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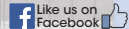
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Officer returns from overseas deployment

By Laurel Kraus Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City welcomed back a familiar face last week, when Capt. Robert Saleski of the Michigan Army National Guard returned to his day job as a public safety officer in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Saleski, who has been

with the department seven years and is a member of the Eastern Wayne Special Response Team, recently returned stateside after almost a year of deployment with the U.S. Army Central Command in the Middle East. Most of his time was served in Kuwait and Iraq.

See OFFICER, page 5A

2023 IN REVIEW

Dogs take center stage in Shores

By Ted O'Neil Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Dogs, one pit bull specifically, dominated discussion for a good part of the year, drawing national attention to an otherwise sleepy village.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ The public safety department takes delivery of its attack mini-pumper truck with a price tag of \$245,000. ◆ A congressional

funding package includes \$100,000 to make repairs along the Lake St. Clair seawall in both the Shores and Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Dale Kranjiak, long-time city manager in Grosse Pointe Park, joins the administration as a

financial consultant after a search for a new finance director/treasurer comes up empty.

February

◆ City council receives a clean audit for fiscal year. See SHORES, page 3A

2023 IN REVIEW

Infrastructure still on top

By Brad Lindberg Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — For the second consecutive year, infrastructure improvements received top billing among objectives pursued by the municipal administration, elected council and appointed commissions.

Yet, there was more going on: Putting city-owned land in Detroit on the market, reversing a projected deficit and updating the entire municipal code were among many activities

during a year that seemed to pass quicker than normal.

January

◆ The city withdraws from a non-binding agreement to buy property on Alter Road in Detroit for what at one time had been considered the future site of modernized public works facilities.

◆ A new public safety officer is hired.

◆ Officers on the midnight shift capture two

See PARK, page 2A



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

O 'Hole-y' Night (and day)

The United States Postal Service chose the week before Christmas to start construction on its location at 18640 Mack in Grosse Pointe Farms. The building has sported a hole in its wall covered by tarps since a man experiencing a seizure drove into it off East Warren in July 2022. Perhaps those making the decisions had enough foresight to wait on repairs until after a second vehicle — this one driven by an intoxicated man — crashed into the same section of wall this past March. The Mack post office remains open and operational as workers tear out bricks and Pointers hope this particular unfortunate event doesn't come in threes.

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2023 IN REVIEW

City has a year of resounding newness

By Laurel Kraus Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City saw a year filled with new city officials and more than a handful of new businesses, doing away with vacant storefronts in The

Village downtown strip.

The year also featured making the old new again, with a plethora of reconstruction along Cranford, Neff, Cadieux, Kercheval Place and in the CVS lot.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ City Clerk Julie Arthurs retires after 26 years in city administration.

◆ After 18 years in The Village, Jos. A. Bank closes.

◆ The City public safety department is the

first in the Pointes to adopt the Hope Not Handcuffs program, which allows those with substance use disorder to go to the station seeking treatment without fear of arrest.

◆ Serving various roles in the City the past 20

years, Christopher Hardenbrook is appointed assistant city manager/city clerk.

◆ The three-year renovation of Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital's eight surgical suites is completed.

◆ Council establishes an ordinance requiring

See CITY, page 8A

Pointer of Interest... 4A Opinion... 6A Schools... 9A Features... 1B Obituaries... 6B Sports... 1D Classified ads... 6D

2023 Pointers of INTEREST

The Grosse Pointe News congratulates our 2023 Pointers of Interest. Page 4A



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2A | NEWS

PARK:

Continued from page 1A

men accused of committing what will become an all-too-common crime this year in the city: car theft.

February

◆ State environmental regulators approve of the city's plan to install an extreme emergency relief valve to divert unmanageable volumes of storm water runoff directly into Lake St. Clair.

◆ City-owned land on Alter between Kercheval and Vernor is put up for sale.

March

◆ An ice storm shows the electrical grid who's boss. Lines burdened by ice fall all over. A second storm eight days later is nature rubbing it in.

◆ Fire destroys a business building on lower Charlevoix. Public safety officers limit damage to the single structure.

◆ A Wayne County judge cites government immunity when dismissing lawsuits generated by storm-induced basement flooding during summer 2021.

◆ The annual municipal audit shows a \$526,000 loss, \$200,000 less than expected.

April

◆ Longtime Park pub-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

A colorful train takes residents for a ride during the Park's Chillyfest in February.

lic safety officer Jim Bostock is named to direct the department. The promotion also saves money by eliminating a position among top administrators.

◆ Finance Director Jane Blahut, a 42-year Park employee, retires.

◆ Everything except new landscaping is finished regarding the replacement of a water main on upper Mack Avenue. "This is the first brand new water main since the mid-1980s," said Nick Sizeland, city manager. "It's a big step toward improving the reliability of our water system."

◆ The new public works headquarters, repair shop and garage open on Mack between

Wayburn and Maryland.

◆ Major crime is up 61 percent from the year before, according to the public safety department annual report.

May

◆ The municipal budget for next fiscal year reverses a projected \$1.1 million deficit into a \$156,400 surplus.

◆ The city seeks a federal grant to fund the hiring of a new public safety officer.

June

◆ The city achieves silver status, the second-highest level in the Michigan Green Challenge, a ranking of environmental stewardship supported by numerous organizations, including the Michigan Municipal League. "Next year, we're going for gold," said Brian Colter, Park city forester and member of the beautification commission, which took over the city's sustainability efforts.

◆ MedStar ambulance company is contracted to handle Park ambulance runs. The change is designed to give Park officers more time to patrol the roads.

July

◆ Jean Marc Paines-Franklin, a fourth-grade student at Maire Elementary School, wins the Park's Arbor Week

Poster Contest. His rendering of a tree with a heart has the slogan, "Respect trees like you respect people."

◆ Members of the Tax Increment Finance Authority board vote to fund the planting of 116 trees in the district.

◆ The sale of Park-owned land on Alter Road in Detroit for \$420,000 represents a \$28,000 loss from the purchase in 2017.

◆ Kercheval is closed for repaving between Defer Elementary and Pierce Middle schools and Bedford Road.

August

◆ Nature issues another reminder by way of a big wind storm that knocks down trees.

◆ New finance director Ginger Moriarty presents to the city council numerous innovations, one already netting the city \$47,000 additional interest income in two months.

◆ Chief Bostock reports ambulance service by MedStar is going well.

◆ The city's last batch of municipally owned properties on Alter in Detroit is put up for sale.

September

◆ Members of the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation amend plans to fund construction of a new playscape at

Patterson Park when members of the public lobby for the existing structure, a community project from years ago, be renovated. The foundation shifts its project to Windmill Pointe Park.

◆ DTE energy representatives attend a community meeting about ways to improve electrical service.

October

◆ Construction begins on the extreme emergency relief valve at Patterson Park.

◆ The second new city clerk of the year begins her first day of work. The first, a replacement for the retired clerk, quit a short time into the job for one paying 23 percent more in another community.

◆ The "Sail" sculpture, which stood as a seemingly irresistible bullseye for reckless motorists inside the traffic circle at the intersection of Kercheval and Maryland, is moved to the front lawn of city hall.

November

◆ Members of the administration, council and planning commission reject the establishment of transition zones between commercial and residential areas. Transition districts had been considered during the municipal zoning upgrade process as logical locations to build parking lots.

◆ Eight cars, all unlocked with key fobs inside, are stolen within one week.

◆ Mayor Michele Hodges wins reelection. Joining her in victory are incumbent Councilman Marty McMillan and new councilmen Brent Dreaver and Tim Kolar.

◆ Members of the recreation commission scale back plans for full-blown renovation of the municipal marina at Windmill Pointe Park. They favor a more affordable but still costly plan to widen some wells and upgrade dockside utilities throughout.

◆ Construction of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts on Jefferson near city hall gets conditional approval from the Detroit Historic District Commission. The center straddles the Detroit-Park border.

December

◆ Mayor Hodges, tired of council discussions being diverted by childish displays of rhetoric, tells critics to put up or shut up. "I can't control your choices, but I can set the tone," she told the council. "I can use the power granted me to enlist a higher quality of results. And I can raise the bar as we function as a team, not as individuals and certainly not as factions."

◆ The council agrees unanimously for the city attorney to partner with The Helm in drafting ballot language for a millage request to fund senior citizen services in the five Pointes and Harper Woods. Helm representatives will make the same request of the other communities.

◆ Car thefts are more than double so far this year than during all of 2022, Chief Bostock says.

◆ Three major cellular communication companies express interest in erecting a tower to improve coverage south of Jefferson.

Streetlights so bright they gotta wear shades

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Streetlights once considered too dim are now too bright.

At least complaints about their intensity confirm the first of two reasons for replacing old-fashioned streetlights with light-emitting diodes, or LEDs.

LEDs shine brighter and save electricity and, from the latter, reduce pollutants because power companies don't have to generate as much electricity.

"It's a bit of a mixed bag," Councilman Brent Dreaver said. "Some people love the brightness. Other people feel it's a little bit too bright."

Crews from DTE Energy have been in the city for roughly three months swapping out around 1,000 traditional mercury vapor street lights with LEDs.

LEDs use one-tenth of the electricity of older lights, last 10 times longer and save operating costs.

Park City Manager Nick Sizeland anticipates the city saving \$110,000 annually.

He said he spoke with a DTE representative to whom the topic of bright LEDs isn't new.

"DTE said they can't dim, but a shade they can do," Sizeland said.

"DTE Energy is actively working with the city manager of Grosse Pointe Park to add shielding to some of the newly installed LED streetlights to reduce any potential backlight," company representative Katie Susko said. "We work closely with city managers on all of our street-lighting projects to ensure that our lighting meets their specific needs and provides added safety for their drives, pedestrians and residents."

Dreaver, a helicopter crew chief during his time in the military, said, "It seems like in certain neighborhoods the houses are a lot farther away from the streetlights than in neighborhoods like mine (in the Cabbage Patch). My backyard looks like there's a helicopter flying over the streetlight."

Protecting employees from healthcare burden

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Healthcare for employees in the City may look a little less appealing come 2025, but for now, city officials have their backs in deciding to push off a cost-sharing program that would have gone into effect Jan. 1.

When Public Act 152 of 2011 went into effect — stipulating municipalities had to choose one of three options to manage

See BURDEN, page 3A



A young man's hair flies when he goes into the dunk tank, which was raising money for charity at the July After Six.

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The parking lot between city hall and the Ewald library got a redo earlier this year.

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Woods grandmother takes Christmas to new heights

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — There's the usual way to wrap Christmas presents and then there's the Renee Victor way of wrapping them.

She starts off by individually wrapping gifts for the 11 grandchildren she and husband Bill have, then the magic starts.

"I put all of those in bigger boxes and then decorate them," she said. "I'll go to Michael's and get different crafts and paint."

And paint she does. This year's assortment of characters included Olaf from "Frozen," the Grinch — both standing and upside down stuck in a chimney — a few versions of Santa Claus, an elf and a penguin.

"One of my granddaughters wanted something gingerbread," Victor



COURTESY PHOTO

A sampling of the characters Renee Victor creates in which each grandchild's individual presents are found.

said. "I wasn't sure about that, but I pulled it off."

The grandchildren, ranging in age from 4 to 13, all live in the Pointes and attend Grosse Pointe public schools.

"We have four daughters and three of them

have kids," Victor said. "I've watched them all over the years, depending

on their parents' work schedules, until they were old enough to go to school."

Victor said the grandchildren are already making requests for next year.

"The first year I did all snowmen, but then I started getting more creative," she said. "They come over all the time to

see which one is finished. They're here almost every day."

This year, the presents were opened one at a time as the family gathered for Christmas dinner at Bill and Renee's Norwood home.

"It's too hectic when they're all tearing into things at once," she laughed. "This year we did them one by one so everyone could appreciate each other's gifts. Bill said that's how his family did it when he was growing up."

"He's one of eight and I'm one of five," Victor laughed. "Good Catholic families."

The labor of love starts around Thanksgiving and takes almost a full month.

"They talk about it all year," Victor said. "We could do just regular wrapping paper, but this is a way to create memories."

BURDEN:

Continued from page 2A

healthcare costs — the City elected to establish a hard cap dollar limit on its healthcare costs; however, it now is facing for the first time exceeding that amount.

City administration reports this most significantly is due to the fact the city makes health savings account contributions to employees in addition to the plan costs.

As such, if city council hadn't voted to exempt itself during the December council meeting, city employees would be required to make up the \$43,479 difference in the new year.

For each employee, this would equate to \$50 per month up to \$375 per month, depending on their healthcare election.

"The rub with this is that we are now in open enrollment, so we would

be enacting this provision with these costs going into effect Jan. 1, which is the beginning of our health benefit plan year," City Manager Joe Valentine explained. "At the same time, they've pretty much already made their elections on their healthcare for this year, because that had to be done starting last month. So they made elections without knowing these costs were going to be put upon them."

For now, they won't be. City council voted 6-0, with Councilman Dave Fries absent, to exempt the city from the provision for the 2024 benefit plan year.

"When we file with the state treasury, we'll still be in compliance with PA 152," Valentine clarified. "And then next year we'll come back with recommendations as to what's appropriate at that time."

SHORES:

Continued from page 1A

year 2021-22.

◆ Harold Michaux plans to retire after 36 years with the DPW, working just a block from a subdivision that was his family's farm for four generations.

March

◆ Six members of the public safety department are recognized for actions taken in 2022, with Sgt. Jason Cook receiving the Directors Award.

◆ A community survey by the city's communications committee finds 86 percent of respondents said they felt "very" or "extremely" informed, compared to just 7 percent who said they felt the same in 2020.

◆ Public Safety Director Ken Werenski tells city council that officers responded to 10 percent more calls in 2022, compared to the previous year while presenting his annual report.

◆ The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House conducts a controlled burn on its property to tame invasive species vegetation.



April

◆ Resident Dave Galbenski is honored by the Chris Klug Foundation with its Give Back Bounce Back Award for his efforts promoting living liver donations.

May

◆ Detective Lt. Scott Rohr retires after 27 years with the city.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club hosts the 34th annual Great Lakes Boating Festival, featuring more than 70 boats from 20 dealers.

◆ Public safety officers rescue five ducklings from a storm sewer and relocate them to the Ford House.

June

◆ A pit bull escapes a yard on Lochmoor and attacks a couple walking their dog. The couple eventually files a civil suit against the pit bull's owners, Detroit Lions running back David Montgomery and his girlfriend, Tatum Causey.

July

◆ The Ford House receives a \$7 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to restore the natural habitat along Lake St. Clair.

September

◆ Osius Park hosts its annual dog swim the

day after Labor Day before the pool closes for the year.

◆ City council votes to ban future ownership of pit bulls in a 4-3 vote after more than two hours of public comment. In response, the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society ends its contract with the city and Michigan Humane announces its 2024 Mutt March will not be held at Ford House.

◆ The city's communications committee unveils a 90-second promotional video titled "A Shore Like No Other," which was recorded in July.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, Osius Park held its annual doggie swim the day after Labor Day. Left, Ford House conducted a controlled burn in March to eradicate invasive plant species.

October

◆ City council votes 4-3 to rescind its pit bull ban at a special meeting three weeks before the previous ordinance was set to take effect. GPAAS and Michigan Humane reverse their earlier decisions.

November

◆ Mayor Ted Kedzierski and councilmembers Danielle Gehlert, Donn Schroder and John Seago are re-elected without opposition.

December

◆ Great Lakes Water Authority reduces the city's water charges \$60,000 after usage falls following a 2022 ordinance that limited lawn watering to between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

◆ The estate of Carole Ann Williams, who passed away in May and whose father was Shores mayor 1954 to 1964, gives the city \$1.2 million for upgrades at Osius Park.

Murder suspect bound over for trial

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The man accused of killing his brother last fall was bound over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court after a preliminary hearing Wednesday, Dec. 13, before Municipal Judge Theodore Metry.

Edmond Doheny, 29, was arraigned on an open murder charge in Metry's courtroom Monday, Oct. 9, and given a \$1 million cash/surety bond at the time. First responders were called to a house in the 1800 block of Brys around 12:45 a.m. Friday, Oct. 6, where they found Dennis Doheny, 19, in the kitchen with a gunshot wound to the head. He was later pronounced dead at a local hospital. The suspected weapon was found on the second floor of the house.

Doheny is charged with felony firearm and

open murder, for which he could be convicted of first- or second-degree murder.

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor James Kehoe at the hearing first introduced a report from the Wayne

County Medical Examiner's Office that said the victim was shot once in the head in a back-to-front, left-to-right pattern.

Detective Miles Adams of the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety

Department testified he found a 9mm pistol, covered in blood, on the second floor of the house next to a blood-stained chair in front of a computer. A 9mm shell cas-

See TRIAL, page 5A



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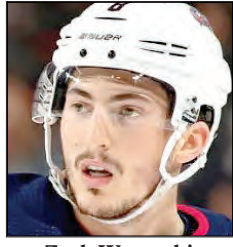
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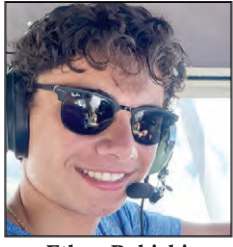
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Nate Steinwascher
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Ethan Rokicki
June 15



Jake Sachs
June 22



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June 29



Tina Allor
July 6



David Martin, M.D.
July 13



Mac Katz
July 20



Tony Gatliff
July 27



Don Dewey
August 3



Fran O'Brien
& Jan Hrabovsky
August 10



Christina Kean
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Dominic Bonanno
August 24



Bob Conway
August 31



George Panourgias
September 7



Rick Whitney
September 14



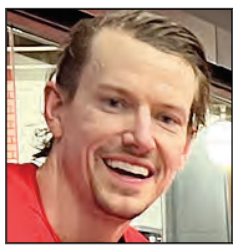
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September 21



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November 2



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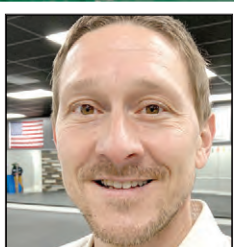
Linda Finger
November 16



Kathy Smith
November 23



Sarah Colegrove
November 30



Sean Farnsworth
December 7



Marissa Engardio
December 14



Andrea Moran
December 21

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Grosse Pointe Woods

Porch pirate

A resident in the 1900 block of Kenmore reported around 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, a package containing \$720 worth of clothes was taken from her porch earlier in the day.

