

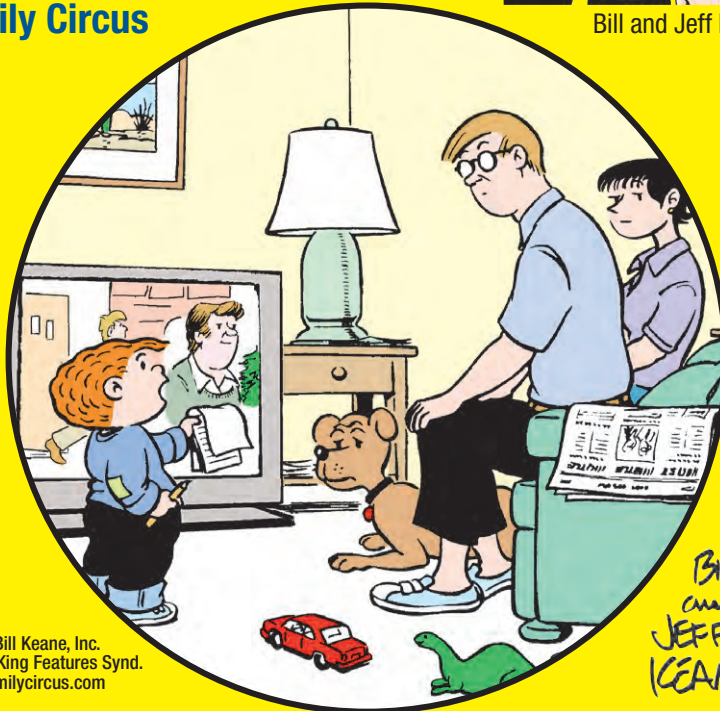
BORN TODAY

Actor Ben Stiller (1965), actress Kaley Cuoco (1985), actress Elisha Cuthbert (1982).

EXTRA SUPPLEMENTAL Comics PART 2

Family Circus

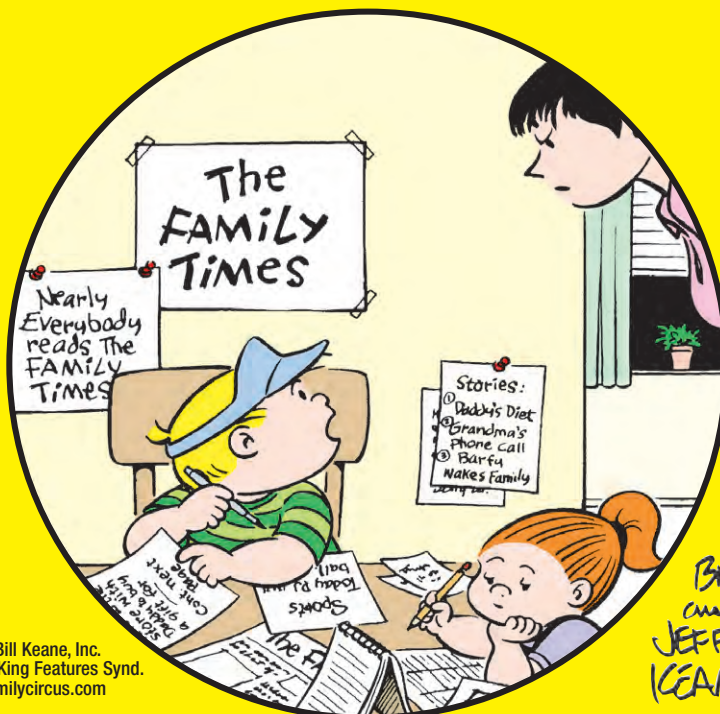
Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"Does anybody want to buy an ad in the Family Times for a dollar?"



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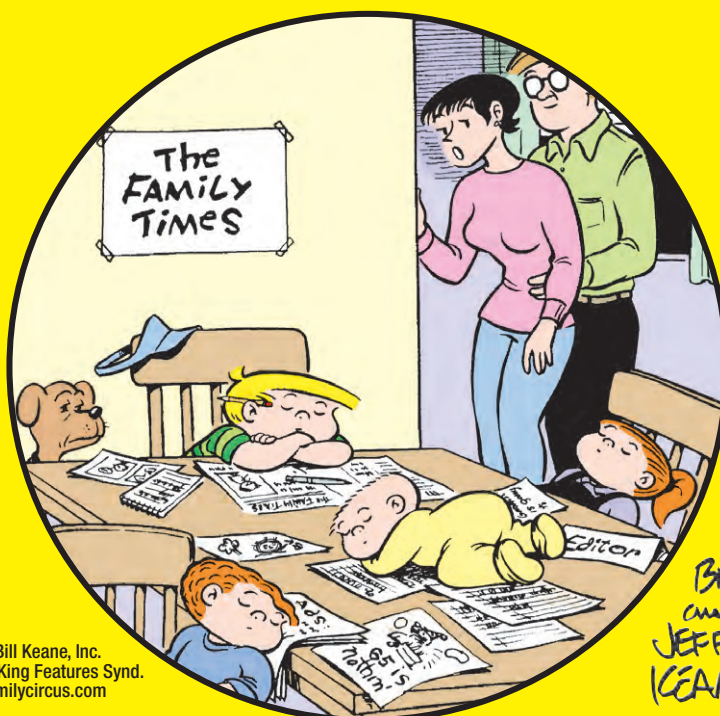
"Do my Homework? Mommy! What about 'freedom of the press'?"



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"I'm coverin' sports for the Family Times, Daddy. How many golf balls did you lose yesterday?"



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"Time to put the paper to bed."

Contract Bridge

AN UNUSUAL DEFENSIVE PLAY

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♥	3♦
4♥	5♦	Pass	Pass
5♥			

Opening lead — six of diamonds.
For the defenders, card-reading is often the key to finding the killing defense.

Take this case where you hold the East hand and partner leads the six of diamonds against South's five-heart contract. You win with the king, and the all-important question is, what do you do next?

The first step is to try to decipher the meaning of your partner's six-of-diamonds lead. This is not a difficult

task; West, who raised diamonds, must have started with precisely the Q-10-6. He cannot have the deuce or four because he would have led his fourth-best diamond. You can therefore deduce, as soon as dummy appears, that South has the 4-2 of diamonds.

This makes it much easier to find the proper play at trick two — the three of diamonds! This extraordinary play, which directs West to return a club should he gain the lead, has a remarkable effect. Regardless of what declarer does from this point on, he cannot make the contract.

If he ruffs the diamond return in dummy, he eventually loses two spade tricks (assuming correct defense). And if he does not ruff the diamond return in dummy, West wins the trick and shifts to a club, which East ruffs for down one.

Note that if East leads a trump at trick two, which seems to be the safest thing to do, South makes the contract. He simply plays the A-K-Q of trump, cashes the A-K of clubs, ruffs a diamond in dummy and finishes with 12 tricks.

Note also that if East returns the ace of diamonds at trick two, instead of a low diamond, South can make the contract by discarding a spade from dummy. East remains on lead and cannot stop declarer from scoring 11 tricks.

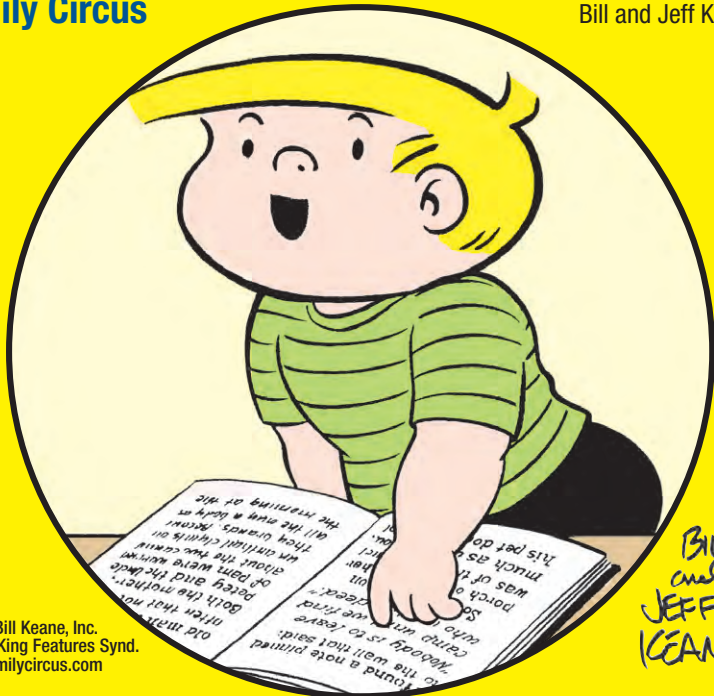
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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"Italics makes it look like the wind's blowing."

