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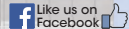
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Grosse Pointe News

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BoE picks new superintendent

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Owosso Public Schools Superintendent Andrea Tuttle will be the next superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System after a unanimous 7-0 vote by the board of education Tuesday, Dec. 12.



Andrea Tuttle

The two sides now move toward negotiating a contract to make the decision official, which board President Ahmed Ismail said shouldn't take long. Ismail added he could not remember a unanimous decision on a new superintendent during his time on the board, which dates back to 2004.

"My first priority is to listen and learn about the

budget, concerns people have and also all the wonderful things the district has to offer," Tuttle told the Grosse Pointe News. "I also know the curriculum offerings and staff are outstanding."

She has been superintendent in Owosso 14 years, serving before that as a teacher, coach, technology director and principal in the Corunna and

See PICK, page 10A



ARTWORK COURTESY OF SUZY BERSCHBACK

'Wonder'

Grosse Pointe Farms resident Suzy Berschback entered three pieces to the Grosse Pointe News' flash art contest, including this digital piece, "Wonder," which has been named the contest winner. For her first-place win, Berschback will receive a \$100 gift card to Posterity Gallery. Find all of our contest entries, which celebrate the holidays, on page 9A.

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See Section C

Delinquent notice of water failure

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A subpar score on the golf course is something to cheer. A below-standard drinking water report isn't.

Park officials suspect stagnant water in a peripheral iron water pipe is the source of tests last summer showing pH levels below standards.

Low pH reveals water is more acidic than allowed by the state department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, or EGLE. Acidic water corrodes metal pipes. Lead from pipes can be leached into the water stream, as prompted the Flint Water crisis a few years ago.

"It (pH) was supposed to be 7," said Tom Jenny, Park public works supervisor. "It was a little under 7, so we had to flush the line. If we had more loops in the city and had water

moving more freely, we wouldn't have any problems."

He and other members of the administration were surprised the EGLE testing team didn't tell them of the violation until at least three months later.

"The actual sample was taken in July," Jenny said. "We didn't get notified until Oct. 23. They called and said they needed a line flushed. We flushed it that day."

"GLWA tests water for levels of pH and other things," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "We were not given timely indication that this violation happened, for which we are required by law to post a public notice that we were in non-compliance."

According to the notice, published in the Dec. 7 Grosse Pointe News, the

See WATER, page 2A

Forlorn for lead pipe funding

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city's second in command said publicly this month what many municipal officials have hoped for since the state responded to the Flint water crisis by imposing an unfunded Michigan-wide mandate to replace all lead water service lines.

The mandate requires water systems to replace

lead lines by 2041.

"The full-service line must be replaced at water supply expense, regardless of ownership," according to the Lead and Copper Rule Revision summary at michigan.gov.

"If they're going to make that a mandate, there has to be something coming down the pipe," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, mayor pro tem of the Park, about expect-

ing the state to assist jurisdictions to meet the standard.

"I'd love to see money come, but if anything comes, we're going to be last on the list to get it," said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

The Park often loses grant opportunities favoring cities that are financially strapped.

See LEAD, page 3A

Farms passes new master plan

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Wrapping up a process that began in mid-2022, Farms city council unanimously passed its updated master plan Monday, Dec. 11.

"It gives us a real road forward," Councilman Lev Wood said. "A lot of recommendations. I'm

particularly interested in the zoning plan, in the recommendations there, and look forward to implementing this."

The master plan's overarching themes, which will guide council and city administration in their decisions going forward, are preservation of the city's architectural character, increased housing diversity, strategized

localized economic development, redeveloping potential sites, promotion of safe, efficient travel and adaption to the impacts of a changing climate.

High-priority goals coming out of the plan are:

◆ creating zoning ordinance regulations for res-

See PLAN, page 8A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Andrea Moran
Home: City of Grosse Pointe Rustic Root shop owner settles into bigger space in St. Clair Shores

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Trombly resolution

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city council passed a ceremonial resolution this month advocating the school district resume public education at Trombly Elementary School.

Council members' prior support and subsequent unanimous endorsement of the idea didn't represent contentiousness about wording the resolution, the initial proponent of which argued more to receive top billing than craft the most effective message.

"I would like my original language put at the top," said Councilwoman Christine Gallagher during the council's meeting Dec. 11.

One month earlier toward the end of the council's November meeting, Gallagher surprised everyone by proposing an unambiguous two-sentence resolution regarding Trombly, which district officials closed a few years ago citing declining enrollment.

"The Grosse Pointe Park City Council recommends as a priority the return of Trombly to its prior status as a Grosse Pointe Public School Elementary School," Gallagher's submission read. "And that the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Ed makes every effort to accomplish this goal."

Not knowing Gallagher was going to introduce an action requiring their sponsorship, council members convinced her to delay the proposal one

month while they thought it over.

On Dec. 11, they resumed.

"It's very simple and straightforward," Gallagher said of her resolution this month. "Establishing priorities is effective in achieving results."

Mayor Michele Hodges proposed a longer resolution. She rounded out the final objective by including eight ways to achieve it.

"A resolution is a good idea as long as it's properly crafted," Hodges said. "Much to your point, Ms. Gallagher, having priorities gets results. So do accountability measures. I have worked out language that might get us to that and included some accountability measures as well."

Hodges wording, as ultimately passed in favor of Gallagher's, began:

"The Grosse Pointe Park City Council recommends as a priority that we work in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public School System to effectuate the long-term sustainability of Trombly as a vibrant community asset, preferably as a public elementary school, and to deploy accountability measures to increase the probability of success and that the Board of Ed make every effort to accomplish this goal."

Her eight tactics and accountability measures followed:

◆ Resume meetings of a joint committee of school officials. "I have

See TROMBLY, page 11A



COURTESY RENDERING

Although the number of units may now decrease, the site plan is approved for up to 77 residential units, 4,300 square feet of commercial space and shared parking spaces with the city.

St. Clair development approval gets extension

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The developer for City Center Apartments at 582-606 St. Clair now hopes to break ground in summer or fall of 2024, after the City's planning commission Monday approved a one-year extension to the planned unit development, or PUD, agreement and site plan.

"Site plan approval expires after one year if the applicant hasn't received building permits

for the development," said Gage Belko, an associate planner with McKenna. "We are coming up on that one year tomorrow and so unless that timeline is extended by the planning commission, this development would cease to have the approval."

The one-year extension — approved 6-0 by the planning commission, with commissioner Dave Fries absent — is a one-time offer and is subject to the PUD agreement being executed with the city by Jan. 31,

2024, as well as the building permits being secured by Dec. 19, 2024.

Failure by the developer to do so would mean revocation of the PUD agreement, reverting the approved land use back to its original zoning.

"As the world changed a bit with interest rates and we wanted to really re-review post-COVID the size of the units, given the nature of this market and some of the questions that we had from prospective tenants, we decided to take

another look and maybe expand the footprint," developer Michael Bailey said as to why building permits have not yet been secured.

Specifically, his team is exploring a change in unit layouts to provide room for in-home work spaces. This could mean a reduction in the planned 77 units to allow for larger units.

"It's nothing more than that," Bailey said of the needed extension, "and we still want the project and hope to get going soon."

Shores gets \$1.2 million gift

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Christmas came early for city council at its meeting Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the form of a donation topping \$1.2 mil-

lion from the estate of a former resident.

"We got a call a couple months ago from the trust and it took a while to finalize all the paperwork," City Manager Steve Poloni said.

The money comes from

the estate of Carole Ann Williams, who passed away in May at age 84. She was a graduate of Grosse Pointe University School (now University Liggett School) and the daughter of Jack G. and Gwen B. Williams. Her

father was mayor of the Shores from 1954 to 1964. He was the longest-serving mayor until being surpassed by current Mayor Ted Kedzierski, who has been in that role since 2011, and on council since 2009.

"I don't think we need

See GIFT, page 5A

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WATER:

Continued from page 1A

Park failed the test 10 times between July 6 and 24.

"We think we've isolated what line it is," Jenny said. "It was leading into the Park, a dead-end line that does not get flushed a lot. It doesn't get

used a lot. If there was a loop to it, we wouldn't have these issues."

Looped mains, by definition, lack dead-ends prone to stagnation.

"This was due to corrosion, which happens with iron water mains," Sizeland said. "That's why we're trying to replace them."

Last summer the Park replaced an iron water main on Mack Avenue between Whittier and Cadieux. Next comes one on upper Beaconsfield, during which around 100 lead service lines to residences will be replaced.

"New, plastic mains don't have this issue," Sizeland said of lead contamination. "Also, we have a lot of dead-end lines that aren't flushed as much in our community where water may stagnate. When we flush

water mains in this community, we have to be very, very careful. The mains are so old we can break the pipes."

The city missed the state's 30-day requirement to post a public notice.

"We think we've isolated what line it is. It was leading into the Park, a dead-end line that ... doesn't get used a lot."

TOM JENNY

Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Works

"That was on me," Jenny said. "It got lost in everything we're doing. Going forward, we will be more proactive with email, Facebook, the city calendar, website and emails."

The Park is among 127 cities that buy potable water from the Great Lakes Water Authority. As part of the authority's purification process, a compound called orthophosphate is added to the water.

"This compound is to prevent metals, such as lead, from leaching from

the pipes into the water," according to an explanation on the state website, michigan.gov, titled, "City of Flint Distribution System Monitoring Data." Orthophosphate works best if pH levels are between 7 and 8.

"Orthophosphate reacts with lead and copper to form compounds that have a strong tendency to stay in solid form and not dissolve into water," according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. "The extent to which orthophosphate can control lead and copper release depends on the orthophosphate concentration, pH" and others.

GLWA tests city water quarterly.

"There's one due by Dec. 31," Jenny said.

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Nothing Bundt Cakes hosts pop-up in The Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Although construction delays have significantly pushed back the opening of The Village's Nothing Bundt Cakes location, Grosse Pointers still will have easy access to the bakery's offerings this holiday season via a pop-up location running Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the first week of January.

Its permanent location initially was expected to open in October.

"We're very disappointed the permanent site won't be open by Christmas," franchisee Andrea Jones said. "We were disappointed about Thanksgiving and we were really disappointed about Christmas and we had a lot of people asking when we're going to open. The city's even been really helpful with trying to get us open, so we (thought) we've got to do something so everybody can get some holiday cake if they need it."

The pop-up is located



COURTESY PHOTO

Nothing Bundt Cakes employees prepare to welcome Grosse Pointer's to the Nothing Bundt Cakes temporary pop-up location in Suite 225 on the second floor of the old Jacobson's building at 17000 Kercheval.

in Suite 225 on the second floor of the old Jacobson's building at 17000 Kercheval.

If customers enter on the northeast corner by Trader Joe's, they then can take the elevator or stairs up to the second

floor and the suite will be directly to the left, emphasized by a temporary sign and abundance of Christmas decor.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, as well as 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays.

Dates are Dec. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30 and 31, along with Jan. 5, 6 and 7.

Along with its seasonal peppermint chocolate chip flavor, the bakery offers bundt cakes in chocolate chocolate chip, red velvet, lemon, white

chocolate raspberry, con-fetti, gluten-free chocolate chip cookie and more.

The pop-up's limited selection will offer bundt-tinis, which are the size of a golf ball; bundlets, the size of a large cupcake; and eight-inch cakes.

"It's always so fun to see everyone, how happy they are to get these holiday cakes," Jones said.

"They're so excited about the season themselves."

Although not required, customers can preorder for scheduled pick up at the Grosse Pointe pop-up by calling the Sterling Heights location at (586) 884-3666; emailing GrossePointe-Mi@NothingBundtCakes.com; or stopping into the pop-up in person.

Those who preorder can request personalized decoration, although the pop-up also will sell cake decorations on the side.

Having the opportunity for the pop-up holds a special place in Jones' heart, because her daughters — Camryn, 16, Kendall, 14, and Kyle, 12

— are helping her run the location.

"Their time is limited with me sometimes, because of how hard I work to open these bakeries and work to keep them open ... so that's why this one's special," she said. "... I'm really looking forward to spending time with them and having them share how fun it is to bring joy to their guests at the same time they get to experience that with me this holiday season."

The permanent Nothing Bundt Cakes location at 17021 Kercheval, next to Pet Supplies Plus, is anticipated to open in late January.

A week-long grand-opening celebration is planned for the week of Valentine's Day and will feature special events and giveaways.

"We're working as hard as we can to get open and we're so happy that the city gave us this opportunity to still bring them joy and some cake this holiday season," Jones said, "so we're just very thankful."

Woods lawsuit: Remodel or rebuild?

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Residents on North Renaud have filed a lawsuit against their neighbor and city over what they claim is a violation of zoning ordinances.

The property in question, 707 N. Renaud, is owned by Nicholas and Alanna Avouris and was purchased in 2021. They are being sued by Christal Lint and Daniel Spies, who live next door, and Ed Rinke Jr., who lives nearby.

The suit alleges the Avourises demolished an existing structure on the property "without the necessary permits ... to the point where no

part of the original structure remained."

The suit goes on to say the Avourises obtained a permit from the city in 2022 to remodel the kitchen at an estimated cost of \$150,000 and that the city issued retroactive permits for the project that led to construction of a new home that does not fit the character of the neighborhood.

City Administrator Frank Schulte said he could not comment on pending litigation. An email he sent to City Attorney Tim Tomlinson Sept. 22, asked him to "provide Cristal Lint a letter that the home at 707 North Renaud meets all city code and ordinance requirements."

Attorney Eric Shepherd, representing the Avourises, said the city approved all plans submitted for 707 N. Renaud.

City council, sitting as the Zoning Board of Appeals, granted the Avourises two variances at its meeting Monday, Nov. 20, regarding the home's first-floor elevation and the amount of the lot the structure covers. The Avourises agreed to reduce the size of the home's front porch to comply with the city's front yard setback requirement.

Mayor Art Bryant and councilmembers Angela Coletti Brown, Todd McConaghy and Thomas Vaughn voted in favor of the variances.

Councilmembers Kenn Gafa and Vicki Granger were opposed, with Michael Koester excused.

To receive a variance, city code requires several factors be met, including that strict compliance "causes practical difficulty due to significant or unjustified expense," and that "practical difficulty with compliance was not created as a result of any action taken by the applicant which was unlawful."

In exchange for the variances, the Avourises agreed they would not construct any accessory buildings on the property or do anything to

See LAWSUIT, page 8A

A remedy for lake-area cell phone lapses

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Lousy cell phone coverage south of Jefferson is closer to being put on hold.

A consultant City Manager Nick Sizeland has been pestering for months called him back last week with promising news.

"We have interest from several big carriers: AT&T, Verizon and T-Mobile," Sizeland said. "I was told these carriers are very interested, if we are, in get-

ting something done next year. T-Mobile is working in Grosse Pointe Shores."

Cell phone coverage below Jefferson can be next to nil.

"I know residents who have to cross (north of Jefferson) in order to make a phone call," Sizeland said. "Something needs to happen."

The carriers he mentioned are interested in operating a 120- to 150-foot tower located at, in order of preference:

See REMEDY, page 5A

LEAD:

Continued from page 1A

Line replacement

Conversion must be at a pace of at least 5 percent per year within 20 years, according to provisions of the 2018 Lead and Copper Rule.

Prior rules required lead line replacement at a rate of 7 percent annually, but only in jurisdictions that repeatedly tested positive for lead. Contamination of Flint's drinking water supply starting in 2014 prompted Michigan officials in 2018 to enact the proactive mandate, the first of its kind in the nation.

Josh Chafin, head of the Park water department, said it costs the city between \$4,000 and \$5,000 to replace a lead service line.

"We have over 2,000 of them," added Tom Jenny, head of public works.

That translates into total switch-out costs of \$8 million to \$10 million in current dollars.

"We have until 2041 to repair all lead service lines in the city," Jenny said. "There's no state funding for it. As of now, we're doing it on an as-needed basis."

"The Environmental

Protection Agency is trying to push a 10-year replacement program instead of 25 (years) originally for lead service lines," Chafin said. "I don't see it happening because nobody has money for it."

The city's way of nipping at the 5 percent annual goal is to piggyback lead line replacement on other construction, such as forthcoming water main replacement on upper Beaconsfield.

"The criteria as we do projects is the number of lead lines we can accomplish rather than another project that might have a lesser (number)," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

"Eighty-seven service lines are going to be done within the Beaconsfield project," Wiener said.

The roughly 5 percent of the lines being replaced on Beaconsfield are in addition to 2 percent already replaced, according to Jenny.

Grants

The search for outside funding continues.

"We have applied for several (grants) at the state and federal level," Sizeland said.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 — the COVID

stimulus bill — is ending.

"There will be no grants as of now coming in," Sizeland said. "You're going to be stuck with just loan programs, the Clean Water-Drinking Water Revolving Fund. We're still looking at FEMA and other grants. We applied for a BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities) grant last year. We'll probably reapply for that again."

Newly elected Councilman Tim Kolar, a state employee, suggested the Park seek a grant titled Technical Managerial and Financial Support For Lead Service Line Replacement (TMF). Jenny and Sizeland said

they are aware of the grant and agree it is an opportunity worth pursuing.

TMF grants top out at \$600,000 per applicant. Applications are accepted during January 2024.

Recipients getting priority haven't received a Drinking Water Asset Management Grant, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund or ARPA funding within five years, according to an explanation posted at michigan.gov/egle.

"Communities will then be ranked by median annual household income in ascending order," according to the explanation.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

The Rustic Root settles into new, bigger space

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

Most people have a hectic schedule leading up to the holidays, but Andrea Moran was tasked with opening her brand new store before the Christmas shopping season got underway. The owner of beloved St. Clair Shores floral and gift shop, The Rustic Root, quite literally had to uproot her business by moving and expanding to her new location at 23165 Greater Mack in the business district of St. Clair Shores.

For Moran, who lives in the City of Grosse Pointe, owning a floral business wasn't even a consideration until after she had her three children.

"I have an English degree from MSU," she said. "Floral design was not even on my radar."

Prior to her business ownership days, she worked as a substitute teacher, a real estate



Andrea Moran, right, and her sister, Lindsay, are all smiles in their new shop.

appraiser working with historic homes in Detroit and even a long stint as a bartender at Excalibur.

"I tapped into my creative side after having my children," Moran said. "I am a self-taught designer."

Anyone who has seen any of her floral arrangements or walked into The Rustic Root would probably guess otherwise. Her ability to put colors and textures together is impressive with a unique point of

view — and she manages to create a vibe all her own.

Described as "organic and whimsical," there's something for everyone at The Rustic Root. With her new space comes

more gift items, plants

and events — exactly what she envisioned when she and her sister began their journey.

"I love the wide open space and the light," she said. "We always wanted to be in a shopping district. This opportunity knocked at the right moment."

Moran has three daughters and a golden doodle named Mick, all of whom help their mom in varying degrees with the family business she runs with her parents and sister.

"Kasey, my youngest, is a fantastic helper," she said. "She was raised at the shop with me and is a creative little girl."

Her girls are what motivates her to succeed, as well as her father, whom she boasts, "is the hardest working man I will ever know. It's hard to top him, but I will do my best."

Moran said she enjoys carving out her own space in the floral indus-

try. "There's a whole world of flowers out there that goes beyond a dozen red roses," she said. "And, there is no such thing as 'something simple' in my world. I still put my time and thoughtfulness into everything I make with my two hands, no matter the dollar value."

Moran has lived in Grosse Pointe for 22 years and finds it difficult to choose the best things about living here.

"I love and appreciate the charm of the neighborhoods and being so close to the water," she said. "I love it here because of the schools, the walkability, the parks — the list can keep going. It's a beautiful place to raise a family."

The Rustic Root's new address is 23165 Greater Mack, in the 9 Mile and Greater Mack Business District. Find it on Instagram @therusticrootdesignco.

The Rustic Root is all decked out for the holidays at its new location, 23165 Greater Mack.



Grosse Pointe News

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Moran enjoys a picnic with her three daughters.

PHOTOS BY RENE LANDUYT

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City of Grosse Pointe

Nice try

An unknown person attempted to transfer approximately \$50,000 from a Grosse Pointer's account to an unknown account Monday, Dec. 11, but the resident caught the attempted transaction in time to prevent it.

Open invitation

Nothing appeared to be taken from an unlocked vehicle in the 500 block of Lakeland that was rummaged through overnight Thursday, Dec. 14.

Business break-in

An unknown person entered the front door of a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval at 3:15 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18, and stole a small safe and cash from the register. Approximately \$1,200 was stolen in total.

— *Laurel Kraus*

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Free for all

The Farms experienced a string of thefts from vehicles last week, beginning with a possible attempt in the 300 block of Fisher at 2:37 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11. After the homeowner's car alarm went off, he dis-

covered the driver's door would not completely shut and latch, as though it had been damaged by being tampered with. Nothing was missing from the interior.

Other reported incidents include:

◆ A license plate being stolen from a 2017 Lincoln MKX, possibly while it was parked at a local school Tuesday, Dec. 12.

◆ A man was caught on camera stealing a mason jar full of change from an unlocked vehicle in the 200 block of McKinley at 6:20 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12. The suspect wore a dark trench coat with a hood and white line down the arms of the coat, as well as baggy pants.

◆ Coins were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 300 block of Ridge overnight into Saturday, Dec. 16.

Bad day

A 23-year-old Detroit man was cited for an expired license plate, not having insurance and driving while license suspended after he was pulled over at Kerby and Mack at 12:16 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15.

Not his sleigh

After a homeowner noticed a man going through her mailbox at

7:08 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, officers arrested the 39-year-old Detroit man for being in possession of a vehicle stolen out of Detroit.

Naughty list

When four 18-year-old boys were noticed by an officer in the Brownell Middle School courtyard at 1:26 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, they were cooperative, apologized for trespassing on school property and offered to clean up any mess they had made.

After telling the officer no one else was hiding on school property, they were released, but an 18-year-old Farms boy then was found hiding on the roof of the breezeway.

In his pockets were a marijuana vape and vape cartridge, while a bag found nearby also contained wrapped blunts in glass vials, marijuana products, tobacco products, THC gummies, loose marijuana and a firearm whiskey shooter.

The boy was cited for minor in possession of alcohol, minor in possession of marijuana and disorderly person for trespassing onto the roof of the school and requiring the response of the fire department. He then was transported home and turned over to his mother.

Sizeland said. "We would lease them the land."

Potential municipal revenue is around \$1,500 to \$2,000 per month, per carrier on a tower. Three carriers on a tower translates into around \$5,000 rent revenue monthly or \$60,000 per year.

Councilman Tom Caulfield prefers the city hall site. He doesn't want any privatization of the municipal parks.

Wherever the tower is located, it will generate revenue for both the carriers and city.

"The carriers would build the tower,"

about finances and fundraising. The \$1 million, however, is just a start.

"This gift will be a great seed to start the process," he said. "We don't have an exact cost, but it's more than just a hole in the ground with water."

Poloni said changes to the pool also would entail revamping the water filtration system.

"Our next step is to get all the stakeholders

involved," he said. "The foundation, the swim team, the residents. Then we can start talking about getting some architectural renderings. This isn't just a one- or two-year process."