Anti-theft club

Although the rear window was shattered, an anti-theft club on the steering wheel prevented a would-be thief from stealing a 2022 Dodge Charger from the parking lot at Ascension St. John Hospital the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Long-distance fraud

A resident in the 1800 block of Newcastle reported around noon Thursday, Dec. 21, that her debit card was used

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

to make purchases close to \$1,000 in California and Florida the previous two days. The woman still had possession of the card.

—Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Reverse Santa

After placing an Instacart order through the Grosse Pointe Woods Kroger Sunday, Dec. 17, a 58-year-old Farms woman realized the Instacart shopper had purchased \$91.45 worth of additional items on her credit card. The suspect is described

as an approximately 6-foot, 200-pound black man in his mid- to late-50s. He was well dressed and possibly wearing a Kangol hat.

Christmas miracle

An unlocked vehicle in the 300 block of Ridgemont was rummaged through between 5:50 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18, and 7:40 a.m. the next morning. Nothing from inside appeared to be stolen.

Keys to the city

A set of keys and accompanying key chain were found on a sidewalk in the area of Lothrop and Grosse Pointe Boulevard at 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18. They are being held at the Farms department.

Too much eggnog

After crashing his vehicle at Lakeshore and Cherryhurst at 1:08 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, a 29-year-old Harper Woods man left the vehicle on its side in the median and got a ride home with an unknown person before officers arrived.

One officer then traveled to the man's home, where he later arrived covered in dirt and with fresh cuts on his skin. The man denied being in an accident, instead telling the officer the cuts to his palm were because he had a splint removed that morning and did not

wash his hands, while the dirt was because he did not change his clothes often due to his broken arm.

A preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.16 percent and he was arrested for failure to stop and identify after an accident and operating with a blood alcohol content of 0.17 percent or more.

—Laurel Kraus

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Nothing to report per dispatch

—Brad Lindberg

Report information about crime to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Ted O'Neil

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

OFFICER:

Continued from page 1A

“Rob is trustworthy and brave and that’s just two of his many attributes,” Public Safety Director John Alcorn said. “His military training just enhances what he already brings to the table as a person. Having him back will be like a breath of fresh air to the department. Now, it will be a very smart-alecky breath of fresh air, but a breath of fresh air still.”

Upon his return, Saleski was honored before city council Monday, Dec. 18, and in recognition of his service, became the first City officer to be presented a Grosse Pointe City Challenge Coin.

Police challenge coins are tokens unique to each department that typically are given to



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

City of Grosse Pointe Officer Robert Saleski, left, and Public Safety Director John Alcorn.

officers to recognize achievements.

“That was years in the making,” Alcorn said of the City’s challenge coin. “The original intention was to have that with the breaking of the new (public safety) building, to celebrate that. Between

COVID, the dreaded supply chain and a million other problems, it took much longer for us to receive it.

“I’ve had them for quite some time and I was waiting for a special occasion to break them out.”

On the front of the

coin is the City of Grosse Pointe officer badge.

The back displays a thoughtful collage of the city of Detroit flag; five fleurs-de-lis to represent the close relationship between the five Pointes, as well as a nod to the city’s French history; two eagles, which dually represent the two eagle statues at the entrance to Neff Park and the two officers who have died in the line of duty in the city’s history; The Village clock tower in the center; and a boat to signify the city’s closeness to the water.

“Officer Saleski, to me your story is the epitome of this season,” Councilman Chris Moyer acknowledged at the end of the December meeting. “Thank you so much for your service. There is no greater gift that we give to each other than service and you exemplify that both



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The front of the City’s Challenge Coin, left, and its back. The City of Grosse Pointe Challenge Coin will be given to officers for special recognition such as officer of the year and 10-year anniversaries.

overseas and here in a beautiful way. Thank this community in such you so much.”

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TRIAL:

Continued from page 3A

ing also was recovered. The weapon was outfitted with a suppressor, commonly known as a silencer.

Isabella Phillippo, the victim’s then-girlfriend, and her cousin, Emma Miller, both testified they were talking with Dennis Doheny over an app called Discord to celebrate his birthday. Phillippo said she also was texting with him.

They said Dennis Doheny also was video streaming himself playing games on his computer from his bedroom, but the three continued talking after he ended the streaming.

Both noted the deceased stopped responding shortly after 12:30 a.m. Oct. 6. Phillippo said she then heard a male voice crying, saying, “I’m so sorry. Just hold your head.”

Miller said she heard the same thing, noting the voice to her sounded, “High pitched, in distress.”

Kehoe told the court the witnesses did not hear the gunshot due to the suppressor on the weapon in question. The pistol and other weapons found in the house were legally registered to Doheny.

Under cross-examination by defense attorney Robert Ihrie, Phillippo said in the two years she dated Dennis Doheny she never saw the brothers fight and thought they had a good relationship.

Woods Public Safety Officer Jarod Smith, who was first on the scene, said he was met at the side door of the residence by Doheny.

“He was very shaken up and appeared to be intoxicated,” Smith said, adding his arms, face and neck were covered in blood.

Kehoe at Doheny’s bond hearing in October said his blood alcohol content five hours after his arrest was 0.12 percent.

Smith also testified he heard Doheny from his holding cell at the Grosse Pointe Woods jail after his arrest say, “Please forgive me. He was such a good boy. I’m going to hell.”

Ihrie argued the charges should be dropped or reduced, saying there is no evidence his client intentionally fired the weapon or intended to shoot his brother, calling the incident, “A horrific accident,” and noting it was Doheny who called 911.

Doheny is scheduled to be arraigned in circuit court at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

What does 'Auld Lang Syne' really mean?

It's the song that tearfully ends Frank Capra's Christmas movie classic "It's a Wonderful Life," starring Jimmy Stewart, and a tune that plays while friends, families and party goers move throughout a room at the stroke of midnight on Jan. 1, to wish others a happy new year.

"Auld Lang Syne" is the title of a Scottish song that most of us know of, but couldn't sing a full line when asked. If you didn't know (many don't), it roughly translates to "days gone by." Its lyrics, which ask if "old acquaintance" should "be forgot," have been interpreted as a reminder to remember friends and experiences from your past.

We hope our readers will remember the past and enjoy the present as this familiar song plays on New Year's Eve.

We wish you and yours an abundant and fruitful 2024.

'Auld Lang Syne'

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And old lang syne?
(Chorus)
For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.
And surely you'll buy your pint cup!
And surely I'll buy mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.
We two have run about the slopes,
And picked the daisies fine;
But we've wandered many a weary foot,
Since auld lang syne.
We two have paddled in the stream,
From morning sun till dine;
But seas between us broad have roared
Since auld lang syne.
And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give me a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught,
For auld lang syne.*



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Thank you, dear readers

This year for Christmas, Grosse Pointe is aglow with dazzling lights and decorations, a festive feeling all around town — despite no snow in sight — and lots and lots of shopping. As the countdown is on, let's all make a point to stay local and keep our beautiful community bustling.

The past year flew by, as usual. We hope you enjoy our year-in-review articles by our esteemed reporters, while we eagerly await and look forward to a prosperous, healthy and (good) news-filled 2024.

Thank you, as always, for your loyal reader-

ship and to our advertisers for their consistent support. The compliments and feedback we receive is what fuels us for the future. We are happy to report that subscribers are plentiful and advertisers have increased significantly each year for the past three. It's a feather in our cap and we are eternally grateful in a time where many local newspapers cannot stay afloat.



From myself and our unmatched team here at the Grosse Pointe News: Merry Christmas and cheers to 2024.

If you're not a subscriber, but would like to become one, please send an email to grossepointenews.com/subscribe.



COURTESY PHOTO

Global (heart)warming

As part of family Christmas tradition, the Andersons in Grosse Pointe Farms decorate their home following a unique theme each year. Last winter, they were inspired by the igloos outside of restaurants and decided this winter to create a snow globe featuring a Christmas diorama for their front lawn. "To bring this idea to life, we utilized props from previous Christmas decorations and sourced a large, clear, inflatable bubble, typically used for camping, from an online retailer," Michael Anderson said. "This allowed us to create our own version of a snow globe and showcase the festive scene inside." One can find this eye-catching holiday display at 27 Beacon Hill.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

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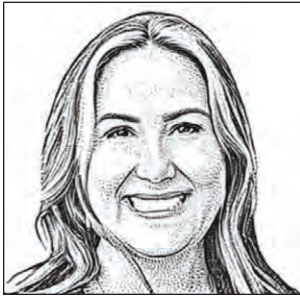
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44° 29°	42° 27°	38° 27°	35° 27°	37° 26°	33° 24°	32° 24°
Scattered Showers	Wintry Mix	Snow Showers	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Snow Showers
50%	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%	60%
SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am	SUNRISE 8:01 am
SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNSET 5:10 pm	SUNSET 5:11 pm	SUNSET 5:11 pm	SUNSET 5:12 pm	SUNSET 5:12 pm

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

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.

I SAY By Meg Leonard



Home for the holidays

For many families, out-of-town college kids and young adults have descended back to the nest to celebrate the holidays.

Family bonding, buffet-style meals, board games and movie nights fill the house with chatter, music and dishes. Lots and lots of dishes.

And laundry. Lots and lots of laundry. They don't show this burdensome toil in the Hallmark movies, but I also haven't seen one titled "Mom's Burdensome Christmas Toil" — yet.

First of all, I want to say there is no greater blessing than good health and family. Far too many families locally have experienced the tragic loss of a child in the past 18 months — so I want to say before I get started on what's supposed to be a light-hearted holiday piece that your loved one's absence is recognized and honored. I hope you feel surrounded by love from the community this holiday.

But what I'm about to write is simply meant to prompt a laugh or two at the predictable chaos that comes during the Christmas season. And if you have ever hosted out-of-town family for the holidays or had your adult children back in the nest for their very extended holiday breaks, you feel me.

I am in the thick of parenthood where I have had college kids come back home for Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks for the last six consecutive years. Three of my four kids so far have attended college out of state (there's still hope No. 4 won't completely bankrupt us and will stay in state when the time comes,) so a homecoming for my family is always a very welcome occasion.

But if we're being honest parents here, when our kids return from school, the house gets taken hostage. Every inch gets taken up again in our cozy little peaceable kingdoms. Copious amounts of half-empty water bottles and Yetis seem to multiply like rabbits, decking our halls, bedrooms and family rooms. Sigh. 'Tis the season.

If you have not seen the classic Saturday Night Live skit, "Back Home Ballers," a spoof music video about how college students feel like movie stars when they come home from college for Thanksgiving, you are missing out. And if you've seen it, you know this deftly captures how the welcome-home "ceremony" goes.

Speaking with my good friends and fellow parents over the years, here is a basic synopsis of the big homecoming: Families arrive home from campus or the airport. The kids' bags are carried in (somehow they only grab the carry-on). They take one step inside and instead of telling you how much they missed home, they call for the dog.

They quickly take inventory of your home's food and drink situation, opening the doors to a fully-stocked fridge and pantry, courtesy of Costco or Sam's Club. "What's that I see? San Pellegrino in skinny cans? Let me open one, take a sip and leave the rest to go flat — I'm a celebrity in this house."

That's exactly what's running through your kid's mind as they drape

the Canada Goose coat they got for their birthday over a dining room chair, ne'er to find a hanger throughout their long break.

The first few days of their return amount to making lots of their favorite things, like tacos, lasagna, brownies and charcuterie boards (and more charcuterie boards for when they have friends over, which they leave sitting out overnight, naturally.)

By about the middle of Week 1, you begin to yearn for your kitchen to stay clean for a full 60 minutes. You definitely know there will be no room in the fridge for the new groceries, thanks to their DoorDash leftovers getting stuffed into it. Sure enough, you open the fridge and see styrofoam-adjacent containers, balancing precariously over the cap of their sibling's oat milk. Their unique storage method not only guarantees there's no room available, but also you will be gifted a single, unsalvageable quesadilla inside of it. And if it's like my house, you will have an opened-but-not-finished roll of cookie dough peering out of its torn casing because

putting that away properly is so inconvenient, I'm assuming.

Dishes are never really done to completion. They are still "soaking," you will be told. Countertops are not effectively wiped down because "you're so picky about what I use on them." (Your Type A personality gets used against you a lot during the holidays.) The air fryer from the basement makes an appearance and overstays its welcome using the kitchen island's prime real estate, which you jealously reserve for your seasonal topiary and fresh balsam Bath and Body Works candle.

Also, it's important for you to know that back-home college students are in constant pursuit of their education and will continue their research into "How Much One Can Stuff Onto the Top of an Already Overflowing Garbage Can: A Single Case Study." Whether it's in the kitchen or their bedroom or bathroom, have no fear — it's for science.

It's also pretty fun for kids to see how many consecutive days they can literally walk over their open suitcase or laundry basket and not put the

contents away. Again, this may be for scientific purposes or for their studies in human behavior: They're double majoring.

Hanging bath towels will be treated as a suggestion, making beds will be overrated, couch pillows and blankets will litter every room you enter.

You will Zamboni your house during the holidays more than Al Sobotka did in the Red Wings '97 playoff run.

But as parents, we wouldn't have it any other way. Young adults, generally speaking, are messy, they don't tire from watching "Grey's Anatomy" in its entirety for the 11th time and are experts on asking what's for dinner immediately after lunch.

But they also bring a lot of joy to our families. Over the course of the break, you begin to see signs of adulting in them as they navigate college and find their passion and gifts, and demonstrate a drive to figure out how to apply that out in the world. They are works in progress, which is exactly what they should be.

Here's to having a home filled with family that's bustling, loud and messy this holiday season. And may your cup runneth over with love and laughter. As long as that cup isn't another Yeti. No more dishes, please.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1948

75 years ago this week

'PROSPECTS GOOD' FOR MEMORIAL: A two-hour meeting on the Alger House war memorial question was held Tuesday afternoon. As one of those present said an hour after the meeting, "the prospects look mighty good." It was agreed by all that the plan must be worked out legally perfect in every detail before the township and the Memorial Association solicit the gift of Alger House from the heirs for the people of Grosse Pointe.

1973

50 years ago this week

BEGIN REPAIR ON BREAKWALL: A meeting was held in mid-December

by the Wayne County Road Commission to discuss repair of the breakwall along Lake St. Clair. The commission received an Office of Emergency Preparedness grant to repair erosion damage. The O'Laughlin Construction Company has a completion date of April 15, 1974, for the one-half mile south of the Shores/Farms boundary. It is in that area that there has been the worst erosion. For the remainder of the work, a Sept. 15, 1974, date has been set.

1998

25 years ago this week

LIGGETT TO BUILD NEW ICE RINK ON OLD: University Liggett School will enter a new ice age next fall. The school recently received approval from the Grosse Pointe Woods Planning

Commission to build a new 38,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art ice rink at the Cook Road campus.

JULIE HARRIS RETURNS HOME FOR 'THE GIN GAME': Broadway actress Julie Harris, who grew up in Grosse Pointe Park, is coming home to Detroit for "The Gin Game." The play is about two people who find themselves in a seedy rest home at the end of their lives. Harris is 73. Her career spans decades and she managed to successfully cross from the theater to film to television.

2013

10 years ago this week

NEW BUSINESS IN VILLAGE: It's something to make Popeye's heart flutter: An olive oil store is opening in the Village. Giuseppe's International Oils and Vinegar sells extra virgin olive oil, balsamic vinegar, related products and accessories.

It is moving into a roughly 1,000-square-foot former law office above Bayne Optical on Kercheval Place.

HELP AVAILABLE FOR MOVING HOUSE: All the Cadieux farm-

house wants for Christmas is a new owner. Ever since the Grosse Pointe Park City Council turned down a request from a homeowner on Harvard to move the historic house to his property, Beaumont

Hospital, Grosse Pointe has been searching for a new location for the small frame house. According to Rick Swaine, hospital president, a new owner needs to be found before April.

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8A | NEWS

CITY:

Continued from page 1A

vacant buildings to be registered.

February

◆ Lot 4, better known as the CVS lot, is set for a \$1,713,560 reconstruction project.

◆ Dual-concept restaurants Sidecar Slider Bar and Shift Kitchen and Cocktails are set to fill the former Marais Market space in The Village.

◆ Detective Mike Narduzzi is named the City of Grosse Pointe 2022 Officer of the Year.

◆ American Asian Deli fully opens at 375 Fisher.

March

◆ The Wayne County Prosecutor's Juvenile Unit determines there is insufficient evidence to charge a crime in the case of an alleged noose fashioned out of paper towel found in a men's bathroom stall inside the Kercheval Panera Bread.

◆ Provided by the Grosse Pointe Optimist Club, a little free library is installed at Neff Park.

◆ Intent is announced for the pre-World War I Jefferson Chase Bank building to be repurposed into a counter-service restaurant with a focus on grab-and-go items.

◆ Go Green x3 — raising money to plant trees in honor of Brian Fraser

— kicks off.

◆ Cranford Lane and Neff Road are up for reconstruction this year.

◆ The Village parking structure will allow 90 minutes of free parking for the duration of the CVS lot reconstruction project.

◆ Chick-fil-A announces intent to create a new location across from the City at Mack and Marseilles.

◆ City council continues to push for The Village Kroger to comply with a variance by removing the refrigerated display cases blocking its Kercheval-facing windows or offering an acceptable compromise.

April

◆ Two days before his 17th anniversary as city manager, Pete Dame leaves for a new position as chief of development for the city of Portage, which is his hometown.

◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Manager Stephen Poloni is appointed interim city manager as city council searches for Dame's replacement.

◆ City council considers requesting a 1-mill tax increase on the November ballot, at the same time unofficially agreeing city funds no longer can support rear-yard rubbish collection.

◆ Lake St. Clair water levels drop so significantly since 2021 highs that the risers are removed from the marina



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

The former school administration building at 389 St. Clair is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

finger piers.