Bill and Jeff Keane

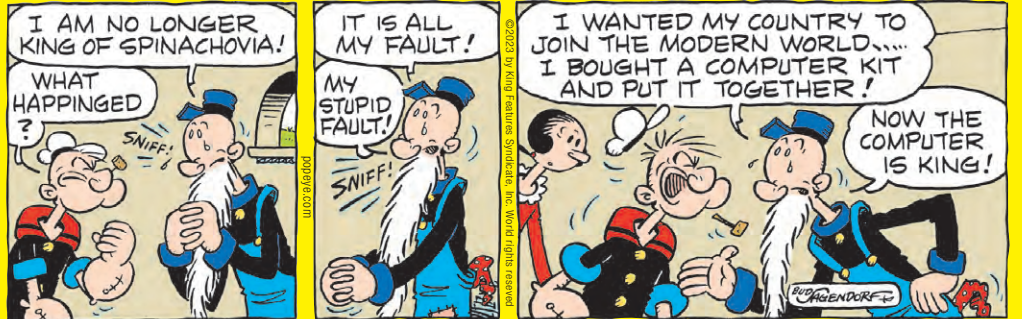
Garfield

Jim Davis



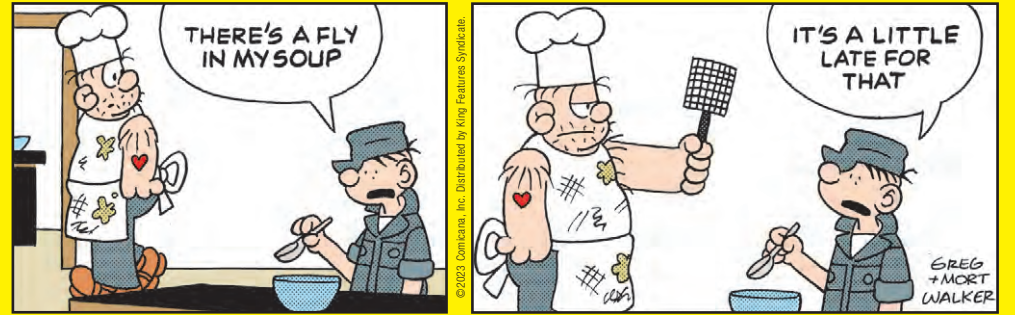
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



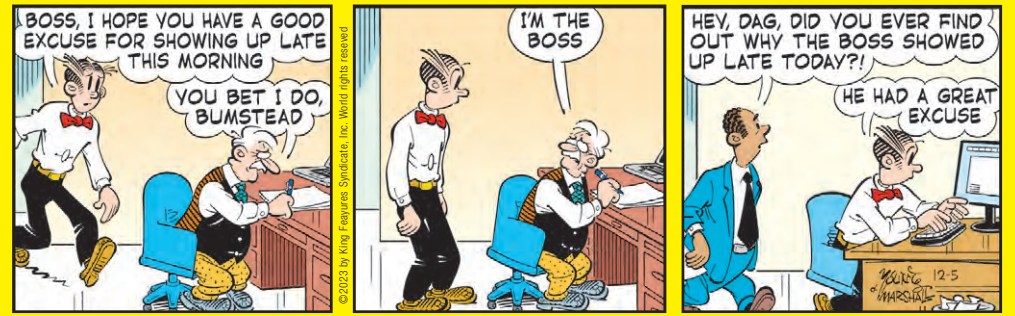
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



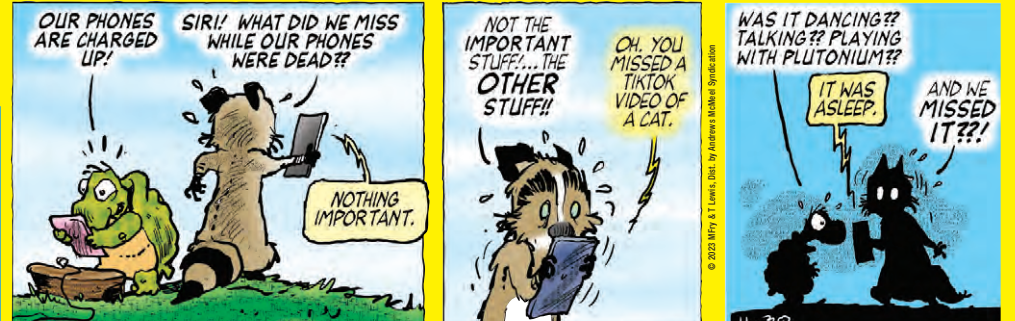
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



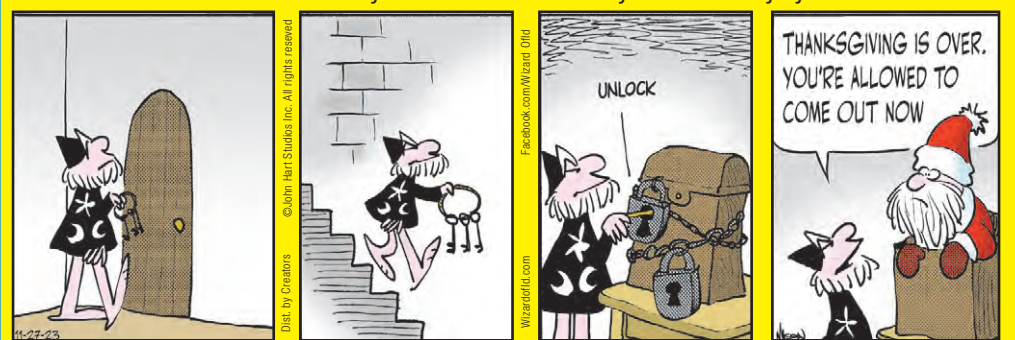
Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

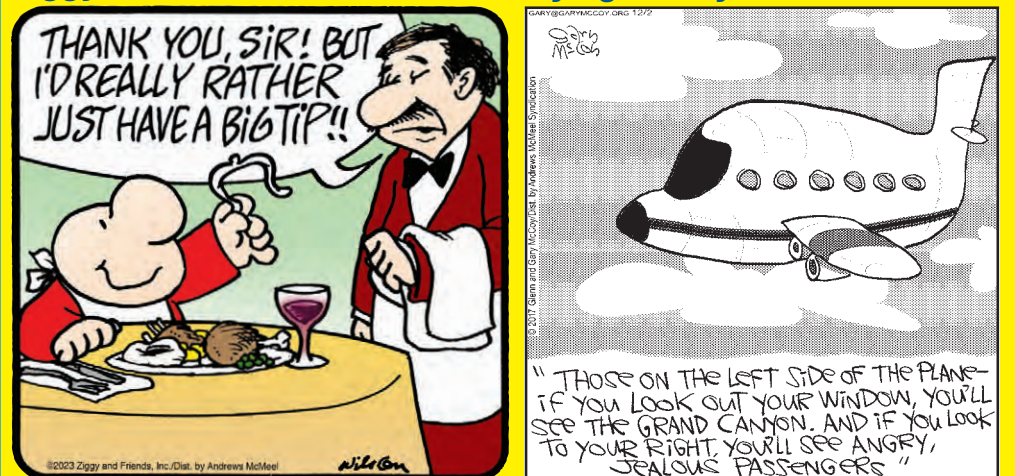


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

11/30

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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11/23 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg November 30, 2023