Council's monthly meeting, usually held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday, was moved to noon Tuesday, Dec. 12, and was followed by the city's annual volunteer appreciation lunch.

REMEDY:

Continued from page 3A

Patterson Park, Windmill Pointe Park or city hall.

"Patterson Park is the most central location and that's their biggest deficiency area followed by Windmill," Sizeland said.

GIFT:

Continued from page 2A

any further discussion," Kedzierski joked as a motion to accept the money was made. "This is great news."

Poloni said the money comes with the stipulation that it be spent on improvements at Osius Park. The exact total is \$1,238,111.

"We're going to take \$1 million and invest it right away in something like a CD so it can start earning interest," Poloni said. "We can put the rest in the park budget and use it for some projects we already have going on there."

Poloni said the timing couldn't be better because the city recently began talking about redoing the pool at Osius Park.

"It's been refurbished twice and we do necessary repairs from time to time, but it's probably in need of a complete overhaul," he said. "It's 60 years old and needs some modernization."

The \$1 million, plus whatever interest it earns in the interim, will help.

"We want to take an overall view of the entire complex," Poloni noted. "That includes the kiddie pool and bath house."

Poloni also said there have been informal conversations with the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation

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Red, not green

After driving through a solid red light at Mack and Kerby, a 37-year-old Grosse Pointe man was cited for never acquiring a license and disobeying a traffic control device at 9:23 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17.

— *Laurel Kraus*

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Carjacked

A silver handgun added sparkle to the all-black outfits of three masked men while committing carjacking at 8:35 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, in the 1211 block of Beaconsfield near the intersection of Kercheval.

"The (male) victim was approached by the suspects while stopped to pick up carryout food," according to police. "One suspect, armed with a handgun, demanded the victim's car key."

Park officers traced the car to an abandoned house in Detroit.

"It was recovered a short time later, unoccupied," they said.

It was the first carjacking in the Park this year and, for the suspects, might be their last.

"We have a pretty in-depth investigation going to catch these three," said Jim Bostock, Park public

safety director. "We are investigating with the Detroit Police Department's auto theft task force, which also has some leads."

Car window smashed

An unknown vandal or failed thief smashed the rear window of a sport utility vehicle parked curbside overnight last week in the 1400 block of Lakepointe.

The incident reportedly happened between 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, and 8 a.m. the next day.

Nothing was missing from the vehicle, according to police.

— *Brad Lindberg*

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

False alarms, literally

Officers responded to two false alarms at homes on Lakeshore Sunday, Dec. 18.

The first occurred shortly after 6 a.m., where it was found the homeowner's daughter had opened a bedroom window.

The second was around 11 p.m. where an officer helped a caretaker reset a faulty alarm.

— *Ted O'Neil*
Report information

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Fast work

A resident in the 900 block of Lochmoor reported a package delivered to her porch at 3:25 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, was stolen within 10 minutes. Security footage showed a black male between 20 and 30 years old wearing a black hat, red coat and blue jeans taking the package and leaving in a dark-colored SUV.

Check fraud

A resident in the 2000 block of Anita filed a report around 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, that a check he sent through the mail was changed and made out to a name he didn't recognize. The amount also was changed from \$60 to \$1,000.

He sent the check to a doctor's office that never received it.

No one noticed

A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle while it was parked on Mack near Lochmoor between 4:30 and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12.

— *Ted O'Neil*
Report information about these and other crimes 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

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

SEAN COTTON: Owner
ANNE GRYZENIA: Publisher
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief
MEG LEONARD: Senior Editor

OUR VIEW

GPC detective takes a bite out of crime

“The moral of the story is that if you come into Grosse Pointe and hit us, we’re going to hit back and we’re hitting back as hard as we can to send a message. ... Last year we cleaned up Kroger. This year we cleaned up Lululemon. Who knows what it will be next year.”

Those are the strong and welcome words of Detective Mike Narduzzi of the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department, as reported by Laurel Kraus in her article, “City’s own takes down Lululemon theft ring” in the Dec. 14 edition of the Grosse Pointe News.

Narduzzi recently earned praise from Attorney General Dana Nessel’s office for initially identifying the string of push-out thefts at metro Detroit Lululemon stores, including Grosse Pointe. The thieves hit the Grosse Pointe location three separate times in the store’s first week of opening last July.

Detective Narduzzi’s earnest work landed three suspected ringleaders of the crimes in custody. He strung together video of similar thefts across the state, collected a binder’s worth of evidence and placed a call to the AG’s office.

The state’s retail task force took it from there, along with the help of overwhelming evidence collected by Narduzzi and the City’s police department, detectives from the Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff’s Office and police departments of Canton, Novi and Birmingham.

That impressive teamwork resulted in the execution of search warrants earlier this month, leading to three arrests of people who are now facing multiple felonies instead of simple retail fraud. These suspects are justifiably getting the book thrown at them.

This bears repeating: The Grosse Pointes have the best public safety officers and detectives in the business. We are kept safe and the law is respected and enforced time and time again so we can freely go about our day and sleep well at night.

We would like to formally thank Detective Narduzzi and all the public safety officers and department staff who assisted with this case. Like McGruff the crime-fighting dog used to say, you “help take a bite out of crime,” and for that, we are very grateful.



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

GUEST VIEWS

Religious leaders usher in 2024

For our Christmas issue, the Grosse Pointe News invited a handful of church leaders to share their thoughts on 2023 and hopes for 2024. We thank those who participated and happily share their thoughts in this space.

A faith perspective makes the difference

The Rev. Randy Boelter
King of Kings Lutheran Church

As you await the unfolding of a new year, a faith perspective can make all the difference in sorting out the hardships that come your way. While there are many things that we’d change these days, the amazing turn of events that we can often experience when we go from an EXPECTED conclusion to an UNEXPECTED conclusion can be a real lesson in life and faith! The Greek slave and Stoic philosopher Epictetus wrote: “Men are disturbed not by things that happen, but by their opinion of things that happen.”

We’ve learned a bit about that at our church! Twenty-two years ago, you may remember that our congregation was stunned by a \$1.5 million embezzlement during a building program. Humanly speaking, all looked lost. In our discouragement, God used this tragedy to turn our eyes and hearts heavenward toward Jesus: He who rules heaven and earth, who saves, and gives strength and hope to the discouraged. Isaiah wrote: “He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength ...” (Is. 40:29ff).

In time, we experienced an incredible turn of events, for a seeming hopeless situation with its

anticipated outcome had, by God’s mercy, an unexpected outcome! God provided EVERYTHING that we needed, the congregation’s faith in Christ and in His Word grew, and our members grew even closer to each other. Are you discouraged? Talk to one of our members. You will find out that ultimately, it wasn’t the tragedy, but our faith outlook regarding the tragedy that was most important. It was in Christ’s hands all along and He made us a more faithful people.

God’s Word also offers you hope and a new perspective. “Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you (Dt. 31:6).” When discouraged about what you experience, ponder God’s Word and remember our story — how Jesus rescued us, your friends and neighbors on Mack/Lochmoor avenues. Faith in the crucified and risen Christ can also provide you with a new outlook, a readjustment that will make all the difference for you!

Encouraging words in the new year

By the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
Grosse Pointe Congregational Church

The new year encourages us to look back while leaning forward into the possibilities that could be, hence the reason some people choose to make resolutions. Reflecting on the past year, they resolve to do things differently in the new year. Perhaps, resolving that this year, they will use their Peloton bike more than once this year;

See GUEST, page 7A

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.

Christmas concert joy

Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite no.1: excerpts, opened the Grosse Pointe

Symphony Orchestra’s concert Dec. 10. Sounds of the orchestra moving with the sounds of Brittany DeYoung’s harp secured the joy anticipated for the concert.

Next, a grand performance by Ben Graham as he played the first movement of Walton’s Viola Concerto, known for its avant garde qualities of dissonance reflecting our times. Graham was well prepared, exhibiting a beautifully deep full searching tone. Graham is an inspiration to hear the complete concerto.

Third came “Peter and the Wolf” by Prokofiev, a delightful symphonic fairy tale narrated by Msgr. Gary Smetanka. Instrumental sections of the orchestra associated with various characters performed with style and accuracy resulting in the

imagination to perceive the story. Various representations of the animals joined with the orchestra to create a vibrant story picture: a most captivating performance by orchestra and narrator.

The divinity of Guilman’s Symphony no. 1 for organ and orchestra excelled as a masterpiece in its performance. Certainly it belongs to being heard in this magnificent sanctuary. The strong attributes of the organ along with advanced levels of orchestra execution was to behold for all musical sensibilities. The organist, Aaron Kaleniecki, gave a remarkable performance to be remembered undoubtedly.

Lastly, “A Christmas Festival” by Leroy Anderson concluded with his vintage carols performed with hearts of Christmas joy by the GPSO. Surely, the audience listened with their hearts and heard the joy. As the audience left I could hear whispering: “Good will toward all men and women. Peace on earth.”

LEONA FORBES
*Grosse Pointe Woods
GPSO Board Member*

Making magic happen

To the Editor:

Compliments to the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association for facilitating the magical lights of Kercheval Avenue’s Cabbage Patch and especially the “Secret Santas” who make this magic a reality.

JOE TOMPKINS
City of Grosse Pointe

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(313) 882-6900

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

December 21 – 27



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42° 30°	42° 34°	44° 36°	47° 37°	47° 44°	45° 32°	44° 33°
Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Showers	Showers
0%	20%	20%	0%	0%	50%	40%
SUNRISE 7:57 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:02 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:03 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:04 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:04 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:05 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:05 pm

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

I SAY By Mike Adzima



A holiday guide to discussing football with family

topics in college football that could be brought up when you're around loved ones during the next couple of weeks.

"There's too many bowl games./Bowl games are meaningless now."

As we get to the heart of bowl season around Christmas and New Year's, you're likely to hear someone like your dad or your uncle say something along these lines at some point. To a degree, they might be right. Heck, as I'm writing this Dec. 18, there is a bowl game kicking off at 2:30 p.m. this Monday afternoon.

That bowl game is called the Famous Toastery Bowl, which is something that will fuel the anti-bowl game argument. The bowl game market has become saturated with games named after odd corporate sponsors that seem to serve no purpose other than squeezing every last bit of revenue as possible out of college football fans. With the increased popularity of the transfer portal and players opting not to play in bowl games, a lot of these games lack appeal to really watch or become invested.

The College Football Playoff also has watered

down the rest of the bowl game calendar since the two bowls that serve as national championship semifinals are the only ones left that really mean something. Have bowl games lost a lot of their shine in recent years? Yes. But at the end of the day, it's still football. You don't have to necessarily care about who is playing; it's all about seeing green grass and a ball being thrown around on TV while you drift in and out of that sweet holiday food coma.

"How about all of that conference realignment?"

This topic is going to be pretty specific to this holi-

day season, since 2023 was the last year of the college football landscape looking the way we have known it for so long. Everything is changing as we head into 2024. The PAC 12 is disappearing, we have teams from the West Coast joining the Big Ten and a lot of other changes that are almost guaranteed to be talked about these holidays.

In my opinion, I'm not a fan of all the conference realignment. Perhaps it is because as a 26-year-old, I'm used to the college football landscape looking relatively the same for as long as I can remember and now

everything is changing. Michigan vs. USC is going to be a Big Ten conference game next season, which is going to take some getting used to.

Regardless of your stance on conference realignment, the way to end this discussion at your Christmas dinner table boils down to almost the same thing as the discussion on bowl games. No matter what, most of us are still going to watch anyway. We're sports fans. Michigan or Michigan State fans. Like all change, it will take some

See FAMILY, page 8A

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

or sticking to a dietary plan that will last longer than one month. I find it interesting that we always want to stop doing something that we did last year. For example, I have yet to hear anyone say they want to drink more wine this year.

Thinking about that — and I mean creating a positive resolution, not drinking more wine — since we have experienced three years of negativity, whether it's COVID, war, extreme points of view regarding reading books (or banning them) or who is serving as school board members and more war ... perhaps, instead of declaring what we won't do in 2024, what if we created positive resolutions for 2024?

Here are some examples of positive resolutions: I will attend a place of worship more frequently this year; I will strengthen my relationship with the Divine as I walk this journey of faith; I will become involved in a good cause, which will benefit a wider group of people; I will engage with mental and physical exercise; and I will expand my cultural experiences by attending art galas, live theatrical performances and musical concerts.

Thankfully, Grosse Pointe Congregational Church can help you with your resolutions as we have live concerts planned for the spring; we have three dinner theater productions planned in 2024; our art gallery is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday mornings; we have weekly Gentle Yoga on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings; and, we meet online and in person on Sunday mornings as we worship God each week, then go forth enriched to seek ways to build a community of peace which strives for justice.

Most importantly, in 2024, we will prayerfully discover the sense of peace that we so desperately need in our lives which can benefit our mental and spiritual selves. In a bizarre way, I miss the year of COVID when we were able to spend more time at home with our loved ones. I miss having a slower pace at life where the radio played in the background and, at least on my block, children played in their backyards on their playscape. And though we had to wear masks while standing six feet apart, my neighbors met on sidewalks for conversations. Since we no longer have shelter-in-place orders, the neighborhood is quiet. The children

are no longer in the backyards as they have after-school activities and it's been a long time since I saw neighbors chatting with each other. This is not to claim any of our busy activities are bad — it's just that I miss the "life of the neighborhood." I suspect God misses those days when we had to stay home as well. Especially since I used my time at home to listen to God and pray daily for the well-being of my community and for the health of my neighbors.

My resolution for 2024, is that I return to praying daily for my community and neighbors, and I resolve to spend a bit more time walking in the neighborhood to engage with my neighbors as we build a network of care, which is what God intended with the instructions "to love your neighbor as yourself."

Blessings in 2024.

Find time to laugh out loud

The Rev. Jeff Lincicome
Grosse Pointe Memorial Church

Christmas is silly. I'm not talking about movie classics like "Elf" or "Home Alone," or our family's all-time favorite Christmas book, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." I'm talking about the actual event we celebrate at Christmas. The idea that the Almighty would take such an interest in humans to be born in a stable to a teenage mother, in a sleepy Palestinian town, visited by smelly shepherds and overdressed magi bearing gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) that are completely unhelpful for a new mom. The whole thing has to make you laugh.

And yet, how easy is it for us in this complicated and dark world to miss out on the giddiness of this gracious incarnation?

The world we live in is wracked with anxieties, fears, worries, losses and sorrows. The conflict in Israel, Gaza and Ukraine both buckles our knees and causes us to shout out in rage over the senseless loss of life and the terror we see; all in real time on the evening news. Our own nation has suffered so many senseless acts of gun violence and mass shootings this past year (627 as of this writing, according to gunviolencearchive.org) that we hardly know how to respond anymore. Nothing ever changes. Even our own idyllic community has seen anger and conflict on many sides, pitting neighbors against each other on school reform or how inclusive we should be in this ever-changing world. The reality is that all this conflict and loss can be a heavy weight to bear. It feels serious because it is serious.

But when this happens, it can start to feel like being serious about life is the same thing as being sad about life. If we are not careful, we can fall into an existence that misses out on the good stuff. The sunrises over Lake St. Clair. The hush of the new-fallen snow. The laughter of our kids at play. The joy our pets bring us. Most pointedly, in the seriousness of life we can miss out on the hilarious idea that God could love us so much that a child was born to save the world.

Fr. Brennan Manning writes, "Christmas is a vision which enables the Christian to see beyond the tragic in his life. It is a reminder that he needs the

laughter of God to prevent him from taking the world too seriously. The Christian law of levity says that whatever falls into the earth will rise again. God's laughter is his loving act of salvation and Christian laughter is the echo of Christmas joy in us."

As we prepare for Christmas and the new year, may we engage our world that is filled with pain and injustice, with the seriousness it deserves. And yet, may we also find time to laugh out loud at the mysterious joy that comes from being alive on this side of the hilarity — and power — of the manger. Thanks be to God.

The gift of faith

By the Rev. Jim Bilot
St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church

I was reading the Grosse Pointe News one morning and saw the advertisements for our local businesses. I saw an item that piqued my curiosity, thinking it may make a great gift for a friend. I had a short window of time before an evening meeting, so I ventured out to The Village. I realized that my timing may not have been the best, because it was 5:50 p.m. and I wondered if the store was already closed. Thankfully the lights were on! However, as I was opening the door to the store, I

See GUEST, page 8A

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RAYMOND JAMES

8A | NEWS

LAWSUIT: FAMILY:

Continued from page 3A

extend the home's lot coverage.

Attorney Richard Linnel, representing Lint, Spies and Rinke Jr., disagreed.

"So now anyone can do what they want?" he asked. "People can just ignore zoning and get a variance after the fact."

The suit also mentions that Lint and Spies have had flooding in their basement from rainfall runoff because 707 N. Renaud is built on a slope where none previously existed.

The city's engineering consultants said the Avourises have agreed to install 300 feet of drainage pipe around the house that will solve the problem.

The suit, which can be read in full at shorturl.at/cBCM3 (item 8), asks the court to declare 707 N. Renaud a "nuisance," abate the nuisance through demolition and award legal fees to the plaintiffs.

A status conference is scheduled for Feb. 16.

FAMILY:

Continued from page 7A

time to adjust to. At the end of the day, we might even be grateful for having some more competitive teams join the Big Ten.

"It's not the same since college kids started getting paid."

The odds are someone you know has probably brought this up during the holidays at some point in the last few years. Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) has been one of the hottest topics in sports for a while now and it feels like we might

never stop talking about it.

It has felt a bit like the Wild West ever since it became legal for college athletes to get paid based on NIL. Regulation has been a bit shaky and is something the NCAA and the government are still trying to navigate. It also seems to be a divisive topic, with certain camps of people either very for or against the idea of college athletes making money.

Personally, I am all for NIL. College sports, football especially, captures millions of viewers and creates millions in revenue on a weekly basis for schools and major

corporations, so it is only fair that the actual athletes on the field who people tune in to watch should be able to profit from their hard work.

Some seem to think college athletes getting paid takes away from the "tradition" or "values" of college sports. NIL also has played a big role in the growing number of transfers and players switching schools in search of more money. Don't get me wrong, NIL has caused changes to the game of college football that might not necessarily be for the best. Yet again, you can always tell your family they are going to watch the games and cheer

for their teams no matter who is wearing the jersey and how much a local car dealership or restaurant is paying them to do advertisements.

I hope this was a helpful guide to navigating some topics you are sure to encounter whenever sports get brought up during holiday festivities. Enjoy all the food, the meaningless but satisfying bowl games, the College Football Playoff and all the sports you can handle this holiday season. As I've said before, we're all sports fans no matter what at the end of the day, so watch as much football as you want and have a safe and happy holiday season!

GUEST:

Continued from page 7A

read the hours. Closed: 6 p.m. The women in the store noticed that I was rushing and I told them that I wanted to be respectful of their closing time. She said, "Don't worry. We want your first experience in our store to be a good one." With that I relaxed a bit, still conscious of the time, and enjoyed looking at the potential gifts that I could purchase.

In the meantime, other people started to enter the store and I joked with the clerk that she should have locked the door and sent me home. Now she had more customers! She laughed.

One of the beautiful aspects of

living and ministering in Grosse Pointe is the community. This past year of 2023 saw some great hardships for our parish and the Pointes. St. Paul Parish suffered the tragedies of two deaths of college students. Two other college students from the Pointes lost their lives to tragedies as well. Amidst these and other heartbreaks, families and friends were embraced by the parishioners of St. Paul and also by the many people in the Grosse Pointe community. During the prayer vigils and funerals, I was so grateful to the Grosse Pointe Farms mayor's office, the police, and fire and rescue teams from all the Pointes, who were here to do whatever we needed help with. They came to us!

The community of the Grosse

Pointes, though not without its challenges, came together to support, care and pray for one another. What a gift it was for myself and the parish of St. Paul to witness the outpouring of support from so many in our home town. There wasn't much any of us could do; yet the outreach of a hand, a hug and giving of time was a gift of a faith born from the heavenly Father.

It is only our faith in God, for us Christians, Jesus Christ, that gave us the stamina to embrace the deep pain and allowed us to move forward with the virtue of hope. Our faith and hope were buoyed up by the gift of God's love expressed and extended by so many in the Pointes.

As we celebrate the great Solemnity of Christmas, despite

the travails of our lives, may we embrace the excitement and wonder of knowing that together we can change the community.

By our expressions of faith, hope and love of God, not only within our family, but also with the stranger walking down the street, or the guy rushing into the store when the lights should have been shut off, together we can build a place of security and peace.

I found a great gift that evening. As I made my purchase I introduced myself to the women who graciously kept the lights and doors open for a stranger. They made my day and evening! They showed me once again how beautiful it is to be in the Pointes.

With gratitude to God for all of you.

PLAN:

Continued from page 1A

idential garages, especially for smaller lots in the R-1 and R-1A zoning district, that better accommodate modern construction, while preserving the built character of existing neighborhoods;

◆ promoting the preservation of historic buildings;

◆ hosting community events on The Hill to fur-

ther activate Kercheval;

◆ supporting the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce in developing economic strategies;

◆ considering adopting zoning language setting maximum surface coverages by district, encouraging pervious surfaces especially around parking development;

◆ working with stakeholders and researchers to understand the viability of naturalized shore protection options;

◆ continuing to pro-

mote tree planting along streets, parks and public areas and preserve the tree-lined character of the existing road network;

◆ maintaining the existing sidewalk network and performing a detailed conditions analysis;

◆ incorporating additional streetscaping along major thoroughfares and entrance points;

◆ continuing to offer more programming options throughout the year to serve the entire community;

◆ and continuing to invest in strategic capital improvement projects.

A complete list of the medium-priority goals can be found within the plan, but include to:

◆ consider establishing design standards for new homes that specify the style, quality of materials and level of detail that must be incorporated;

◆ consider revising the zoning ordinance to permit accessory dwelling units by right in estate and low-density residential districts within structures already supporting the use and where sufficient off-street parking is provided;

◆ consider incorporating mixed-use residential options in existing commercial corridors that encourage accessible housing options;

◆ identify, analyze and market potential redevelopment sites on Mack;

◆ consider creating a special district, such as a downtown development authority or principal shopping districts, to pioneer marketing and events;

◆ incorporate traffic-calming techniques at appropriate locations;

◆ provide bicycle routes with pavement striping and signage within four to five years;

◆ and provide dedicated turn lanes along Mack in the next four to five years.