◆ City council authorizes a 25-year capital improvement bond in an amount not to exceed \$3,570,000 for expansion and extension of the Kercheval Place storm sewer; critical sanitary sewer repairs; Cadieux sewer improvements; and water line, lead line replacement and storm-water improvements on Cranford Lane and Neff Road.

◆ Lululemon will fill the vacant space left by Calico Corners in The Village.

May

◆ Following resident pushback, city council decides to continue rear-yard rubbish collection.

◆ Mum's Arcade, owned by the couple who also run Otherworld Grosse Pointe Nursery next door, opens at 17738 Mack.

◆ Water and sewer bills will increase by 10.2 percent come July.

◆ The former school administration building at 389 St. Clair is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

◆ The five Pointes and Harper Woods update their mutual-aid agreement so two additional departments automatically will respond as soon as a fire is confirmed in any of the six cities.

June

◆ No injuries are reported, including among multiple cats at the residence, in an attic fire in the 400 block of Lincoln.

◆ Pop-up boutique Épanoui opens on the lower level of Apple Blossom Baby in The Village.

◆ The City learns it will receive up to \$24,536,000 in state funding for sewer separation north of Waterloo through a low-interest loan via the state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

◆ Nothing Bundt Cakes is set to settle at

17021 Kercheval next to Pet Supplies Plus.

July

◆ The same crew is suspected to be responsible for three separate thefts — totaling thousands of dollars — from The Village Lululemon within the first week of its opening.

◆ Poké Poké — Sushi Unrolled is set to fill the old Which Wich space in The Village.

August

◆ The public safety department offers steering wheel locks, donated by Kia America, following the continued rise in thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles due to the ease with which they can be stolen.

◆ Interior demolition of 389 St. Clair begins, making way for 18 apartment units.

◆ Jolibump, the Pointes' only maternity store, permanently opens on the lower level of Apple Blossom Baby in The Village.

◆ Coming from a position as assistant city manager for Farmington Hills, Joe Valentine starts as the new city manager.

◆ The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation donates five pet waste stations to be placed around the city.

◆ Although a lease has not yet been signed, plans are brought forward for The Village Starbucks to swap street corners into the old Jos. A. Bank space.

September

◆ A repaving project of Cadieux from Kercheval to Jefferson begins.

◆ The Village Moosejaw location is set to close by early February 2024, along with all but three of the outdoor retailer's brick-and-mortar locations. Dick's Sporting Goods acquired Moosejaw earlier this year.

◆ Construction of Lakeland is announced as the major road work on deck for next year.

◆ The City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission earns two state awards at the Garden Club of Michigan's Bi-Annual Flower Show.

October

◆ A crew of thieves after vape cartridges unsuccessfully attempt to smash through a tempered glass window at the BP gas station at Mack and Rivard.

◆ Russell Ethridge, municipal judge since 1998, retires.

◆ Community members push back at a potential Chick-fil-A location coming to Mack and Marseilles across from the City.

◆ The city receives news that a Strategic Water Quality Initiatives Fund loan for \$550,000 — intended for use to disconnect Village business downspouts from the sanitary system and reconnect them to the storm sewer — has been identified as a fundable project by the state.

November

◆ Sidecar Slider Bar opens at 17051 Kercheval in The Village.

◆ Dr. Seth Krupp, Chris Moyer and Terence Thomas win the council race. Sixteen-year councilman Donald Parthum Jr., is not re-elected. Council honors him with a resolution of appreciation for his years of service.

◆ David Draper is voted the city's next municipal judge.

◆ Two thermal imaging drones are donated to the public safety department by the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation.

◆ Mark Dombrowski and Andre Jones are the city's newest public safety officers.

December

◆ An 18-year-old Detroit man is arraigned as the driver in the October attempted break-in at the Mack BP gas station.

◆ A woman in her 50s gives a city employee a scare when she jumps into Lake St. Clair at Neff Park for cold water immersion therapy.

◆ Shift Kitchen and Cocktails opens at 17051 Kercheval in The Village.

◆ The City is allocated almost \$21 million through FEMA's Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program for stormwater separation of the sewers north of Waterloo between Grosse Pointe Court and Fisher Road.

◆ Detective Mike Narduzzi gets a nod from Attorney General Dana Nessel for identifying a Lululemon theft ring believed to be responsible for 49 incidents across the state after it struck The Village's Lululemon location three times in the first week it was open. Three suspects are arraigned with more likely to follow.

◆ The City's planning commission grants a one-year extension to the City Center Apartments development at 582-606 St. Clair to secure building permits.



The City held its annual tree lighting in The Village last month.

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◆ Nothing Bundt Cakes is set to settle at



The parking lot behind CVS in the Village was resurfaced this summer

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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2023 IN REVIEW

Changes abound for GPPSS

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — A new-look school board, budget battles and administrative upheaval were the hallmarks of 2023 for the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ Sean Cotton, Valarie St. John and Ginny Jeup are sworn in as the newest members of the seven-person board of education as the top three vote-getters out of 10 candidates the previous November. Jeup survived a December recount request by Tim Klepp, the fourth-place finisher, winning by a margin of four votes.

◆ Ahmed Ismail is elected president at the board's organizational meeting, with Lisa Papas named vice president. Cotton is voted treasurer and Jeup secretary. Trustees Colleen Worden, David Brumbaugh and St. John vote against the slate, a 4-3 split that becomes common throughout the year.

◆ The board votes 4-3 to overturn a proposed health clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School, approved in 2022, that carries a price tag of more than \$1 million.

◆ The board creates four standing committees, which include members of the public: Finance and Facilities, Curriculum, Policy and Contracts and Community Outreach.

February

◆ Papas and Jeup receive anonymous, hand-written letters at their homes, causing them to file police reports. No crime was committed, but they call the action "intimidating." The letters are post-marked one day after the board's clinic vote.

◆ The board and Grosse Pointe Woods



A temporary pool was set up on the front lawn of Grosse Pointe South High School for students to participate in a Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics.

City Council agree to collaborate on paying for a school resource officer at North after receiving a state grant.

◆ The district and community mourn the loss of two alumni killed in a shooting at Michigan State University that claimed the lives of three students and injured five others. The victims include Brian Fraser, a 2021 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate, and Arielle Anderson, a 2021 North graduate.

March

◆ The board votes 4-2, with Brumbaugh absent, to hire outside counsel.

◆ Enrollment falls again, from 6,600 students to 6,485.

◆ Moody's Investors Services downgrades the district's credit rating from Aa3 to A1. The move is based, in part, on declining enrollment and a shrinking fund balance.

April

◆ Initial budget discussions show the district may need to cut 10 teachers for the 2023-24 school year.

◆ GPPSS partners with Wayne RESA to help paraprofessionals become certified special education teachers.

May

◆ Robertson Brothers Co., which in 2022 agreed to pay \$650,000 for the closed Poupard Elementary School with

plans to build single-family homes, duplexes and townhomes on the site, asks for an extension.

◆ Closed captioning is added to the live and recorded broadcasts of board meetings, as well as news updates at both high schools and three middle schools.

◆ The newly formed Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation donates \$235,000 to install two repeaters at South to improve cell phone and police radio reception.

June

◆ The board passes its 2023-24 fiscal year budget by a 4-3 vote. It includes \$4.6 million in cuts and a reduction in full-time equivalent teacher positions by 14.2.

◆ A press release from the Grosse Pointe Education Association says lack of a new contract puts GPPSS "at risk of a mass exodus of educators." Contract talks continue ahead of the Aug. 15 expiration of the current one-year deal.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Foundation for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics and math), gives the district \$603,000, including \$403,000 for a new scoreboard at South, \$100,000 toward a new adaptive playground at Mason and \$100,000 for musical instruments.

July

◆ The board votes to implement new public

comment procedures in light of a previous meeting that lasted nine hours with almost 80 people speaking. Commenters now are only allowed to speak during one of two public comment periods at each meeting and must fill out a request slip before the end of the superintendent's report or register online the day of a meeting between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

September

◆ The Michigan Association of School Boards is hired to conduct the search for a new superintendent.

October

◆ Roy Bishop, deputy superintendent for educational services, receives the "Leadership in Education" award from the Michigan African American Leadership Council.

◆ Terence Collins is named to replace

Brumbaugh on the board to serve the remainder of a term expiring Dec. 31, 2024.

November

◆ The Grosse Pointe Housing Foundation announces the return of a grant program to help GPPSS employees move into the district.

December

◆ The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education announces more than \$76,000 in its fall grant cycle. The foundation gave more than \$58,000 in grants in the spring.

◆ Owosso Public Schools Superintendent Andrea Tuttle is named GPPSS superintendent by a unanimous board vote.



Kindergarten students read by flashlight in a tent at Maire Elementary during March is Reading Month.

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Richard students had fun sledding down the hill behind the school when it snowed in March.




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GPPSS PARENT INFO NIGHT

Rising 5th Grade at **January 8**
Middle Schools

Rising Freshmen at **January 10**
High Schools

Kindergarten/Y5 at **January 11**
Elementary Schools

6:30 P.M. ALL DATES

LEARN MORE

www.gpschools.org/enrollment






10A | SCHOOLS

Special delivery

For the third year in a row, students in Ann-Marie Smihal's kindergarten classes at Maire Elementary School partnered with their third-grade buddies to make holiday cards for residents of the Thome Rivertown Senior Apartments in Detroit. More than 100 senior citizens live in Thome and students had a blast spreading Christmas cheer to them, Smihal said.



From left, third-graders Maura Sczygielski and Carolina Sayar work with kindergartner Maddie Martin on their holiday cards.



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, kindergartner Roosevelt Williams, third-grader JP Albrecht, third-grader Elliot Kuhl, third-grader Molly Allemon and kindergartner Ellie Brooks teamed up for the project.

Applications available for Student Leaders program

Bank of America is accepting applications for the 2024 Student Leaders program through Jan. 17. This paid summer internship is an opportunity for metro Detroit students who have a passion for community engagement to connect with the tools and resources to make a positive difference.

Each year, the program connects more than 300 high school juniors and seniors from nearly 100 communities across the United States to employment, skills development and service. Students Leaders receive firsthand experience in serving their communities through a paid eight-week internship with local nonprofits. They also travel to Washington, D.C., for the national Student Leaders Summit to see how nonprofits, governments and businesses collaborate to meet local needs.

Launched in 2004, Student Leaders has been part of Bank of

America's ongoing commitment to youth employment and economic mobility. The program helps prepare a diverse pipeline of community-minded young students to be successful in the workforce through leadership training and work experience.

"At Bank of America, we recognize that early employment and community engagement experience for youth lead to new opportunities and success later in life," said Matt Elliott, president of Bank of America Michigan. "We see our Student Leaders program as a win-win scenario, enhancing the students' capabilities for future careers and encouraging their sense of purpose to better understand the world around them and give back."

To become a Student Leader, students must be:

- ◆ a high school junior or senior in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb

counties;

- ◆ able to participate in an eight-week paid internship at a local nonprofit organization;

- ◆ work 35 hours a week, earning \$17 per hour;

- ◆ legally authorized to work in the U.S. without sponsorship through the end of September 2024;

- ◆ able to participate in a week-long Student Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C. (July 22-27) with all expenses paid as part of their eight-week experience;

- ◆ a student in good standing at their school; and

- ◆ able to submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, guidance counselor or school administrator.

The letter and application must be submitted by the Jan. 17 deadline or through the link by the end of the day Thursday, Jan. 18.

Prospective Student Leaders may apply online at bankofamerica.com/studentleaders.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Marine Corps Officer **Josh Duffy** of Grosse Pointe Shores was promoted to first lieutenant Monday, Nov. 20. Duffy is a 2021 graduate of the James Madison College at Michigan State University. He is based at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

◆◆◆
Elizabeth Ballinger, **Eleanor Bernas** and **Adam Stapleton** of Grosse Pointe Woods, and **Olivia Roncone** of Grosse Pointe Park were named to the fall semester Dean's List at Kalamazoo College.

AUCTION NOTICE

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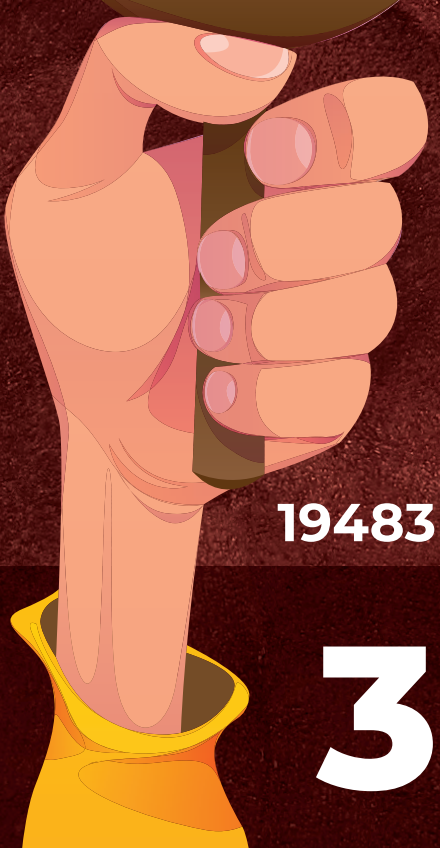


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‘It’s easy to be kind’

Money, volunteers needed to keep nonprofit running

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe native Gail Marlow has a lovely house, but lately she spends most of her days and nights at the shelter she provides as a branch of her nonprofit, Motor City Mitten Mission. She does it because she cares, but also because there often isn’t the staffing needed to make the operation run smoothly.

“Our organization is small but mighty,” Marlow said. “The number of people we help in a month is in the thousands.”

Motor City Mitten Mission, or MCMM, is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that was founded in December 2017. Volunteers began weaving recycled plastic shopping bags into mats and pillows for the homeless, but Marlow knew that was just the starting point. Bringing meals to the homeless — with help from individuals and different organizations — soon was added to its mission.

Thanks to community donations, MCMM began offering furnishings for people transitioning out of homelessness and into housing. And most recently, Marlow was asked if MCMM would take over running a shelter at a former school in



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Above, boxes and coats line the aisles at the MCMM warehouse, which is in need of volunteers to help sort donations. Left, Gail Marlow, MCMM executive director, stands with her dog, Milo, in the vacated men’s sleeping area.

Warren.

“The shelter, the outreach, the marked vans, a truck — those are all things I envisioned and I wanted eventually,” Marlow said. “We were forced to grow quickly through COVID. A lot of the volunteers we had back then we don’t have now. But we’re trying to keep up. I think we’re doing a good job.”

The warehouse

While steadfast to its mission to house and feed the homeless, MCMM is facing difficulties keeping all of its offerings up and running. Its nearly 5,000-square-foot warehouse in

Warren is piled high with bags and boxes of donations that have yet to be sorted, as well as appliances and furniture for its transitional housing program. Without enough volunteers, the warehouse is a jumbled menagerie of chairs and lamps and dishes and assorted castoffs waiting to be organized.

“The problem is we don’t have help,” said Gerard Huvaere, MCMM treasurer. “People come by and drop things off and sometimes it’s things we can’t use. We don’t have the help to set up, sort it and get rid of it.”

Mats and pillows made through planning — the plastic-bag program that helped get MCMM off the ground — are stacked in the warehouse due to a lack of volunteers to distribute them.

Countless bags of “plarn” also sit idle there.

“We don’t have the volunteers to make mats either,” Huvaere said.

On top of the amassed donations, rent for the facility has become unmanageable. The MCMM board is searching for a new place and a better deal to house what it can.

“Things are so bad with donations, we may have to get out of our lease,” Huvaere said.

The warehouse has been useful to MCMM for two years, offering a place to store coats and jackets, which come in handy during nightly outreach efforts to keep the homeless warm. The furniture and appliances are a different story.

“We’ve had to back out of our transitional housing program because we

can’t get volunteers,” Huvaere said. “The furniture we have we’ll have to donate to someone else.”

“... We’re out of this business because we can’t afford it,” he added, noting MCMM recently closed a second warehouse in Detroit also to cut costs. “We have six families with requests for furniture who are transitioning into houses. We’ll pick the furniture and deliver it to those six families, but then that’s it. We’ll have to repurpose the rest of it to a charity that can afford to take it on. ... We’ll still need a warehouse; we still need to store the jackets and coats. But for now, we’ll concentrate on feeding the homeless and running the shelter.”

MCMM recently acquired a new truck for \$80,000; it was reim-

bursed the cost by a federal grant through the city of Detroit — a big win for the organization, which also has two smaller vans; however, in addition to a \$2,000-a-month gas tab, the nonprofit also needs nightly volunteers to deliver coats and food.

“The problem is getting two vans running all the time; we need two people per van,” Huvaere said.

Previously, MCMM would send a truck to pick up donations; that service also has stopped as it shuts down its transitional housing program.

“We’re accepting clothing only now and turning down furniture,” Huvaere said.

Not all donated items will wind up in the trash, he said.

See MCMM, page 2B



Boxes nearly reach the ceiling of the MCMM warehouse, which stores donations for the transitional housing program the nonprofit is being forced to end.



Stacks of donations remain unsorted due to lack of volunteer help at the MCMM warehouse.

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American Legion celebrates in style

On Dec. 10, American Legion Grosse Pointe Post 303 hosted a Christmas party and toy drive for guests and members at Gilbert's Lodge. The post honored its World War II veterans and recognized Pearl Harbor Day.

Post Commander Dan McCrary opened the meeting with a salute to the flag, opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of Santa Claus, portrayed by Post 303 Chaplain William Davenport. Honorary guests included American Legion State Commander Brian Molhman, Detroit Regional Commander Robert Kaines, Post Adjutant Clara Kamman, Finance Officer Jim McNeill and Susan Mursh, who came the longest distance from Arizona.

More than 30 toys were collected at the party and donated to Toys for Tots, along with monetary gifts that were picked up by U.S. Marines from Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

During the event,

McCrary honored World War II Third Division Medic Larry Bennett for his service.

Certificates of appreciation were given to Susan Rinke for her outstanding service in the care of the late Thomas Lutz, a Korean War Navy veteran, as well as to his caregivers Kiara Draines, Bree Frye and Freddie Burse.

Also recognized was guest Marko Malinowski of Luxury Loud dispensary in Detroit, which offers a discount for veterans.