- ACROSS**
- 1 "That's shocking," in a text
 - 4 Stardom
 - 8 Alpaca relative
 - 13 ___ Paulo
 - 14 Costa ___
 - 15 He flew too close to the sun
 - 16 Awe-inspiring hero?
 - 19 "WandaVision" actress Elizabeth
 - 20 Pack away
 - 21 Japanese rice wine
 - 22 Orlando's NBA team
 - 24 Most popular U.S. dog breed
 - 26 With 49-Across, punish Eros but not Cupid?
 - 29 Chickens' gathering places
 - 34 ___-Man (dot eater)
 - 35 Liberal, informally
 - 36 '50s music genre featured in "Back to the Future"
 - 37 Invite to enter
 - 40 "Notorious" onetime justice, briefly
 - 42 Smash, as a volleyball
 - 43 Sound investment?
- DOWN**
- 45 Canon camera model
 - 47 Dec. 31
 - 48 "Sweetie..."
 - 49 See 26-Across
 - 52 "Don't me down!"
 - 54 Bros
 - 55 Spot for a binge-watcher
 - 59 "That's hilarious," in a text
 - 61 Red Sox Hall of Famer David
 - 64 Official order to play songs?
 - 67 Like a green banana
 - 68 "Tootsie" actress Garr
 - 69 Aunt, in Spanish
 - 70 Connections
 - 71 Liquids in Sharpies
 - 72 Subj. for some immigrants
- PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | R | A | C | A | R | A | T | S | W | H | O |
| A | M | I | G | O | S | I | R | O | N | H | U | B |
| H | O | T | E | L | C | A | S | I | N | O | O | N |
| I | K | E | L | O | C | K | W | R | O | T | E | |
| | | S | E | T | H | | H | A | M | U | P | |
| C | H | I | N | E | S | E | C | A | L | E | N | D |
| H | I | T | O | N | | O | V | E | N | | E | V |
| A | P | S | | P | O | S | E | S | | D | A | Y |
| I | T | D | F | O | N | T | | S | T | O | I | C |
| N | O | O | D | L | E | C | A | S | S | E | R | O |
| | O | R | A | T | E | | O | L | A | Y | | |
| B | E | R | E | T | | B | L | O | C | | E | L |
| A | N | D | T | H | R | E | E | W | A | Y | T | I |
| R | B | I | | O | B | I | T | | E | V | I | T |
| E | Y | E | | P | O | D | S | | D | E | N | A |

11/30

Bearing Fruit by Drew Schmenner

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13			14				15					
16			17				18					
19						20				21		
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34					35				36			
37			38	39		40		41		42		
43					44			45		46		47
48						49			50	51		
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55	56	57	58		59		60		61		62	63
64				65					66			
67							68			69		
70								71				72

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Comics

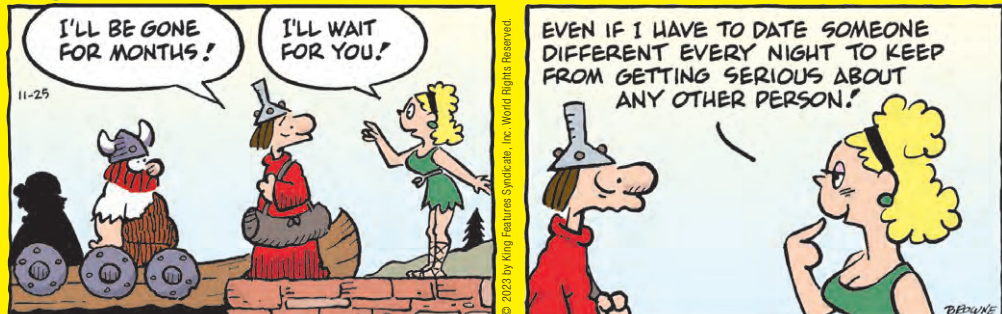
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



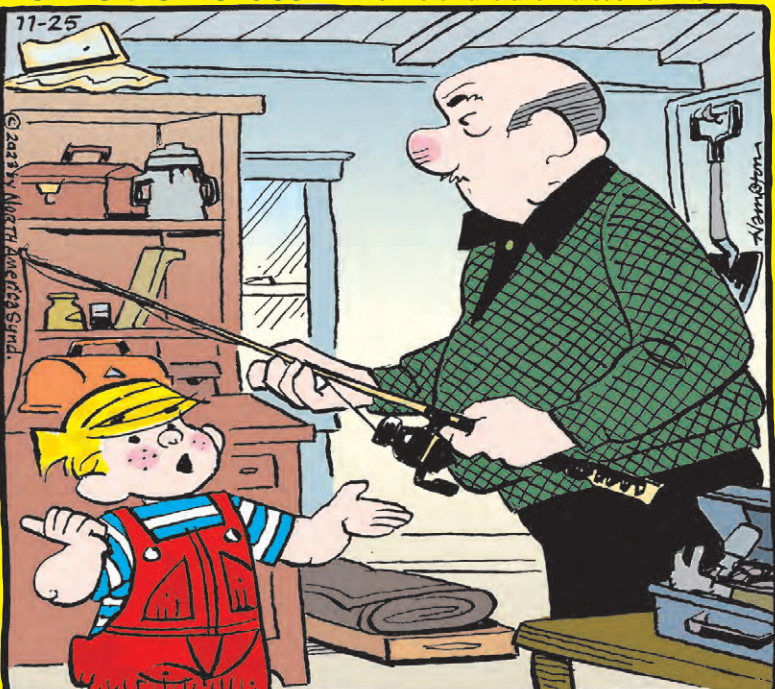
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



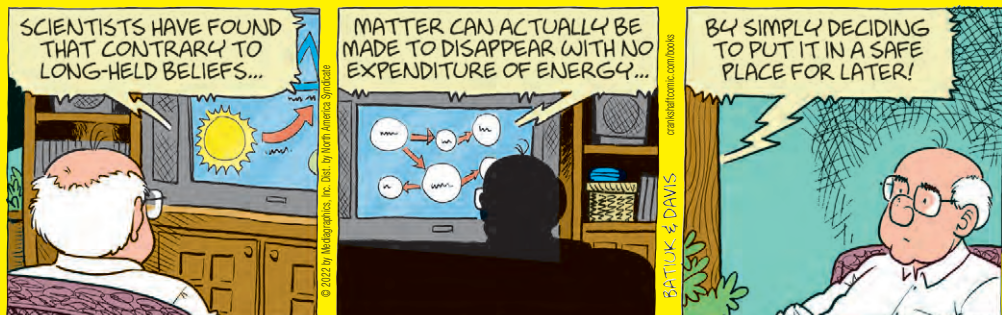
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



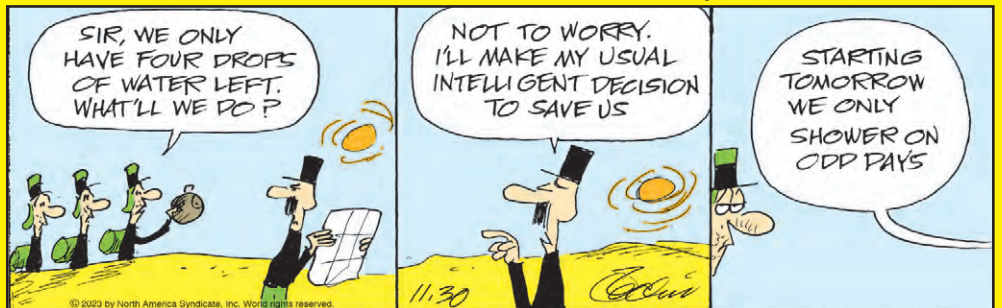
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



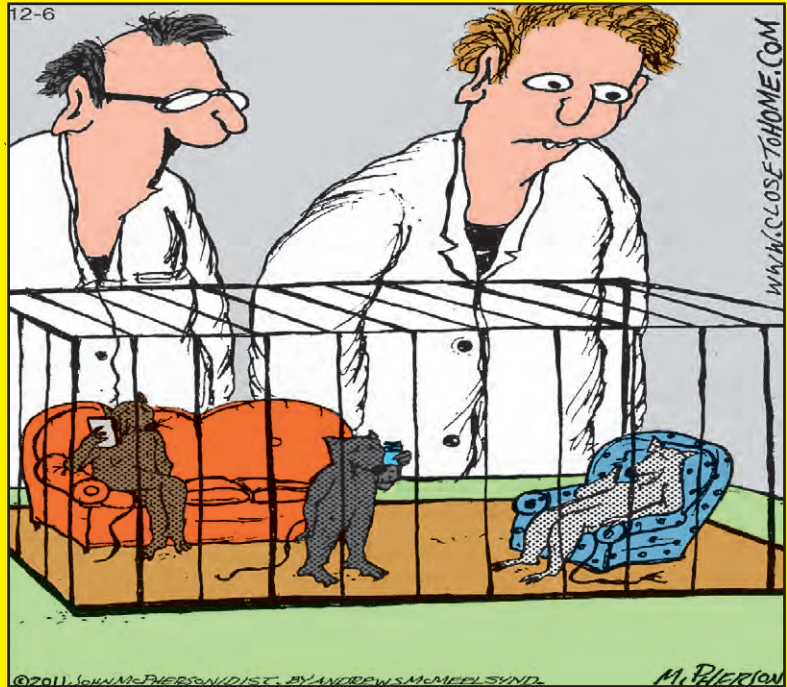
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



Proof It


Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Circle the five errors in the article below. Then, rewrite the article correctly on the blank lines.