A complete list of the low-priority goals also can be found within the plan, but include:

◆ performing further research into crossing needs along McMillan and Moross;

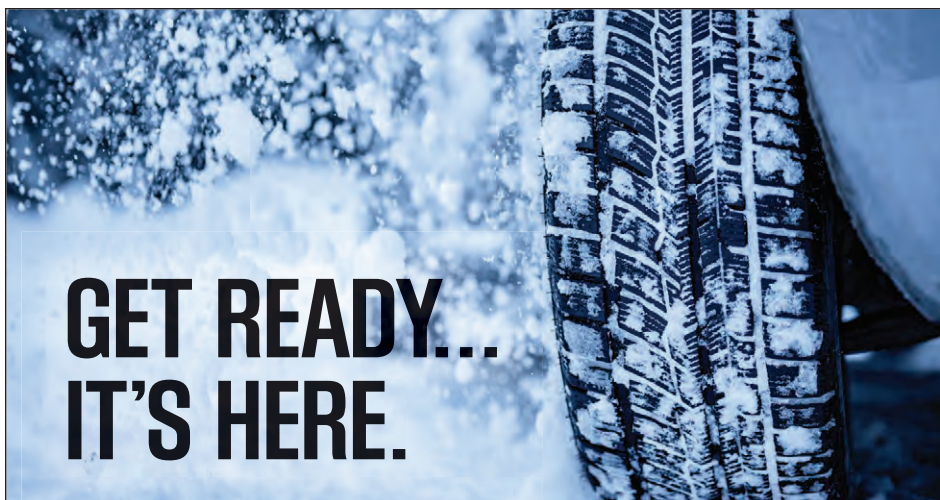
◆ exploring the possibility of offering a rain garden credit pilot program to offer incentives or financial benefits to property owners who

implement alternative stormwater management techniques;

◆ and activating The Hill with midday events to engage the growing daytime population of residents who work from home.

"One thing that's struck me about this whole process is over and over people said they want restaurants, they want entertainment and they want retail," Mayor Louis Theross said, "yet people shop at Amazon, go across town for meals and don't go to any entertaining things here."

"You want it, we have to support it, because a lot of small business owners put a lot out there on the line ... and so I think it's incumbent upon us in the Grosse Pointes to support what we say we want and to shop local, entertain ourselves local and eat local."



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Art contest entries celebrate the holidays



Grosse Pointe Farms resident Ryan Steiner entered three holiday-themed creations, two of which honor his home state of Michigan. The trio are part of Steiner's Posted Paper custom creations.

Jody Kolojeski of Grosse Pointe Farms captured the beauty of this gingko tree in the 300 block of Lakeshore.



COURTESY PHOTOS



St. Clair Shores resident Karen Mathes submitted this watercolor painting to the flash art contest.



Grosse Pointe Park resident Karen Llana, 83, who took up painting during COVID, created these beauties — a Christmas tree and a deer. "I make cards just to send to friends," she wrote. "My sister is giving some to fellow residents at her assisted living facility with a message of cheer inside. Spreading the love." Llana, aka "GMA," added, "I always say my little paintings are playtime for GMA."



Left, Katie Jeup of the City of Grosse Pointe created this festive Christmas tree. Right, City of Grosse Pointe resident Marianna Jeup submitted this creation to the contest.



Grosse Pointe Farms resident Suzy Berschback's photograph, "Lakeshore Beauty" and digital artwork, "Our Tree."



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University Liggett students sweep Louisa St. Clair DAR essay contests

University Liggett School recently announced its outstanding achievements in the Louisa St. Clair Daughters of the American Revolution essay contests. Liggett students swept both the high school and middle school categories in this prestigious competition.

In the high school category, ULS sophomores Madeline Unkel of Grosse Pointe Farms, Teresa Romanelli of the City of Grosse Pointe and Lucy Wujek of Grosse Pointe Farms earned top honors, with Unkel securing first place, Romanelli earning second and Wujek placing third.

Meanwhile, in the middle school category, Liggett Lifers Sophia Carson of Grosse Pointe Farms earned first-place honors, Amelie Duhaime of Grosse Pointe Farms earned second-place honors and Jacob Rabbani of Grosse Pointe Shores earned third-place honors.



Left, DAR Essay middle school students, from left, Amelie Duhaime, Sophia Carson and Jacob Rabbani. Right, DAR Essay upper school students, from left, Lucy Wujek, Teresa Romanelli and Madeline Unkel.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Liggett Lifers are students who have attended ULS since prekindergarten or kindergarten.

Unkel, who has attended ULS since sixth grade, and Carson's first-place

essays have been forwarded to the state competition.

"This accomplishment speaks volumes about the diligence and commitment of our students," said Chris

Hemler, Cynthia N. Ford chair of history and social studies teacher at Liggett. "Their passion for history and the depth of their insights are truly commendable. We are immensely proud of their accomplishments and the effort they invested in crafting these essays."

University Liggett School has long fostered a tradition of encouraging and supporting award-winning writing among its students, thanks to the dedication of its faculty and a robust curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking and scholarly pursuits.

According to Ellisse Thompson of the Louisa St. Clair Daughters of the American Revolution chapter, this year's contest witnessed a record number of participants. Thompson said, "The judging process was challenging, as the quality of the essays submitted by all students was exceptional."

PICK:

Continued from page 1A

Ovid-Elsie school districts. Tuttle and AJ Stansewski, a Grosse Pointe South High School alumnus, were picked by the board as two finalists after seven candidates

were interviewed in early December.

Tuttle earned her undergraduate degree from Alma College and a master's degree and doctorate from Central Michigan University.

She told the board when she became superintendent in Owosso the dis-

trict had a fund equity below 3 percent and was looking at \$6 million in deficit spending. Today, the district has an 18 percent fund equity and voters approved a \$45 million bond to build a new consolidated middle and high school.

"Beyond her 14 years of

experience in Owosso, she's pragmatic, no-nonsense, proactive and driven," Ismail said. "The capper is that she has humility."

Trustee Valarie St. John, in voicing her support for Tuttle, said she appreciated her willingness to give credit to her administrative team and the entire Owosso staff for the district's success.

Tuttle also stressed her support for early childhood education as a way to capture students early, noting they are more likely to stay in the district through graduation. Owosso's marketing efforts, as a way to boost enrollment, include sending onesies to local hospitals emblazoned with the district's logo and the words "Future Trojan."

Aside from growing enrollment, Tuttle said her first focus will be on the students and families already part of GPPSS.

"It's a stellar district and we need to continue providing them with the best opportunities to be successful," she noted. "Then we can explain what sets us apart and tell that story to families that have left the district and earn that trust back."

During a special meeting Saturday, Dec. 9, each board member was able to list three preferences

among the candidates, with three points given for first choice, two points for second and one point for third.

Tuttle was the first choice for trustees Terry Collins, St. John and Colleen Worden, plus Ismail and Vice President Lisa Papas. She was the second choice for Treasurer Sean Cotton and third choice for Secretary Ginny Jeup.

Staniszewski was Cotton's first choice, second choice for Jeup and Ismail and third choice for Papas and Worden.

Staniszewski is principal of the Global Intermediate Academy for Mapleton Public Schools in Denver. He told the board during his interview the school was in the bottom 5 percent for test scores in Colorado in 2017, and was in the highest performing category by 2019.

Board members expressed admiration for Staniszewski, but said Tuttle was the right choice at this time due to her experience in Michigan and knowledge of school funding, including bond and millage issues.

"He is going to do great things and I hope he does end up back here at some point," Ismail said of Staniszewski.

"I have a lot of respect for Mr. Staniszewski and I

hope he and his family find a place here," Collins added. "I'd love to see him in this district in some capacity in the future."

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. Jay Bennett of the Michigan Association of School Boards 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.

Tuttle said she envisions a start date earlier than July 1, but also said she is committed to Owosso and wants to ensure that district's continued success.

Tuttle said she and her husband plan to move to the district. Her mother is a native Pointer and she still has family here.

"I've already got some feelers out to find a house," she said. "We're empty nesters and I know there are a lot of beautiful places there. We love the water and live on a lake, so we'll enjoy still being by the water."

Tuttle said her fondness for the Pointes led her to apply to GPPSS and that she did not seek any other superintendent roles.

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School resource officer set for South

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Grosse Pointe South High School soon will have a school resource officer again walking its halls, following closely behind Grosse Pointe North, which was able to implement an SRO earlier this year.

“We had a really good school resource officer at my high school at Cousino and everyone was super close with him and he gave students that safety (net) where they didn’t have to worry about coming to school and not feeling safe,” said Farms Public Safety Officer Jim Labeau, who was chosen for the position among three applicants, “and that’s how I want to leave my impression on the high school as well.”

Interviews were held in November, before a panel consisting of Public Safety Director John Hutchins, Deputy Director Andy Rogers, Officer Jon Ross — who serves as SRO for all



Officer Jim Labeau with his wife, Samantha, son, Weston, and daughter, Harper.

COURTESY PHOTO

schools located in the Farms — and South’s principal, Moussa Hamka. The applicants were questioned on their backgrounds, reasons for interest in the position and scenarios to gauge their thinking and plans for the position.

“Principal Hamka was

instrumental in helping us determine who we collectively thought would be the best candidate for the job,” Hutchins said. “Jim has been expressing an interest in the possibility of this position for a few years now and (has) a keen interest in working at the high

school with the kids, their families and staff. We think he will be a great fit.”

At 33 years old, Labeau has served as an officer in the Farms nearly 10 years and is looking forward to the transition.

“I have a bunch of ideas,” he said regarding programming. “I’m hoping I’m there until I retire.”

As SRO at South, Labeau’s responsibilities will include educational programming; providing security and implementing safety plans; enforcing laws and local ordinances; assisting with school investigations involving criminal complaints; deescalating situations; acting as a positive role model to students; and building relationships with students, staff, the school community and stakeholders. He also will be available to be present at sporting events and other after-school activities.

The officer will not be involved in enforcing school discipline and, according to Hutchins,

not much will change in regard to law enforcement’s involvement with student misconduct.

“We already get called there for vaping and fights and stuff like that,” he explained. “They have us make a record of it and most of the time they follow through with it on their own end. ... There aren’t a lot of prosecutions that come out of the school.”

Labeau likely will not present in full uniform but still will be identifiable as law enforcement. He will be armed, as well as keep a patrol rifle locked up in the SRO office for use in the event of a school shooter.

“What it’s going to do is it’s going to familiarize everybody in the school with the officer,” Hutchins said of the SRO’s main purpose. “It’s going to kind of bridge that gap between the department and the school and he’s going to be the person that they’re going to go to.”

Farms city council unanimously approved a renewable, three-year

cooperative agreement for the SRO with the Grosse Pointe Public School System Monday, Dec. 11.

It details 75 percent of the cost will be borne by the school system and 25 percent by the city.

“We think it’s an offset, because that officer will be available to the city during (the) non-school period,” City Manager Shane Reeside said. “Primarily the summer-time when we have higher use of vacation time and we’ll be able to fill that time slot and actually potentially save overtime.”

Although the agreement goes into effect Jan. 1, a new officer to the Farms department first will need to go through the necessary training to replace Labeau before he can start as SRO.

“The goal would be early spring,” he said of when he may be in the school. “If not early spring, we might have to start not until the next school year, but we’re shooting for early spring.”

TROMBLY:

Continued from page 2A

spoken with Board of Education President (Ahmed) Ismail and he agrees to reconvene the Trombly committee immediately after a superintendent is hired, with the goal of finding a solution good for the district and the Park,” Hodges said.

◆ Call on school board trustees Terry Collins and Valerie St. John, both Park residents, to advocate on behalf of city residents for the school to stay a school. “I have emailed them to this end (and) am recommending monthly

updates from them,” Hodges said.

◆ Lobby at board of education meetings.

◆ Assign a Park elected official to partner with the school system on problem solving.

◆ Request the school system hold a meeting of the Trombly committee by Feb. 1.

◆ Host a reception at Trombly for the new school superintendent. “This will lead to a good working relationship, accelerate the learning curve and better ensure Trombly is a priority,” Hodges said.

◆ Invite the school board to a joint meeting of the council with community engagement and

possibly a workshop “that educates us all on what got us to this point and the solutions for going forward,” she said.

Her final point alluded to municipal officials having no power to tell school officials what to do with district property except through political will and enforcement of zoning regulations.

◆ “Direct the city manager to activate and enforce all tools, including those contained in the zoning ordinance and our city code (and) require monthly reports from him.”

All of which upset

Gallagher, who lost to Hodges in the November mayoral election.

“This mayor would like to make amendments to my motion and does so by putting a full page of added language to it. I find it disrespectful,” Gallagher said.

The rest of the council voiced their opinions.

“The accountability measures are going to be a lot more impactful,” Councilman Tom Caulfield said.

“I second your comments on this, Council member Brent Dreaver said.

“Ideas (Hodges) put forth have a little more teeth into being proactive rather than just a couple sentences,” Councilman Marty McMillan said. “This gives more oomph to it.”

“I just want to move this along,” Councilman Max Wiener said.

“That’s what I’m trying to do,” Caulfield said.

Councilman Tim Kolar recommended keeping the message simple, for now.

“I don’t think we need, tonight, to complicate this process,” he said. “We can go forward with simple language. It commu-

nicates our desires and it starts the first step in a process, much of which is laid out in accountability measures that Mayor Hodges presented.”

Gallagher said, “My proposal is to take my original language from the resolution as the proposed language for the resolution that Mayor Hodges has put forward and then to accept Mayor Hodges’ strategy. That is a nice compromise.”

The council voted unanimously to accept Hodges’ one-sentence introduction, but to hold off including the eight accountability measures.

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Matty's Friendsgiving is Dec. 28 at Fishbones

Event honors life, benefits foundation

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Matthew Peyser was two months shy of his 26th birthday when he died from substance use disorder, or SUD; however, through his parents' efforts, the 2010 Grosse Pointe North High School grad won't soon be forgotten.

Following the death of their son in 2017, Mark and Kady Peyser wanted to find a way to honor his legacy while also helping other young people with SUD.

"In addition to our tragedy, we know of other Grosse Pointers who have lost loved ones, lost children, to substance use disorder," Mark Peyser said. "We're pretty fortunate to live in this community, but substance use disorder isn't based on socioeconomic class. Unfortunately, our son developed this disorder and we lost him.

"... There's a stigma attached to someone with a substance use disorder," he added. "Eventually we realized it can happen to anybody."

Kady Peyser noted that more efforts now are coming to the forefront — like Families Against Narcotics and its Hope Not Handcuffs program.

"More and more organizations are getting on board," she said. "We need to talk about this. We need to make sure there are resources for those in need."

One way the Peysers honor their son's memory — through fellowship, while also raising



awareness and financial support to assist those struggling with SUD — is through their Matty's Friendsgiving fundraising event.

The Grosse Pointe Woods couple will host the seventh Matty's Friendsgiving at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at Fishbones, 23722 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

Proceeds will benefit the Jamie Daniels Foundation — an initiative of the Children's Foundation of Detroit — which grants funds to community partners that provide programs, resources and solutions that address the ongoing drug epidemic. Its primary focus is on children

and young adults who are battling SUD, as well as their families, through prevention, recovery and stigma reduction.

Matt Peyser and Jamie Daniels were casual friends at Michigan State University.

While Jamie Daniels died from SUD several months before Matt Peyser, the Jamie Daniels Foundation had not yet been created when the Peysers hosted their first Matty's Friendsgiving, which traditionally has taken place the Friday after Thanksgiving.

"We wanted to do something to honor Matty's memory and something for charity," Mark Peyser said. "Matty was a charitable guy. If he had \$10 in his pocket and you needed it, he'd give it to you.

"With that being his spirit, we wanted to memorialize and maintain his legacy, but also help others," he added. "Our first Matty's Friendsgiving benefited Covenant House. We raised over \$25,000."

With help from five of Matty's closest friends and Matty's brother, Hank, the concept was embraced; however, after the first event, Hank Peyser told his parents they should consider "doing something related to the struggle and battle with substance use disorder," Kady Peyser said.

When she learned about the Jamie Daniels Foundation, she was quick to contact its co-founder, Detroit Red Wings play-by-play announcer Ken Daniels, about offering support. Every year since 2018,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PEYSER FAMILY

Left, Matty Peyser was living and working in Florida and two months shy of his 26th birthday when he died because of substance use disorder. Above, Peyser, right, was among the pregame flag bearers during the Detroit Red Wings 2008 run for the Stanley Cup.

proceeds from Matty's Friendsgiving have benefited the Jamie Daniels Foundation.

"We're very fortunate to meet these people and be a part of this program," Mark Peyser said. "These are great people and they're doing great work. ... It's all about saving lives.

"... Within five years, we've raised over \$120,000 for the Jamie Daniels Foundation, primarily because we've got an incredible group of friends — Kady's friends, my friends, Matty's friends," he added. "We're fortunate to be in a community that has embraced this."

Among those embracing the event is the Gatzaros family — Maria, Nico, Elena and Nico's son, Adrian. The owners of Fishbones in St. Clair Shores host the annual event in a private room.

"The Gatzaros family ... have been big supporters of our event since its inception," Mark Peyser said. "Adrian and Matty were very close friends."

This year's event — delayed one month due to a family wedding — will include a silent auction, raffles, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. It will operate like an open house; guests are invited to come and go as they please. Tickets are not required.

"Every time, we've made over \$20,000," Mark Peyser said, noting several businesses donate auction items like sports tickets, cases of wine and artwork, as well as raffle items, like restaurant gift cards. The raffle will take place around 8 p.m.

In addition to the auction and raffle, donations by cash, check and credit

About Matty

Matthew Peyser was born Sept. 6, 1991. He graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 2010, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in finance from the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University in 2014. He worked for Ernst & Young and Mednax.

Peyser played hockey with the Grosse Pointe Hockey Association, on both the house league and Bulldog travel team. He also was on North's junior varsity hockey team, as well as North's JV and varsity swim teams. He swam for the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, too.

Peyser was an on-ice flag bearer during Detroit Red Wings pregame ceremonies for all home playoff games in 2008, and was part of the team's Stanley Cup parade downtown.

"Matt was a fun-loving, athletic, outgoing child and young adult," said his mother, Kady Peyser. "He was kind, generous and a loyal friend and never one to miss out on having fun. He was active in sports and enjoyed spending time at various family members' vacation homes on Lake Charlevoix and in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

"His college years at MSU were what he said were the most fun years of his life," she continued. "He was a fraternity member of PIKE (Pi Kappa Alpha) and he studied abroad with his marketing class the summer of 2013."

Peyser served as his brother's best man when Hank married Jarvie in 2016. The couple welcomed a son and daughter, Lev and Lilah, though Peyser never had a chance to meet them. He passed away July 8, 2017, two months before his 26th birthday, while living and working in Florida.

"It started with prescription opiate dependency during later years in college, starting with oxycontin," his mother said. "Like many others also suffering from substance use disorder, treatment and support were not fully embraced or readily available. The stigma affected him and many others, so he hid it for a while. No one wanted to discuss this disease. Yet more and more, we were hearing of young adult deaths. Then mainstream reporting gradually started to publicize and bring awareness to an emboldened national crisis."

Kady Peyser said because of the shame associated with substance use, she and her husband were hesitant to talk about what had happened to their son. Eventually they realized the impact they could have if they spoke about it. Their hope is to help other families with loved ones battling SUD.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 million people have died from a drug overdose since 1999. More than 75 percent of drug overdose deaths in 2021 involved an opioid. The number of overdose deaths in 2021 involving opioids — including prescription opioids, heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl — was 10 times the number in 1999. Overdoses involving opioids killed more than 80,000 people in 2021, and nearly 88 percent of those deaths involved synthetic opioids.

card are welcome.

"Stop in for a short visit," Mark Peyser said. "It's lots of fun. You never know how it will turn out."

More information about the event can be found on the Facebook pages, Remembering Matthew Peyser and Matty's FriendsGiving.

"I know of other Grosse Pointe families who have lost a loved one due to SUD," Mark Peyser noted in an email.

"SUD is more common than most people know. In today's world, SUD is a rapidly growing and serious issue as opioid

See MATTY, page 2B



Matty Peyser, left, with his brother, Hank, after receiving a diploma from Michigan State University.

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2B | FEATURES

Racing For Kids revs up the holidays with Christmas visits

Racing For Kids got a jumpstart on the holiday season with two special visits to hospitalized children at Ascension St. John Hospital in Detroit and Children's Hospital of Michigan. The visits were Christmas gift "drop-offs" to brighten hospital stays for many Grosse Pointe and metro Detroit children.

For the visits, some of Santa's helpers — Pat and Debby Wright and Linda Finger — stopped by the hospitals Dec. 8, with bags full of gifts for kids. This year's gifts were warm blankets featuring glow-in-the-dark stars, selected by Finger.

"I love the idea of a child cuddling up and being comforted under a blanket of stars each night," she said.

Accompanying Racing For Kids team members for the Ascension St. John visit was Riley Slattery, one of the Courageous Kids honored by Racing For Kids. "I was really excited to



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left, Racing For Kids Team members pose with Ascension St. John officials during the Dec. 8 gift drop. Pictured front row, from left, are Pat Wright, Rebecca Sellers, Lisa Pinkowski, Racing For Kids "Courageous Kid" Riley Slattery, Debby Wright, Linda Finger, Kimberly Wheeler and Sandra Scerri; and back row, from left, Justin McWherter, Samantha Sheets and Rochelle Ellis. Above, Racing For Kids made another stop at Children's Hospital of Michigan to bring joy to children hospitalized over the holidays.

be a part of the Racing For Kids gift drop because, having been hospitalized many times, I know how much joy a gift or surprise can bring," Slattery said. "I

know that these gifts will bring lots of smiles this holiday season."

On hand to receive the presents were Ascension St. John officials and Child Life staff at

Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Since 1989, Racing For Kids has used the popularity of motorsports to

raise funding and awareness of children's healthcare needs. At the heart of the mission are driver visits to hospitalized chil-

dren, bringing the excitement of the auto racing world, as well as hats and toys, to their bedsides. Racing For Kids also makes donations to the hospitals they visit, with the funds earmarked for special therapies or playroom equipment.

Since its inception, Racing For Kids has visited more than 47,000 children in the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Australia. It has raised more than \$8 million for the hospitals visited and other children's health institutions.

Major sponsors include Transystems, Bridgestone Firestone Trust Fund, Douglas E. Fregin, the Cotton family, Peter and Peggy Kross, Michael McCallister and Benson Ford Jr.

Racing For Kids is a charity partner of the IndyCar Series. For more information visit racingforkids.org.

AREA ACTIVITIES

AAUW

"Listen to Women," the third annual art contest and exhibition sponsored by the Grosse Pointe chapter of American Association of University Women, is on display through Monday, Jan. 15, in the Grosse Pointe Artists Association gallery in The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

Library

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

◆ 1,000 Hours Year End Solstice Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Paint & Sip, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ You Kill Me: The True Crime Book Club, 7

to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Holiday Break Movie, 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 12:30 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross,

Detroit.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28, Roseville Public Library, 29777 Gratiot, Roseville.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

See EVENTS, page 10B

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MATTY:

Continued from page 1B

and other substance addiction is on the forefront of our society. While it is being addressed by our political leaders and medical professionals, other assistance is needed.

"In starting Matty's Friendsgiving, the goal was to create a legacy for our son which is founded upon spreading the awareness of the growing SUD problem and to seek financial support for the mission of the JDF, which is to save others' lives by providing education, resources, guidance and support to those struggling with substance use. This is a very worthy cause and one that Kady, Hank and I are proud to be associated with."

The foundation

Ken Daniels and Lisa Daniels-Goldman established the Jamie Daniels Foundation in memory of their late son, Jamie, who died from an overdose at the age of 23, while receiving treatment for a substance use disorder.