Susan Ignasiak, the daughter of the late Eugene Ignasiak, a World War II Navy veteran, also was recognized for her support of Wreaths Across America, which places wreaths on veterans' gravesites.

Laketa Caston of Good People Popcorn offered popcorn at the event and donated any profits to Toys for Tots. She plans to continue to donate any Good People Popcorn profits made from online purchases, now through



COURTESY PHOTOS

World War II Third Division Medic Larry Bennett, standing with Maggie McCrary during a visit with Santa Claus, was honored at the event.

Dec. 31. Email info@gppopcorn.com or visit gppopcorn.com.

Post 303 also acknowledged McCrary, welcoming him back after a 10-month hiatus due to Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which left him paralyzed from the neck down. McCrary discussed his recovery, the controversial topic of medical marijuana and the role it played in his recovery, as well as the care he

received from the VA hospital. He also discussed benefits offered by the Veterans Administration, such as art therapy, as well as art classes for veterans hosted by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association. He noted the outstanding support for seniors provided by The Helm at the Boll Life Center.

"I have learned a lot

See *STYLE*, page 8B

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.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 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.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, St. Margaret of Scotland

Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

Register at redcross blood.org.

Library

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

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

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

See *EVENTS*, page 7B

MCMM:

Continued from page 1B

Marlow's mother, Shirley, 88, is doing her best to make sure donations don't go to waste. She set up a secondhand store at 24623 Harper, next to MCMM's St. Clair Shores headquarters, to sell donations MCMM can't use. The shop currently is loaded with Christmas items.

"We're trying to identify items we can't really give to the homeless or to people moving into an apartment," Marlow said. "Those items we'll sell, with 100 percent of the proceeds going back to the organization."

The shop is open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The shelter

The shelter is run daily, Nov. 1 to March 31, at a former school in Warren. Main floor classrooms have become "bedrooms" lined with rows of cots, while the lower level includes a kitchen and cafeteria, as well as meager laundry facilities, a clothing pantry and storage for extended-stay clients.

Check-in takes place 7 to 9 p.m. each evening. Clients must surrender any drugs, alcohol, weapons, vapes and lighters at the door; the items are not returned upon departure. Everyone is screened with a metal detector wand and people who are excessively drunk are turned away.

"The security of our clients is paramount," said Tamir Newton, a shelter employee. "We're really keen on our security."

Every new face and anyone showing symptoms are tested for COVID. Though there have only been a handful of positive COVID tests, MCMM can no longer afford to house those with COVID in a hotel as a means of quarantine.

"No shelter has the capacity to quarantine people," Marlow said. "And I can't in good conscience, if they test posi-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Shirley Marlow set up a secondhand store to raise funds through donations the nonprofit can't give to the homeless, like a drum kit, formalwear and loads of Christmas decorations.

tive, just let them go." Since Nov. 1, the shelter has housed 395 unique individuals, Marlow said.

"We average 97 per night and we've distributed 7,000 meals since Nov. 1," she added. "That doesn't count our outreach meals, which is another 2,000 to 3,000. We've gotten assistance from other organizations, but we're one of the only operating emergency shelters in the (tricity) area."

"All shelters are at capacity. We're getting overflow here from everywhere."

The check-in process is just the start for shelter employees and volunteers.

"When they come in, we'll have dinner prepared for them," Newton said. "When they get

through security, they come down and eat.

"Then when they get up, we have coffee for them, a continental breakfast with muffins, bagels, cereal, milk," he continued. "And we prepare lunches for outreach and for when (clients) leave."

Clients are out the door each morning and while they're away, the "small but mighty" team spends the entire day preparing for their return.

Each day the floors are cleaned and disinfected, the restrooms scrubbed down. All mats, pillows and cots are disinfected. Volunteers wash sheets, blankets and pillowcases — sometimes they are sent to a Laundromat to handle the workload — so clients get fresh linens when they return.

The Wave Project visits the shelter twice a week to offer portable shower facilities. Vets Returning Home provides bagged lunches.

Once a week, clients are provided assistance for various needs, including housing navigation, Social Security, food stamps, insurance, documentation restoration and more.

"Any social services you would go to an office for, we bring it to them in the field," Marlow said. "People don't realize all the different components we offer."

Of its clients, who are ages 18 and older, 70 percent are men and 30 percent are women.

"One of the more frustrating things is we don't have help," Marlow said. "... We're trying to get assistance. We're really



With a full kitchen available, clients at the shelter are provided a hot meal when they arrive and continental breakfast the following morning.

in need of volunteers."

Marlow said she receives 100 phone calls daily; her voicemail fills up every day and she has hundreds of unread text messages on her phone. She hears complaints from people not able to leave a message or those whose messages are not returned right away.

"We have no dedicated receptionist," Marlow said. "I respond as quickly as I can, but we don't have enough funding to pay for staff or coordinate volunteers."

In addition to volunteers, monetary donations also are accepted — and matched, thanks to a grant from the Van Elslander Foundation, which will match donations up to \$250,000.

"The more money — even a minute amount — they'll double up," Huvaere said. "We 100 percent rely on dona-

tions. We can help everybody, but we can't help if the donations don't come in."

"This is our second year doing it," Newton said. "We're still learning, but I think we're doing a good job. We try our best."

Added Marlow, "We started with mats and pillows and now we're specializing in the chronically homeless. We provide a lot of the services a regular warming center wouldn't. We were asked to do this. ... To run the shelter properly, it would take \$200,000 to \$250,000. We had \$55,000 committed to us when we started and we started anyway because we didn't want these people on the street. We're running week to week. I'd like to see if we can get more volunteers to leverage the staff. I'd like to hire more staff."



A federal grant through the city of Detroit helped MCMM secure a new van.



Food donations line the shelves of the shelter's pantry, which feeds nearly 100 people each day.

Wedding, engagement and birth announcements are published the last Thursday of each month.

Announcement forms are available online at grossepointenews.com, as well as upon request, by emailing editor@grossepointenews.com.

Deadline for submissions is the Friday before publication.

Questions? Email jmcveigh@grossepointenews.com.

ENGAGEMENT

Schwikert—Tshiamala

Krysty and Paul Schwikert of Grosse Pointe Woods announce the engagement of their daughter, Brittany Linden Schwikert, to Jonathan Kadima Tshiamala, the son of Kalonda Kitenge and N'Kitabunyi Tshiamala of Gaithersburg, Md.

Miss Schwikert earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a Master of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. She is a Spanish teacher in Manhattan's oldest progressive school, Elisabeth Irwin High School.

Mr. Tshiamala earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He is an attorney for Major League Soccer.

The couple met in Chicago and currently reside in New York City. They are passionate about travel and exploring new cities and cultures.

A 2025 wedding is planned.



Brittany Schwikert & Jonathan Tshiamala

WEDDINGS



Mrs. and Mrs. William Callewaert

Hartman—Callewaert

Caroline Leigh Hartman and William Victor Callewaert were married Aug. 26, 2023, at The Garden at The Pines on Mackinac Island. The ceremony was officiated by David Levy. A reception at Island House Hotel followed.

The bride is the daughter of William and Jennifer Hartman of Grosse Pointe Farms. The groom is the son of Todd and Jennifer Callewaert of Grosse Pointe Farms.

The bride wore a dress with cascading tulle layers, a structured bodice featuring a fitted V-neck with delicate straps and a plunging back. It was designed with layers of asymmetrical, pleated tulle, creating a voluminous skirt with an unexpected split, making a timeless statement. To complement the full dress, the bride carried a petite bouquet of white snapdragons.

The bride's college roommates, Emily Lime and Sophia Kousouros, served as co-maids of honor. Bridesmaids were her family friend, Falen Nutis; hometown friend, Breanne Reisen; and sorority sisters, Molly Ruby, Kelsey Lange, Jenna Weintraub and Jackie Bishop.

The bridesmaids wore midnight blue dresses in silk or satin in various silhouettes. They carried monochromatic bouquets, each with a single flower varietal drawing inspiration from the colorful flora of the island.

The groom's brother, Andrew Callewaert, served as best man. Groomsmen were the groom's New York friend, Alex Ambartsumian; hometown friend, Chris Monsour; college friend, Adam Platt; and New York

friend, David Sucherman. The couple's dog, a mini Australian Shepherd named Markley, served as ring bearer.

Caroline graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in art history and communications from the University of Michigan. She is a communications manager at Schmidt Futures, a philanthropic initiative in New York City.

Will graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and earned a degree in economics from the University of Michigan. He is a vice president at Multipli, a global finance provider in New York City.

The couple honeymooned in Fiji and lives in New York City.

LaLonde—Yablansky

Kathryn Jane Wilson LaLonde and Matthew Brett Yablansky were married Sept. 30, 2023, in Lake Oconee, Ga., in a ceremony officiated by Rabbi Elana Perry. A reception at the Ritz Carlton in Lake Oconee followed.

The bride is the daughter of Dr. Thomas and Mary Jane LaLonde of Grosse Pointe Shores. The groom is the son of Dr. Michael and Denise Yablansky of Melville, N.Y.

The bride wore a beautiful ivory wedding dress by Israeli designer Netta Benshabu. The strapless, fit-and-flare silhouette gown featured a sweetheart neckline and corset top, exquisite beading and floral lace appliqué, which was layered over glitter tulle that added sparkle throughout the dress. She wore a cathedral-length veil with a beaded edge; her blusher was made from her mother's wedding veil. During the ceremony, she wore a bolero designed by Elizabeth Filmore. She also wore the ruby and diamond ring her father gave her mother on their one-year anniversary of dating, as well as her mother's diamond heart tennis bracelet. She carried an elegant bouquet of all-white cosmos, dahlias,

campanula and ranunculus.

The bride's friend, Lila Walker, served as maid of honor. Her bridesmaids were her sister-in-law, Kelsey LaLonde; the groom's sister-in-law, Rachil Yablansky; her cousin, Melissa Sreckovic; and her friends, Danielle Burt, Madison Chanes, Grace Goldberg, Nichole Farhat, Cassidy Herbert, Sarah Lawrence and Emily Miles. A friend's daughter, Avery Blanck, served as flower girl.

Each bridesmaid wore a different dress of their choice in pastel florals or pastel solids. They carried small bouquets of all-white roses, dahlias, campanulas, cosmos or ranunculus.

The groom's brother, Adam Yablansky, served as best man. His groomsmen were the bride's brothers, Daniel LaLonde and Andrew LaLonde; his cousin, Max Birner; his fraternity brothers, Richard Allen, Jordan Klein, Eitan Reshef and Michell Smith; and his friends, Richard Blanck, Alexander Bonda, Daniel Regenstein, Michael Sheffy and Kyle Shenfeld. The bride's nephews, Lucas LaLonde and Ethan LaLonde, served as co-ring bearers.

The bride graduated



Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Yablansky

from University Liggett School in 2011, and from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. She is an MBA candidate at New York University and a buyer for TJX Europe.

The groom earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology, with a concen-

tration in business and economics, from the University of Michigan. He is vice president of business development for Kensington Vanguard National Land Services.

Following their wedding weekend, the couple spent a few days in Napa Valley with a honeymoon planned for spring 2024. They reside in New York City.

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By the GPN fashion team

All through the celebration season, whether it be the holidays, meeting the parents, engagement happenings or wedding weekends, everyone is impressed by a well-dressed man. To make sure your guy is photo-ready for all the fun, having a great clothier on your side is a necessity.

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Rimanelli specializes in high-quality menswear and is a great local men's fashion resource right in the Pointes.

For the guy who needs a little help honing his look, the staff at Rimanelli's is happy to offer wardrobe consultations, so that every man can be confident he is putting his best foot forward stylewise.

The Grosse Pointe News fashion team went to work recently to curate a few men's fashion ensembles to inspire gents for any upcoming special occasions, from casual to dressy.

Above is a laid-back outfit that would be perfect for a casual dinner with the parents, couples' night out or for a bachelor's night hitting favorite pubs.

This denim-centric grouping is comfortable, yet looks stylishly pulled-together in a range of masculine and flattering grays and blues.

Indigo denim Joe's Jeans are the starting point. This pair, called the Brixton, features a straight leg with a trendy narrow fit. Rimanelli's carries the upscale brand Joe's Jeans in many different washes and fits. Paired with a Torino navy belt in beautiful genuine Italian leather, the belt has hidden elastic stretch to make the duo comfy. Sporting a nickel-tone buckle, it's made in the USA.

On top is an ecru patterned knit sweater by Holebrook, a company that creates beautiful, Swedish products warm enough for Michigan winters and stylish enough for the most discerning man.

Over the sweater is the Holebrook Peder Fullzip jacket. This magnificent jacket has two-way metal zip pockets and a unique combination of windproof lining and quilted details in sturdy water-repellent 100% cotton.

Elastic-bound edges provide confidence when a man is on the move — no riding up! Crafted in Europe, this is the ultimate comfortable-yet-functional jacket.

The look is finished off with elegant Italian Marcoliani Milano patterned socks.

RIMANELLI'S: A STORE AND MORE

Antonio Rimanelli Custom Tailor and Fine Clothier has been making men look great since 1973. From alterations to consulting, and everything in between, this classic shop has been a menswear mainstay Grosse Pointers have come to count on for the best in top fashion.

Rimanelli's offers full service alterations for men, women, and children. Alterations can make a piece that originally didn't flatter into a perfect fit. Alterations are less extensive changes to the garment that also change the way the garment fits, and are usually focused on one particular fit area. Adjusting sleeves, hems, and more can transform the look of a piece to help you look your best.

This unique shop also specializes in high-quality custom tailoring, which makes a tremendous difference in the look and fit of clothes. Made-to-measure shirts, suits, and sport coats are impeccably custom-fitted for the wearer who chooses Rimanelli's custom tailoring.

The wardrobe consulting services at Rimanelli start with a fashion professional working one-on-one with each client to share the style rules for choosing clothing and accessories. The expert consultant provides guidance on the type of colors, patterns, and clothing styles that are best for each man. Rimanelli's also offers house calls by appointment only.

If you are looking for something to wear immediately, Rimanelli's also carries a large selection of in-stock suits, sportcoats, slacks, sweaters and knits as well fashionable accessories.

Visit the store at 20335 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, or call (313) 882-0173. Peruse their website at: rimanellis.com.

IN STYLE



'A-GAME' ATTIRE

Stepping it up a notch is a slightly more formal look for the night he has a ring in his pocket – or for fancy brunch with both families in preparation for the big day.

The look begins with the elegant Jack Victor Napoli suit. Jack Victor suits are created from premium Italian fabrics and handcrafted in Montreal, Canada. This brand offers a versatile collection of stylish tailored clothing and sportswear for men that has a look all its own.

Add the Hagen of Carmel button-down dress shirt with an adjustable barrel cuff and the look is pure European.

With a gorgeous periwinkle blue striped Robert Jensen tie in 100% silk and hand-sewn in Italy, the ensemble comes together seamlessly. Complete the overall look with Marcoliani Milano socks and a brown Torino leather belt and he'll have everyone in the restaurant asking, "Who IS that guy?" (He's yours, of course!)

SAVOIR FAIRE



These handsome coordinates strike a perfect balance between casual and dressed-up. This ensemble would be right at home in Paris, Milan, the Big Apple — or here in Grosse Pointe.

For the man that always does everything right, the Jack Victor Brice hybrid blazer, left, is the ideal look. Design meets function in this light gray hybrid sport coat that's been updated with a removable nylon bib insert. It's a sophisticated and versatile blazer that smoothly makes the transition to cooler weather.

The Brice jacket is butterfly-lined and has two handy patch pockets. Made in Portugal, the jacket is finished with a double vent at the back to ensure a flattering silhouette along with its inherent warmth and style.

For extra flair, we've added the gorgeous navy and white Seaward & Stearn scarf to add pop to the gray. Using the finest fabrics from England and Italy, each piece from the Seaward & Stearn collection is designed to create an individual look that matches the personal style of the man.

The uber-cool accessories are: A Torino black leather belt, super warm leather gloves with thinsulate technology and Marcoliani Milano sneaker socks with the right amount of cozy — they have extra padding on the heel for comfort with every step.

He'll surely turn heads wherever he goes!

HIS OWN LOOK

We know you'll have the same fun style adventure as the fashion team did when you visit Rimanelli's and start pairing up your own unique looks. With all of the colors, textures and variety to choose from, every Grosse Pointe man can have a signature look befitting all the major milestones, celebrations and events in his life.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA MONETTE

6B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Obituary notices are purchased and often prewritten by family or friends. While we try to run obituaries as submitted, we nevertheless reserve the right to edit for accuracy, style and length.

Commodore Willam Zemmin

William Edwin Zemmin passed away Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital.

Bill was born in Detroit to Ed and Rita (nee Vinsentin) Zemmin. He attended Austin Catholic Preparatory School and Michigan State University and graduated from Wayne State University.

Bill met his wife, Kathleen, while racing in a Priems Regatta at Bayview Yacht Club. They were married Sept. 1, 1996. In addition to Kathleen, his passions were sailing, golf, world-wide traveling and his beloved Bayview Yacht Club. He spent many family years there, joining in his own right in 1971. After serving on many committees and the Board of Governors, he became commodore of Bayview in the last year of the century, 1999. Bill was extremely competitive and excelled at all he did.

Along with Kathleen, he is survived by his sisters, Marilyn (Rick) and Sue; brother-in-law, Paul; nephew, Glenn; and nieces, Laura, Terese and Michelle. He also is survived by several great-nieces and great-nephews and a

recent great-great-niece. Memorial services will be held in spring 2024. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Joan Marcia Cadieux

Joan Marcia Cadieux, 87, of St. Clair Shores, died peacefully in her sleep in the early hours of Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023.

Born in Detroit to William and Louise (nee Schmidt) Marks, Joan grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods and attended St. Paul High School, from which she graduated in 1954. Following high school, Joan received a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from the University of Detroit in 1958.

Joan's husband of 32 years, Ralph "Skeeter" Cadieux, was the brother of one of her high school classmates, Beverly Cadieux DiMaggio. Joan met Ralph during her visits to the Cadieux home in Cornerstone Village in Detroit, and they married June 29, 1957, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. Joan and Ralph began their life together in St. Clair Shores, but soon moved to Grosse Pointe Shores to raise their four children.