Do your eyes close when you yawn?

Your eyes will usually close or squint during a yawn. The bigger the yawn, the more tightly your eyes squeeze closed.

By forcing your eyes to stay open, you can actually stop or slow down a yawns.

Scientists think closing the eyes helps the muscles in your face to relax, making it possible to yawn bigger.



Is it catching?

There are ways we can try to avoid catching a cold and the flu, like washing our hands and getting vaccinated.

But, there is something you can't stop yourself from catching.

What is it? It's **YAWNING!**

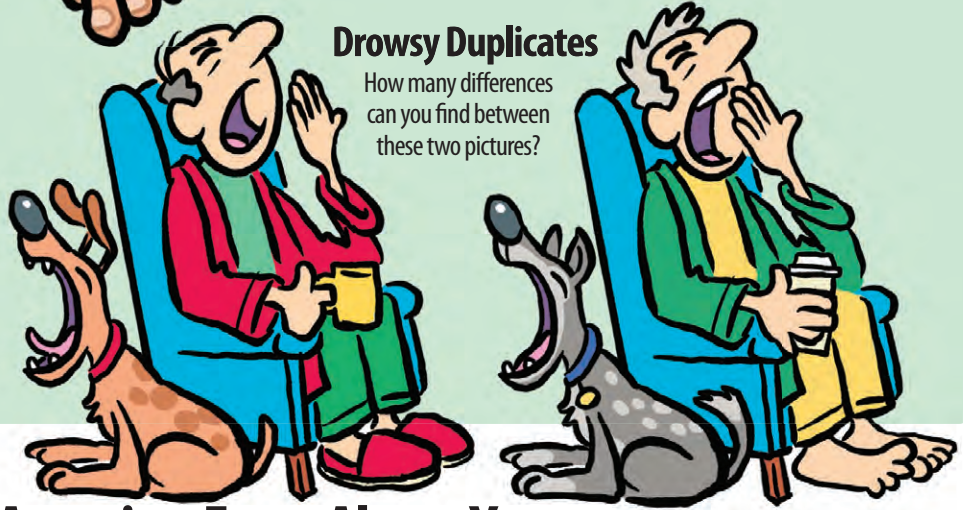
Give it a try! Start yawning and watch to see if people around you start to yawn. Even reading about yawning can sometimes cause a person to yawn. Are **you** starting to yawn yet?

Animals Yawn, Too!

Many animals also yawn. And some animals "catch" yawning from each other. Some people say when they yawn, their dog will often yawn, too.

Drowsy Duplicates

How many differences can you find between these two pictures?

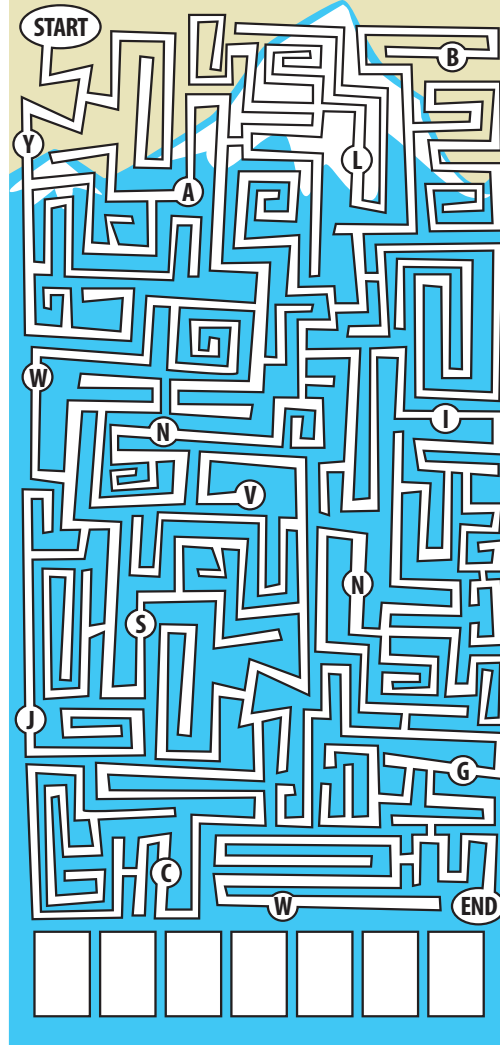


Popping Ears

If you have traveled into the mountains, or taken an airplane ride you may have noticed your ears feeling plugged up or even hurting.

The air pressure in higher altitudes is lower than the air pressure in lower altitudes. When the pressure of the air inside your ears and outside are different, you feel a bit plugged up.

What can help balance the inside and outside pressure? The letters along the correct path reveal the answer.



START

END

Amazing Facts About Yawns

Use the secret code to reveal these facts!

How long does the average human yawn last?

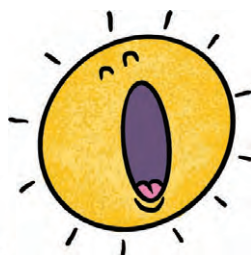
8 18 3 8 22 24 12 13 23 8



The longest known yawn was made by a small Pomeranian dog named Belle. How long did her yawn last?

7 4 22 13 7 2 7 19 9 22 22

14 18 13 6 7 22 8



What time of year do people yawn the most?

4 18 13 7 22 9

SECRET CODE

26=A	13=N
25=B	12=O
24=C	11=P
23=D	10=Q
22=E	9=R
21=F	8=S
20=G	7=T
19=H	6=U
18=I	5=V
17=J	4=W
16=K	3=X
15=L	2=Y
14=M	1=Z



What is the study of yawning called?

24 19 26 8 14 12 15 12 20 2

Do giraffes yawn? So far, they've never been observed yawning by scientists.



Extra! Extra!

Large and Loud

Large and Loud both start with the letter 'L'. When more than one word in a sentence starts with the same letter, that is called an alliteration. Look through the newspaper for words that start with the same letter. Use these words to write a new sentence.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify alliteration in text.

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Kid Scoop Puzzler

Number the paragraph parts in order to reveal facts about hippopotamus yawns.



- off their long, sharp teeth.
- When a hippopotamus
- noise when they yawn. This
- sign. Hippos yawn to show
- They also make a very loud
- is to scare off predators.
- yawns, it is a warning

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Understand informational text.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

AIR
BALANCE
COLD
DOG
DROWSY
EARS
FACTS
FLU
LAST
LOUD
PRESSURE
WINTER
WORDS
YAWN
YEAR

C L B A L A N C E F
P O E U B A D T R A
R W L A H J S V E C
E F E D R Z W T T T
S D R O W S Y Q N S
S V O L N L E A I R
U C X G T O A P W Y
R S L A C U R J I N
E G Y S I D A T L P

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ALTITUDE**

The noun **altitude** means the height of a thing above the earth or above sea level.

The **altitude** of Mt. Everest is over 29,000 feet above sea level.

Try to use the word **altitude** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Syllable Search

In a news article, circle all the one syllable words in red, two syllable words in blue, three syllable words in green and four syllable words in orange. Next, create a bar graph showing the number of one, two, three, and four syllable words in the article.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Apply syllabication rules.