The foundation is driven to affect change by providing hope to families of children, youth and young adults struggling with SUD. The foundation supports prevention and recovery efforts, as well as works to reduce the stigma associated with SUD. At the elementary level, students in West Bloomfield are learning mindfulness and coping skills while building emotional resistance thanks to yoga classes funded by the Jamie Daniels Foundation.

The foundation also has provided significant funds to the Adolescent Addiction Recovery Center, located at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Troy. The new outpatient-based clinic focuses solely on adolescents struggling with substance abuse and mental health challenges.

It also funds recovery programs at nine Michigan colleges and universities, providing resources and guidance to more than 150,000 students.

In addition, the foundation is playing a significant role advocating for the passage of the bipartisan No PAIN Act, which promotes non-opioid drug options and alternative pain management for post-surgery patients.

The foundation raises funds through its Celebrity Roast & Toast each fall at the Soundboard at Motor City Casino, as well as its Comedy Night of Hope at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in the spring.

For more information, visit jamiedanielsfoundation.org.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS HODGE

G. Arthur Redebaugh had ties to Grosse Pointe Woods.

In search of: Heirloom Archeology looking for Redebaugh descendants

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Reuniting families with long-lost historical objects is a total passion project for Chris Hodge, whose day job is in the hospitality industry, but whose “love job” is Heirloom Archeology, which he founded in 2002.

“It’s the most rewarding thing,” said Hodge, who is based in Nashville. “This has been a passion of mine for a very long time.”

After rescuing a photo book from a storage unit in Bolingbrook, Ill., Grosse Pointe has landed on Hodge’s radar. Specifically, Grosse Pointe Woods. More specifically, descendants of G. Arthur Redebaugh.

“I’ve never seen anything like it before,” Hodge said. “I didn’t call it a photo album, because ... this is a 5-by-7 matte photo on a larger 6-by-8 page. There are 10 pages. It’s like a little photograph album, but it’s very elaborate. The whole book is like a very delicate, thin cardboard that doesn’t have a real binding.”

The book was bound with “a thin, braided, elegant sort of shoestring that was woven through three holes to tighten the book together,” Hodge said.

“The one thing we’ve been able to find through our research so far is all the people in it went to the University of Illinois in Champaign in the early 1930s,” he added. “I think maybe it was one person who collected photos from their friends. This was a friend group, maybe involved in one thing specifically.”

The photo in question is of G. Arthur Redebaugh, as a teen — either a high school senior or college freshman. Hodge tracked down Redebaugh’s origins to Grosse Pointe Woods and, “based on all of the other photographs, we’ve been able to correctly identify him.”

Other photographs in the book include people whose surnames are Litwiller, Madson, Philbrook, Dix, Muser, Philhower, Carper and Muggins, among others.

“Their handwriting is on it,” he noted. “Each person wrote their own name beneath their photo.”

Those with information about G. Arthur Redebaugh or his family are asked to share information and connect with Hodges via Facebook:

Page: [facebook.com/heirloomarchaeology](https://www.facebook.com/heirloomarchaeology).

Group: [facebook.com/groups/HeirloomArcheology](https://www.facebook.com/groups/HeirloomArcheology).

It takes a team

Through Heirloom Archeology, Hodge has returned hundreds of items to families who have lost them. He does so by going through multiple channels, including social media and news outlets.

“I want to make sure I give it back to the real relative,” he said. “That’s the reason I use so many channels.”

He relies on Heirloom Archeology’s Facebook page and Facebook group page to crowdsource. With a combined 20,000-plus followers, they often come through for him.

“I do a lot of posting,” he said. “I love a big presence. The more members, the more research. We’re all working together to piece together the puzzle, to figure out who might be out there.”

He noted the importance of vetting potential leads.

“When you find stuff from the mid-19th century, there are 50, 60, maybe 70 people that could be that person (I’m looking for),” he said. “It’s a big red flag when people ask how much it’s worth. When we give something back, we want to know they’ll take good care of it and give it to the next person in their fam-

ily who will take care of it. I just want to give it back to a person who’s going to be a good steward of it.”

There’s no fee involved in the process. Hodges simply wants to put items back in families’ hands. He said there are no words to describe the feeling he gets when he finds who he’s looking for.

His first project involved a turn-of-the-century photo album he found in a shared storage unit. Finding a family member to return it to took a year and a half.

“There was no social media,” he said. “I felt like I was on a telethon, calling every newspaper and historical society I could think of. I talked to hundreds of widows and widowers. ...

“I thought it was a dead end; I was frustrated,” he continued. “Then one day I called a man in Bend, Ore., named Taylor Yocum. He seemed a bit forgetful ... but the moment I thought that, he said his uncle used to work on telephone lines.”

Hodge glanced at a photo of a man of similar description and felt a glimmer of hope.

“Then it was like he started reading the book in my hand,” he said. “Page after page, he was telling me what was in the photos. I realized this was his — his family’s. I checked a few more boxes and then sent it to him in the mail.”

Yocum called Hodge when he received the album.

“If I could have bottled the conviction in his

voice at the time,” Hodge recalled. “There were pictures of him when he was a kid he’d never seen, pictures of aunts and uncles (he’d lost touch with). It was the most beautiful experience I’d ever had in my life.”

And it’s what inspired him to launch Heirloom Archeology.

“I love finding out who people are, what they did,” Hodge said. “... I’m going to do this the rest of my life.”

He’s currently working on building out a front-facing website and database that will be free for users.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

I’ll take that to go!

Last month, photographer Renee Landuyt was driving on St. Paul in the City of Grosse Pointe when a raptor flew by her car. When she stopped, she watched it fly across the front of her car to the side yard of a house on St. Paul. It was a juvenile Cooper’s hawk, which landed in the side yard where a squirrel was looking for a meal.

Top, the Cooper’s hawk initially landed on the air-conditioning unit and watched the squirrel run up and down a tree. The squirrel didn’t seem to be bothered by the hawk’s presence and continued to run around in front of the hawk.

Bottom, the hawk then went to the other side of the tree and landed on the ground. The squirrel momentarily disappeared and the hawk continued his lookout when the brave — or naive — squirrel popped his head up behind the hawk, photobombing it. The hawk then flew off, possibly looking for a less crafty squirrel to have for lunch.

In one day, a Cooper’s hawk can eat an amount of food equivalent to 12 percent of its body weight. That would be similar to a 130-pound person eating 14 pounds of food — or four or five pizzas — daily.



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Sunday, Dec. 17

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9:30 am, in the sanctuary & via livestream/video

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Blue Christmas service of healing and support.
7 pm, in the chapel

Sunday, Dec. 24

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Traditional Christmas Eve service, 9 pm
In the sanctuary & via livestream



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Livestream/video: <https://gpumc.info/SundayMorningWorship>



Park presents beautification honors

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

It's not a cliché if its true and Mike Fikany left no stone unturned when beautifying landscaping of the house he bought four years ago.

"There's not a blade of grass or plant on the property now that was there when we bought it," he said.

Fikany was one of 35 recipients of annual awards from the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission during a ceremony Thursday, Nov. 23, at the Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park.

"It's quite an honor," Fikany said. "There are hundreds more, believe me, who are just as deserving as anyone here tonight."

"Tonight is the culmination of a year of taking a look at all of the beautiful properties we have around the city and how much you guys have done to make your properties beautiful," Kim Clextan, chairwoman of the 14-member commission, told the gathering. "We split the city into five areas and split our commission into five areas where we go out during June and July to see what everybody's done."

Among other winning homeowners was Andrew Turnbull.

He grew up in the Park, moved to the City of Grosse Pointe, was elected to council and has returned to where it all began.

"Moving back to the Park, building a new home and making this city that I grew up in a more vibrant, beautiful area is something we all should strive for," Turnbull said.

Awards are based on property enhanced by landscaping, floral displays, renovation, restoration, preservation, maintenance and additions.

"Thank you for being the heart and soul of our community," Mayor Michele Hodges told everyone. "I look forward to honoring you tonight."

A list of winners in four categories — residential, centennial (for properties at least 100 years old), business and civic — follow with excerpts of judges' comments.

Residential

◆ **Richard Griesback, 1239 Wayburn:** "This charming two-family home recently underwent a landscape renovation. Front and center is the newly installed raised bed bordered in stone and filled with a variety of rounded boxwood, upright perennials and a low-creeping groundcover."

◆ **Patrick Osman, 1389 Nottingham:** "Hidden behind a newly planted tree, this charming bungalow is nestled in a carpet of green. The American flag provides a patriotic splash of color, coordinating with the red-blooming perennials along the edge of the property."

◆ **Mr. and Mrs. Audrius Palubinskas, 1436 Samerset:** "A striking, red-bricked home is accented in ivory-colored stone that elegantly frames the beautifully curved front door. Lush shrubbery, yew and rhododendron frame the shaded front porch



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Among recipients of this year's Park Beautification Commission Beatification Awards, from left, Andrew and Alicia Turnbull and Mike Fikany attend an awards ceremony at the Tompkins Center.

proudly displaying the American flag."

◆ **Lester and Amy Lachuk, 934 Westchester:** "A maple tree and decorative shrubbery provide afternoon shade, framing the home perfectly. A butterfly garden, including purple coneflowers and splashes of yellow and pink, greets passers-by with a warm welcome and provides pollinators a welcome stop."

◆ **Craig and Erin Dulman, 979 Balfour:** "Hydrangeas blooming lushly in white work in concert with white accents on the Balfour colonial. Shapely arborvitae on each side of the home keep a symmetrical aesthetic and highlight a lovely garage with dark wooden doors to one side of the home."

◆ **Jack Kalmink, 808 Berkshire:** "Burning bush, laceleaf maple and a finely manicured lawn and hedges bring a conservative sophistication to the property. Turn the corner and enjoy the whimsical garden art, flower beds and grasses that line the wrought iron fencing."

◆ **Robert Baker Jr., 653 Pemberton:** "The center walkway made of pavers and bluestones leads you to a cheerful entrance full of colorful annuals. Neatly trimmed boxwoods, hydrangeas, ornamental grasses and perennials ensure that there is something to enjoy during every season."

◆ **The Bonkosky family, 706 Balfour:** "Large clusters of hydrangea and rhododendron add texture and color to the landscape. Heart-shaped leaves of the Little Leaf Linden tree provide shade throughout summer, while the fragrant yellow flowers attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators."

◆ **Kenneth and Mary Dziuba, 15105 Windmill Pointe Drive:** "Japanese maples, yew, conifers and many specimen trees and shrubs line the property. There is something to enjoy during all seasons; Lenten rose, spring bulbs, zinnias, cannas and other perennials accent the property." Also a winner in 1988.

◆ **Gina Walker, 15836-38 Windmill Pointe Drive:** "Verdant must surely be the word that comes to mind when passing by this richly

planted landscape. A sweeping hedge of boxwood elegantly divides one side of the landscape, leading back to a second group of nicely trimmed shrubs. Posts with annuals in bloom adorn each side of the sage green door that contrasts so elegantly with the ivory-colored brick."

◆ **Carolyn and Philip Rossi, 817 Bedford:** "An elegantly curved front walkway, rose-colored brick and old-world styled roof evoke a sense of country-cottage whimsy in this lovely landscape. Shrubbery and hostas fill the beds, with blooms in pink and white adding splashes of color across the front façade of this lovely residence."

◆ **James Harvey, 844 Whittier:** "A beautifully shaped Japanese red maple flanks one side of the landscape, picking up the rich tones of the dark red brick. Perennials of varied height and texture fill the beds, featuring blooms in white that pick up the stone-colored accents of the home."

◆ **Michael and Linda Fikany, 807 Park Lane:** "Elegantly shaped beds sweep across the front façade and include nicely shaped boxwoods, hostas, shrubbery and splashes of colorful perennials. A winding, rose-paved walkway offsets the light-colored brickwork, complemented by two upright Japanese red maples in a deep purple hue."

◆ **James and Elizabeth Dailey, 910 Edgemont Park:** "This home boasts curb appeal from front to back. Beds surrounding the landscape are planted with hostas in blue and green, all hedged in boxwood, creating a unified effect. A large engraved boulder to the front tastefully displays the address, alongside mature London planetrees that are certain to provide interest across the seasons."

◆ **Andrew and Alicia Turnbull, 855 Bishop:** "This stunning home is a new addition to the neighborhood. Newly planted shrubs border the front of the property, while colorful pots provide splashes of color while the landscape matures."

◆ "For our landscape design to come together, Phil Pitters (Residential & Commercial Outdoor Specialists) saved us," Andrew Turnbull said.

"We had a (high school) graduation party for our son and a timetable to meet. Pitters was able to get it done. He gave us the bedrock to make the house look great."

◆ **Mark and Dana Kaiser, 1048 Yorkshire:** "A curved walkway spans and intersects the front lawn, bordered neatly by planted beds aligned across the landscape. A row of ornamental grasses provides spikes of green on either side, leading to rows of neatly rounded shrubs toward the center and splashes of bright perennials as you approach the front door."

◆ **Ann Brink Trust, 1018 Harvard:** "Curved beds include mature yews, lush groundcovers and small trees providing just the right touch of height. A row of tall arborvitae borders the driveway; hydrangeas provide a splash of pink and a lemon-colored front door complete this beautiful façade."

◆ **Noah Resnick and Melissa Dittmer, 1037 Kensington:** "A lovely, mature paper birch flanks one side of the home and is surrounded by a circular row of tall shrubbery and variegated hostas. Flower beds span the front facade of the house, neatly bordered by evenly rounded boxwood, and perennials in pink provide splashes of color that highlight this home beautifully."

◆ **Patrick Dennehy, 1115 Berkshire:** "Elegantly curved beds are lush with short ornamental grasses and a boxwood hedge against a backdrop of spectacular hydrangeas with a multitude of white blooms. A Golden Falls redbud tree flanks the bed at the driveway side, leading to a front porch highlighted by conical evergreens and quietly guarded by stone canine statues."

◆ **Michael and Rebecca VanBrienen, 1162 Buckingham:** "The highlight of this landscape as you approach the property is the gorgeous flower bed bordering the sidewalk and front lawn. Bordered by a row of evergreen shrubs to the front and holly in the back, it includes bright green hydrangea with lavender blooms, a tall cement pot with cascading greenery and a black iron gate."

◆ **James Matthew**

Corbett, 1383 Cadieux: "This center entrance Colonial welcomes you with a floral wreath and floral planters decorated with American flags. A red, white and blue banner is to the left of the walkway. Symmetrical plantings on each side of the entrance have tiers of large, mature hydrangeas in the background fronted by a nicely manicured boxwood hedge and yews."

◆ **David and Judith Brophy, 1314 Yorkshire:** "A large Japanese maple graces the center of the elongated, raised garden bed and a smaller, lacey leaf Japanese maple anchors the other end of the bed. Unfortunately, this property recently lost a huge tree from the front yard due to storm damage."

◆ **Jayne Kasuba, 1247 Kensington:** "(The house) is headquarters for a spring garden. Numerous azaleas, rhododendrons, tulips and other spring blooms blanket the front yard. It is a feast for the eyes. Greeting you at the entrance to the driveway is a decorative address plaque adorned by a seasonally changing wreath."

◆ **Roger and Nancy Kline, 1342 Berkshire:** "The flag that welcomes you at the lamppost of this charming, two-story, central entrance Colonial says, 'Bee Happy,' and this landscaping puts one in a very happy mood. The front beds are filled with a variety of sedum and hostas interspersed with daisies, impatiens, roses and black-eyed Susan's."

◆ **Chris and Andrew Wright Life Estate, 1261 Balfour:** "All the plantings as well as the house are nicely maintained. The gardens to each side of the entrance have large hydrangeas with huge blooms bordered by variegated hostas and begonias. An attractive planter pot graces the landing."

Century

◆ **Roy Edmonds, 699 Balfour:** "Medium-sized trees symmetrically frame the landscape on either side, perfectly highlighting the double chimneys. A tall hedge of squared-off evergreens provides a screen along the driveway; sprays of lilies and white annuals border raised beds, flanking the front porch and lovely

arched front door."

◆ **Bruce and Christine Knapp, 921 Balfour:** "Curved beds hedged in neatly trimmed boxwood include sprays of ornamental grasses and perennials in pink providing delicate splashes of color. A raised bed closer to the house is lush with white hydrangea to one side, leading to a front porch adorned by colorful pots and stone lion statues."

◆ **George C. Liller, 1238 Lakepointe:** "Upper beds replace the lawn with lush groundcover, evergreens to each side and yucca providing height and texture. Hanging ferns, potted pink annuals, colorful flower pots and stone lions put the finishing touch on this lovely home."

◆ **Duhaime-Clark family, 1007 Bishop:** "Geometrically curved flower beds are bordered by thick groundcover surrounding an evergreen hedge. Lush hydrangea to either side bloom in shades of rose and white against a backdrop of perfectly trimmed yews."

◆ **John Francis and Kim Van Elslander, 15410 Windmill Pointe Drive:** "Short swaths of lawn are bordered extensively with elegantly shaped flower beds, hedged-in boxwoods across the expanse of the front façade. A row of gorgeous hydrangeas are planted along the entire length of the house, blooming in light pink and providing the perfect splash of color."

Business

◆ **L e R o u g e Boulangerie, 15215 Kercheval:** "A lovely bakery dressed in deep red and adorned by its signature red rooster is a welcome addition to downtown Grosse Pointe Park. A cheerful, red and white striped awning and accordion windows provide the experience of a French café."

◆ **Brine Oyster House, 15033 Kercheval:** "Another new addition to the neighborhood ... this property has been absolutely transformed. Newly constructed in traditional New Orleans oyster-bar style, the two-story building, complete with wrought iron, wrap-around balcony, evokes the ambience of the French Quarter."

Both businesses are at least partly owned by the owner of the Grosse Pointe News.

Civic

◆ **Julian Kefallinos, 16762 E. Jefferson:** "At the corner of Jefferson and Cadieux, Julian Kefallinos watched as the Grosse Pointe Park Welcome Sign at the corner slowly declined, as garden available staff dwindled during the pandemic. This spring, Julian contracted with Allemon's Landscape Center to rejuvenate this small garden bed and maintain it through the season, bringing this most needed welcome to our community back to life. For his contribution, we award one of our highest honors, the Civic Award."

Sustainability Committee

◆ **Kelly Konieczki:** "(For) efforts in support of the newly formed Beautification Commission Sustainability Committee ... Konieczki (has) a commitment to inform citi-

Match the house with its description to win!

Judging by the sheer volume of beautification award winners in Grosse Pointe Park, it's clear the city's streets are lined with lavish landscaping and small-town charm. The care homeowners

put into their properties is evident and what better way to celebrate this strength than with a contest?

Readers are invited to try their hand at this match game — match the house let-

ters with the corresponding description numbers — and send their entries to the Grosse Pointe News by emailing media@grossepointenews.com. Voters who correctly match all seven houses with the

right description will be entered to win a \$100 gift card to Allemon's Landscape Center.

The deadline to submit these matches is midnight, Sunday, Dec. 31. Good luck!



DESCRIPTIONS

1. Michael and Rebecca VanBrienen, 1162 Buckingham: “The highlight of this landscape as you approach the property is the gorgeous flower bed bordering the sidewalk and front lawn. Bordered by a row of evergreen shrubs to the front and holly in the back, it includes bright green hydrangea with lavender blooms, a tall cement pot with cascading greenery and a black iron gate.”

2. Andrew and Alicia Turnbull, 855 Bishop: “This stunning home is a new addition to the neighborhood. Newly planted shrubs border the front of the property, while colorful pots provide splashes of color while the landscape matures.”

3. Lester and Amy Lachuk, 934 Westchester: “A maple tree and decorative shrubbery provide afternoon shade, framing the home perfectly. A butterfly

garden, including purple cone-flowers and splashes of yellow and pink, greets passers-by with a warm welcome and provides pollinators a welcome stop.”

4. Richard Griesback, 1239 Wayburn: “This charming two-family home recently underwent a landscape renovation. Front and center is the newly installed raised bed bordered in stone and filled with a variety of rounded boxwood, upright perennials and a low-creeping groundcover.”

5. John Francis and Kim Van Elslander, 15410 Windmill Pointe Drive: “Short swaths of lawn are bordered extensively with elegantly shaped flower beds, hedged-in boxwoods across the expanse of the front façade. A row of gorgeous hydrangeas are planted along the entire length of the house, blooming in light pink and pro-

viding the perfect splash of color.”

6. Jayne Kasuba, 1247 Kensington: “(The house) is headquarters for a spring garden. Numerous azaleas, rhododendrons, tulips and other spring blooms blanket the front yard. It is a feast for the eyes. Greeting you at the entrance to the driveway is a decorative address plaque adorned by a seasonally changing wreath.”

7. James Matthew Corbett, 1383 Cadieux: “This center entrance Colonial welcomes you with a floral wreath and floral planters decorated with American flags. A red, white and blue banner is to the left of the walkway. Symmetrical plantings on each side of the entrance have tiers of large, mature hydrangeas in the background fronted by a nicely manicured boxwood hedge and yews.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK



BEAUTY:

Continued from page 4B

zens about how they can support pollinators and prevent their extinctions.”

◆ James Creighton and Diana Zhao: “(They) volunteered at the start of the season to enlarge the common milk-

weed bed at the Patterson (Park) boardwalk. They put many hours of hard work into helping us restore that area. The boardwalk is a more beautiful and ecologically beneficial landscape because of their dedication.”

Adopt-a-Garden

◆ Along the Patterson Park

boardwalk this year volunteers “cleaned up debris, cleared storm damage, weeded and mulched during four community events. The transformation was amazing. Inner beds along the length of the boardwalk were restored to the condition we expect in our parks.”

Receiving certificates were volunteers Olga Merametdijan,

Amanda Adams and family, Councilman Marty McMillan, Councilman Brent Dreaver, Joana Dreaver, Grace Dreaver, Susan Niemenski, Tina Ziemba, David Swank, Mayor Michele Hodges and, for donating plants, Otherworld for Grosse Polite Nursery.

In addition to Chairwoman Clepton, members of the Park

Beautification Commission are Vice Chair Alicia Klien, Recording Secretary Shellie Hansen, Lisa Kyle, Diane MacConnachie, Anne Billiu, Carolyn Byrd, Pat Deck, Cheryl Gauss, Nicholas Gwozdz, Armen Gulian, Barbara Miller, City Forester Brian Colter and former Councilman Vikas Relan.

6B | FEATURES

Can-do attitude

The community came through for St. Paul Catholic School, whose SOUP-er canned food drive amassed a whopping 5,313 cans.

The top in-school collection came courtesy of Connor Curt's seventh-grade homeroom students, who turned in 781 cans.

Students and staff celebrated with a pep rally featuring three administrators racing remote-controlled cars through a student-assembled race track — the St. Paul Speedway. The Rev. Andrew Smith won the race, but several charities won the day, as every can was donated to those in need.