Joan's most impactful career was being a mother of four; however,

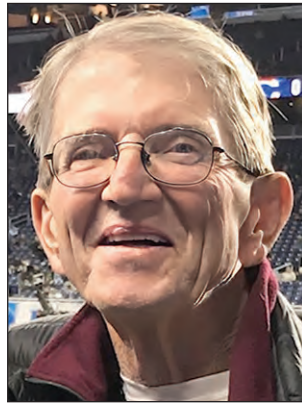
her love of crafts, especially all types of needlework, led her to work at Marnie Fessenden's Crewel Studio on Fisher Road, though Joan "retired" when Marnie asked her to become the store manager.

Joan's affinity for crafting never waned, always waist deep in her many decoupages, miniature making, stained-glass production, decorating and furniture-refinishing projects. An excellent seamstress, Joan constructed her own suits, dresses and gowns for decades, and many family members and friends were the recipients of her handiwork, created lovingly with each person in mind.

In her later years, Joan enjoyed traveling with both family and friends. She traversed Europe, went on safari in Africa and explored South America's diverse landscape.

After Ralph's passing, Joan split her time between St. Clair Shores and Indian River Shores, Fla., where she gladly welcomed any who wanted to visit. An avid golfer, Joan pursued the sport in both Michigan and Florida, enjoying her time on the course with friends.

Joan was blessed to have her sister, Diana Marks Jaeger, and Diana's family close by



William Edwin Zemmin



Joan Marcia Cadieux



Kathryn Pierce Kasprzyk

in Michigan. The Jaegers included her for holidays and on many summer visits to their cottage on Harsens Island. When Joan shared stories with her children about the times she spent with her sister's family, she expressed joy and gratitude.

Joan was predeceased by her husband, Ralph; and her eldest son, Michael. She is survived by three of her children, Marcea, Brian (Dede) and William; daughter-in-law, Kathryn; sister, Diana Jaeger; seven grandchildren, Andrew, Jacqueline Crick (Jason), Marcea, Nicole, Matthew, Caroline Smart (Brian) and Clayborne; as well as three great-grandchildren, four nieces and two nephews.

Joan will be interred with her mother at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit. The family is planning a memorial service for 2024.

Donations may be made in Joan's honor to the St. Paul Educational Trust, 170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, stpaul-educationaltrust.org.

Arrangements were entrusted to A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse

Pointe Woods. Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Kathryn Pierce Kasprzyk

Kathryn Pierce Kasprzyk, 52, of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023. She was born Aug. 27, 1971, to Donald and Lois (nee Blackburn) Pierce.

Kathryn is survived by her parents, Don and "Sis" Pierce; her sons, Hayden and Holden Kasprzyk; former spouse, Jason Kasprzyk; and brothers, Don Pierce Jr. (Kristina) and Tom Pierce (Jamie). She will also be missed by many nieces and nephews.

Kathryn was predeceased by her brother, Kenny Pierce, with whom she was extremely close. Her family knows she'll be pleased to be reunited with him after 44 years.

Kathryn graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School, where she was chosen "Most Spirited" by her classmates her senior year. She also was a varsity swimmer. Kathryn went on to graduate from the University of Dayton

with a degree in Special Education. She loved her experience at Dayton and often spearheaded her groups of friends for mini-reunions. She was very proud that her oldest son, Hayden, chose to attend Dayton. She cherished her boys and loved attending every concert, swim meet, and football and lacrosse game.

Kathryn enjoyed spending time with her family, especially at the family cottage in Lewiston, where she learned to fish and canoe as a young girl. As an adult, she relished sharing these experiences with her sons. She loved people deeply and was known for bringing people together. She rarely forgot a name or had anything but nice things to say about the people she met.

A funeral Mass was held for Kathryn Saturday, Dec. 23, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods handled arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions may be made in her honor to The Arc of Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods, thearcgp-hw.org/donate/.



COURTESY PHOTO

Librarian Charlotte Tito works at the Woods branch of the GPPL.

GPPL hires new librarian

The Grosse Pointe Public Library recently welcomed Charlotte Tito as its newest librarian. She is working at the Woods branch, located at 20680 Mack. "Charlotte's experience will be a wonderful asset to the Woods branch," said Jessica Keyser, library director. "She's worked for the Oak Park Public Library in special edu-

cation and for public schools in New Mexico and Colorado, as well as in private industry."

A resident of Grosse Pointe Park, Tito earned a master's degree in library and information science from Wayne State University. She grew up in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School.

"The Woods branch was my home library," Tito said.

She moved back to Grosse Pointe to be closer to her family.

"I love working the desk and answering all sorts of questions," she added.

For more information about the Grosse Pointe Public Library, visit grossepointelibrary.org/.

Low inventory fueling rise in home prices

November housing data has been released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. Year-over-year data in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods continues to indicate a strong housing market. Inventory remains low and is expected to fuel the continued rise in home prices. As rates drop from their highs of approximately 8 percent, there also is an increase in buyer demand as they recognize that prices are not going to deflate.

The absorption rate, which measures the interaction of buyers and sellers, continues to be in the "advantage seller" range, making buyer negotiations difficult when they find a home they want to buy. There are, however, many who have delayed purchasing whose life circumstances have changed and dictate a change in housing they can no longer ignore.

Finally, November and December usually are very low-volume months. This can easily produce unreliable

statistics, because outliers have a greater impact on data. As a consequence, whether buying or selling real estate now or next year, always use an industry professional like the members of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors when it comes to your housing needs.

— Information provided by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

Notes:

Inventory: The number of homes for sale at the beginning of each month plus the number of homes listed during the month.

Pending sales: The number of accepted offers reported for the month.

Absorption rate: The division of the number of pending sales in a month by inventory. An absorption rate higher than 18.3 percent is considered a seller's market. An absorption rate under 15.3 percent is considered a buyer's market.

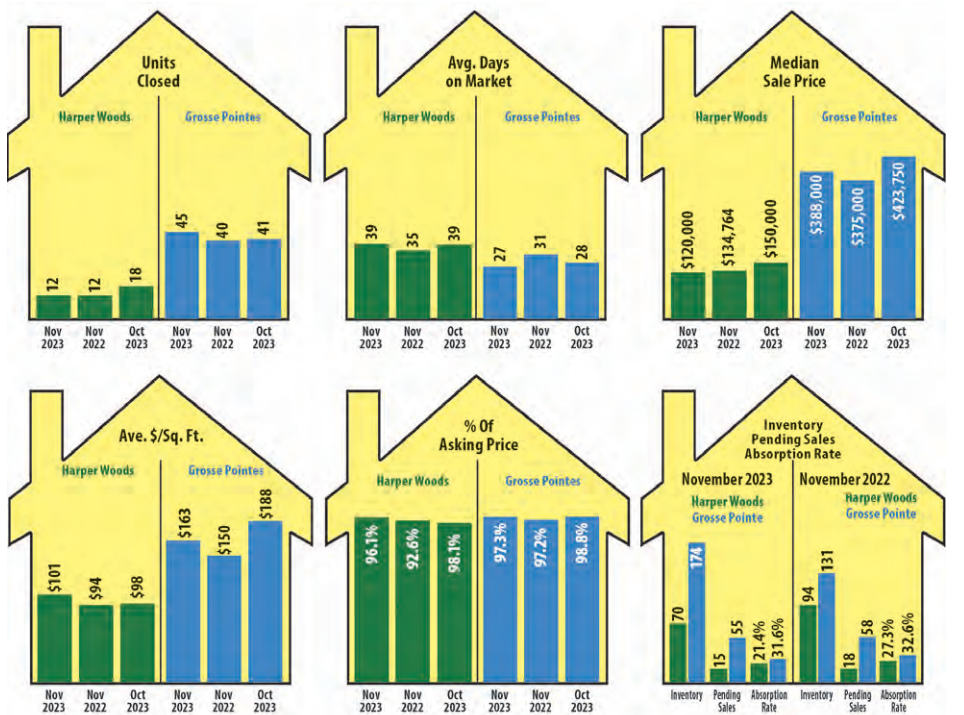




PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER ROBY ZIBARA

Front and center

This nativity was created for the altar at Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church in Detroit by a handful of parishioners, some of them Grosse Pointe residents.

With help from Fr. Roby Zibara, volunteers Louana Ghafari, Hanaa Karam, Jamie Kassis, Helene Romeo and Claire Saleh spent two days assembling the scene, which includes a backdrop of mountains and houses, small villages to each side and a manger in the foreground. Much of the design incorporates Lebanese tradition, Ghafari noted.

"We've been doing this for the past four years," said Ghafari, a Grosse Pointe Shores resident. "It's usually set up in a corner, but this year it's different because it's on the altar and behind it."

For those interested in taking a look, the nativity will grace the altar at St. Maron until Epiphany, Jan. 6.

"We would love you to come and see it," Ghafari said. "It's more beautiful in person."

"Father Roby has been with us five years," she added. "He has a vision. It's all because of him this is happening."

— Jody McVeigh

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

◆ Teen Leadership Council meeting, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 3, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Concert

The Paxton/Spangler Band will perform at Fishbones in St. Clair Shores at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 31.

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.

Sunrise Rotary

The Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club meets at 7 a.m. every Tuesday at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House Visitors Center, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. It's next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 9. Guests are welcome.

The Helm

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

◆ The movie "Nyad" will be shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and

includes snacks.

◆ Beginner-level French, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30, or noon to 1:30 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 19 to April 26.

◆ Intermediate-level French, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30, or 1:30 to 3 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 19 to April 26.

◆ Beginner Sign Language, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 16 to April 30.

◆ Intermediate Sign Language, 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16 to April 30.

◆ Crocheting for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to May 1.

◆ Lunch & Learn, "Live to 100: Secrets of the Blue Zones," 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17. Cost is \$6 for members, \$8 for nonmembers. This pro-

gram repeats 12:30 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7.

GPAA

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

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

◆ Life Drawing with Anne Garavaglia, 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to Feb. 7.

◆ Crash Course on Collage and Assemblage with Marat Paransky, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods and

Families Against Narcotics hosts a free Narcan training session at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Rustic Cabins, 15209 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. Narcan is a drug that can reverse an opioid overdose and save someone's life. All attendees receive a free Narcan kit. For information, email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

The Family Center hosts its Community Book Club at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The group will discuss "Good Inside," by Dr. Becky Kennedy. Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided. RSVP via email to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves MS, in partnership with the Kirk

Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets in person at Wayne County Community College District's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods, as well as on Zoom, at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

Worship Services



Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
Worship Sunday at 10:00 am
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
An Open & Affirming Church
240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool
Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
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



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
live from Kings College Chapel in Cambridge, England

5 pm ~ A Celtic Christmas Service
with music and Holy Communion

20475 Sunningdale Park
313.884.4820 stmichaelsgpw.org

Continuing the Christmas Season at St. Ambrose Catholic Church

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.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

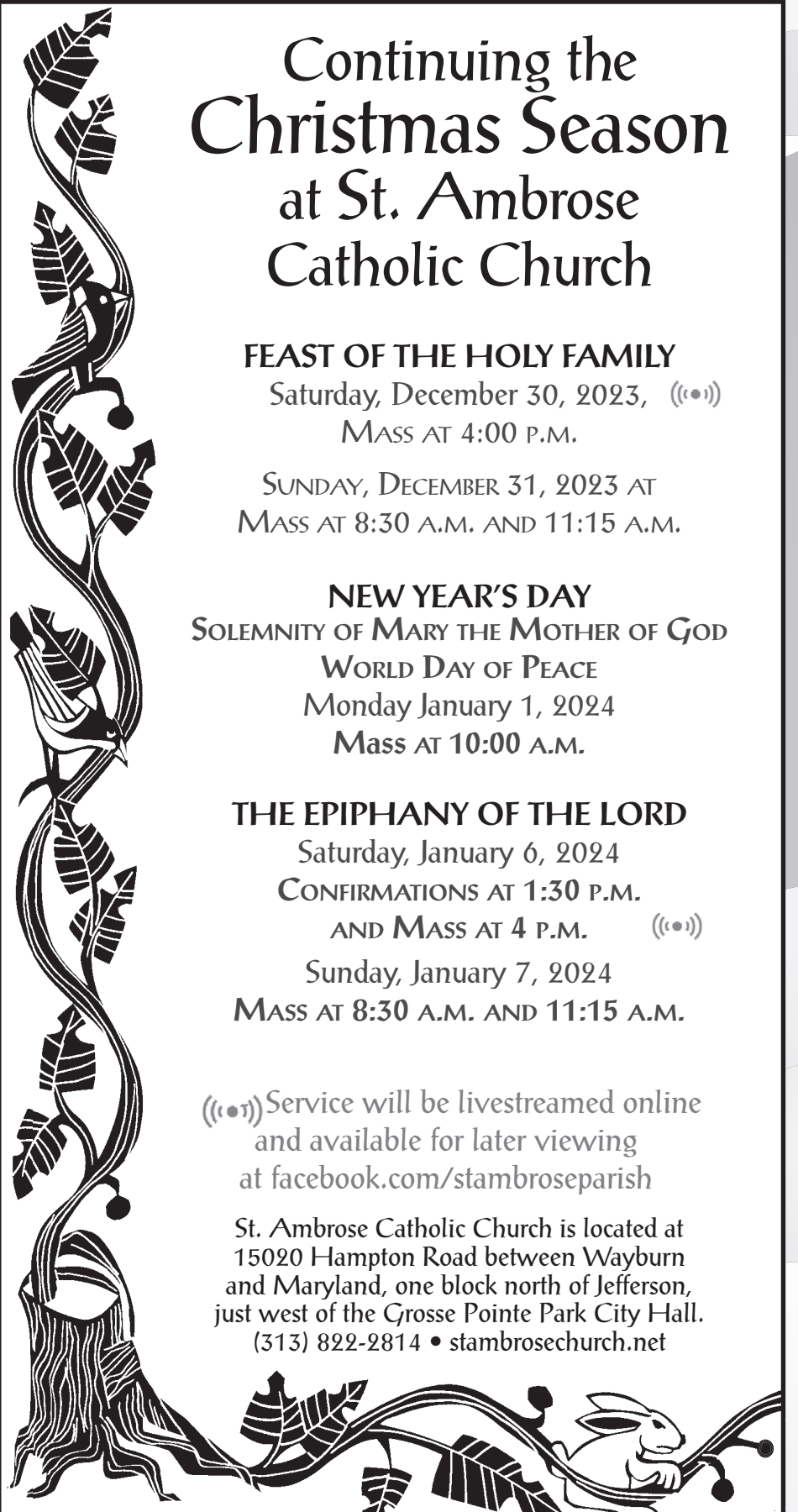
SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD
WORLD DAY OF PEACE
Monday January 1, 2024
Mass AT 10:00 A.M.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 6, 2024
CONFIRMATIONS AT 1:30 P.M.
AND MASS AT 4 P.M. ((••))
Sunday, January 7, 2024
MASS AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

((••)) Service will be livestreamed online
and available for later viewing
at 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



8B | FEATURES

Conservation photographer to speak Jan. 19

Grosse Pointe Garden Center welcomes conservation photographer Joseph Ferraro, who presents “Macro Photography: Exploring the Micro World Around Us,” at noon Friday, Jan. 19.

Ferraro lives and works in southeast Michigan. In 2014, he used macro photography to explore his backyard garden. He unknowingly began walking a naturalist’s path, documenting native pollinators and invertebrates.

“To me, the little things matter,” he said. “Since 2015, my work has focused on portraits of invertebrates in their natural settings. This intimate perspective filled me with wonder and it continues to inspire me to look closer at this overlooked world around us. ... In doing so I strive to raise awareness of the importance of these creatures in our world.”

His large-format prints currently are on exhibit at the Belle Isle Nature Center. For more information, visit joseph-ferraro.com/ or search Joseph Ferraro on Facebook and Instagram.

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center’s annual meeting and program take place in the library and reception rooms at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Lunch begins at noon and is followed by the annual meeting. Ferraro’s program starts at 2 p.m.

For more information or to register, visit gp.gardencenter.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

New members welcome

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sherrie Jones stands with new member Brian Eisbrenner and his sponsor Steve Basile, at the club’s Dec. 5 meeting. Jones and club members extend an open invitation to join the club’s Tuesday morning meetings at 7 a.m. Message the group on Facebook for more information.

STYLE:

Continued from page 2B

about recovery, building a solid support, determined effort, positive attitude, never giving up and the importance of helping other veterans that need care,” McCrary said.

While he still has more recovering to do — he is on track to be walking with assistance by Christmas — McCrary said he is committed to assisting other veterans who need care from the VA hospital and/or Veterans Administration, including burial benefits for veterans and their spouses. Those who need help or would like to chat are welcome to call McCrary at (313) 492-7462.

Veterans who would like to join the American Legion to serve and support the community are invited to contact him as well.



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, Leketa Caston poses with Santa Claus, portrayed by Post 303 Chaplain William Davenport; Maggie McCrary gets in a hug as Post Commander Dan McCrary sits with Santa; and Maggie McCrary and Post Adjutant Clara Kammann sit with Santa.

Oriental Rug Imports of Grosse Pointe to Close Their Doors Forever



GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE IS GOING ON NOW

UP TO 75% OFF

**MONDAY-SATURDAY 10AM-5PM
SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT**

**19483 MACK AVE | GROSSE POINTE WOODS MI 48236
313.884.2991**

LIFE & LEISURE

2C GP GABBY | 2C WE TRIED IT | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 6C & 7C COMICS



Brothers Bryce and Chase Saad showed Santa their train drawing before getting into their Christmas lists.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Joe and Erica Mazzara and their sons, Beppo and Charlie, wore their Grinch pajamas to see Santa at the Polar Express event.

Polar Express

Grosse Pointe Woods residents and their guests were invited to take a ride in a heated shuttle bus to view the holiday lights in Grosse Pointe. Once on the bus, they listened to the Polar Express story. When they arrived back to the Grosse Pointe Woods city hall and the Cook Schoolhouse, children visited with Santa Claus, ate cookies and sipped hot chocolate. Each child also received a bell, because, as explained in "The Polar Express" movie, the sound of a jingling bell means you believe in the Christmas spirit and in Santa Claus.