Where do library books sleep?

ANSWER: Under their covers.

Write On!

Yawn!

One day, I yawned **REALLY** big and ...

Finish this story.

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SPORTS



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2-6D GIRLS WINTER SPORTS PREVIEWS | 6-7D CLASSIFIED | 8D HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

28 Pointe athletes earn elite All-State accolades for fall 2023

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Thanks to notable performances in their respective sports during the 2023 fall season, 28 athletes from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett received among the highest accolades available in Michigan by earning All-State honors. Liggett led the way with eleven athletes earning state-level accolades, while South had nine and North had eight.

The 28 athletes represent a tiny fraction — less than one one-hundredth of a percent — of the 268,071 athletes that participated across the 28 sports for which the Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsored postseason tournaments in 2022-23. According to MHSAA, the total participation is a 2.7-percent increase from 2021-22. The MHSAA



Grosse Pointe South's 2023 second team All-State middle hitter Gabby DiVita (No. 12) gets airborne earlier this season in a home match against archrival Grosse Pointe North.

PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

also said school athletic participation has grown a combined 9.9 percent since its drastic downturn during the height of the pandemic in 2020-21.

Grosse Pointe South
For South, seven swimmers became All-State medalists at the state

final meet Nov. 18, in Holland. They earned such status by finishing in the top eight fastest times in their respective individual and relay events.

Four of South's All-Staters are sophomores, including Mischa Eng

(200 IM, 100 back, 200 medley relay and 400 free relay), Heidi Bryan (500 free, 200 free relay and 400 free relay), Whitney Handwork (50 free, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay and 400 free relay) and Lorelei Carr (200 free relay).

The remaining winners are senior Keira Collins (200 medley relay), junior Hannah DiDio (200 medley relay and 400 free relay) and senior Charlotte Bedsworth (200 free relay).

The Blue Devils also had one of their standout

players on the volleyball court honored for her efforts this fall. While helping to lead South to a district championship, sophomore Gabby DiVita earned second team All-State recognition from the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association.

Finally, on the soccer pitch, South's Onction Zape was recognized by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association with third team All-State honors in Division 1.

Grosse Pointe North
For Grosse Pointe North, five varsity swimmers earned all-state honors. They include junior Avery Beal (50 free, 100 free, 200 free relay and 400 free relay), sophomore Cailey Hard and freshman Mia Melham (200 free relay), junior Addie Wakefield (200 free relay and 400 free relay) and sophomore Kennedy Hasting (400 free).

One Norseman
See HONORS, page 8D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Beal's 4 All-State podium finishes show the power of pool potential

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

On Nov. 18, Avery Beal found herself standing on the podium twice individually and earning All-State honors in relay events at the 2023 Division 2 girls swim and dive state finals. It was a huge improvement from

said. "I knew that it was going to be a competitive season and a good one for our team overall. I was just trying to PR (personal record) at big meets and at the beginning, I wanted to focus on a big team aspect too and get us all together. The best way to PR is to have good teammates

around you." The Norsemen finished in 10th place overall as a team, with Beal contributing heavily to North's point total with her performances. She finished the day second in the 100 freestyle and third in the 50 freestyle, giving her All-State honors in both events for the second year in a row. She also earned All-State status in two team relays — the 200 free relay and

400 free relay — but finished in the top eight in each of her four events at finals.

In 2022, Beal finished fourth in the 50 and sixth in the 100, so her podium finishes this season were proof of improvement. The amount of success she experienced at states this year even surprised Beal herself, and it may have all been thanks to some help from Grosse Pointe Park native and former University of Michigan athlete and world champion swimmer Ali DeLoof. "Overall, I think I really exceeded my expectations," Beal said. "I was not placed originally where I finished and was really

happy with the way I swam and my times. I reached out to (Ali) and was able to ask for some advice. She was super helpful and everything she told me I think really contributed to my success."

Even before she made it to states, Beal was having quite the accomplished season. On Nov. 4, she won three MAC Red championships, getting first place in the 50 free, 100 free and 200 free relay. That day, Beal was also named Swimmer of the Meet for this year's league championship.

Beal's major improvement
See ATHLETE, page 8D



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Avery Beal
School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Swim and Dive
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

Beal at her Best

- Finished 2nd in 100 freestyle and 3rd in 50 freestyle at 2023 D2 swim & dive state finals
- Qualified for every individual event in the 2023 state meet, earning All-State honors in 4 events at finals, the maximum allowed per swimmer
- Voted 2023 MAC Red Championship Swimmer of the Meet



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Avery Beal shows off one of her medals during this year's MAC Red League Championships, where she was named Swimmer of the Meet.



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2D WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

Take hundreds of athletes from dozens of varsity teams and three high schools and you have the makings for an action-packed, thrilling winter sports season in the Pointes.

The Grosse Pointe News sports staff has the inside scoop on what you can expect before watching your favorite team in action this winter. This week, we are covering the Pointe's girls teams. Next week, we will bring you preview stories on the boys teams. Here's a look at what you can expect from your Blue Devils, Norsemen and Knights this season:

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Girls Hockey

Knights look to stay champions

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Winning championships has become the standard for University Liggett girls hockey. Last winter, the Knights won their third consecutive Division 1 state championship in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League, and the expectation is to make it four in a row.

Helping to lead them on the quest for a fourth straight title is new head coach Casey LaFrance. LaFrance, a native of St. Clair Shores, has prior coaching experience at the Triple-A level and played Division I col-

lege hockey at Colgate University in New York. She will also be coaching the team alongside her husband, Adam, who is a part of the new staff as well.

LaFrance knows that with Liggett's success over the past few years, the Knights are the team that everyone else is looking to take down. Her coaching philosophy and the mentality that the new coaching staff has preached to the team is to keep their foot on the gas to try and make sure they can stay on top of the podium.

"We really like to try and be as aggressive a team as possible,"

LaFrance said. "We want to jump first... We try to put that aggressive mentality into the girls and let them know what to expect with the style of play. My husband does a lot of the defensive coaching and I do a lot of the offense and we try to make everything as cohesive as possible."

The Knights have plenty of experience returning to the roster this year with players who are no strangers to playing in and winning important games. Leading the group this year are four

senior captains, including Sofie Ancona, Allie Roth, Elle Quinlan and Sullivan Estes. Senior goaltender Brooklyn Peshl will also be back in the crease for the Knights this year.

"A good core of our group this year are seniors and they do a really good job at leading the team," LaFrance said. "...Nobody seems like they're better than any other player on the ice as far as ego. They're always trying to bring each other up."

The returning seniors are joined by a group of experienced juniors and sophomores to form a team that is used to taking on challenges

and winning. There will certainly be challenges this year, as Liggett faces some tough competition throughout its Division 1 schedule.

The Knights have to play crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South, whom they defeated in last season's state championship game, twice this season. They expect to be tested by teams like Ann Arbor Skyline-Huron and first-year team Traverse City.

The road to a fourth consecutive championship is not one that the Knights expect to be easy. They know the pressure that comes with being the

defending champions, but LaFrance has already seen her team buy into the expectation of winning.

"There's a bit of pressure making sure we try to win another championship," LaFrance said. "It's not a given and there's a lot of hard work that goes into it. Luckily, with my college background I know what it takes to compete at a higher level... We have a good understanding between the coaching staff and the girls so it's been easy to hit the ground running so the girls understand what the expectations are."



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

The University Liggett girls hockey team enters the 2023-24 season as the three-time defending Division 1 state champions.

Grosse Pointe News



Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala – with top athletes winning scholarships!

Submit online at:

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

Score big points this Christmas

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

If you have seen your son or daughter, coach, teammate, friend or neighbor gracing the Grosse Pointe News Sports pages this year, we have the perfect gift for you to put under the tree.

Simply head to the Grosse Pointe News gift shop at grossepointenews.com/gift-shop/ to purchase an unframed, custom PDF of one of our stories featuring your favorite athlete, team or coach for \$25. Or instead of making a half-hearted promise to haul out to JoAnn Fabric or Michaels to frame it, we can do all the legwork for you with a beautifully framed PDF for just \$50.