Following the race, St. Paul Thursday Advisory Program students loaded vehicles with donations, which were delivered to

the Deo Gratias food pantry at St. Jude Catholic Church, St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church pantry and St. Raymond Catholic Church pantry. Additionally, three family homes received pantry packs filled with food.

"As we enter into a time of year where the emphasis is on gratitude, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve those in need," said Tricia Kesteloot, director of evangelical charity. "Our focus is on how we are called to serve as neighbors in need. So many families are in need of food and resource assistance."

The school goal for the drive was 1,000 cans and Kesteloot had hoped to see another 1,000 cans from the community.



Above, from left, Maleah Miller, Nate Bejin, Addie Wrobel-Szkola and William Shore stack cans. Right, more than 5,000 cans were collected during the drive and then lined up to form a race track. Several were stacked at the turns.



Karen Rosenbach and Niah Maroney balance cans while helping build the race track.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, A.J. Hakim, a St. Paul middle school teacher, hands Elise Tranchida three cases of cans to open and help stack. Right, Father Andrew Smith, Assistant Principal Amy Bingle and Principal Tina Forsythe stand with their remote-control cars while they practice for the race. Father Jim Bilot served in the pit crew for the race.



HOLIDAY MEAT SPECIALS

Choice Angus Beef Tenderloin - \$21.99/lb

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GOURMET TO-GO

GOODIES

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Call 313-926-6473. Ask for Devon, the meat specialist.

From all of us at the **Grosse Pointe News** we wish you a

MERRY

Christmas



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Owner
GROSSE POINTE NEWS



Anne Gryzenia
Publisher
GROSSE POINTE NEWS



Jody McVeigh
Editor in Chief
GROSSE POINTE NEWS



Meg Leonard
Senior Editor, Sports Editor
GROSSE POINTE NEWS



Olivia Monette
Strategy/Development Dir.
GROSSE POINTE NEWS



Mike Adzima
Writer, Sports
EDITORIAL
Pictured with dad Mike Adzima, left, and mom Jill Adzima, center



Kyla Bazy
Writer, Obits
EDITORIAL



Laurel Kraus
Writer
EDITORIAL
Pictured with best buddy, baby nephew Theodore



Renee Landuyt
Photography
EDITORIAL



Ted O'Neil
Writer
EDITORIAL



John Pigott
Technology/Design
IT & PRODUCTION



Ken Schop
Manager, Cartoonist, Design
PRODUCTION



David Hughes
Design, Photo Toning,
Classified Section
PRODUCTION



Mary Schlager
Design
PRODUCTION
Pictured with Sissy



Donna Zetterlund
Special Sections Design,
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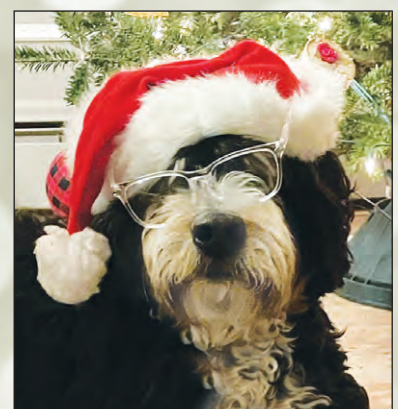
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8B | OBITUARIES

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.

Leo "Lou" Bournias

Leo "Lou" Bournias, 90, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, surrounded by his daughter and son.

Always sacrificing for others, Lou was a kind, selfless person and very proud American. Much of his youth involved spending time with his parents, sister and cousins and working in his father's restaurant, prior to serving the country by joining the U.S. Army. He recently recalled that he spent his 16th birthday working a double shift that included washing dishes and working the register.

During his time in the Army, he was promoted to play a key role at a satellite tracking station in Cuba during the race against the Soviet Union prior to Fidel Castro's regime. Following an honorable discharge, he returned to Detroit and met the love of his life, Angela Cholack, in a church bowling league.

After marrying and starting a family, Lou returned to serving the country as a civilian contract specialist with the U.S. Army. After a few years, he took on an overseas two-year civilian assignment for the U.S. Navy to Greece in the 1970s. With his wife and children, Karen and George, he greatly enjoyed this special time exploring the country and the Greek Islands on weekends and during holidays. Their time in Greece was a lifetime highlight and undoubtedly helped fuel his love of further researching the family tree.

Upon their return to the U.S., Lou worked for the Department of Defense at TACOM and was the lead contracting officer on the world's single largest commercial truck contract for production of six different types of vehicles.

Together, Lou and Angela were very special parents. They created a beautiful life and family together. Theirs was a marriage of mutual love, joy and affection and created a wonderful family legacy.

While he will be remembered for these achievements, he was the kindest and most generous father, Papou and friend. He loved his family, his Greek heritage and discussing history. He was a fan of baseball and football, specifically the Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, University of Michigan Wolverines and Michigan State Spartans. Lou also was one to follow the stock market in his spare time. Over the years, he enjoyed weekly coffee gatherings with his friends and senior group luncheons at his church. He and his wife were great supporters of the Hellenic Museum of Michigan.

Lou was predeceased by his parents, George and Maria; and his wife, Angela. He is survived by his daughter, Karen Panagos; son-in-law, Dr. Chris Panagos; grandchildren, Dr. Angela Panagos, Dr. Chrissy Panagos and Dean

Panagos; son, George Bournias; daughter-in-law, Laurie Bournias; sister, Feenee Horattas (Chris); and many wonderful nieces, nephews and cousins.

Lou's viewing was held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods. His funeral was held at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores. He will be greatly missed by many.

Memorial contributions in Lou's name may be made to the Hellenic Museum of Michigan, 67 E. Kirby, Detroit, MI 48202, or Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080, go assumption.org/stewardship.

Joseph Paul Poirier

Joseph Paul Poirier, known to friends as "Joe," 63, passed away Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023.

Joe was born in Detroit to Paul and Bertha (nee Michels) Poirier. He is survived by his beloved wife, Diane; father, Paul; sister-in-law, Karen Kowalsky (David); brother, Kenneth Poirier (Laura); five loving nieces, Mary Wagner (Neil), Ann Minjeur (Patrick), Maureen Weiss (Stuart), Bernadette Jones (Zachary) and Rose Poirier; as well as nine great-nieces and great-nephews. He was predeceased by his mother, Bertha.

Joe graduated from Bishop Gallagher High School in 1978, and earned a baccalaureate degree in criminal justice from Eastern Michigan University in 1983. Aside from his studies at Eastern, Joe thoroughly enjoyed fulfilling his duties as house manager for the house operated by his fraternity, Kappa Phi Alpha.

After graduation he worked as a security officer for the Renaissance Center in Detroit, where he met the love of his life, Diane. They married in 1988.

Joe fulfilled his lifelong ambition to become a police officer, serving the city of Detroit from 1987 to 1989. In 1989, he expanded his public service, joining the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, continuing his work as a police officer, taking on the additional responsibilities of a firefighter and an emergency medical responder. Joe retired from public service after 27 years in 2014.

Joe was a sports enthusiast and readily gave interesting details about the teams he enjoyed following, including the Detroit Tigers and University of Michigan Wolverines. He loved telling stories, especially about his life at home with Diane and their sheepdog, Lilly, but you had to dig to learn about some of his accomplishments because he was not one to brag about himself. While serving in Detroit, for example, Joe received a commendation for saving the life of a person who was about to jump off the Belle Isle Bridge.

Joe was known and loved by his many relatives, friends and those met in public service for his ready wit, sense of humor, strong sense of justice and concern for the underdog. He loved his family and his friends and especially enjoyed the time he shared with them all.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Matthew Daniel Czerkis

Matthew Daniel Czerkis, 51, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023. He was a spouse and dear friend.

Matthew was diagnosed with liver cancer in April 2022, and chose to keep the news within the family. Despite his immense bravery, treatment was unsuccessful.

Matthew graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School. He was a third generation union journeyman electrician with IBEW Local 58 since 1994. When he wasn't watching his beloved Michigan Wolverines football, basketball and Detroit Tigers baseball, Matthew enjoyed golfing, traveling, riding motorcycles, fishing and spending time with his dogs, family and friends.

Matthew is survived by his wife, Katherine; mother, Judith; father, John; brother, Stephen (Pamela); and nephews, Ian and Scott. He is being cremated and a celebration of life party will occur in 2024.

Gordon Thomas Harding

Gordon Thomas Harding passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 8, 2023.

He was born July 10, 1939, in London, Ontario, Canada. He is survived by his sister, Shirley Glass; beloved wife, Anne; son, Thomas Gordon; daughter-in-law, Janelle; and grandson, Jayden Elias.

A proud graduate of Wayne State University with a degree in civil engineering, Gordon spent his entire career working for the city of Windsor. Known for his dedication and passion for municipal and political affairs, he was an integral part of supporting the city's development and progress.

Beyond his professional life, Gordon had a love of sports, a passion that began in high school when he played football. Throughout his life, he remained an avid sports enthusiast, enjoying watching and attending baseball, hockey and football.

A man of diverse interests, Gordon had a deep love for reading, subscribing to many recreational and professional publications. He enjoyed photography, always owning a good-quality camera to capture moments that mattered to him. Gordon enjoyed spending time outdoors and sailing.

Gordon retired from his position as commissioner of public works in 2003, closing a chapter in his life filled with dedica-



Leo Bournias



Joseph Paul Poirier



Matthew Daniel Czerkis



Gordon Thomas Harding



John Hickey Schoenherr



Dr. Maria-Gertrud Meingast

tion and service to the city of Windsor. Following his retirement, he relocated to Grosse Pointe.

Gordon's passion for life, ongoing pursuit of knowledge and unwavering dedication to the city of Windsor will be fondly remembered by those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A memorial service for Gordon takes place at noon Saturday, Dec. 23, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, detroitriverfront.org; or Essex Region Conservation Foundation, essexregionconservation.ca.

John Hickey Schoenherr

John Hickey Schoenherr, 78, a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away at his home Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Shelley Gorny Schoenherr; daughter, Brady Schoenherr Cassell (Craig); son, Brennan Edward Schoenherr (Karyn); granddaughters, Avery Schoenherr, Leighton Schoenherr, Emerson Cassell and Blake Cassell; grandson, Keaton Cassell; and sister, Judy Schoenherr Huntington (John). He was preceded in death by his brothers, R. Stark "Rick" Schoenherr and Blay Schoenherr (Debi).

John was born June 6, 1945, in Grosse Pointe, to Helen Hickey Schoenherr and Edward James Schoenherr, both now deceased. He was educated at St. Paul Catholic School, Austin Catholic Preparatory High School and Regis College in Denver.

After college graduation, he joined the family at their Ford dealership, Stark Hickey Ford. Eventually he developed his own business, Westchester Corp., and ventured out on his own as a manufacturer's representative with Diversified Data and Communications and enjoyed a long association with Urban Science in Detroit.

John enjoyed a lifelong connection as a member of Otsego Ski Club in Gaylord, Mich., and was a devoted, active member of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, having been elected to the board of directors and proudly serving as commodore in 1996-97. All who knew him will remember and miss his

fabulous stories of boating and tales of the family connection with hydroplanes and Ford muscle cars.

A celebration of John's life will take place at 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Memorial donations in John's name may be made to Motor City Mitten Mission, motorcitymittenmission.org/donate; or to the McQuade Society through the Ascension St. John Foundation, ascnmifnd.org/ASJFdonate.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Dr. Maria-Gertrud Meingast

Dr. Maria-Gertrud Meingast (nee Frenger), 98, passed away Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023.

She was born Feb. 11, 1925, and raised on Heinrichshof, her parents' home and farm in Fühlingen, just outside of Köln, Germany. She attended Gymnasium in Köln, then went to university in Bonn, where she earned a doctorate degree in medicine.

On Oct. 3, 1953, she married physicist Dr. Johannes Meingast in Fühlingen. They were married for 63 years. Shortly after they married, they moved to Aachen, Germany, where they raised five sons. In 1968, the whole family moved to Grosse Pointe Park.

In addition to raising her sons and managing all that entails, Maria-Gertrud enjoyed spending time in her garden, cooking, reading books, gathering with her many friends and traveling regularly, often yearly, back to Germany.

She kept fit into her 90s by swimming daily at Windmill Point Park during the summer and walking the boardwalk at Three Mile/Patterson Park in the fall and winter. Of primary importance was connecting with her children and grandchildren, as well as with family in Germany. During her long life she observed and participated in a huge amount of history and change. She lived through a world depression, a world war, the rebuilding of her country, massive technological advances — and she always stayed current in her observations and hopeful for the future.

Maria-Gertrud became a U.S. citizen in 2016.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Hanno Meingast (Bonnie Wheeler), Wolfram Meingast



Penelope C. Swanson

(Carolyn), Christoph Meingast (Marita Endres), Klaus Meingast (Heather) and Herbert Meingast (Sara); grandchildren, Karl, Christa, Peter, Sofia, Noelle, Nicklaus, Kristofer, Alexander, Claire and Theodor; and many friends, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her loving husband, Hanno; siblings, Theo Frenger, Otto Frenger and Adelheid Munker (née Frenger); and many of her cousins and friends.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, with a gathering at 10 a.m. at St. Ambrose Catholic Church, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Macular Degeneration Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061, macular.org; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Penelope Claire Swanson

Penelope "Penny" Claire Swanson, 75, passed away Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at McLaren Macomb Hospital in Mount Clemens.

Penny was born June 10, 1948, in Tecumseh, Canada, to William and Grace Jones, both now deceased. She was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Penny cared greatly about the environment and had a love for animals, especially birds. She was a devoted mother and enjoyed crafting and jewelry making. She was a member of the Audubon Society and involved with the Grosse Pointe Silversmith Group.

Penny is survived by her daughters, Lauren and Chloe; son, Kyle; and grandchildren, Harmony, Etta and Hope.

A service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

See OBITS, page 9B

OBITS:

Continued from page 8B

Thomas John Neych

Thomas John Neych passed away Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at home in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Tom was born Oct. 22, 1937, in Detroit. He was the son of John and Mary (nee Balinski) Neych. After graduating from De La Salle Collegiate High School, Tom served in the U.S. Navy. He then received an undergraduate degree from the University of Detroit and a master's degree in business from the University of Michigan. He enjoyed golfing, boating and working in the yard. Family was very important to Tom. He encouraged his children to follow his habit of learning a word every day.

Tom culminated his career in marketing at Chrysler Corp., and after more than 30 years, retired in 1996. He and his wife, Margaret, spent time traveling the U.S., enjoying the Florida sunshine, visiting family and attending U-M football games. Tom had a deep and resonating voice, which he used to cheer on the Wolverines or to break into song in the kitchen, a store and always at church.

Tom is survived by his wife of 26 years, Margaret Mary (nee Coakley); children, Debi A. Naborczyk, Mark M. Neych (Joy), Marsha A. Waters (Mark) and Bradford S. Neych (Ryan); daughter-in-law, Christine (nee Mendinueto) Neych; and grandchildren, Mark D. Naborczyk (Kristen), Erin M. Toska, Nicholas T. Toska and Jayce K. Calado. Tom was predeceased by his parents; brother, Daniel; sisters, Alice Tumidajewicz and Mary Kushnier; and eldest son, John.

Tom's family will host a memorial service Thursday, Jan. 4, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Family and friends will be welcomed starting at 9:30 a.m. with a memorial service at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Tom's name may be made to the University of Michigan for memory care research and support,



Thomas John Neych

giving.umich.edu/um/make-a-gift?keyword=dementia.

Jean Regina Gilbert

Jean R. Gilbert, 105, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023. Jean was able to spend her last years at home, as she wished, due to her caregiver and daughter, Charlene.

Jean (nee Lukasik) was born June 1, 1918, to Stanley and Anna Lukasik of Avoca, Pa. Jean survived the first year of the Spanish Flu epidemic and lived a long and happy life.

She grew up on the east-side of Detroit and attended Northeastern High School. She was voted "senior class tomboy" and worked her first job cleaning strawberries at the Frigid Food Co., downtown for 15 cents an hour.

After graduation, Jean worked as a salesgirl in Woolworth's candy department and later as a seamstress at the American Lady Corset Co. When the factory converted to making parachutes in 1944, Jean began sewing wires into the outside parachute strips. Since the seamstresses were paid by piecework — not by the hour, but by the amount produced — every day she would hear a girl scream when they sewed too quickly and the huge needle went right through their finger. Fortunately, Jean kept all her digits intact.

On D-Day, recruiters visited the factory to enlist women. Jean thought, "Why not?" Before she knew it, she found herself in Karachi, India. She served as a WAC in the Army Air Corps and was promoted to Corporal in the Air Traffic Command, booking flights for American soldiers returning home after being held



Jean Regina Gilbert

as prisoners of war in Japan.

After she returned stateside, while stationed at the Air Force base in Long Beach, Calif., Jean was lucky enough to watch the filming of "The Best Years of Our Lives" (1946). She met and was photographed with the star, Dana Andrews, who whispered to her, "Smile as if you're enjoying this" — and she certainly did. Her contacts with celebrities continued when she moved to Hollywood and sold fabric at the Beverly Hills Silks and Woolen shop, waiting on stars like the "not very friendly" Ingrid Bergman or watching Greta Garbo and others pass by.

Soon Jean moved back to Detroit and began modeling corsets at J.L. Hudson's. When her coworkers took her out to celebrate her 30th birthday at the hotel lounge behind Hudson's, she met Howard E. Gilbert, a purchasing agent at the Detroit Board of Education. He asked her out on the spot. They went to the Tigers game that evening; she carried the ticket stub in her wallet. They were married Feb. 19, 1955, and took a month-long honeymoon, driving from New Orleans to Miami to New York City.

Within a few years, they moved to Grosse Pointe Farms, where they began a family, raising three girls, Suzanne, Kathryn and Charlene. Jean was very involved in her daughters' schools, volunteering in the nurse's office, leading the St. Paul Brownies and Girl Scout troops, helping as class parent, accompanying the kids on class trips and organizing school rummage and bake sales.

Jean always traveled with Howard on the board's vacations to places like Las Vegas, Puerto



Cameron Henry Piggott

Rico and Hawaii. In addition, she volunteered 18 years at Bon Secours Hospital and packaged Meals on Wheels for the homebound. For a while, she drove "older people" who needed rides to their doctor appointments, sometimes being older than her passengers. She also frequently threw huge parties and maintained an eight-bedroom house off Lakeshore.

Jean was an active member of Services for Older Citizens, now The Helm, as well as the Grosse Pointe Veterans Club and National CBI. For decades, she made it to every CBI national reunion.

Jean continued her love for travel, visiting Europe many times, flying by herself every winter to stay with her daughter, Suzanne, and son-in-law, Jim, in Florida, and taking that 13-hour trip to see her daughter, Charlene, in Hawaii over two summers. She also enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Jean enjoyed baking pies, cakes and cookies for her organizations. She sewed and hemmed flawlessly, read biographies voraciously, played bingo twice a week and spent Friday mornings shopping at Grosse Pointe garage sales.

Jean was best known for her generosity. She was always there to help others and regularly donated to her organizations and charities.

Jean was predeceased by her husband, Howard E. Gilbert; son, Hermann Gilbert (stillborn); and sister, Dorothy Zambardi.

She is survived by her daughters, Suzanne Hale (Jim), Kathryn Gilbert and Charlene Gilbert; grandchildren, Libby Stewart (Joey), Drew Hale, Jordan Kyle, Whitney Kyle and Wallis Kyle; and great-grandson, Landon Stewart.

Private services will be held at a later date. She will be interred at the St. Paul on the Lake columbarium.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Helm at the Boll Life Center, helmlife.org/donate/; Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club, warmemorial.org/support, or Full Circle Foundation, fullcirclefdn.org/donate/.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Cameron Henry Piggott

Cameron Henry Piggott, 75, passed away Sunday, Dec. 17, 2023, at home in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Cameron was born May 15, 1948, in Detroit, to Albert Franklin Piggott and Ann Dewar (nee Anderson) Piggott. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree with high honors from Michigan State University. He then earned a Juris Doctorate Magna Cum Laude from the University of Michigan, Order of the Coif, with a No. 1 ranking on his Michigan Bar exam.

On Aug. 3, 1973, he married Mary Susan (nee Golibart) and went on to earn many accolades, including being named Lawyer of the Year by The Best Lawyers in America for Real Estate Law, 2016-21, 2024; named Lawyer of the Year by The Best Lawyers in America for Litigation-Real Estate, 2024; recognized in The Best Lawyers in America for Real Estate Law; Litigation-Real Estate, 2006-24; recognized in Michigan Super Lawyers for Real Estate: Business, 2006-present; named a Leading Real Estate Lawyer by Chambers USA, 2006-20; named a Michigan Leading Lawyer in the areas of Real Estate: Commercial and Real Estate: Finance Law by the Leading Lawyers Network, 2014-17; named a Top Lawyer by dBusiness Magazine for Energy Law, Real Estate Law and Real Estate Litigation, 2010-17; the recipient of an AV Preeminent™ Rating by Martindale-Hubbell; and serving on the board of directors of the Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix Inc., Detroit 300 Conservancy, Detroit

Downtown Inc. (formerly Central Business District Association), including serving as chairman of the board in 1997 and 1998, and serving on the board of directors and executive committee of the Downtown Detroit Partnership Inc. He also served on the Beaumont Health Board of Trustees, and was clerk and trustee of the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, a member of the Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission and a member of the board of directors, including chairman of the board, of Tomorrow's Child/Michigan SIDS Inc.

Cameron's greatest joys in life were spending time with family, feeding birds, caring for his dogs, playing golf, spending time on the water and boating, and cars. He also was a voracious reader and history buff.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Mary Susan Piggott; daughter, Kristen Ann Ireland (Carl); sons, Cameron Dewar Piggott (Monica) and Drew Franklin Piggott (McKenna); grandchildren, Grace Marjorie Piggott, Graham Curtiss Ireland and Maren Estelle Ireland; and sister, Sheila Robertson Mack. He was predeceased by his parents, Albert and Ann; his stepmother, M. Lea Piggott; son, Graham Michael Piggott; and brother, Grant Cameron Piggott.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral will be held Saturday, Dec. 23, at Our Lady Star of the Sea, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m., until the 10 a.m. Mass. A private interment will occur at Cadillac Memorial Gardens East.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, bit.ly/475gsoh; the American Cancer Society, bit.ly/473fPeP; or Capuchin Soup Kitchen, cskdetroit.org/ways_to_give/donations/.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

See OBITS, page 10B

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www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. - Bible Study
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



CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING SERVICE
Sunday, December 24, 2023 Only at 11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 7 p.m.

ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE: SUNDAYS at 9:30 & 11 a.m.
YouTube.com/YourC3



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Masses

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

(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish
☞ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
sharing the Light of Christ

Join us on Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24

10 am ~ A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols
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5 pm ~ A Celtic Christmas Service
with music and Holy Communion

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313.884.4820 stmichaelsgpw.org

The Christmas Season at St. Ambrose Catholic Church

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 23, 2023

Mass AT 4 P.M. ((••))

Sunday, December 24, 2023

MASS AT 10:00 A.M.

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Sunday, December 24, 2023,

Mini Concert starting at 3:30 p.m.