Isaac Bishop and his friend, Ida Divito, were enjoying cookies and hot chocolate when Santa surprised them by coming over to say hello.



Eli Sims was tickled to be able to sit in Santa's chair.



Eleanor Drader shows off her nails and the bell she received at the Polar Express event after she saw Santa.



Josie and Jack Henshaw got a bit silly when holding up their golden tickets from the Polar Express.



DONATE TO OUR
ANNUAL APPEAL
2023



Paypal/Credit Cards WWW.GPAAS.ORG/DONATE
Checks/Cash: 296 Chalfonte, GP Farms, MI 48236

Open House Every Saturday
10:00am-12:00pm for Dogs & Cats

Happy New Year
and the best to you and
yours in 2024

from
Village Locksmith

VILLAGE LOCK & HOME REPAIR
18554 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48236
villagelockgp@gmail.com • 313-881-8603



Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Tips for storing holiday decorations

Dear Gabby: It's a lot of fun putting up the Christmas decorations, but by the end of it all I am exhausted and haphazardly throw all of the decorations in some bins and it's a huge tangled mess.

Also, I have managed to break some of my family's favorite ornaments because I just don't take the time to properly store them.

Any ideas on how I can do better this year?

— Tangled up.

Dear Tangled up,

After polling our GP News community and scouring the internet, we have come up with a few tried-and-true Christmas

tips for you. Happy organizing!

1. Store wreaths by attaching S-hooks or floral wire and hang on hangers. If they are decorated or have bows, consider first putting the wreath(s) into plastic bags.

2. Try storing your holiday decorations by room and labeling as such.

3. If you have an artificial tree, some people swear by wrapping the entire tree — ornaments and all — with industrial plastic wrap. That way, you can put the tree away and just cut

off the plastic wrap after you set it up again next season.

4. When you take off your Christmas lights from either your tree or

outdoors, use cardboard and cut out two notches. Wrap your lights around it and voila — instant organization with no tangling.

5. Wash, press and hang table linens for the next holiday. Or, my favorite solution, simply throw them in a bag and bring them to Belding Cleaners to have them looking good as new.

6. Try using egg cartons to store your precious glass ornaments. Or use a thin three-quarter-inch dowel from a home improvement store and actually hang up your ornaments in a plastic bin. Use a three-quarter-inch drill bit to drill four holes into a plastic bin. It's easier than it sounds. For specifics, visit craaptastickatie.blogspot.com.

7. Label everything! You will probably not remember where you put what. Be specific!

8. Donate the decor you are not using anymore, or label and keep it in the attic or basement for a couple more seasons to make sure you don't want to keep it.

Hope your holiday was a special one and that 2024 brings all good things.

— Gabby

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAAPTASTIC KATIE

Cheers to 2024



DEAR ANNIE: When I was growing up, my father used to tell my brothers and sisters and me how important it was to set New Year's resolutions. He would write down one or two goals for the coming year, and then periodically tell us how he was doing over the months that followed. Some years he failed, but more often than not, he managed to reach his goals.

What I remember most about him was his optimism. No matter how bad the year, he was always convinced that the future would be better. It has been six years since he died, and I miss him every day. But I especially miss him during the holidays, when he would tell us to expect great things in the upcoming year.

Too many people are cynical these days, and most of my friends scoff at the idea of setting New Year's resolutions.

I don't care, though, because of my dad. I love setting them and being

happy with my progress, regardless of whether I reach all my goals.

When I have children of my own, I plan to pass along this tradition. I am writing to share my story and to ask for your thoughts about New Year's resolutions. — INHERITED OPTIMIST

DEAR OPTIMIST: It sounds like your father was a wonderful man and that his optimistic outlook was invaluable in your upbringing. I'm going to use your letter as an opportunity to offer 10 suggestions for reaching your New Year's resolutions:

1. Write down your resolutions. This will help you focus.

2. Be practical with your goals. Setting small, realistic goals will help you build confidence to seek greater goals later.

3. Watch how you speak to yourself about yourself and your progress. Positive self-talk is

a must.

4. Set aside some uninterrupted time to really think about what it is that you would like to achieve in 2024.

5. Don't beat yourself up if you slip. Live one day at a time. If you backslide, start anew the next day.

6. Track your progress. Even small victories are worth celebrating.

7. Reward yourself when you have achieved any of your goals.

8. Stay the course even if it challenges you. It takes 21 days for a new behavior to become a habit and six months for it to become part of your personality, so be patient and kind to yourself.

9. Spread the news. Tell your friends and family members about your goals so that they can hold you accountable. Partnership leads to progress. If a friend or

family member has the same goal, then you could work to achieve it together.

10. Be persistent and never give up.

Your father is right. This next year will be our best ever! Happy New Year, everyone!

DEAR DIVORCE THE BUM: Watching someone you love be torn down by another person is painful. Perhaps the most painful part is you cannot force her to leave.

You can, however, be there for her without judgment. Tell her how much you love her, be supportive and find ways to build up her self-esteem.

Talk with a counseling or support group or contact the National Domestic Abuse Hotline (800-799-7233) for more resources on how to offer support and to talk to someone about your concerns.

DEAR ANNIE:



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

Recently, I retired from youth sports coaching. I am writing this letter to warn your readers about an alarming trend that I have noticed over the last decade. Namely, parents will attend their kids' sporting events, but then spend most of the time on their smartphones.

This is very different from seeing people glued to their phone screens in an airport or doctor's waiting room or other places in which they would not normally socialize. I am talking about the people who are parents or guardians at their kids' practices or games.

Their actions tell their kids that they and their activities are not important enough to hold their attention. It's a bad message.

The kids do something great and look to the sidelines for parental approval and get nothing. I've even had parents approach me after a game to ask me to describe their child's goal because they missed it.

There is going to be more and more tech. It's not about the phone, as such. It is about people knowing their role as parents and having the

restraint to focus their attention appropriately. Do people own phones or are they owned by them? — FORMER YOUTH COACH

DEAR FORMER YOUTH COACH: Your letter brings up an important distinction. Staring at a screen is never that healthy, and there is a time when it is especially harmful — when parents are supposed to be watching and supporting their children.

While your physical presence is nice, your attention to the game, and your child, is what matters. If you are just staring at a screen, your kid doesn't get that reassurance and love they need to do their best. They might wonder why you're even there or if they are worth your attention.

Children watch and mimic everything. If you want to keep your child off of smartphones, put the phone down and be in the moment. Present but absent parents can cause great damage to their children.

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

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Whoever does the Drmtlgy social media should win an award. The minute I saw an ad on Instagram I had to try this "cult favorite" tinted moisturizer. The price sounded fair — fair enough to click a few clicks and not feel any guilt about it.

With the 23 percent off promotion, it was around \$22 for a decently sized bottle.

The premise is that it's a lightweight, daily moisturizer that is tinted. Tinted so

universally that literally anyone can put it on and look great.

The claim is that with all of the ingredients — which are fragrance free, cruelty free, sulfate free and paraben free, such as hyaluronic acid, vitamins E and B3 — you will find yourself perfectly moisturized and glowing like a supermodel.

Once I received the package, I tried it almost immediately. As advertised, it was lightweight



and went on smoothly and evenly. The color doesn't really seem like a color, but the result is a fresh-looking glow that for me was the perfect base for a light dusting of powder and a little blush — good enough to leave the house with confidence and polish.

After using it daily for several weeks, I still feel the same — it's a good product. I am not sure I would say it's to die for or

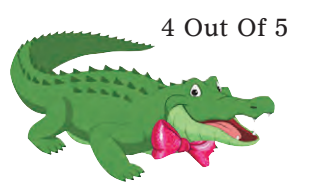
anything out of this world, but I like it at least as much as the pricey tinted moisturizers you'll find at the mall beauty counters.

The price, size, ease of use and nice glowing look are worth it. I am giving this four alligators as it's a solid product.

The only thing I didn't love about it was the website experience. I'm not a huge fan of the spinning wheels of discounts and the hard-sell add-ons, but overall it's a good product.

You can find it online at drmtlgy.com/.

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



4 Out Of 5

An Irish toast and an Italian dinner

By Brian Owen
Guest Writer

My grandparents were Irish, English and Italian. When it comes to food culture, I identify as Italian and when it comes to beverage culture, I lean to the Irish side.

Each year around the holidays, I embrace those roots the most. Family Christmas is steeped in traditions from both sides.

Here are my two favorite traditional family recipes. First, no Christmas feast would be complete without our

Volpe-Barzone Braciolo recipe:

1 lb angus sirloin tip — thinly sliced, lightly salted and tenderized or 1 lb boneless pork chop — thinly sliced, lightly salted and tenderized (trim fat)

Mix six eggs with 2-to-1 ratio Italian seasoned breadcrumbs and grated parmesan until eggs are absorbed and stuffing is firm.

Cover cutlets with a thin layer of stuffing, roll them and tie with cooking twine on both ends.

Brown the meat in olive oil and garlic, deglaze with red wine and cover with your favorite crushed tomatoes. Simmer for one hour or until stuffing is fully cooked. Goes great with any pasta.

And from the Irish side, a simple recipe passed down through four generations of Owens and Mahoneys:

Start with one bottle of chilled Bailey's and enough shot glasses for everyone. End with an Irish Blessing and a toast to those you love most!



Whites over reds

If you're planning to have a bottle of bubbly to celebrate the new year, chances are pretty good that the wine will be either white or pink; the amount of red sparkling wine in this world is so small you may never see one.

Sparkling white wines are a festive way to celebrate New Year's Eve. Whether it's \$6 a bottle or an exalted French Champagne at 10 times that, the world loves to celebrate with anything containing bubbles.

Once 2024 is here, however, our wine consumption likely will remain with sparkling wine more than it has in the recent past. Consumers the world over, even if they're not celebrating any-

thing, seem smitten with anything that's sparkling.

In a recent report, a major European wine agency (International Organization of Vine and Wine, OIV) says that the increased demand for white wines, "particularly in sparkling wine markets like the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom," has increased in the last five years.

This has offset declining wine drinking in the last few years in Spain and France.

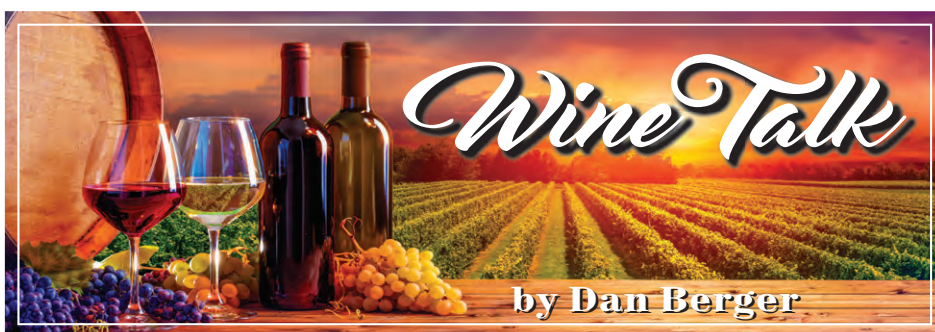
As a result of increased interest in sparkling wine around this country, a wine company in Healdsburg, Calif., Rack and Riddle, now specializes in producing high-caliber, sparkling wines

for wineries that don't have the proper equipment.

Because of significant demand by wineries nationally, Rack and Riddle recently opened another huge production facility.

That same OIV report also points out that white and rose wines now constitute a greater overall share of the international wine market than do red wines — the first time that has happened in history.

Between 2017 and 2021, worldwide consumption of white wine increased by 42.2 percent and rose wine sales increased 9.5 percent with the United States leading the world in consumption of white and pink.



One thing that may be driving part of the increase in white wine sales is that it's much easier to produce lower-alcohol wines with character if it is a white wine. It's more difficult to make decent lower-alcohol reds.

This category of low-alc wine is rapidly growing among those who desire less of an impact. At one point a decade ago, high-alcohol wines, particularly reds, constituted a significant increase in wine sales.

That has declined precipitously in the last three years and wine companies have responded by producing lower-alcohol whites, which also come with the added benefit of having fewer calories.

As for pink and rose wines, sales of these products used to be significant only in the spring and summer months. Now, rose sales are a year-round phenomenon.

Barry Herbst, wine buyer for the huge Bottle Barn store in Santa Rosa, Calif., for at least a decade has had enormous, floor-stacked and racked displays of pink wines from at least a

dozen countries, including hard-to-get items from France, South Africa and a massive selection from California.

Bottle Barn's website indicates that its inventory includes almost 400 different bottlings that have the word "rose" in their name!

Wine of the Week:

2022 Lifevine Rose, California (\$15) — Dry pink wines aren't that difficult to find these days, but several of them contain residual

sugar. This new brand has the words "zero sugar" on the label, and the aroma and taste are attractive. The package also says it was made from organic grapes. The wine is completely dry and smells like fresh cherries. It has only 113 calories per five-ounce glass.

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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Five Great wines for the holidays

Whether you are throwing a party, looking for a gift or planning a holiday dinner, great wines for all occasions will be top of mind for many throughout this holiday season.

Most good wine merchants will be able to steer you in the direction of a similar wine that is available. When shopping, don't hesitate to describe what you are looking for and ask for help. Your favorite wine merchant will be happy you did!

Wines are rated on a 100-point scale. Wines are chosen for review because they represent outstanding quality or value, and the scores are simply a measure of this reviewer's enthusiasm for the recommended wine.

Tongue Dancer 2016 Pinot de Ville Pinot Noir, Putnam Vineyard, Sonoma Coast (\$65) — Winemaker James MacPhail prides himself

on his skill at choosing vineyard sources. The 2016 Pinot de Ville from the Putnam Vineyard in the Sonoma Coast AVA shows off MacPhail's talent as a judge of vineyard character. The Putnam delivers bright cherry notes with exceptional fruit purity, fall spices and impressive length. Rating: 95.

Scheid Vineyards 2016 Chardonnay, Escolle Road Vineyard, Santa Lucia Highlands (\$45) — The Santa Lucia Highlands in northern Monterey County produce some of the most complex and delicious chardonnays on the entire West Coast. Scheid is a prominent grower in Monterey County that owns some of its finest vineyards. The Escolle Road Vineyard chardonnay from the 2016 vintage is classic for the region, showing layered rich-

ness, extraordinary depth, excellent acid backbone and seductive aromas of lemon creme, ripe pear and fall spices. Rating: 94.

Vallado 2015 Quinta do Orgal, Douro DOC, Portugal (\$39.99) — While you're waiting for the more firmly structured reds of Quinta do Vallado to mature, the Quinta do Orgal from the same producer would be an excellent option for near-term consumption. A blend of touriga nacional, touriga franca and sousao (from organic vineyards), it is a food-friendly, supple alternative that can be enjoyed immediately. With a floral note and enticing red-fruit aromas and spice, it will pair nicely with grilled meats, game birds and fall stews. Rating: 92.

Luisi 2017 Pinot Grigio, Collio DOC, Italy (\$17.99) — The Collio

district of Friuli is home to many of the finest pinot grigios produced in northern Italy. The 2017 from Luisi is a beautiful example, exhibiting freshness and texture, with bright citrus and melon notes and an excellent persistence through a thoroughly satisfying finish. Rating: 91.

Bel Colle 2017 Verduno Pelaverga, Italy (\$30) — Don't be fooled by the light color. This pepper pot of a red wine delivers character and flavor in spades. Spicy with notes of Bing cherry and firm tannins, it's a delightful surprise from a small appellation in the Piedmont region of northern Italy. The grape, pelaverga piccolo di Verduno, is obscure and typically used only in blends. Rating: 90.

Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Wishing you a very **Happy New Year!**

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHOUT STUDIOS

Left, David Harbour as Jack Salter, Archie Madekwe as Jann Mardenborough and Orlando Bloom as Danny Moore in the 2023 movie "Gran Turismo," directed by Neill Blomkamp.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Gran Turismo"
 2023 - PG-13
 2 hr 14 min
 ★★★★★

I remember when the first video games came out. We got pretty excited about playing Pac-Man. Well that got old real quick. Then slightly more advanced games like golf and Tetris hit the market. I found those just slightly less mundane.

So I totally missed out on today's sophisticated games. Long story short, I'm definitely not a gamer. However, if games, or

more appropriately, simulations like Gran Turismo were around, I would have spent a heck of a lot more time glued to the screen.

It's this "game" that's at the heart of the new movie "Gran Turismo" from director Neill Blomkamp ("District 9"). At the beginning of the film, Danny Moore (Orlando Bloom) approaches the powers that be at Nissan's racing division with a novel idea: host a global competition with the best Gran Turismo enthusiasts and find the 10 best drivers. These elite players would

then be trained by drivers from the Nissan team to compete in actual vehicles on real tracks. As they say, it's such a nutty idea it just might work!

We then meet Jann Mardenborough (Archie Madekwe), a college-age Brit who's infatuated with all things racing. His dream is to become a champion driver and he spends all his spare time playing Gran Turismo.

His dad Steve (Djimon Hounsou) is a former soccer star from Africa who has a dead end job. He's married to Leslie (Gerry Homer) and the couple want their son to apply himself to something that will help him rise above the fray and become more successful than they are.

They both see Jann's gaming as a dead end and think becoming a race

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



driver is merely a pipe dream.

I thought the one thing the film was lacking was its glossing over of his parents, especially when he was training and embarking on his racing career. They were almost totally out of the picture.

On the day of the international competition, Jann races from his job to the venue and joins the event with seconds to spare. Of course, he's one of the finalists and is sent along with nine other competitors to attend the racing school.

Before he goes, he meets a young girl, Audrey (Maev Courtier-Lilley), at a party. The two are smitten with each other, however their relationship is put on hold while Jann is training abroad.

At the Nissan school, Jack Salter, played by David Harbour of "Stranger Things" fame, coaches the young drivers. Jack treats his students with tough love. He's actually skeptical at first about the whole notion of making drivers out of gamers but eventually comes around.

Later on we learn his backstory, which explains

a lot about him. He's stern at first but as expected, he warms up to his charges. We've seen the "grizzly old coach with a heart of gold" trope hundreds of times before. But it works quite effectively here.