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WINTER SPORTS

PREVIEW

3D

| GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Girls Hockey

South shoots for skill, leadership on ice

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With over a dozen state championships in the team's history, Grosse Pointe South has been one of the most consistently successful girls hockey programs in the state for decades. The Blue Devils had the chance to add another tally to their list of titles last season, but it was crosstown rival University Liggett that foiled them in the end.

South comes into the 2023-24 campaign with the same goal in mind as pretty much every season, making it back to USA Hockey Arena in March and playing for a state championship. However, the way the Blue Devils go about getting there this year could look a bit different, as the team feels as if it might be fitting into a new identity on the ice.

"In years past, it was all about hard work and grit and physical play," South girls hockey coach Lexi Bohlinger said. "...This year, we've got more skill to fall back on. Our cycling is going to be better and our zone entry is going to be higher level. We've got kids with good hands and good vision and understanding of the game."

The Blue Devils are

being led by senior captains and returning starters Sophia Reynolds, Gabby Vosburg and Ruby Verlinden. Junior goalie Rosie Smith is back between the pipes also. Outside of some of those experienced players coming back, the Blue Devils have brought in some sophomores, juniors and even a couple of seniors from the travel hockey ranks into high school.

The amount of skill and leadership that the Blue Devils have added to the roster this year in the sophomore and junior classes gives coach Bohlinger confidence that the team is set up to seriously compete not just this year, but in the next couple winters. South is seemingly always one of the top teams in the state and a target that several other girls hockey programs want to beat, but South seems to be rallying around the fact that its biggest challenge standing in the way of a state title once again resides just across town.

"There's always Liggett, everyone wants to take them off the top," Bohlinger said. "That's going to be the biggest challenge for our kids is going into that game and playing their best because I feel like sometimes you



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Blue Devils' goalie Rosie Smith, who returns in net this season, makes a save in last year's state championship game against Liggett.

come into that game a little intimidated."

South takes on Liggett twice in the regular season, on Nov. 28 at Liggett and then hosting on Jan. 31, and another matchup in the playoffs is always a possibility. Taking down the Knights might be South's biggest challenge, but there are 16 other games on the

schedule as well that the Blue Devils know are just as important.

The goal for the Blue Devils is almost always to be playing for a title at the end of the season. This year, Bohlinger sees it all coming down to consistent growth throughout the season in order to have the best chance at achieving that goal.

"Everybody buying in and giving it 110-percent every day is the first step," Bohlinger said. "We have to get them used to playing physical, fast hockey because Liggett is always a physical team. It's also about teaching them different systems like powerplays and forechecks and building on it throughout the

year...I hope we can see real consistency and build up in our hockey IQ throughout the year."

South won its first two games of the season, defeating Grosse Pointe North 7-3 and Bloomfield 8-0. The Blue Devils faced Liggett on Tuesday, Nov. 28, after press time and host St. Clair Shores at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

| GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Girls Hockey

Norsemen set to face big tests in new division

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Entering this season after being Division 2 state runner-up last winter, Grosse Pointe North girls hockey faces a new challenge in 2023-24. That new challenge is the Norsemen moving up to Division 1 in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League.

North's season ended last year in the Division 2 championship with a loss to Bloomfield-Birmingham (who has also moved up a division this year), but competing for a title in Division 1 is a completely different landscape. The division has been dominated in recent years by North's crosstown foe University Liggett, and Grosse Pointe South is always a championship

contender as well.

Leading the way into those tough Division 1 matchups for North will be captains and familiar faces Josie Cueter, Ella Dobbs and Alyssa Burney.

"All three are key players and leaders," North girls hockey assistant coach Taylor Shaheen said about the team's captains. "They all bring unique strengths to their hockey play and how they lead the team."

Those three captains lead a small North roster this year, which includes just ten skaters and two goalies. Cueter, Dobbs and Burney are also all forwards who are expected to be at the front of the team's charge in the offensive zone, with Cueter returning as North's leading scorer from last year.

A small lineup could present even more challenges when competing consistently against the toughest competition the state has to offer in girls hockey. However, North's leadership is viewing it as a rallying point, and team chemistry could be at an all time high even on a short bench.

"This team's biggest strength will be how tight knit they are," Shaheen said. "We have a short bench and with that comes the positive of really knowing how to play with everyone on the team. They all love playing hockey together and it really allows us coaches to move lines around when needed."

North has already faced both its crosstown rivals, South and Liggett, early in the season, losing both games.



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

North's Josie Cueter battles for a loose puck in the Norsemen's season opener against University Liggett.

The Norsemen get another shot at South on Feb. 2 and Liggett on Feb. 7 as the season winds down. Finding consistent improvement and confidence as the season progresses is what North is really looking forward to in order to make sure those rivalry rematches and late-season games

are truly meaningful. "By the end of the season, the girls will be very confident in being able to play against any team, no matter how deep the opposing bench is," Shaheen said. "All of our girls are great players and all very coachable. I'm excited to see where we end up and how much

the girls improve throughout the season."

The Norsemen hosted Plymouth-Canton on Wednesday, Nov. 29, after press time. Next up is a rematch of last year's Division 2 state championship, with North hosting Bloomfield-Birmingham at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2.

4D WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Girls Basketball

High hopes in play for North girls hoops

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Entering his 41st season as head coach of Grosse Pointe North's varsity girls basketball team, Gary Bennett knows a thing or two about talent. In 2023, he is faced with drawing from a talent pool with all the right assets, but one that is admittedly much smaller than in the past.

"We won the state championship in 2008, when (the girls basketball season) had moved to winter," he said. "The biggest impression I have is, from that point on, participation has gone down. You still have some good players,

but you don't have the depth that you once had. There used to be lots of cuts where you would have to cut some good players ... but overall the interest and participation has gone down."

That dynamic is doing little to temper Bennett's expectations for his latest squad. It includes five returning players from last year's team, which went 24-4 overall and 6-1 in the MAC Red, winning the conference for the fourth time in the last five years. The Norsemen also won divisional and regional playoff titles by beating Grosse Pointe South, Lakeview, Dakota in overtime and Cass Tech, before the Norsemen lost 52-37 to Detroit

Renaissance in the Division I state quarterfinal last March.

Although the team lost impact players like Annabel Ayrault, Mia Stephanoff and Sophia Borowski to graduation, Bennett expects three new seniors from his roster to lead the team in Julia Liagre, Natalie Babcock and Jenna Winowiecki. Bennett also will look to sophomore Eva Borowski to contribute meaningful minutes on the floor for North.

"The three seniors that graduated were really a big part of our program the last four years and certainly last year and they all brought something that's irreplaceable,"

Bennett said. "So what we're trying to do is to put a team together that can try to replace some stuff, but it's just going to be in a different way."

Dakota will be this year's big dog in the MAC Red, Bennett said.

"If we can stay injury-free, I expect us to be pretty competitive in the league," he said. "I think Dakota would be the heavy favorite. They have all kinds of talent coming back. ... By the end of (last) year they were hitting on all cylinders and took us to overtime. I think they would be everyone's favorite."

The rest of the division, Bennett said, will be competitive and will require North's A-game every night.

"I think there's a bunch of others (in MAC Red) where we're all going to show up and compete," he said. "Our goal is always to do well in the state tournament, so we are shooting for districts and a championship and then move on to the regional. However, there's a very good chance we will see Dakota again in the regional."

Bennett emphasized the goals he is setting are predicated on his team staying healthy.

"The season is hard to predict; there's injuries and different stuff that can go on," he said. "We lost Annabel for seven games and I think everyone would have thought we were done. But in

that stretch we only lost one game and we could have won it. But I expect this team to be competitive, as long as we don't have injuries."

A strength Bennett is counting on from his team, one that has become the Norsemen's hallmark during his tenure, is his players' ability to play inside or outside.

"I think that's gonna help us and think that's been a strength for our program," he said. "I don't put someone in the post and say, 'OK, you're only gonna be a post player.'"

Bennett pointed to former player Sophia Borowski, whom he said is a great example of positionless basketball because she rebounded, played defense and handled the ball in pressure situations as a post.

"Our big thing is taking care of the ball and not turning it over and we work on that constantly," he said. "I think for the most part we are a pretty good passing team and everybody has to be able to handle the ball."