Children's Mass AT 4 P.M.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Monday, December 25, 2023

Mini Concert starting at 11:30 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12 A.M. ((••))

Masses on Christmas Morning

8:30 A.M. AND AT 11:15 A.M.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 30, 2023,

MASS AT 4:00 P.M. ((••))

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 AT

MASS AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

((••)) Service will be livestreamed online and available for later viewing on facebook.com/stambroseparish

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

OBITS:

Continued from page 9B

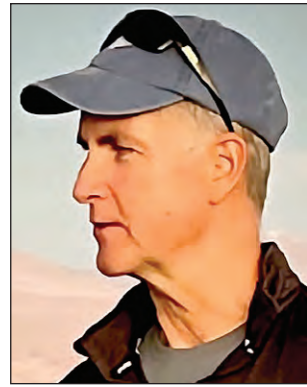
Richard Flannery Mitchell

Richard Flannery "Dick" Mitchell, 66, of Cazenovia, N.Y., passed away Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, after a year-long struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease).

Dick was born Dec. 10, 1957, to Heidi Flannery and W. Ledyard Mitchell Jr., of Grosse Pointe Farms. Dick earned a bachelor's degree at Michigan State University and an MBA at The Ohio State University.

Upon moving to Cazenovia, N.Y., Dick entered employment in 1992, with Welch Allyn Inc., in Skaneateles, N.Y., and its subsidiary, Everest VIT, where he served as global operations manager for the Remote Visual Inspection Technology unit. He continued in that role even after the business was acquired by General Electric in 2005.

Dick retired from GE in December 2018, and worked as a project consultant with Sensor Networks Inc., until 2021. In retirement, Dick joined the Cazenovia Fire Department as a volunteer firefighter, a role he pursued with passion and dedication. Dick cared deeply for his colleagues at work and often checked in with



Richard F. Mitchell

them in difficult times, a habit he continued until his death. The outpouring of support during his illness is testament to the high regard in which he was held by those who worked with him.

Dick was an accomplished sailor. He sailed competitively in college and was twice nominated for the All-American Collegiate Sailing Team. Before pursuing graduate education, Dick worked as a sailmaker for Shore Sails in Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio, serving the Midwest and upper Great Lakes. During that time, while racing in the Snipe class, Dick met his wife, Maureen, a fellow Snipe sailor. Their love of sailing was the undercurrent of their life together. Dick sailed out of the Willow Bank Yacht Club in Cazenovia since 1992. Dick was the consummate sportsman. It was not unusual for him to forfeit the lead in a laser regatta to help a fellow sailor in distress.

In addition to sailing,

Dick enjoyed skiing, biking, playing tennis and golfing with family and friends. He served on the boards of the Cazenovia Ski Club, Willow Bank Yacht Club, Lorenzo Historical Society and Manufacturers Association of Central New York, among others.

Dick is survived by his wife, Maureen Hays-Mitchell; sons, Zachary and Elliot; brother, W. Ledyard Mitchell III (Veda Travis) of Salt Lake City, Utah; sisters, Deborah M. Bergh of Burlington, Vt., and Mary Mitchell of Portland, Ore.; siblings-in-law, Judith and Craig Benedict of Cazenovia, N.Y., Rosemary D. Hays of Pelham Manor, N.Y., Michael and Stephanie Hays of St. Petersburg, Fla., and Robert T. Hays of Portland, Ore.; and several nieces and nephews. Dick was predeceased by his parents; sister, Sallie M. Bass; and brother-in-law, Jay Hays.

A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at noon Friday, Jan. 26, at St. James RC Church in Cazenovia, N.Y.

Contributions in Dick's memory may be made to the Cazenovia Ski Club, 5251 Rathbun, Cazenovia, NY 13035; or Cazenovia Fire Department, 121 Albany St., Cazenovia, NY 13035.

Condolences for the Mitchell family may be left at michaielebrownfuneralservices.com.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

GPPSS

The Grosse Pointe Public School System

hosts the following information nights:

- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8, for rising fifth graders at all district middle schools.
- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Wednesday,

Jan. 10, for rising freshmen at both district high schools.

- ◆ 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, for kindergarten and Young Fives, at all district elementary schools.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Visitors to lower Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park this Christmas season are greeted with a dazzling display of holiday lights, thanks to the combined efforts of the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association and members of the Cotton family, who've embarked on a journey to create a perfect winter wonderland of lights, shopping and dining in the Park. The increase in lights, strung by Backer Landscaping, is just the start. In the coming years, the strip can expect to rival Rochester in terms of being a holiday destination, Jon Cotton indicated, adding that ideas for seating and other amenities are being discussed.

'Dave powered by Mark'

Grosse Pointe Shores resident David Galbenski ran his first New York City Marathon last month, crossing the finish line in just over four and a half hours. He had his finisher medal engraved to signify the accomplishment as a joint effort: Galbenski was able to complete the race thanks to the living liver donation he received from his brother-in-law, Mark Dybis of Grosse Pointe Woods. Pictured, Dybis, left, wears the medal earned by Galbenski, to whom Dybis donated part of his liver in 2019.



While most marathoners have their finisher medals engraved with their name, run time and the date, Galbenski had a special engraving request, making sure to credit Dybis with his part of the achievement.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID GALBENSKI

Kevin's Song Saving a Life award nominations open

Kevin's Song, a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering communities to prevent suicide and offering hope and healing to survivors, this week announced it is accepting nominations for its annual Saving a Life Award. Each year, the award is presented to an individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to community service in suicide prevention.

"Our 'Saving the Life Award' celebrates those who are at the forefront of suicide prevention, embodying our shared commitment for a future that is free from suicide," Kevin's Song Executive Director Jennifer Fair Margraf said. "There are so many people across the state who go above and

beyond when it comes to addressing this complex issue and its impact. We hope to learn more about their efforts and encourage Michiganders to submit a nomination for someone deserving in their community."

Nominations may be made online through Friday, Jan. 5, at kevinssong.org/saving-a-life-award/. The winner will be announced at the 2024 "Saving a Life Award" dinner Friday, Jan. 26, as part of the Kevin's Song eighth annual Conference on Suicide: Continuing the Conversation, which takes place Jan. 25 to 27, at the Saint John's Resort in Plymouth.

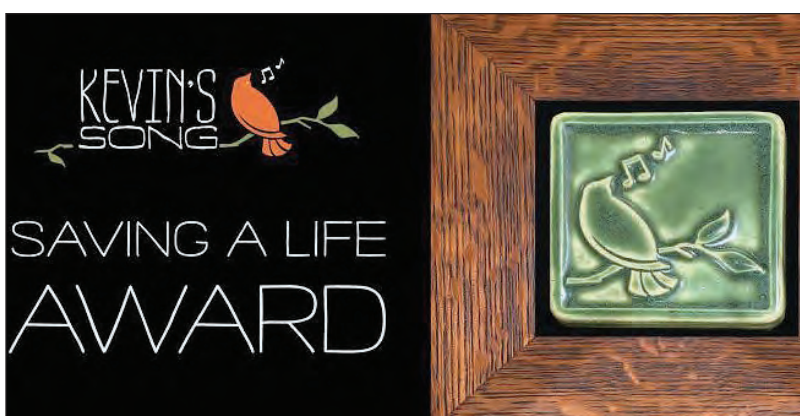
For more information about Kevin's Song and its Saving a Life Award, visit kevinssong.org.



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FRIENDSHIP

Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Holiday visits: stay at a hotel or with relatives?

Dear Gabby: Every year we go visit my husband's family in Ohio. Every. Single. Year. We stay at their house and I feel so self-conscious being in such close proximity, all sharing one bathroom, etc.

I get exhausted from being stressed about it and hardly want to participate in the festivities.

There is a hotel that is sort of close. Is it rude to suggest we stay there?

What if they are offended and insist we stay with them? I can't do this for one more holiday.

— Sick of it

Dear Sick of it,

I am almost positive your suggestion would be very well received, since the point of staying at the hotel would be to reduce the stress on your

gracious host — what with the laundry, providing countless meals, giving up their privacy, sharing a bathroom and constantly cleaning up after your family. Am I right?

And if your in-laws take offense, have your husband stand firm as your spokesperson. He needs to tell them you are a united front and have made the decision for everyone's sake.

Don't get trapped in the middle. As the daughter-in-law, that will only be a lose-lose proposition for you. Look at it this way, you're saving everyone from having a blue Christmas.

— Gabby

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



Wishing a Merry Christmas to all

Dear Readers: Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas. Hope you enjoy these poems.

"Christmas in the Heart"

by Paul Laurence Dunbar

"The snow lies deep upon the ground, And winter's brightness all around.

Decks bravely out the forest sere, With jewels of the brave old year.

The coasting crowd upon the hill,

With some new spirit seems to thrill;

And all the temple bells achime.

Ring out the glee of Christmas time.

In happy homes the brown oak-bough, vies with the red-gemmed holly now;

And here and there, like pearls, there show the berries of the mistletoe.

A sprig upon the chandelier says to the maidens, 'Come not here!'

Even the pauper of the earth some kindly gift has cheered to mirth!

Within his chamber, dim and cold,

There sits a grasping miser old.

He has no thought save one of gain,

— to grind and gather and grasp and drain.

A peal of bells, a merry shout assail his ear:

He gazes out upon a world to him all gray,

And snarls, 'Why, this is Christmas Day!'

No, man of ice, — for

shame, for shame!

For 'Christmas Day' is no mere name.

No, not for you this ringing cheer,

This festal season of the year.

And not for you the chime of bells,

From holy temple rolls and swells. In day and deed he has no part

— Who holds not Christmas in his heart!

An excerpt from "Old Santeclaus" by Clement Clarke



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

Moore

"Old Santeclaus with much delight

His reindeer drives this frosty night,

O'er chimney-tops, and tracks of snow,

To bring his yearly gifts to you.

The steady friend of virtuous youth,

The friend of duty, and of truth,

Each Christmas eve he joys to come

Where love and peace have made their home."

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

Sometimes I just want to kick myself when I see a product. It's so simple it's almost ridiculous, yet someone is managing to make money from their idea. Case in point, the cup holder with marker I just purchased.

If you are like me, when kids come over or you host a party, at least 50 percent of guests lose their cup somewhere, aren't sure if they are drinking out of the right cup, etc. Wine charms are ok for wine glasses, but not ideal for solo cups.

So as usual, I get served up ads for every type of product you can imagine, and the cup holder caught my eye. All it is, is a wooden base to hold your plastic or paper cups — with a little hole for a marker.

Somehow this little slice of organization and a little piece of wood makes me feel organized and on top of the world. Having a gathering, picnic, baby shower or a pasta party for a sports team? This is the perfect solution.

Now I'm not going to



suggest that this is perfect for everyday use. The waste seems too much — too much plastic and garbage. But just having the little wooden thing with the marker in it on the counter has also helped. Now, on weekdays when the kids come home from school, they usually take a glass glass and write their initial on it with the marker that came with the cup holder.

When I initially got served up the advertisement for this product, it was slightly different and

more expensive. So I turned to Amazon and got something much cheaper that I knew I could return if turned out to be a dud. The exact one I purchased can be found here for \$19.99. It really seems like maybe it should be \$10, but it looks nice on the counter and does the job.

Go to amazon.com for more details, https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B7HMXWTD?psc=1&ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_product_details.

I'm giving this one a perfect score — because what

else could you ask for? Not expensive, keeps you organized, saves on party waste. Five alligators!

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.



5 Out Of 5

Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

Fisher Road, Grosse Pointe. What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of that historical street? Grosse Pointe South High School? The Grosse Pointe Public Library? Grosse Pointe Theatre? Well, for me it's none of the above. I think of the sweetest of cafes, The Sugar Bar.

Vicky Valente and her husband, Shawn, opened their doors in 2022, and haven't slowed down since. Vicky's barista background paved the way to a delicious specialty coffee menu that features classic hot favorites like lattes, cappuccino, mocha and caramel varieties,

as well as cold favorites like iced coffees and lattes, slushies, Italian sodas, milkshakes and smoothies.

Her expertise in baking fills the front counter with a different daily variety of cookies, brownies, cupcakes, croissants, dessert

bars and, my favorite, doughnuts. I'm a sucker for a good sour cream or éclair doughnut and The Sugar Bar is my go-to.

It's a cozy space for morning coffee and a breakfast bagel sandwich, or a delicious slice of avocado toast with a chai latte. You can relax and enjoy — before the afternoon rush.

Located directly across from Grosse Pointe South, The Sugar Bar has become a hotspot for the lunch

hour. Yes, there's more than just sweets to be had, like sub sandwiches, chicken strips, salads and mac 'n cheese. They even offer a house account option for students.

Another great option for the kids across the street is emailing an order to thesugarbar373@gmail.com before 10:15 a.m. Place the order, state the lunch hour and house account number if you have one. There's no line to pick it up if you

have an account, but an account is not required. Your order will be ready. This is a huge timesaver for students on their 40-minute lunch break and a convenient option for everyone in general.

With Christmas just days away, The Sugar Bar will be hosting an evening event from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21. Christmas Cookies & Coffee will offer a massive variety of fresh-baked

cookies to build your own two dozen, while enjoying your choice of any coffee for \$30. This is an excellent option for gift giving, holiday dessert platters or enjoying at home by a nice fire. Reservations are required so Vicky and her elves know how much dough to roll. Check their social media pages or call them at (313) 499-1139 to reserve.

See FOOD, page 3C



Holiday Feels

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This year is coming to a wrap but I still have a couple recipes left to share.

Crab is a special treat in our household. My amazing sister-in-law shared her recipe for her crab dip and it was an absolute hit.

We did hors d'oeuvres for dinner with a giant fire. It's just that time of year to be cozy and warm. Lots of bread and crackers were paired and everyone in the house was content.

Sometimes you don't need to make a big dinner. Sometimes everyone is happy with a special treat that they can snack on until bedtime.

Sherry is a key factor to this dip and so are the green onions. Old Bay is a classic. The best lump crab meat that I have found is at Fresh Farms Market. It's in the refrigerated section next to the butcher. It's fresh and sweet and makes the whole dish.

Treat your family and loved ones with this one. It's divine.

Cheers, Mombeau

Baltimore Crab Dip

16 oz lump meat crab

1 block cream cheese

3 tbsp mayo

½ cup sour cream

¼ cup chopped scallions

2 tsp lemon juice

1 tsp mustard powder

2 tsp Worcestershire sauce

1 tbsp Sherry

1 tbsp each of Old Bay, garlic powder and hot sauce

Mix all the ingredients together and place in a greased baking dish.

Cook at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON



Consumers bought the wine more for its fashionable fiaschi, which they used for candleholders, than its quality at the dinner table, but Chianti is a wonderful dry red that is a classic with food.

Chianti

I love Chianti, Italy's most famous red wine. This crisp red has had to negotiate a maze of legal and stylistic problems in the last 50 years yet despite it all has retained a countrified persona that's best with tart foods.

Chianti can be a bit rustic. It also can be high in acidity and thus works beautifully with tomato-based foods, and it benefits from aeration. So, in some ways it's predictable. But its image can confound Italian wine newcomers.

As its laws have changed, so has its style, and there are several quality designations at the upper echelons that are so confusing they won't be mentioned here.

Almost all regular Chianti once adhered to a tradition that called for it to be a pale red with brick color and aromas of tree bark. And it wasn't very age-worthy.

It could last and improve with 10 years in the bottle. Beyond that,

collectors knew the wines would fade. It was usually a drink-now wine. A few Chianti producers had wines that aged longer, but the Chianti "formula" in place for a century was passed down from a historic figure. And that formula emphasized early drinking.

The original definition of what constituted Chianti was written in 1874 by political leader Barone Bettino Ricasoli, owner of the Tuscan house of Brolio. His "formula" said Chianti should be made of 80 percent indigenous red grapes (Sangiovese and Canaiolo) and 20 percent white grapes. This made lighter red wines that wouldn't age well.

What was ignored was Ricasoli's succeeding text that said if a producer wished to make a longer-lived wine, white grapes could be excluded. That part of



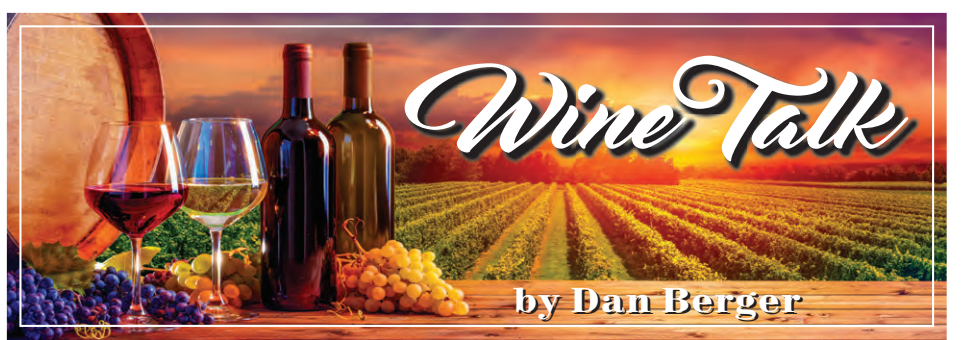
the "formula" was never adopted.

The result was that those wishing to make a deeper-flavored, longer-lived Chianti couldn't call it Chianti. Some stayed with tradition, but the quality leader of Tuscany 50 years ago, Piero Antinori, challenged tradition. He released a 1971 wine called Tignanello that was made mainly from red grapes. It didn't say "Chianti."

But it set a tone for a new type of vino da tavola intended for more aging, up to 30 years. And it was expensive.

Italy's wine-quality regulations were written in 1963, setting rules aimed at making better wine.

The Denominazione



di Origine Controllata e Garantita (DOCG) rules also mandated certain aging regimens.

That regulation changed in 1984 with a law that still required white grapes and permitted additional blending into Chianti. By 1990, the law still required some white grapes to be used, but rebels were beginning to ignore the law, making more international-style wines, so-called Super Tuscan. Some were called Chianti, still mainly Sangiovese, but often with cabernet added. That changed the wines.

The 1980s were chaotic in Tuscany. And soon Italian regulations for what constituted a Chianti Classico under the law were modified again. Still, it wasn't until 1997 that the DOCG laws were changed to eliminate the mandate of white grapes.

Today's Chianti is better than ever. Regular Chianti is somewhat simple. There are also Chiantis from different regions, as well as wines designated "riserva."

Now a new category, approved in 2014, is called Grand Selezione,

a sort of guarantee that age-worthy Chianti is mainly only Sangiovese. Cabernet no longer is allowed in that version.

Despite all the changes in Chianti laws, there is one enduring reality. It is Sangiovese at its best. Chianti Classico today is a deeper, more complex

ago, and yet retains its great affinity for food.

No Wine of the Week.

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

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FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

Holiday gift baskets also are in full swing. These make the perfect gifts for teachers, caregivers, bosses, you name it. They're available with

brownies, cookies or a variety. Place orders soon as the clock is already ticking.

The Sugar Bar has become a popular location to host private parties, such as baby and bridal showers, and you can rent the entire space if needed.

This is the perfect location for your little's birthday parties as well. Groups up to 12 can make a craft like apron decorating, or cupcake and cookie decorating, while enjoying pizza and drinks. A great party is sure to be had — and it's easy on the parents. For

\$325, all you have to do is show up.

Coming soon in the next few weeks: The Candy Bar. Grab a bag and fill 'er up. Who doesn't love a miscellaneous bag of candy in their glove box or locker?

Don't pass up this sweet shop on your way in or out of Fresh Farms Market. And, if your teens post a pic of their lunch, coffee or sweets and tag The Sugar Bar on Instagram, they might get an extra treat.

Find The Sugar Bar and all of its deliciousness at 373 Fisher Road. Follow The Sugar Bar on Facebook and Instagram @thesugarbar313 for hours, updates and future events.

Stay tuned.
Stay hungry.



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Green Pointe News BEST of the BEST 2023

SEE MENU

2023

HOLIDAY

Pets!



The holidays would not be the same without our fuzzy buddies on hand to make us smile, laugh or warm our hearts on even the chilliest of winter days. Whether they bark, meow, squeak or make other funny noises, the sound of a beloved pet is music to our ears.

Check out this symphony of adorable pups and kitties from the Grosse Pointe area, sporting their holiday best fashions and cute expressions sure to touch your heart this Christmas season.

BAUER

Santa Paws is coming to town! Meet Bauer Bahr, left, the cutest 9-year-old goldendoodle from Grosse Pointe Woods. All dressed up in his Santa hat, he's ready to spread some holiday cheer throughout the Pointes. Bauer is not just a dog, he's a cherished member of the Bahr family –including Mike, Ashley, Olivia and Mackenzie. Can't you just feel the love and radiating through this delightful photo? Thanks, Bauer, for the holiday joy!



RANGER

Ranger Mollison is a very good boy, and not just at Christmastime! This handsome fella is happy to pose for this adorable holiday shot for Caitlin Mollison – and is really rockin' a plaid kerchief that matches the tree. Here's hoping you get everything you want this year, Ranger! You certainly deserve it for all the joy you bring.



CALYPSO AND RAJA

Shaina Wilson, of Grosse Pointe Woods, is the lucky one sharing her home with these two cool cats. Calico Calypso and orange tabby Raja have their Christmas bells on and have already picked out their presents in anticipation of some vigorous holiday shredding. Hope there is some catnip in there somewhere, little ones!



LOLA AND RUBY

Lola and Ruby Cotton, above, eagerly anticipate a Christmas morning full of squeaky toys and chewy treats. The Grosse Pointe Farms pups strike a dignified pose in front of the fireplace, setting the holiday scene for a delightful season of celebrations, family get-togethers and lots and lots of belly rubs!

Holiday Pets proudly sponsored by:


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SUNNY

Gorgeous Sunny, left, strikes an elegant profile in front of the tree in the Gorenflo home. Which one is more beautiful? You be the judge (but as pretty as the tree is, we are betting on Sunny).



ROMEO

Little Romeo, right, is experiencing his first Christmas at his new home with the Zetterlunds in St. Clair Shores. So much to play with, chew up and discover... But what do you wish for in your stocking when YOU were someone's biggest Christmas wish? Whatever it is, dear Romeo, we hope you get everything you are dreaming of – and more.



NORMAN

Sweet Norman, left, looks extra cool in his fancy holiday tie – and is ready for the festivities to begin with Beth Loflin and her family and friends. The bacon print on his tie might be a clue to what he has asked for from Santa Claus. We hope there is plenty of bacon in the new year for this handsome boy!



BERNIE

Cutie pie Bernie, right, is doing his best Rudolph impression as a member of the Jaekel family. Keeping watch over the Christmas tree comes with the territory, and also has its advantages. Surely Santa won't be able to resist such an adorable mug and will be happy to share his cookies.



FINLEY AND DOLCE

Left, Jessica Manzaroli, of St. Clair Shores has a double dose of cuteness around her Christmas tree. Lovable Finley and Dolce, left, are decked out in their finest holiday attire and are ready for the fun and frolic. Just their presence is the best present! Merry Christmas to this dynamic duo.