One thing that makes this such an engaging movie is the brilliant camerawork. Hats off to Director of Photography Jacques Jouffret. When the drivers are on the track, you feel a rush of adrenaline as if you're right there in the car. And the dynamic use of drones adds to the thrill.

Also, there's a visual demonstration of how the participants in the game can assemble literally hundreds of components to customize their vehicles.

When Jann is behind the wheel, we see him visualize the action as if he's behind the game console, and quickly transitions to the live action taking place.

At the end of the film, there's a series of shots of the actual participants, and it's revealed that the real Jann Mardenborough was the stunt double in the racing scenes.

The underdog sports movies have certainly been done many times before. In fact, I've reviewed several of these this past year. But "Gran Turismo" joins the ranks of some of the best. I think the whole family will get a kick out of this one.

Currently streaming on Netflix and to rent on Prime Video.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A

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

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

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

About this column:

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

They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy.

I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

For movie trailers, visit youtube.com.

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.



Jack (Harbour) encouraging Jann.



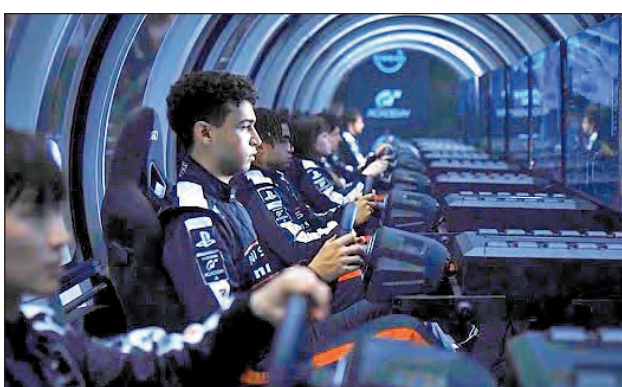
A tight race. (Mardenborough).



The competition taking a swipe at Jann.



Jann (Mardenborough) hits the track.



Jann and his teammates get some screen time.



The grueling 24 Hours of Le Mans.



Race day.



The finalists.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST today (2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Cancer into Leo.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 28, 2023:

You're confident and passionate about whatever you do. You impress others with your energy and commitment to your goals. This year has been a strong focus on partnerships. In 2024, life will be enjoyable, lighthearted and playful! Let your guard down and loosen up! See old friends.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is a tricky day! Don't throw your weight around, especially in matters related to politics and religion, because your efforts might be misguided. You might regret something. Meanwhile, despite heated discussions at home, practical and financial benefits are likely. Tonight: Socialize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Avoid arguments with relatives, neighbors and siblings today, which might be tempting. Instead, enjoy time spent with partners and close friends. Avoid important decisions about shared property, taxes, debt or inheritances. You might not defend yourself well. Tonight: Cocoon.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Disputes about finances or your possessions might occur today. Ironically, financial discussions related to your job or your health will go well. Avoid power struggles with authority figures because you're in a weak position today. Just coast. Tonight: Conversations!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Ego battles with partners and close friends might take place today. Meanwhile, issues at work or related to your health might be confusing. Instead, pivot and decide to socialize and enjoy entertaining diversions, including sports and fun times with kids! Tonight: Check your belongings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Seek solitude and peace of mind today by staying in the background. You'll enjoy redecorating and relaxing at home. Steer clear of arguments with co-workers or issues about pets or your health. Agree to nothing important related to vacation plans, kids or sports because issues are fuzzy. Be careful. Tonight: You win.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Avoid power struggles with friends, groups and your kids today. Likewise, avoid a head-on collision with a romantic partner. Instead, appreciate your daily surroundings. Appreciate the people you have in your world. Tonight: Solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You're high-viz today, which is why it might be wise to avoid a public argument or power struggle. Instead, use your influence for financial matters or boosting your earnings. This is not the day to throw your weight around. Tonight: Friendships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Travel plans appeal to you today! You'll love a change of scenery and a chance to do something different. Be smart and avoid power struggles about finances and possessions. Likewise, don't be pushy with family issues today, because things

aren't as clear as they look. Tonight: You're noticed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today is a mixed bag. You have lots of energy, which is why you might want to get outdoors and do your thing. But be careful. Avoid accidents. Efforts to enjoy solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you — guaranteed. Avoid squabbles about possessions and shared expenses. Tonight: Explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Relations with friends and groups will be mutually sympathetic today. Nevertheless, you might find yourself at odds with a spouse, partner or close friend. Don't get on your high horse about anything, because it's easy to make a wrong assumption today. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Power struggles related to your job, health or a pet might arise today, which might lead to poor financial decisions about property or your belongings. Fortunately, an appeal to a boss or someone in authority could help. You look good today, which might help matters. Tonight: Cooperate.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
For your own good, avoid power struggles with romantic partners and your kids. Likewise, double-check instructions from authority figures because there could be some confusion here. One thing is certain, travel for pleasure will definitely appeal to you. Get away if you can. Tonight: Work.

BORN TODAY
Actor Denzel Washington (1954), actress Maggie Smith (1934), actor Joe Manganiello (1976).

Find The Correct Shadow



Find 2 Snowmen That Are The Same



Contract Bridge

THE ANTI-PERCENTAGE PLAY

East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ Q 6 3
♥ Q 9 8 3
♦ A J 7
♣ K 6 4

WEST

♠ 9 8 7 2
♥ 4
♦ 9 8 5 3
♣ Q 8 7 5

EAST

♠ A K J 5
♥ 7 6 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ 10 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 10 4
♥ A K J 10 5
♦ Q 10 4
♣ A J 9

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥
Pass	4♥		

Opening lead — nine of spades.

There are times when a player must abandon the so-called percentage play because his common sense tells him that the play favored by the percentages cannot succeed.

For example, take this deal where South gets to four hearts on the bidding shown and West leads the nine of spades. East wins with the jack and continues with the A-K. Declarer ruffs

with the ten and draws trump, ending in his hand.

South next leads the ten of diamonds, losing the finesse to East's king. Back comes a diamond, declarer taking the ace and then the queen.

South is now at the critical stage of the play. He has lost three tricks, so he cannot afford to lose a club trick. If he follows the standard approach of leading the nine of clubs to the king and then finesses the jack, he winds up down one.

But if South is alive to the situation, as he should be, he rejects this line of play. He remembers that East passed originally and has already shown up with the A-K-J of spades and the king of diamonds. East therefore cannot have the queen of clubs, since he surely would have opened the bidding had he held that card as well.

So declarer credits West with the club queen and adjusts his play accordingly. He leads the jack of clubs at trick ten, planning to let the jack cover if West follows low. If West covers the jack with the queen, declarer wins with dummy's king, returns a club and finesses the nine to make the contract. True, South has to be lucky to find East with the ten of clubs, but this is manufactured rather than random good luck.

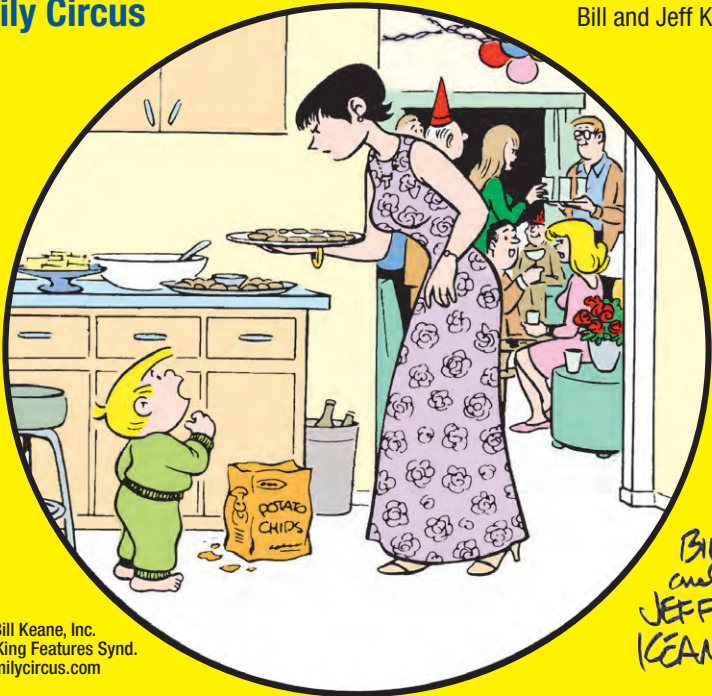
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"I CAN'T go to bed. Mr. Yost is sleeping in it."

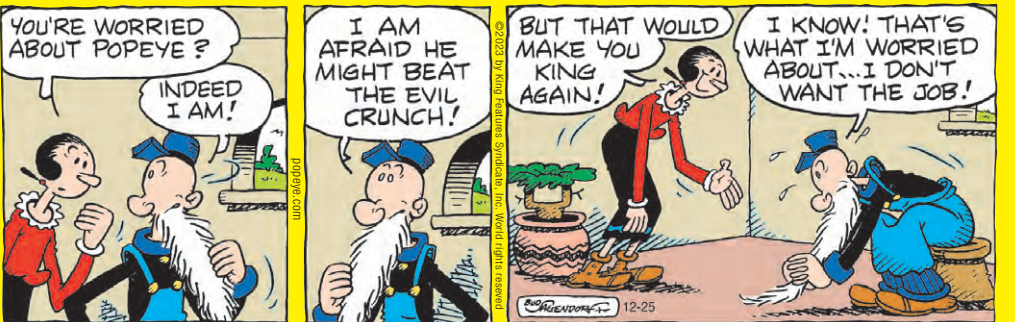
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



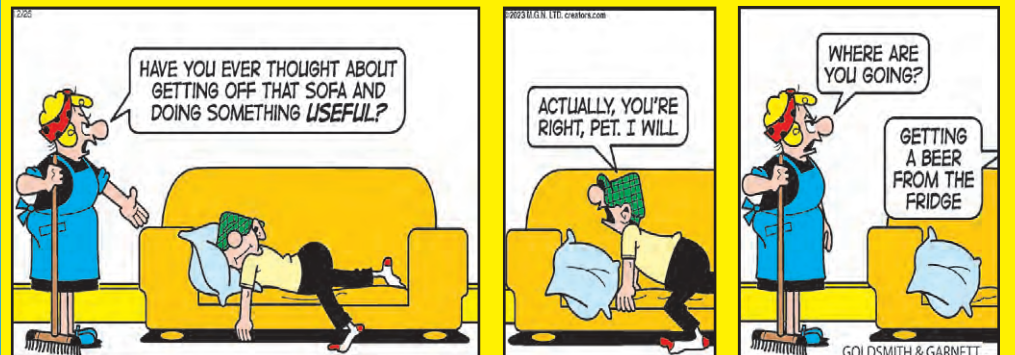
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



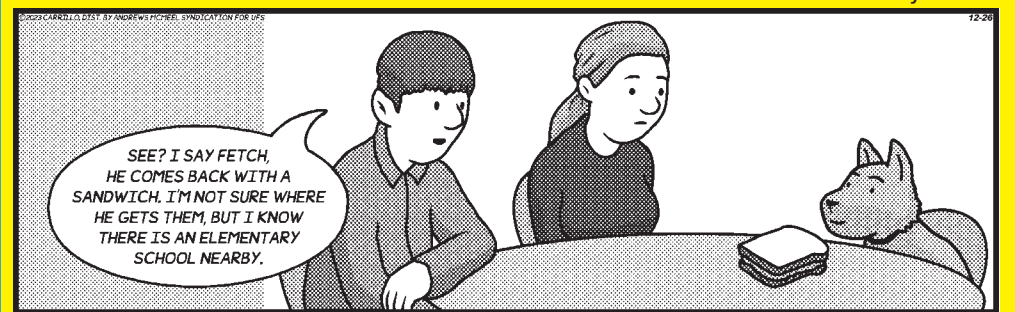
Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

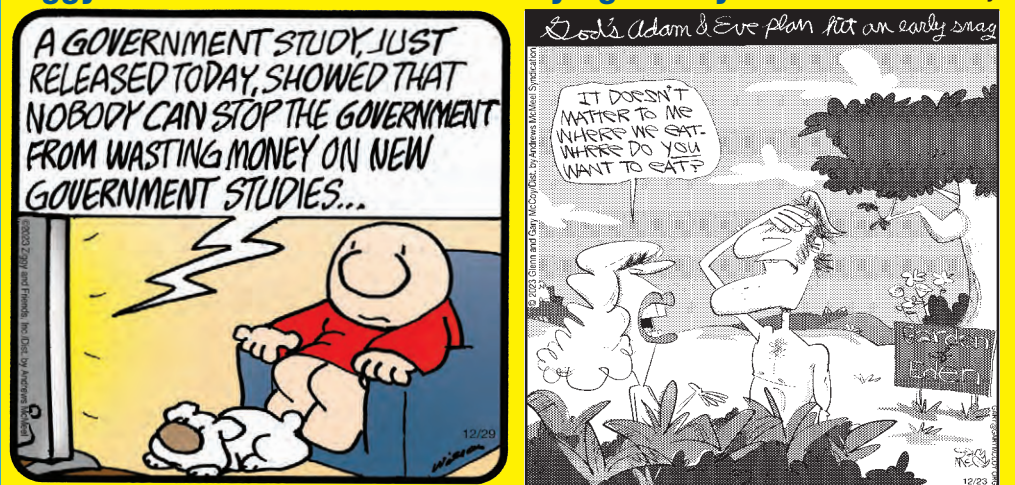


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/28

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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12/21 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 28, 2023

ACROSS

- 1 Cruise ship room
- 6 Track meet events
- 11 Regulated
- 13 "That's what they say"
- 15 Winning consistently
- 16 Be subjected to
- 17 Lens holders
- 18 Burial sites
- 20 Cambodian currency, and an anagram of "lire"
- 21 Lead-in to "system" or "tourism"
- 22 Take shape
- 24 Subj. often taught at night
- 25 They have red and white divisions
- 27 Russian title that comes from "Caesar"
- 29 Theatrical backdrop
- 30 Crowds to avoid
- 33 Elk
- 35 Cooking oil variety
- 37 Skating
- 38 Really annoy
- 42 Australian greeting
- 43 Conk out
- 44 Building block for much Arnold Schoenberg music
- 46 Iris's organ

- 47 Contentious political limitation ... and a hint to what's above the starred clues'
- 50 Treatment leading some to say "Ahh!" and some to say "Ick!"
- 52 Beauty contest
- 55 He gives Starbucks' orders
- 56 Wears
- 58 Surgery reminder
- 59 Boring learning style
- 60 Suggestions, criticisms, etc.
- 61 "... and here it is!"
- 62 Lose hair
- 63 ESPN data
- 64 Command after "sit"

- 10 "Dictionary listings
- 11 Sponge opening
- 12 Multitudes
- 13 Rent from a renter
- 14 Sushi serving
- 19 Distracted Boyfriend, for one
- 22 Scandalous gossip
- 23 Big name in sneakers
- 25 Saxophone sound
- 26 Karaoke performance
- 27 Travel by plane, but not far
- 28 Sit down, chat, get up, move away; sit down, chat, get up, move away ...
- 31 Feline with a special store of food?

- 32 Overwhelm with jokes
- 33 Bundle of cash
- 34 "Consider it done"
- 35 Radiator fluids
- 36 Homophone of 46-Across
- 39 Captivate
- 40 Casual shirt
- 41 Get high on acid
- 44 "We'll let you know later," on a TV schedule
- 45 Top part of a disguise
- 48 Flowed back
- 49 Constructions in trees
- 50 Damages
- 51 "Not looking good!"
- 53 Zippo
- 54 Breakfast-in-bed holder
- 57 It may have a sauna

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	E	H	A	B	A	B	I	D	E	E	T	A
I	W	I	L	L	C	O	O	R	S	L	A	D
C	O	N	T	I	N	E	N	T	A	L	I	P
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12/21 Solution

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12/28

Due Up by Nancy Stark and Will Nediger

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Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



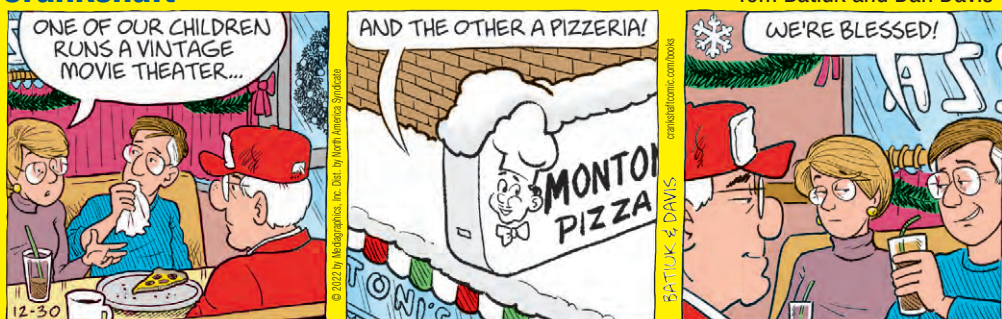
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



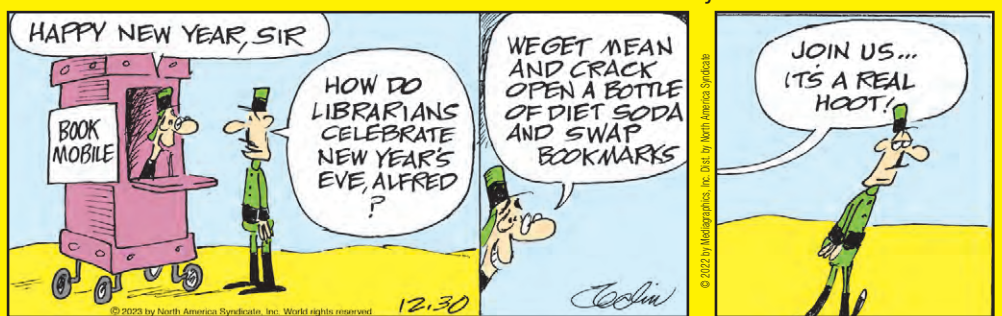
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



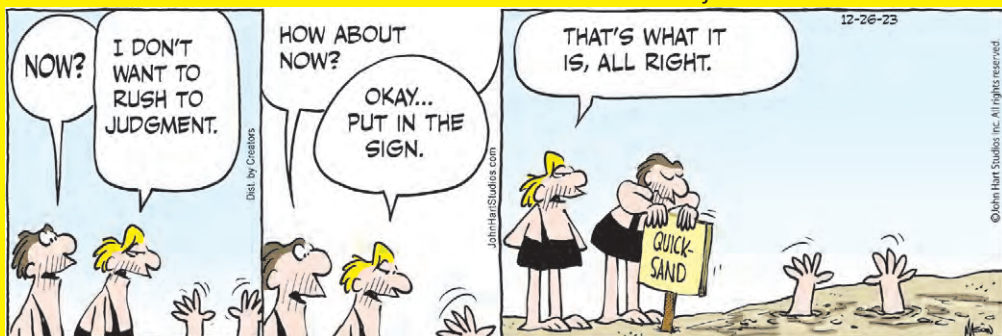
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumbo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Dennis the Menace



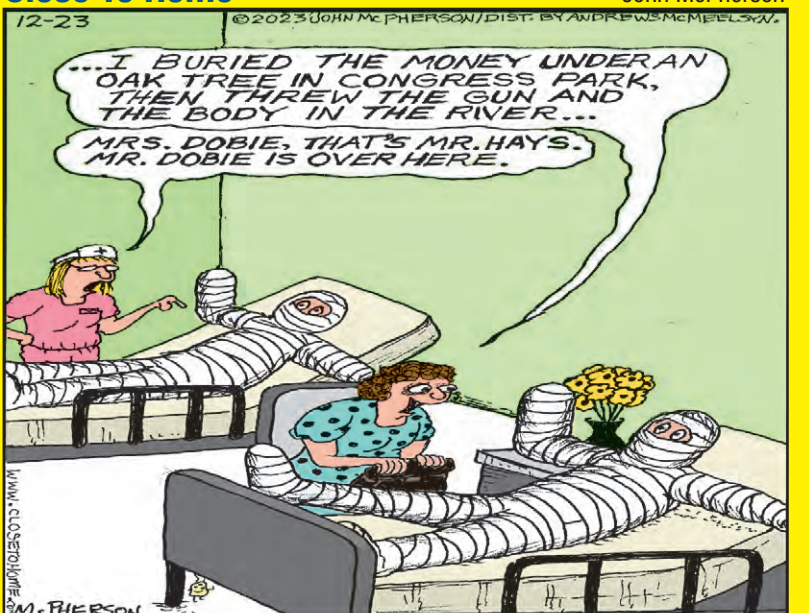
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"He slept all day so, yeah, he behaved himself."