Despite having to replace some major talent, Bennett said he has faith in his team.

"All three of (last year's seniors) were very valuable and hard to replace," he said, "but it's gonna be how can these other kids step up and fill the void."

North tips off its regular season on the road at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, at Lakeview. The Norsemen's home opener is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, against Cousino.



North's 2023-24 girls varsity basketball team hopes to replicate last year's success of reaching the state quarterfinals and to take a victory photo like the one pictured above from last March, when players and coaches gathered to celebrate the Norsemen's regional crown.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Girls Basketball

Knights tip off new season Dec. 5

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Armed with a senior-heavy roster and loads of experience, University Liggett's girls varsity basketball team is set to compete, play unselfishly and defend its second consecutive district crown, according to head coach Craig White, who is entering his fifth year with the program.

But, he cautions, that doesn't mean there is pressure on his team. It just means he expects them to compete, starting with the team's 2023-24 regular season opener at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 5, at home against Allen Park Inter-City Baptist.

"We only have one player this year who is brand new to the sport of basketball," White said. "I don't want to put pressure on my girls.

These girls have been there. You just want them to go and compete."

Good attitude and effort are concepts White has worked hard to develop in the Liggett program during his tenure, helped along by his daughter and assistant coach, Micah White, a former collegiate basketball player at University Michigan-Dearborn, who also coaches Liggett's middle school girls team.

"We have been together working to develop a program, not just a team," the Knights' varsity head coach noted.

And the program is seeing success. Last season, the Knights finished 16-9 overall. In the first two rounds of the district tournament, the Knights outscored opponents 110-26. In the dis-

trict final, Liggett beat Mount Clemens 58-27 to earn its second consecutive district crown.

After beating Jalen Rose Leadership Academy in the regional semifinal, the Knights' season ended last March in the regional final by losing 59-29 to Bishop Foley.

This season, White will rely on his roster of 12, including two "five quarter" freshmen, who will combine playing time on JV and varsity, to make some noise in the always-competitive Catholic League.

The freshmen, Natalie Greene and Morgan Johnson, will gain some meaningful minutes alongside seniors Avery Slanec, Olivia Jacques, Chloe McFarlane and Hallie Marcer. Juniors Kerith Short and Isabel Jenkins along with sophomores Olivia Marcer,

Jasmine Maxwell, Colette Peabody and Shelby Stoudamaire also return to the lineup to round out the 2023-24 roster.

The team lost one player to graduation and another senior who elected to not play this season. But, according to White, the team's focus is on the here and now.

"We have a saying in our huddle," White said. "I say, 'We all we got!' and the girls say, 'Coach, we all we need!'"

White said he considers his team's athleticism as its main asset this season.

"I often ask these girls 'do you play basketball or are you a basketball player?' But honestly all of these girls are athletes," he said. "We are strong and athletic. There's good camaraderie...we have the luxury

of having girls that can bang with anybody and are big at heart, I will say that."

The team faces a tough non-league schedule before conference play in the Catholic High School League beginning with its opening game against Inter-City Baptist Dec. 5. Other big games will come against Gabriel Richard, Everest Collegiate, Cranbrook-Kingswood, Lutheran Northwest and Bishop Foley.

"Every game is going to be a huge game for us. Both our league and non-league games will be tough," White said.

White said he is eager to watch his team develop in the upcoming season, and believes his program has established a competitive, winning culture.

"Before we used to walk in the gym, it was

an automatic win for the other team," he said. "Now, we we are at a level where they know Liggett is coming. We are doing it by committee, there is no one superstar, no basketball-first athlete, and a lot of them play different sports. But we are growing the basketball culture over here. When I came on board, they understood I was the coach and that 'Camp Cupcake' was over."

White said he asks his team one thing: to be competitive.

"That's my trophy," he said. "To know we left it all over there, and to be able to say Liggett is a 'we' team, not a 'me' team."

After its season opener next Tuesday, Liggett hits the road again for a 5:30 p.m. tipoff Friday, Dec. 8, against Southfield Christian.

WINTER SPORTS

PREVIEW

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Girls Basketball

Blue Devils bring veteran skills and fresh talent into basketball season

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

With several conference championships and deep playoff runs under his belt since he became Grosse Pointe South girls varsity basketball coach in 2006, Kevin Richards knows a few things about developing and maximizing talent. And despite some youth in his latest team's starting lineup, along with a smaller bench, he is banking on his squad's athleticism, tough defense and teamwork to reach new heights this season.

"We have been practicing with both our varsity and JV-B players, so we are creating a lot of continuity, and have gotten in some good days of practice," Richards said of his 2023-24 lineup.

The team hopes to build on last season's success, where the Blue Devils finished 13-11 and beat Roseville 54-30 in Round 1 of playoffs. Though South lost 48-23 to North in the district semifinal, Richards said his new team is poised to continue the program's forward momentum.

"We're going to be utilizing some JV kids for some depth. We have eight kids that can really play, including getting four starters back," he said. "There's lots to look forward to and we also have two really talented freshmen."

But perhaps what Richards is most eager about this season is getting his co-captain and junior point guard, Maddy Benard, back at full strength after she suffered an ACL injury at the end of her freshman season.

"She's coming back stronger than ever," Richards said, noting that ACL recoveries can frequently take several months. "I believe she is one of the best guards in the state...she just looks phenomenal."

Benard, the daughter of South's boys head basketball coach Steve Benard, led the Blue Devils last season in scoring. She also averaged over 13 steals and deflections per game, a statistic not lost on Richards.

"One of the things Maddy does well is she has such quick hands, and I have coached lots of great defensive players over the years," he said. "She's very disruptive defensively. She's quick and she's got such quick hands, she understands angles."

"She's definitely a coach's kid," Richards added.

The head coach said he also will rely on two-year starter and co-captain Elsa Bachert to help lead the Blue Devils.

"I really think she's gonna be one of the big surprises in the league," Richards said. "She came

in in tremendous shape, she's strong and athletic and she's a soccer goalie as well. She anticipates really well and does a great job on the back end of our press. I think she has the ability to be an all-league player for us."

Two sophomores will be a part of South's starting line-up, including Alex Lupo and Morgan Duff.

"Alex looks great so far," Richards said. "She's a three-sport athlete, and just a low maintenance player who's dependable. Need a rebound, Alex can get it. She's also a great passer on the baseline and for our out-of-bounds plays."

Duff's quickness and strong vertical will be major assets for the team, Richards said.

"She was out for the first two months with an ankle injury last season, and as soon as we inserted her in, we competed against some good teams and she made a real big difference in our season when she became healthy," he said.

Freshman Ciara Pongratz will round out South's starting five. At 5 feet 10 inches, her height will boost the team, along with her experience playing travel ball and getting extensive playing time as the only girl on the boys eighth grade basketball team at Brownell Middle School last season.

"Along with Elsa, Ciara

will help us be a lot more balanced with scoring," Richards said. "...We also expect Ciara to take some of that scoring load off of Maddy, too."

At 5 feet 11 inches, junior Catherine Patty adds more height to the Blue Devils line-up, Richards said, adding, "She will score around the basket and she can knock down the three for us."

Pongratz is one of two freshmen in the varsity lineup who will represent the class, along with Clara Bachert, whom Richards described as "long and really fast and anticipates well."

Richards will be charged this season with developing his newest players — instituting the "five quarter" concept where JV players get weekly playing time on varsity — while setting his lineup up for success in the always-tough MAC Red.

"My hope is we compete," Richards said. "Even though we only have one senior, I want to compete in the MAC Red...we have a tough district in Cass, King and Hamtramck." To prepare his team for the regular season and playoff grind, Richards has created a challenging schedule for his team.

"We've scheduled Cass Tech in December, knowing we would see them in a district," he said. "It's a



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Junior point guard Maddy Benard returns as a co-captain for the Blue Devils girls basketball team this winter.

tough non-league schedule, probably one of the toughest one we have had in years. Hopefully that gets us ready for the league."

Richards has two former players coming back to help him coach — all-state players and Division 1 collegiate standouts Cierra Rice and Caitlin Moore Reck.