JOANIE

Lovely kitty Joanie, left, seems to be making a holiday wish for a forever home. She's waiting at the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society along with many friends, just hoping their dream comes true – and they start the new year with a loving new family. To adopt a pet, contact GPAAS at gpaas.org for a list of available animals.



TIFFIN

Tiny Tiffin Morgan, right, smiles pretty for the camera in Grosse Pointe Shores. He's a little holiday package of love for fur mom Katie and the rest of the Morgans. With his own red velvet bow, where else would he be but beneath the Christmas tree? Have a wonderful holiday season that is as beautiful as you are, Tiffin!

COURTESY PHOTOS

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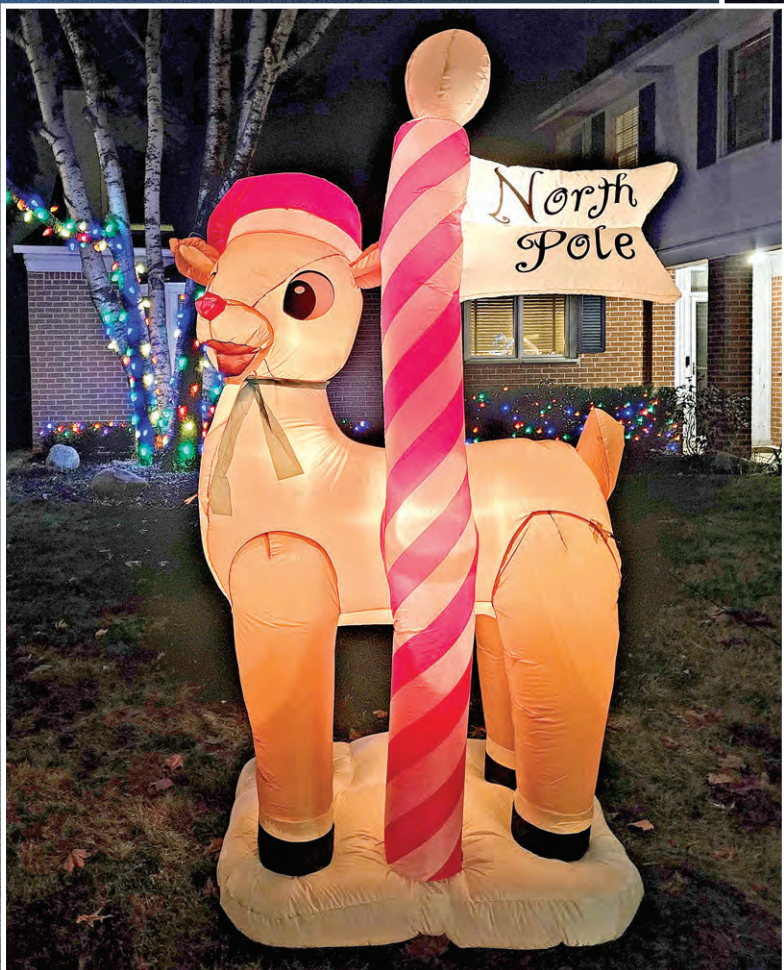


Ho, Ho, Ho! Grosse Pointe is all aglow with a few Santas above and below



Photo story by Renee Landuyt

One does not have to drive far in this town to see spectacular displays of twinkling Christmas lights. Houses and lawns throughout the Pointes are decked out for the season. Here are a handful our photographer Renee Landuyt captured during a recent jaunt through the community.





8C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHOUT STUDIOS

Filming the family gathering in the 2019 movie "Feast of the Seven Fishes," directed by Robert Tinnell.

Over the past couple years, I've reviewed some of my favorite holiday movies. They included some timeless classics. This year I had to do a little digging to find some new ones. I hope you enjoy these two recent discoveries, and Happy Holidays from this jaded film buff!

MOVIE REVIEW
"Feast of the Seven Fishes"
2019 - Not Rated
1 hr 39 min
★★★★☆

The Holidays are all about family and friends, tradition, nostalgia, and memories. This film deliv-

ers all that in spades. It's set in the 1970s in a small town in coal country, and involves a sprawling Italian-American family and their friends.

As the narrator informs us, preparing the food for Christmas Eve is a major event, and involves the cooking of seven fishes—which would be better described as "The Feast of the Seven Sea Creatures" since it includes shrimp, squid, eel and oysters—but that doesn't have quite the same ring to it.

You've no doubt seen the older generation of actors here in supporting roles before. They all do a wonderful job.

The impressive cast of younger actors include Skylar Gisondo, Madison Iseman, Jess Darrow, Addison Timlin and Josh Helman, who I can guarantee, you'll be seeing a lot more of in the very near future.

The movie involves the Italian uncles as they cook the various dishes, leading up to the big feast. It also centers around young Tony (Gisondo), an aspiring artist and his exploits. After breaking up with his childhood sweetheart, he's set up on a blind date with Beth (Iseman). Unlike Tony, she comes from money and is looking for a bit of fun while her rich boyfriend is on a ski trip in Europe.

The story jumps back and forth between mad-cap cooking scenes and the slowly evolving romance with Tony and Beth—sort of a "Romeo and Juliette" if you will. It all makes for a very entertaining story.

I have to say, this is not your typical, mindless Christmas movie. It's a well written, involving and heartfelt film that will definitely put you in the holiday mood. I just wish they'd make more movies like this!

Currently streaming for free on Tubi. Also on Netflix, Peacock, Plex, The Roku Channel, and Pluto TV.



Josh Helman playing the part of Juke.



Madison Iseman playing the part of Beth, in the "Feast of the Seven Fishes."



The actual feast.



Skylar Gisondo as Tony.



The family celebrating Christmas Eve.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



MOVIE REVIEW
"Operation Christmas Drop"
2020 - TV-PG
1 hr 35 min
★★★★☆

close an airbase. There she meets Andrew (Alexander Ludwig), a charming young pilot who heads up Operation Christmas Drop, a yearly event that's been rumored to involve parachuting Christmas presents to islanders throughout the Pacific.

If you're looking for a cheesy, feel good holiday movie the whole family will like, this one should fit the bill.

What Erica discovers is

I highly recommend "The Holdovers" starring Paul Giamatti. I think this one's destined to become a Holiday classic!

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).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NETFLIX STUDIOS

Islanders waving at the cargo plane in the 2020 movie "Operation Christmas Drop," directed by Martin Wood.



Erica (Graham) & Andrew (Ludwig) in the air.

Part of its charm is it's based on an actual operation that's been ongoing since the early 1950s. And it's set on Guam, a beautiful island in the South Pacific. My dad was stationed there in WWII and he fell in love with the place. Seeing the lush jungles and picture-perfect beaches, I can see why.

The story takes place just before the holidays. Erica (Kat Graham), a congressional aide, is sent to Guam to investigate the viability of the air force base there.

Due to budget cuts, the government is looking to

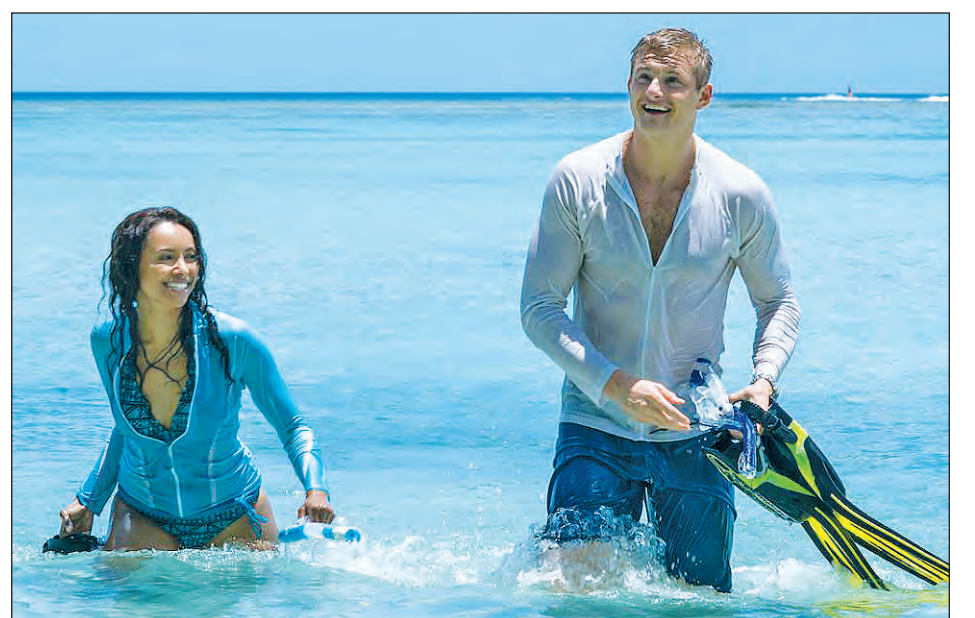
the operation actually involves dropping much needed supplies like books, food and clothing to the people.

Thanks to Andrew's finagling, the goods are all donated, so it actually doesn't cost the government a thing. However, Erica has to scramble to make her case to keep the base open. Of course, no holiday movie would be complete without a little romance. It all makes for some delightful, family viewing.

Streaming on Netflix. Finally, if you're looking for something in the theatre,



Erica (Graham) & Andrew (Ludwig) at the holiday dance.



Snorkeling — a Christmas tradition.

Joan LeGro Bushnell was a freelance writer and composer who began entertaining at age 5. A vocalist, actress and radio talk show host, the Grosse Pointe Farms resident was an active and longtime member of the Fine Arts Society of Detroit and Theatre Arts Club of Detroit. Her published credits include several plays and a book about theater, as well as a pair of cookbooks.

Joan, whose poetry has been published in the Grosse Pointe News since Father's Day 2022, passed away Monday, Dec. 4, 2023. She was 86.

Joan shared her "Christmas Times" poem with the Grosse Pointe News last year and it is our privilege to print it again in her memory.



Christmas Times

Christmas comes but once a year
(or so it's said) and, yet, I fear
It may be more than quite enough
for those of us who do this stuff;

For those of us who join the fray
and live to fight another day
It's Hark, the Herald, blow the horn,
expect no rest 'til Christmas morn!

Our world takes on another realm
with Mommy firmly at the helm;
She clears the decks and sets her course,
a whirlwind of female force;

The kitchen virtually hums
with everything from sugarplums
To shortbread, fruitcake, glug! Beware,
there's powdered sugar everywhere!

Our basement rec room has been stormed,
to winter wonderland transformed
With wrap and ribbon, tape and bow
and, yes, there's even ersatz snow

To sprinkle hither, scatter yon,
make festive all it falls upon.
And Daddy says, "Just let it snow!
The icicles will sparkle so!"

I peer out through the candy cane
and thank my luck it isn't rain!
With many, many little lights
all set to brighten up the nights,

Festooned on doors and windows, too,
with heartfelt welcome shining through.
Though days are filled with Season's
Cheer, Rejoice! It comes but once a year!

Oh, yes, we treat the season right
attacking it with mirthful might
And, once the battle's waged and won,
God rest ye merry, everyone!

While taking note, (and here's the best)
first matter of importance — rest!
My wish list, never out of sight,
boasts one last entry — SILENT NIGHT

Joan LeGro Bushnell

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 9:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. EST today (6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Aries into Taurus.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 21, 2023:

You are energetic and strong-willed; however, you are also secretive and private, especially about your feelings. You work hard to achieve your goals. In 2024, you will experience exciting changes and increased personal freedom.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

With the Moon in your sign dancing with your ruler Mars, you have lots of energy today to go after what you want. Talk to bosses, parents, teachers and authority figures about projects from the past that you want to resurrect. Perhaps you want approval or permission. Expect success today. Tonight: Check your possessions.

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Behind-the-scenes projects, especially related to shared property, banking or inheritances, might come together today. This is also an excellent day to study or finish a thesis, manuscript or important paper. Take another look at old plans to travel somewhere. Tonight: You win!!

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

You've got energy and enthusiasm to enjoy time with partners, friends and groups. In fact, you might be involved in a competition. Meanwhile, this is an excellent day to discuss financial matters and to wrap up issues related to inheritances and shared property. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

People notice you today. They admire your energy to take charge and get things done. Meanwhile, this is a solid day to sit down with partners and close friends to make long-range plans for the future, especially about travel, higher education or medical matters. Do it. Tonight: Friendships.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Respect your desire to do something different today. Change things up a bit. Take a short trip or explore your neighborhood. See new places, meet new faces and learn new things. You want some stimulation! Nevertheless, you will still work and accomplish a lot. Tonight: You're admired.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Discussions about shared property, especially related to family, will go well today. Meanwhile, this is an excellent day to teach kids or practice sports techniques. Any kind of practice that helps you hone and perfect your approach to something will yield positive results. Tonight: Explore!

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Discussions with partners and close friends will be lively today. In fact, you might attract someone to you who is energetic and "in your face." Meanwhile, this is an excellent day to tackle home repairs or have serious family discussions. Tonight: Check your finances.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This is a good day to study something. It's also an excellent day to teach, because your mind is focused and serious. Any mental work that you do today will be done with care and precision, which is why you won't overlook

details and won't make mistakes. Tonight: Cooperate.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is a playful day! Accept invitations to party and socialize. Take a long lunch. Meet the gang at happy hour. Outdoor sports, the arts, movies and fun activities with kids will appeal to you. Nevertheless, this also an excellent day for serious discussions about how you handle money. Tonight: Work.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today, retrograde Mercury is dancing with your ruler Saturn, which gives you a critical eye for everything around you. This is why you're quick to see flaws in your environment. You can also teach people today. Personally, you're concerned with some practical aspects in your life. It's a productive day. Tonight: Play!

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your ability to research something is excellent today. You'll be like a dog with a bone. You will leave no stone unturned. This could lead to lively discussions at home about how to deal with a family member. Someone might want your advice today. Tonight: Cocoon..

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Bosses and authority figures might be impressed with your energy, ambition and ideas about financial matters. You also might see ways to solve problems, teaching young people or dealing with them in group situations. You're very resourceful today. Tonight: Socialize.

BORN TODAY

Actress, activist Jane Fonda (1937), actor Steven Yeun (1983), actor Kiefer Sutherland (1966).

Contract Bridge

PERFORMING THE IMPOSSIBLE

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 6 2
♥ Q 8 3
♦ Q 7 4
♣ Q 9 5 3

WEST

♠ Q 7 4 3
♥ 7 6
♦ 9 8 6 3
♣ 7 4 2

EAST

♠ 5
♥ A K J 10 9 4
♦ J 5 2
♣ K 10 8

SOUTH

♠ A J 10 9 8
♥ 5 2
♦ A K 10
♣ A J 6

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1♥	Dble	Pass	1NT
2♥	2♠	Pass	4♠

Opening lead — seven of hearts.

The military slogan "The difficult we do immediately. The impossible takes a little longer" would seem to apply perfectly to this deal.

East won the opening heart lead with the nine and continued with the A-K. Declarer then had to decide whether to ruff the third heart high or low.

Given that East had apparently started with six hearts, South decided to

ruff with the ace on the basis that West was more likely to have the greater spade length — and therefore the queen — than East. He then led the J-10 of trump, finessing successfully both times. But when East showed out on the second trump lead, it appeared that West — who still had the Q-7 while dummy had the lone king — had a sure trump trick.

Undaunted by this development, South then found a way to do West out of his trump trick. Abandoning further spade leads for the moment, South crossed to dummy with a diamond and led a club to the jack. He then cashed the ace of clubs and A-K of diamonds before exiting with a club to East's king.

At this point only two tricks remained to be played. South had the 9-8 of spades, West the Q-7 and dummy the king of spades and nine of clubs. East, whose last two cards were hearts, was obliged to lead one.

When South ruffed with the eight, West found that his apparently impregnable trump trick had been obliterated. Whether he ruffed with the seven or the queen, declarer was sure to score the last two tricks and so make the contract. South had accomplished the impossible.

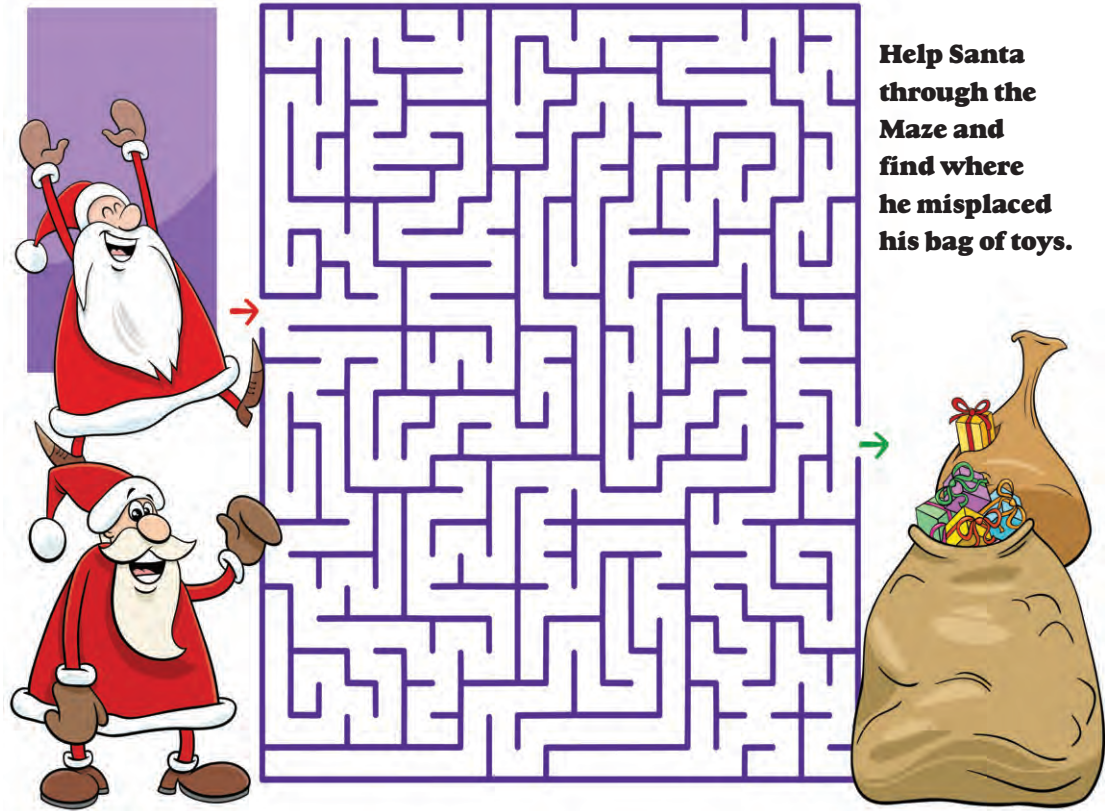
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by Steve Becker

Christmas Fun Page



MAZE GAME



Help Santa through the Maze and find where he misplaced his bag of toys.



Find 7 Differences



Help Jack the elf find which path will take him to Santa before he leaves with his bag of toys for all good girls and boys.



Find 23 Differences



Find 2 Santas That Are The Same



Garfield Family Christmas Comics

Garfield Jim Davis

READY FOR OUR DATE, LIZ?

YES, BUT FIRST DO SOMETHING FOR ME

JIM DAVIS 12-8

SURE! WHAT?

CHANGE OUT OF THAT UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER

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HOW DID SHE KNOW?

IT'S DATE NIGHT. IT'S DECEMBER. YOU'RE JON ARBUCKLE. HELLOOOO

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JIM DAVIS 12-16

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ZIP

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THE HOLIDAYS DON'T REALLY START UNTIL THE FIRST CHRISTMAS COOKIE HAS BEEN SNUCK

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

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READY, GARFIELD?

DO IT!

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CLICK!

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Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas

CATS LOVE CLIMBING UP INSIDE CHRISTMAS TREES

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YEOOOOW!!

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SAT ON A HOT BULB

JIM DAVIS 12-19

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS, MOM! I MISS YOU!

JIM DAVIS 12-22

I MISS YOU, TOO, JONNY. HERE'S YOUR DAD

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HAVE YOU CHECKED THE AIR PRESSURE IN YOUR TIRES?

YEAH, DAD. IT'S GOOD

FEEL THE LOVE

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THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT FAMILY BEING TOGETHER

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ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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Knights triumph over Blue Devils to win ULS girls hockey holiday tourney

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Girls hockey teams from University Liggett and Grosse Pointe South have had their share of exciting showdowns in recent seasons. Just a few weeks ago on Nov. 28, the Blue Devils nearly snapped Liggett's three-year long winning streak before the Knights came back to end the game in a 3-3 tie. On Saturday, Dec. 16, the team's met again in the final of Liggett's girls hockey holiday tournament to continue the rivalry in another close matchup.

Two semifinal games on Thursday, Dec. 14, set up the rematch between South and Liggett. The first semifinal was another cross-town rivalry seeing the Blue Devils go up against Grosse Pointe North. It was the second meeting between the two teams in just over a month, and South was victorious for a second time with a 6-0



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

Liggett goalie Brooklyn Peshl stares down an oncoming shot from South's Molly Reynolds.

win. Abby Evans kicked off the scoring for South early in the first period, putting the Blue Devils up 1-0. Gabby Vosburg helped make it a two-goal advantage for South before the end of

the opening period. South continued to pull away in the second period. A na Zieleniewski scored the first of three goals in the period for the Blue Devils. Molly Reynolds added another before

Evans scored her second of the game to make it 5-0 South after two periods. Anne Wayman scored the only goal of the third period to cement the 6-0 South win. Rosie Smith got the shutout in goal for the

Blue Devils, making 16 saves. Liggett dominated its semifinal game later the same night, beating Regina 8-0. Sofie Ancona led the way for the Knights in the big win by scoring a hat trick. Elle

Quinlan nearly had a hat trick of her own, scoring two goals. Miranda Alcalá, Louisa Dragovic and Nadia Le were the other goal scorers for the Knights that helped send the team to the finals of its home tournament.

Sandwiched between tournament games, South got a 7-1 win over Ann Arbor Pioneer on Friday, Dec. 15. The Blue Devils then set their sights on taking down Liggett in the holiday tournament final. It was another close meeting between the two teams, but the Knights continued their winning streak and managed a 2-1 victory.

"It is nice being able to play (South) again so quickly especially with some of the competition we have in the league, I think the girls like playing those higher-paced games," Liggett girls hockey coach Casey LaFrance said. "They

See HOCKEY, page 4D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Reigning state swim champ Liu satisfies South's need for speed

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Troy Liu is what one calls an "instant" swimmer — just add water and watch the magic happen.

"I'm just training harder every day, moving more water," said Liu, Grosse Pointe South's senior co-captain for the boys varsity swim and dive team. "The stronger I get, that's what's helped me become more efficient. I definitely began improving myself dramatically my junior year."



Grosse Pointe News
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
Troy Liu
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Swim and Dive
Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

Based on how successfully his 2022-23 junior season ended, Liu is getting better and

place in the 400 free relay and fourth place in the 200 medley relay and 50 free.

This month, he began his final year competing for the Blue Devils. And roughly two weeks into the young season, he is achieving new accomplishments each time he enters the water.