"What better role models to have?" Richards noted.

While quickness and athleticism will be a team hallmark this season, Richards said he sees defense as a team strength.

"Defensively, we're pretty good," he said. "We will always try to force a lot of turnovers with constant pressure."

Richards said based on a shorter bench, the team will look to do a few different things this year. The team will combine that versatility with its

height and speed, while working making more shots.

"We were known for pressing and shooting the three, letting it fly," Richards said. "I would like to get back to that."

Ultimately Richards hopes to strike a balance for his team.

"I want this to be the best experience for the girls," he said. "Everyone wants to win, no one wants to lose, but it's my job to make sure they are developing, getting better and enjoying playing basketball."

South tips off the 2023 season on the road at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, at Romeo. The home opener is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, against Port Huron Northern. The Blue Devils won't face archrival Grosse Pointe North until Friday, January 5, at North. They will host the Norsemen at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23.



COURTESY PHOTO

Liggett's girls basketball team is looking for a third consecutive district championship this upcoming season and fourth out of the last five years.

6D WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

GROSSE POINTE UNITED

Girls Gymnastics

Beam and floor team strengths for 2023 United Gymnastics

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Breaking an overall scoring record and qualifying as a team for the first time in years for last year's state final may be tough to top this season, but the Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics (GPUG) team is determined to nail that combination again in the 2023-24 season.

The team, which competes in the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 1, Region 4, hopes to top the record-setting 138.975 points it earned last season in the league championship, along with its third place regional finish and 10th place finish in the state final meet. It was the program's best outcome since 2014, when the team placed fourth overall.

That's the kind of progress former Grosse Pointe North star gymnast and third-year head coach Izzy Nguyen plans to build on with this year's squad, which includes eight gymnasts from North and two from Grosse Pointe South.

"My season goals would be to get my girls to states as a team and have individuals make it too," she said. "I also hope to win leagues this year. A goal I shoot for every year is to make sure my girls are all comfortable with each other and have a strong team bond."

Since the team takes athletes from both North and South, making sure there's good team chemistry is nearly as important as the skills each one brings to the team, Nguyen said. Early in the season, she said she can already see some team strengths.

"I believe the events my team is strongest on would be floor and beam," she said. "I have four new girls who joined (the team) this season. Three of them have had club experience beforehand. As a whole, nine out of my 10 girls have had experience in club (gymnastics)."

Having competition experience will be an asset to the team, she noted.

Nguyen will lead the team this season with two assis-

stants — Courtney Hamidi, who has been with GPUG for several seasons, along with new assistant Meagan Ruthhart. This year's roster includes:

Lucy Tull and Natalie Whittaker from South.

Ainsley Tanghe, Penny Roustemis, Makiya Latham, Allie Mattes, Jessi Taylor, Emily Bania, Catie Kaslatas and Anna Nguyen from North.

Tanghe and Roustemis, who also dives for North's varsity swim and dive team, will serve as captains.

With new benchmarks achieved last season, Nguyen is eager to get the season started. "I'm proud of taking my team to states as a team last year, because it had been a few years since the team (qualified for) states," she said. "This team may be a little smaller compared to last year's, but I am excited and happy to be coaching these girls every season. I'm also excited to see what they will be showing me throughout this season."



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8D | HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA NOLAND

Grosse Pointe South's coed sailing team gets ready to set sail in New York City earlier this month.

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH COED VARSITY SAILING

In early November, South's coed varsity sailing team traveled to the Merchant Marine Academy in New York City for the Atlantic Coast Championship. The team qualified for the invitational regatta by taking second place in

the Michigan Championship held earlier this season in Grosse Pointe, followed by a top five finish at the Great Lakes district championship in Chicago.

With the New York skyline serving as backdrop, South took 15th place out of 20 teams led by seniors Gavin Webster and Eric Breiden, along with junior Jack Riley, sophomore Peter Horst and freshman Ava Kozak.

"It is always a goal to advance to the Atlantic Coast Championship each fall, and it is no easy feat," South's head sailing coach Christina Noland said. It's the next step past districts and keeps us competing at a national level."

The sailing team will take a break before the spring season starts in April.



GROSSE POINTE SOUTH VARSITY SAILING

The girls team traveled to San Diego for the Girls High School National Championship Oct. 14-15, after qualifying at the Midwest Championship in Grosse Pointe earlier this season for the first time since 2019. South finished 19th overall among the country's top 24 teams, led by senior Evelyn Young and freshmen Annabelle Kraydich, Ana Kozak and Courtney Cowan.

"I am so proud of our South Sailing ladies and their performance at nationals. It was an incredible event from start to finish," South's head sailing coach Christina Noland said.

"We worked hard, stayed focused and I saw improvement on elements in each and every race."

Does your team have a newsworthy quick hit or highlight from the week to share? Send it along to mleonard@grossepointenews.com.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

University Liggett senior soccer captain Claudio Cavallo, left, received first team All-State recognition in Division 4.

HONORS:

Continued from page 1D

received All-State recognition in soccer this fall, with North's junior captain Matthew Robert making third team All-State in Division 2.

In tennis, one of North's doubles pairings received an honorable mention in the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association All-State list. The team of Vasilios Vasilos and Gruhith Yerrameli were recognized in Division 2.

University Liggett

After an outstanding soccer season that saw the Knights win Catholic League and district championships, five Liggett players earned All-State honors in Division 4. Senior Claudio Cavallo was named first team All-State while fellow seniors Cass Cooley and John Francis earned second team All-State recognition. Junior Bobby Harthorn made third team All-State while senior goalkeeper received an Honorable Mention.

Liggett's boys tennis team ended the fall as

state runner-up in Division 4 and produced an individual state champion. That champion was Sebastian Courtright, who took the Division 4 crown in No. 1 singles and was named All-State following his achievement. His teammate and fellow singles player Charlie Cooksey also was recognized with All-State honors.

Two of Liggett tennis' doubles pairs also made the All-State list. Those pairs were Niko Cooksey and Landon Maltby and Tommy Ugval and Luca Marciano.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

ment in times and finishes from 2022 to 2023 comes from plenty of hard work in the high school offseason. She spent countless hours training to help make herself faster and got to swim competitively plenty of times with the Grosse Pointe Gators, her club team.

One of her biggest improvements, she feels, has been how Beal mentally prepares to swim. Her coach at North, Chris Trepanowski, has taught Beal different techniques to stay focused as she gets onto the block for a race, and his help seems to have Beal more

focused than ever.

"I actually started visualizing my races and Coach Trepanowski really helped better all of us to visualize our races and set ourselves up for success," she said. "I tried to visualize more and not get nervous and before big meets I try to stay calm and know that I've worked hard for it, and if everything goes right this one will be another great swim."

While she reached the podium twice at states in two individual events, and twice more as the anchor in two relay events, Beal knows that none of it would have been possible without her teammates. As she said before, the best way to swim and set records

is to have good teammates around you, and the bond that Beal and her fellow Norsemen have built not only this year, but in the past few years, has lifted everyone's performances.

"We were all pretty much bonding really well because we didn't add a ton of freshmen, but the ones we did add, a lot of people already knew them anyway," Beal said. "...We all really connected and were able to bring out the best in each other, and that's a great thing to have for a team especially to be able to go out to states and do what we did."

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Beal, center, pictured with North teammates Rylee Nugent, left, and Addie Wakefield, right, at last summer's Lakefront Swimming Championship.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN 19617 HARPER AVENUE HARPER WOODS, MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Harper Woods, Michigan Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225. At the hearing, all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to solicit public comments on the following proposed Special Land Uses pursuant to Section 10-770, Section 10-643 and Section 10-653 of the Harper Woods, Michigan Zoning Ordinance:

- 19616 Kelly Road - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district, and
- 19558 Kelly Road - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district, and
- 20760 Harper Avenue - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district, and
- 20330-20340 Harper Avenue - Proposed Marijuana Retail Business
To obtain a Special Land Use approval to establish a Marijuana Retail business in the C-2, Commercial Business zoning district.

Written comments may be submitted prior to the public hearing and should be addressed to: The Planning Commission c/o Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk, City of Harper Woods, 19617 Harper Avenue, Harper Woods, MI 48225.