Take for example the first weekend of December, when Liu competed in the Speedo Winter Junior Nationals in Columbus, Ohio, where he qualified for the 100 free and 50 free. At Junior Nationals,

better at moving water out of his way. Last March, he swam to four All-State finishes in the Division 2 state finals, including an individual state title in the 100 free, a school record-setting second



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe South's Troy Liu arrives at the Speedo Winter Junior Nationals meet in early December in Columbus, Ohio.

Liu competed among some 200 swimmers, many of whom are considered to be future Olympic contenders, in both of his events. Punching in his best times to date he finished third in his heat in the 100 free in 46.00 flat,

and 77th overall. In the 50 free, he finished 85th overall in an ultra-speedy time of 20.91. His most recent results are a good harbinger of things to come, given Liu already has earned qualifying times for the 2024 state

final, a benchmark many do not reach until the end of the regular season.

Liu then topped off his week with a record-breaking performance in the 50 free at South's

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Troy's Titles

- Won Division 2 state championship in the 100 free at last year's state final meet, one of 4 All-State finishes, including the 400 free relay, 200 medley relay and 50 free.
- Finished 3rd in his heat and 77th overall in the 100 free at the Speedo Winter Junior Nationals this month.
- Set new school and pool records in the 50 free (20.88) at South's first dual meet of the season Dec. 12.
- Selected as co-captain for South's 2023-24 boys varsity swim and dive team.



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2D | ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

first dual meet of the season against St. Clair Tuesday, Dec. 12. He set the Blue Devils' new school and pool records in 20.88 — faster than the time he logged just a few days earlier in Columbus. He broke both Jacob Montague's 2016 school record of 21.02, and Salem High School's Eugene Li's 2019 pool record of 20.95.

"It's really a great accomplishment to know that you have the fastest 50 (free) time ever in the Grosse Pointes," said John Fodell, Liu's head coach at South and Grosse Pointe Gators, his year-round club team.

Liu credits his progress over the years to the coaching expertise of Fodell, who also is head coach of South's girls varsity swim and dive. Fodell coached Liu's older sister, Renee, a 2018 South grad who just finished a remarkable collegiate swim career at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Liu considers Fodell



PHOTO BY JESSICA BRYAN

Troy Liu gets set on the starting block in last week's first dual meet of the seasm against St. Clair, where he broke South's school and pool records in the 50 free.

Fodell has watched Liu improve with each passing season. He now gets to push him to new heights for his final high school season.

"Troy's pretty good at keeping a pretty even head," he said. "He's

spring, where Liu was the top seed going into the 50 free, but lost three places to finish fourth overall.

"Him not winning the 50 as top seed, but then turning around a few events later to take the

Liu is just one of two team captains for South, a title he shares with fellow senior Ben Bryan. He said he takes his leadership role seriously and draws examples from many former teammates, as well as idols like Australian swimmer Cam McEvoy and U.S. Olympians Michael Phelps and Caeleb Dressel, the current world record holder in the 100 free.

"I have been around the team for so long I really have developed my skills from the past captains and others to try to be the best leader I can be," Liu said.

He also has his sights set this season on being the best swimmer he can be, all at the tender age of 17.

"I love to swim because of the technique it requires, the way the water feels, the grueling training and the early-morning practices," he said, adding that he is motivated by numbers and seeing his split times go down. "I like numbers and splits are like candy to me."

Overall, Fodell said he is looking forward to watching what unfolds this season, making note that Liu is capable of breaking the 19-second mark in the 50 free, something that has never been accomplished at the high school level in Grosse Pointe.

He also said he is confident South's co-captain has what it takes to make his own mark on the program.

"He's a really good person, he's genuine and soft spoken, but he has his (favorite) places and South swimming is one of them," Fodell said. "His attitude is always, 'Next thing up.'"

"I think he scared some people around the state with his swim against St. Clair," he added. "I even think he missed his turn, so he's got more left. It makes it fun to watch him develop this season."

For everything he has

accomplished thus far, Liu keeps a humble and grateful spirit.

"I hope to leave a positive impact and that my name could be remembered not just in swimming, but in the community," he said. "I am grateful for what I have here."

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

'Troy's pretty good at keeping a pretty even head. He's gone through some rough patches in swimming, so for him to turn around and know he can still be better, then to go do it is the kind of mindset that successful swimmers need.'

JOHN FODELL, SOUTH BOYS HEAD VARSITY SWIM COACH, ON HIS TEAM CO-CAPTAIN, TROY LIU

his No. 1 mentor and cites him as one of the reasons his family moved here from Windsor, Ontario, Canada, in 2015.

"It was mostly for my parents' work (why we moved to Grosse Pointe), but they kind of wanted my sister to mainly swim over here with Coach Fodell too," he said. "My parents knew his coaching skills and I came to love the program's rich history and traditions. And he's been a great friend to me, too."

His sister's success in the pool was Liu's main inspiration for his swimming career, one that began when he was around 8 years old.

"As much as I hate to say it, she probably got me started swimming," he said. "I played tennis and rowed before, mainly. I quit tennis freshman year and since then I started focusing on swimming."

gone through some rough patches in swimming, so for him to turn around and know he can still be better, then to go do it is the kind of mindset that successful swimmers need."

Some of those hard times came during Liu's freshman and sophomore years.

"As a freshman and sophomore, I qualified for states but DQ'ed both my events," Liu said of his disqualifications. "Freshman year I got DQ'ed because my toes were too far over the edge on my backstroke start. Then sophomore year, my goggles fell off (in the 100 free) and I was unable to finish the race."

But, Liu found a way to bounce right back.

"I still made All-State for the relay (at finals)," he said. "I'm really proud of that."

Fodell said he recognizes Liu's resilience, such as at states last

100, that says something," Fodell said. "It only takes one swim to make it right. You can knock him off and he will get right back up again. That's an important quality."

Some prominent college swim programs have noticed Liu's good assets as well. He already has received nominations for the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, though he still is waiting for the paperwork to go through to gain medical clearance from a pelvic injury he suffered freshman year. He hopes to make his final decision sometime in March.

"(The service academies) are so picky, but you will be serving our country, so it's important they are thorough," said Liu, who holds dual citizenship with the U.S. and Canada.



COURTESY PHOTO

Troy Liu celebrates his third place finish in the 100 free at the Winter Junior Nationals earlier this month.

Grosse Pointe News



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PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGGETT ATHLETICS

The University Liggett boys hockey team poses with its home trophy after defeating Grosse Pointe South 1-0 in the final of the boys Liggett holiday hockey tournament.

Stacy's goal pushes Liggett past South 1-0 in boys hockey holiday tournament

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The holiday boys hockey tournament at University Liggett last weekend gave fans the chance to see the Knights and the Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils face off for the only time in non-exhibition play this season. On Saturday, Dec. 16, Liggett and South battled in a close game that ended up needing late heroics from one of the team's most clutch players this season.

South and Liggett's path to meeting in the final was set up by the two semifinal games on Friday, Dec. 15. The first was a crosstown rivalry matchup between the Blue Devils

and Grosse Pointe North.

South dominated the rivalry matchup heavily, winning 13-0. Hayden Crane, Will Gryzenia and Tony Pilutti all had two goals each. Drew Brady, Aiden Lefief, Oliver Sharpe, Jack O'Keefe, Evan Bernard, Everett Kielt and Ryan Peabody were the Blue Devils' other goal scorers in the win.

Liggett's semifinal matchup last Friday night was a much closer one, with the Knights outlasting the M-1 Griffins 4-3. Goals from Francis Blake, Kevin Vreeken and Nick Gould gave the Knights a 3-1 lead heading into the third period. However, the Griffins

mounted a comeback late and Liggett's Blake Shock had to score the winning power play goal to propel the Knights to the win by just one.

Liggett and South had their matchup in the tournament final on Saturday with bragging rights on the line. The game was as tight as could be, going through two full periods deadlocked in a scoreless tie thanks to strong goaltending from South's Jacob Haack and Liggett's Maksim Johns.

The game got halfway through the third period still locked at 0-0 before someone finally struck. That someone was Liggett's Gary Stacy, who found the back of



PHOTO BY BARBARA JOHNS

Liggett's Gary Stacy celebrates after scoring the game-winning goal in a 1-0 victory over Grosse Pointe South on Saturday, Dec. 16.

the net for the Knights with just more than seven minutes remaining to put his team in front 1-0. Liggett continued to hold off the Blue Devils defensively and ended up as tournament champions with the narrow 1-0 win.

Liggett took on Riverview Gabriel Powers Catholic on Monday, Dec. 18, with the game

ending in a 2-2 tie. The Knights hosted St. Clair Shores on Tuesday, Dec. 19, after press time. Liggett then goes on a long holiday break before returning to the ice Wednesday, Jan. 10, when the team hosts defending Division 3 state champions Flint

South took on Lake Orion on Tuesday, Dec.

19, after press time. The Blue Devils return from their holiday break on Thursday, Jan. 4, when they host Detroit Catholic Central at 7:30 p.m. The Norsemen faced Farmington on Wednesday, Dec. 20, after press time and begin 2024 with a 6:30 p.m. game against L'Anse Creuse Unified on Tuesday, Jan. 9.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. and Grosse Pointe South baseball will host a pitching and catching camp on Wednesday, Dec. 27.

South baseball adds extra holiday camp Dec. 27

Grosse Pointe South baseball's popular Holiday Hitting Camps have already sold out of spots, but the program has added an additional session this winter due to popular demand. The new added camp will be focused on pitching and catching and will take place beginning at 1 p.m. Wednesday,

Dec. 27, in South's main gym.

The camp will be run by South baseball coaches and players, including two-time state champion and hall of fame coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. The camp is open to play-catchers in sixth grade only, with groups divided up by age to cycle through

different pitching and catching drills. The catching portion of the camp is focused strictly on the position of catcher, and not the general act of catching.

Registration forms and more details can be found at grossepointesouthbaseball.com/youth-camps

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4D | WRESTLING



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Varsity wrestlers face off at annual Norsemen Classic

Wrestlers from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South were among the teams that competed at this year's Norsemen Classic wrestling tournament on Saturday, Dec. 16. Liam Willson from Grosse Pointe South, top left, stares down his opponent from Lakeview during a Saturday morning match. Barrett Nelson, bottom left, of North attempts a hold on his Lake Shore opponent. North junior Maddelyn Walter, right, brings her opponent from Lake Shore to the ground.

HOCKEY:

Continued from page 1D

enjoy the rivalry we have going on. And you can see that we've been working on puck movement and working more as a team and less as individuals like we were a bit earlier on in the season, and that's definitely helped us out in games like this."

The game went through a scoreless first period and it was not until later on in the second period that someone finally found the back of the net. That first goal came in favor of Liggett, with Dragovic scoring to give the Knights a 1-0 lead after two periods.

Ancona extended Liggett's lead in the third period to make it a

two-goal game. Time was ticking for South to make a comeback, and with 27 seconds left to play, Evans got South's first goal of the game. The Blue Devils comeback efforts were just a bit too late as even with the late goal, Liggett still emerged with the close win.

"Everyone is playing better positionally and working hard in practice then bringing it to games which is huge," LaFrance said about Liggett's performance through the first month of the season. "I feel like everyone is really starting to click as far as that goes... Making sure that they're understanding their assignments instead of skating all over and scrambling into the zone. It's really coming

together with how structured we're being on the ice."

Liggett gets an extended break for the holidays, not taking the ice again until Jan. 12, when it faces off against Bloomfield on the road. South took on Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Tuesday, Dec. 19, after press time and will host its first post-holiday game on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. against Bloomfield.

In the holiday tournament's consolation game, North defeated Regina 1-0 with a goal by Josie Cueter. The Norsemen visited Northville on Wednesday, Dec. 20, after press time and will host Livonia United at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5.



PHOTO BY LEON HALP

Liggett captain Sofie Ancona celebrates a goal against South.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North's Josie Cueter tries to protect the puck with Leila Oskui from South defending during the crosstown rivalry girls hockey matchup last Thursday, Dec. 14.

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING A NEW CODE FOR THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK, MICHIGAN; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES NOT INCLUDED THEREIN; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF AMENDING SUCH CODE; AND PROVIDING WHEN SUCH CODE AND THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE.

On December 11, 2023, the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park enacted an Ordinance to Amend the City Code, to become effective January 1, 2024, which Ordinance provides for amendments to the City Code. Said amendments include but are not limited to the recodification of the City Code into the "Grosse Pointe Park City Code" as published by CivicPlus through its subsidiary, Municode. Utilizing the current City Code Book and all subsequent ordinance amendments, this amendment completely recodifies the Code into Chapters 1 to 46 in a way that is more conveniently arranged and organized. It also provides for the general penalty for violating the code, a format template for future amendments, and provides that any violations of past code provisions still remain valid.

This Summary of the Ordinance is published pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 117.3(k). True copies of the full text of the Ordinance and any law, regulations, code, or other material adopted in reference in such Ordinance are available for inspection or photocopy at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Grosse Pointe Park, 15115 East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school winter 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 JESSICA BRYAN

South boys swim and dive gets the season started against St. Clair last week.

SOUTH BOYS VARSITY SWIM & DIVE

The Blue Devils opened their season with a big 140-46 win over St. Clair High School Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Senior co-captain Troy Liu set pool and school records in the 50 free in a time of 20.88. He broke the school record last set in 2016, and the pool record set in 2019.

Liu also earned state cuts in 50 free in 20.88 and 100 free in 46.19.

Fellow senior co-captain Ben Bryan qualified for state finals in the 50 free (22.16) and 100 fly (53.28).

The team added another state cut in the 200 free relay in 1:31.12. Vincent Maffesoli, Bryan, Joey Drawbaugh and Liu swam to the qualifying finish in the event.



SOUTH GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Blue Devils bested Port Huron Northern in a 45-31 home win Tuesday, Dec. 12. Maddy Benard and Elsa Bachert led the way for the Blue Devils, each scoring 14 points. Sophomore Alex Lupu added seven points in the win. South followed that up with another victory, this time on the road at Anchor Bay in a tight 53-51 win Thursday, Dec. 14. Bachert led all South scorers with 16, followed by Benard, who had 13 points against the Tars. The team ended the week with a 51-42 loss against Saginaw Heritage. Benard had 19 points and six steals in the loss, while freshman Ciara Pongratz contributed 11 points. Up next, South heads to Cass Tech at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 27.

NORTH BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

After recent back-to-back losses to rival Grosse Pointe South and DeWitt, the Norsemen boys varsity basketball team hoped to turn things around when the team hit the road to play New Haven Friday, Dec. 15. North came up short, suffering a 68-57 loss. The team had its next chance to put a game in the win column when they traveled to Port Huron Northern to face the Huskies Tuesday, Dec. 19, after press time.

SOUTH BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe South boys varsity basketball beat the Roseville Panthers 59-50 on the Blue Devils home court Friday, Dec. 15. South shot 44.7 percent from the field, converting three three-pointers and hitting 78.6 percent on its free throws. South senior Karter Richards dropped 30 points in the win, while junior Vince Vachon scored 10 points for the blue and gold. South hosted MAC Red foe Chippewa Valley Tuesday, Dec. 19, after press time. They head to University Detroit-Jesuit Friday, Dec. 22, for a 7 p.m. tipoff.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

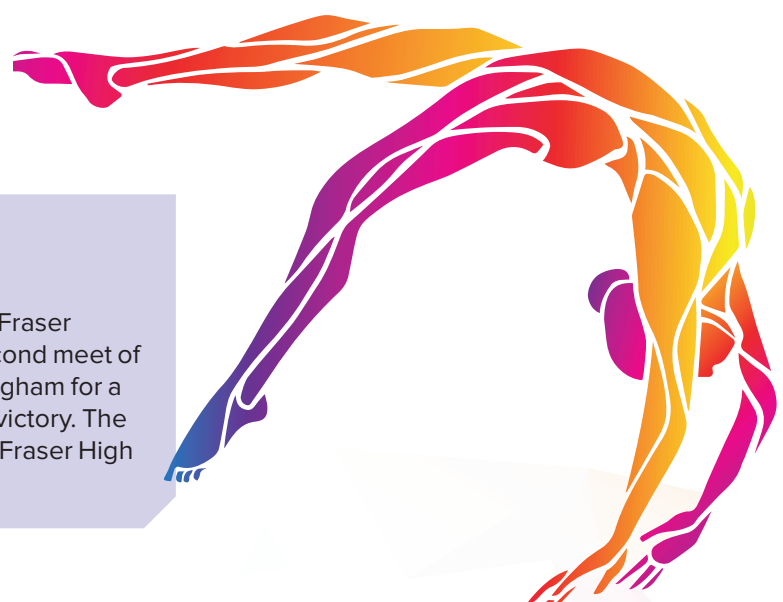
The Knights boys varsity basketball team continues to search for its first win of the season. The team lost two more games last week, the first to Plymouth Christian in a 61-48 loss Friday, Dec. 15, then fell in a 54-44 loss on the road against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook. The Knights hosted Lutheran North Tuesday, Dec. 19, after press time. They host Bloomfield Hills Roper at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Knights girls varsity basketball team took on Plymouth Christian Academy Friday, Dec. 15, and came away with a 56-35 loss. The team hosted St. Clair Shores Lakeshore Wednesday, Dec. 20, after press time. They hit the court again at home against Bloomfield Hills Roper Thursday, Dec. 21, for a 7 p.m. tipoff. The team is 1-2 on the season.

NORTH GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Norsemen have started the season at an undefeated 4-0. North's first win of the week came at home Thursday, Dec. 14, over Warren Cousino, 50-30. North hosted Utica Monday, Dec. 18, where the Norsemen won 54-35. Seniors Natalie Babcock and Jenna Winowiecki each scored 19 points against the Chieftains. Babcock added six rebounds and five steals, while Winowiecki had three assists. Up next, the team will host Regina at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.



GROSSE POINTE UNITED GYMNASTICS


GPUG hosted the team's first home meet of the season Tuesday, Dec. 12, beating Fraser 129.625 to 121.375. On Friday, Dec. 15, the team traveled to Farmington for the second meet of the season, falling short by a score of 141.750 to 129.225. GPUG traveled to Birmingham for a dual meet Monday, Dec. 18, returning to the win column with a 128.125 to 122.875 victory. The team kicks off the new year at the Fraser Invitational at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at Fraser High School.

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100 ANNOUNCEMENTS



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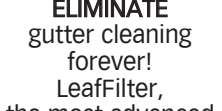
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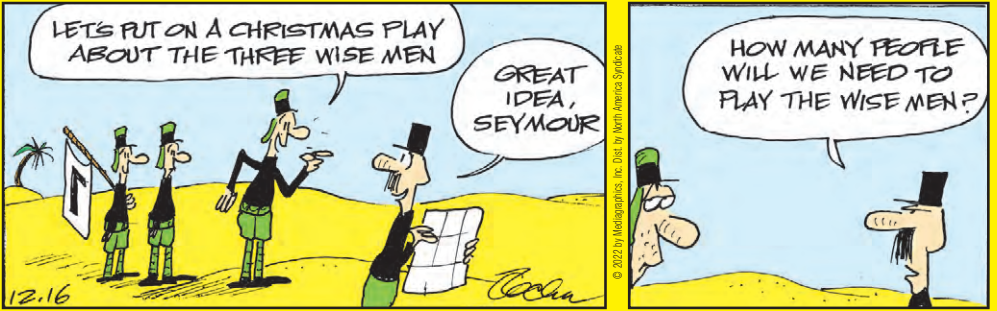
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Q: _____

A: _____



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The newspaper reporter **interviewed** the mayor, asking her many questions.

Use the word **interview** today when talking with your friends and family members.



SANTA ANSWERS ALL!

Imagine you had a chance to interview Santa Claus! What would you ask? What would Santa say? Here are some ideas from some Kid Scoop readers, who came up with the questions and the answers for today's page.

Q: How did you become Santa and how did you get your magic?

Santa: I was a smart, cheerful child. When my parents died, I was heartbroken. I cried, not out of self-pity, but out of true love. One of my tears dropped into the snow and froze to make an ice marble. When I held it, it glowed and took me to the North Pole. I met the elves and they needed my help.

After I grew up with them I took on the greatest task of all—delivering presents. The ice marble gave me powers I have today.

— By Chris

How many ice marbles can you find on today's page?



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow one-step written directions.



Help Santa find his way through the magic maze back to the North Pole.



Q: What kind of milk do you like?

Santa: I like whole milk best, but Mrs. Claus put me on a diet so I have to drink non-fat.

— By Nick



NORTH POLE

Find at least 10 differences between Santa and his reflection.



Standards Link: Investigation: Identify similarities and differences in common objects.

Q: How can you visit all of the children of the world in one night?

Santa: I fly at super speed; that's why you can't see me.

— By Adrian

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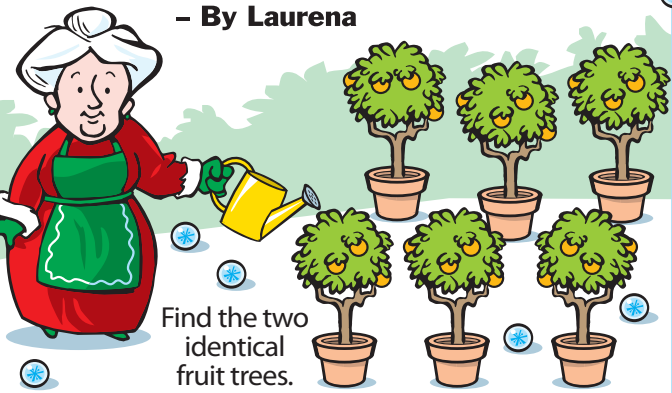
Pretend Santa has to buy all of his Christmas presents from the stores advertising in your newspaper. Help him by selecting a gift for everyone in your class using ads in the paper. Don't spend more than \$500.

Standards Link: Math/Number Sense: Solve addition problems using money amounts.

Q: Where do you buy your groceries?

Santa: I don't buy them; Mrs. Claus grows them. On Christmas Eve I come back with a sleigh full of soil instead of an empty sleigh. We grow food in our greenhouse and eat fresh veggies and fruit everyday.

— By Laurena



Find the two identical fruit trees.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Q: Do you think you'll want to be Santa forever?

Santa: As long as my heart is _____ and my belly is _____, I reckon I'll want to be!

— By Maya

Q: Has there ever been a year when you gave out more _____ than presents?

Santa: No, and I _____ that never _____.

— By Michael



Where does each of these words belong?

- JIGGLING
- COAL
- HOPE
- HAPPENS
- POUNDING

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

- INTERVIEW
- MARBLE
- SANTA
- ANSWERS
- POUNDING
- FRUIT
- REFLECTION
- CLASS
- POLE
- MILK
- CLAUS
- CHEERFUL
- SNOW
- BELLY
- DIET

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

What's the question?

Find five to ten quotes in articles in today's newspaper. On a separate piece of paper, write the question you think each quote answers.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Analysis of media communications.



What did The ghost say To Santa Claus?

ANSWER: I'll have a boo Christmas without you.

Write On!

Interview Santa

Imagine that you could interview Santa Claus. What would you ask him? What do you think his answer would be? Write one question and make up an answer for the question as if Santa had answered it.



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