SPORTS



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2023 Sports Year in Review

Dear Readers,
 Welcome to our last sports section of 2023. It's been a remarkable year for Grosse Pointe's high school athletic teams. It has brought countless memorable moments, including the heartbreak of season-ending losses, but also many highlights thanks to game-winning goals, walk-off homeruns, record-breaking times, great rivalry games and come-from-behind victories.

We were lucky enough to watch individual, district, regional and state championships unfold. We saw our committed and talented athletes compete, improve and represent GP with great pride.

We are taking a look back at some of the highlights, season by season, which helped shape the last 12 months into an unforgettable sports year. We can't wait to watch what happens in 2024 — and we will be in the front row, ready to bring you all of the action on our sports pages.

Cheers to a very happy, prosperous and victorious new year!

Meg Leonard
 Senior Editor and Sports Editor

Mike Adams
 Sports Reporter



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2D | YEAR IN REVIEW

Winter 2023

The winter season saw individual athletes break program records and teams snap decades-long title droughts. Other teams raised trophies, repeating as state champions.

Boys varsity basketball

Grosse Pointe South

In the 2022-23 season, South boys varsity basketball accomplished its most successful run in three decades, which included a MAC Red championship and the program's first district championship since 1992.

South finished 21-5 overall. The team came up just short in the postseason with a 62-58 loss in the regional final against De La Salle Collegiate, the 2022 defending state champions.

The Blue Devils also sent senior standout Anthony Benard on to play Division I basketball at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., beginning this fall.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen saw continued team progress throughout the season under new head coach Rob Johnson. Some players also earned notable accolades, including Adam Ayrault, who scored 40 points against Warren Mott in an early February game — a performance that

was not only a career high for the senior, but also gave Ayrault North's all-time school record for most points in a single game. Ayrault's personal milestone of a 40-point game performance also catapulted him past the 1,000-points mark for his career, helping him stand at No. 1 for the most points in North's program history. Ayrault now plays college basketball at Wayne State University.

The Norsemen then hosted the Division 1 district round in March, advancing to play Harper Woods in the semifinals. The Norsemen hung with the Pioneers most of the night, but Harper Woods pulled away with a 62-55 win to end North's season.

The loss ended North's year with a final record of 12-11.

University Liggett

The Knights boys basketball squad started the 2022-23 season on a hot

See HOOPS, page 7D

Boys varsity ice hockey

Grosse Pointe South

2022-23 was almost like a tale of two seasons for the South boys hockey team. The Blue Devils started the season hot, winning seven of their first eight games, including stringing together five straight wins. However, that five-game win streak was followed by four consecutive losses and South never quite reached the pace it had established early in the season again.

At the end of the regular season, South was third in the MIHL Gold Division only behind perennial powerhouses Trenton and

Orchard Lake St. Mary's. A.J. Zaccagni led the team in points with 24 and shared the lead in goals with 10 alongside Billy Raugh.

In the playoffs, the Blue Devils were ousted in the semifinals of the regional tournament in what many considered an upset with a 3-2 loss against St. Clair Shores.

Grosse Pointe North

While some might look at North boys hockey's 6-18 record from the 2022-23 season as an unsuccessful one, last season showed some signs of

improvement for the Norsemen. Getting to six wins after having just a single victory the season before was a considerable jump.

Senior Zach Potter led the team with 40 points in 23 games, while Leo Dragovic was at the top of the stat sheet in goals with 23 while playing just 21 games.

Despite the improvements to its regular season record, North lost a 6-3 battle with St. Clair Shores in the opening round of the regional playoffs,

See HOCKEY, page 7D

Boys varsity swim & dive

Grosse Pointe South

South's boys varsity swim and dive continued to break the record books in the 2022-23 season, winning the MAC Red championship for the 25th consecutive time. It also had a program-first three individual state champions and took fourth overall among 35 teams competing at the Division 2 state championship meet last March. South finished just three points behind third-place Birmingham Seaholm.

The Blue Devils also were the only program among all three divisions to have two athletes named to the 2023 Michigan Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (MISCA) Dream Team in Logan Hepner and Keiran Rahmaan.

The Blue Devils lost Hepner, the 2022 and 2023 diving state champion, and Rahmaan, the 100 free state champion, to graduation. Both now compete at the Division 1 level at University of Michigan and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, respectively.

The team does, however, return its third state champion this season in senior Troy Liu, who took the top spot in last March's state final in the 100 free and also finished fourth in the state in the 50 free. Two other Blue Devils earned All-State honors with top eight finishes, including junior Ben Bryan, who took sixth in the 100 IM, and Chandler Bower, who finished eighth in the 200 free.

Grosse Pointe North

North's boys varsity swim and dive team raced its way to a successful 2022-23 campaign by taking second overall at the MAC White conference championships and 21st in the Division 2 state swim finals, just one point behind 20th place Birmingham Brother Rice.

Five Norsemen qualified for the state championship, including Tommy Moreland, who placed ninth in the state in the 200 free. He then placed 11th in the 100 fly in 52.57 by moving up two places with a time improvement of 1.80 from prelims.

Connor McMahon also reached last year's state final, achieving a personal best in the 100

See SWIM & DIVE, page 7D

Girls varsity basketball

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils finished the season at 13-11 and head coach Kevin Richards helped his team create many highlights, on both individual and team levels. On a team level, South earned a Division 1, Round 1 district win over Roseville 54-30, to advance in the playoffs. During the playoff run, Madison Benard broke South's single-season steals record when she notched her 138th steal against the Panthers. That brought her average in the 2022-23 season to just over 13 steals per game.

South's archrival, Grosse Pointe North, ended the Blue Devils season in the district semifinal with a 48-23 loss.

Grosse Pointe North

In his 40th season as head coach, Gary Bennett led the Norsemen girls varsity basketball team to a 24-4 overall record, including going 6-1 in the MAC Red. North won the conference for the fourth time in the last five years. The team also won divisional and regional

playoff titles by beating Grosse Pointe South, Lakeview, Dakota in overtime and Cass Tech. The Norsemen reached the Division 1 state quarterfinals last March, losing 52-37 to Detroit Renaissance.

University Liggett

Under fourth-year head coach Craig White, the Knights finished with a 16-9 record last season and experienced a deep playoff run to the regional final.

In the postseason, Liggett kicked things off by beating Detroit Pershing 54-14 in its first-round district matchup.

In the district final, Liggett beat Mount Clemens 58-27, to earn its second consecutive district crown. In the first two rounds of the district tournament, the Knights outscored opponents 110-26.

After beating Jalen Rose Leadership Academy in the regional semifinal, the Knights' season ended last March in the regional final in a 59-29 loss to Bishop Foley.

Boys varsity wrestling

Grosse Pointe South

The 2022-23 season will always be remembered in Blue Devils wrestling for some program history that was made during the final weekend of the season. South sent two wrestlers to Ford Field for the state championships, junior Paul Wilson and sophomore Wyatt Hepner. In the end, Hepner became the first South wrestler to ever compete in a state championship match as he found himself wrestling for the state title in Division 1 at 126 pounds.

Hepner finished as the state runner-up in a valiant effort against an opponent who dominated the weight class all four years of his career. As a team, South was second in the MAC Gold Division and made a run for the league title at

the MAC Blue-Gold Meet, finishing second overall out of 19 teams.

Grosse Pointe North

After finishing third in the MAC Gold Division in the regular season, the Norsemen thrived in the postseason for the 2022-23 wrestling campaign. Strong performances at regionals helped North send four wrestlers to Ford Field for the Division 2 state championships.

North's state qualifiers included Michael Salvador, Preston Auld, Jacob Nowicki and Andrew Dupree. Dupree made it the deepest into the state tournament of any Norseman, advancing all the way to the quarterfinals in Division 2 at 215 pounds. Dupree also reached the milestone of 100 wins in his high school career during the season.

Girls varsity ice hockey

Grosse Pointe South

The last decade has seen Grosse Pointe South establish itself as one of the dominant girls hockey teams in the state and the 2022-23 season largely continued that success. The Blue Devils dominated during the regular season, earning the No. 2 seed in the Division 1 Michigan Girls High School Hockey League state tournament, second only to crosstown rival University Liggett.

First-year head coach Lexi Bohlinger led a veteran team that included eight seniors into the playoffs with championship aspirations. South triumphed 5-1 over Livingston United in the opening round and won again over Ann Arbor Skyron in the state semifinals. That set up another showdown with Liggett for the state title, but the Knights ended up victorious 3-0 to win their third consecutive championship.

Grosse Pointe North

Last season saw somewhat of a return to glory for North girls hockey. Not only did the team have the state's leading scorer, sophomore Josie Cueter, but the Norsemen found themselves competing for a state championship for the first time in more than a decade.

Being the top seed in Division 2 of the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League, North made its return to USA Hockey Arena and the state finals for a match up with Bloomfield. The Division 2 championship game was a double-overtime thriller that ultimately had a heartbreaking ending for North, which lost 4-3. The loss ended North's season with a 14-5 record, but the Norsemen's performance throughout the season and playoffs helped prove that Grosse Pointe is a hot-

bed of girls hockey, with three of the four teams competing for state titles coming from the Pointes.

University Liggett

The Liggett girls hockey team came into the 2022-23 season with championship aspirations, as has become the standard for the program. The Knights ended up meeting those expectations to the fullest, winning the team's third consecutive state title in Division 1 girls hockey.

The Knights were the No. 1 overall seed in the state tournament after a dominant regular season. Liggett fought its way to the state title game where it met the tournament's No. 2 seed, crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South. Goals by Allie Roth, Sullivan Estes and Sophie Secco helped the Knights seal a 3-0 victory in the championship game over the Blue Devils.

Coed Unified basketball

The unified coed varsity basketball teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South brought fans all the excitement they could hope for throughout the season, but especially in two matchups where the rival Blue Devils and

Norsemen faced each other. North earned city bragging rights in the first game with an unforgettable buzzer-beater to claim a 44-42 victory. The stands were jam-packed again to watch South exact a bit of revenge with a 50-45 win Tuesday, Feb. 7, as

the unified varsity basketball teams from North and South met up for the second time.

Each team also participated in a busy regular season schedule that included road trips to Bloomfield, Troy and Birmingham Seaholm high schools.

Grosse Pointe United gymnastics

Grosse Pointe United gymnastics broke an overall team scoring record and qualified as a team for the first time in years for the 2022-23 state final.

The team, which competes in the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Division 1, Region 4, earned a program record-setting 138.975 points in the league championship, along with finishing third overall at regionals and 10th overall in the state final meet. It was the program's best outcome since 2014, when the team placed fourth overall.

Three GPUG athletes also earned All-State honors for the 2022-23 season, including:

Ava Rogowski — seventh place (9.00) on beam and ninth place (9.300) on floor.

Madi Lucido — tied for 10th place (8.875) on beam with teammate Maddie LoPorto.

In addition, five individual gymnasts were named to the All-State all-academic team, including LoPorto, Lucido, Rogowski, Ainsley Tanghe and Brook Lezotte, based on their cumulative GPAs.

Spring 2023



The spring season brought fans great regular season action, while the postseason treated fans to conference titles, district championships and trips to the state finals in girls soccer, boys golf, boys and girls track and field and baseball. A few of those trips resulted in individual and team state championships.

Boys varsity baseball

Grosse Pointe South

Dan Griesbaum Sr. entered his 40th season as South's head varsity baseball coach and Team 40 made its own stamp within the program's rich history in 2023. Notable accomplishments included a 27-15 overall record and a second-place finish at 8-6 in the MAC Red, ending the regular season in a two-way tie with Dakota. In June, the team earned its 26th district championship in program history and first title since 2019, in a tight 3-2 game against archrival Grosse Pointe North.

South went on to beat Detroit Western 10-2 in the regional semifinal game and took a 4-0 win over University of Detroit-Jesuit to take the regional championship. An unfortunate collapse against Woodhaven at the regional final in the third weekend in June eliminated South as one of the last eight teams remaining in the Division 1 playoffs, ending what was otherwise an outstanding season. In the state quarterfinal, or "Elite Eight," South held a 7-2 lead against Woodhaven with just six outs to go, but the Warriors mounted an epic comeback for a 9-7

win and a trip to East Lansing for the state's final four.

Griesbaum ended the season approaching the precipice of another career accomplishment — 898 career wins.

Grosse Pointe North

Coming off a 2022 season that nearly ended in a state championship, the Norsemen were primed for more success on the diamond in 2023. Led on the mound by Brennan Hill and at the plate by his older brother, Drew Hill, along with the likes of Jordan Arsenau, Rocco Cardinale and more, the Norsemen were yet again crowned MAC White Division champions, continuing their run of domination in the league.

Going into the postseason, North had its sights set on making a return to East Lansing and the Division 1 final four. The Norsemen dominated Harper Woods 12-1 in the district semifinals to set up a rivalry showdown with Grosse Pointe South for the district title. While North was victorious in the 2022 district final clash between the two, South reigned supreme this time, dashing the Norsemen's hopes of repeating as district

champions in a close 3-2 game.

University Liggett

The 2023 season ended without a state championship for the Knights varsity baseball team, but it earned the next best thing with a state runner-up trophy.

The team got people talking in early May when it earned a double-header sweep of the 2022 Division 1 state champion Orchard Lake St. Mary's. In Game 1, the Knights ended the Eaglets' 84-game win streak, a state record.

The team also beat both Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South in the regular season and rolled through the district and regional brackets, outscoring opponents 68-4 before reaching the state semifinal in June. The Knights beat the defending D2 state champs Forest Hills Eastern in that game, 2-0.

Liggett's roster also included five Division 1 college baseball commits. The season also proved to be head coach Dan Cimini's last with the Knights after 17 years at the helm. He is now the head varsity baseball coach at Northville High School. Jay Ricci took over as Liggett's skipper in October.

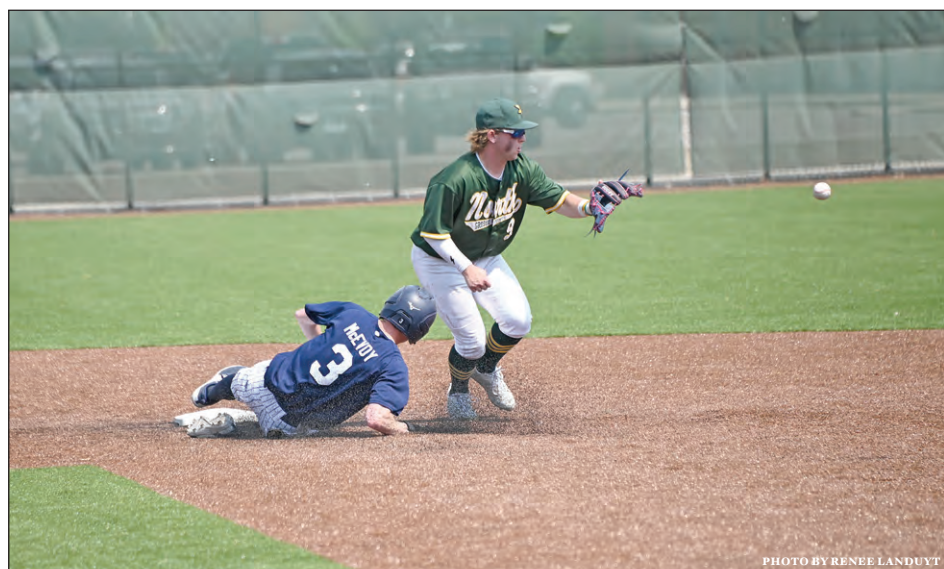


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

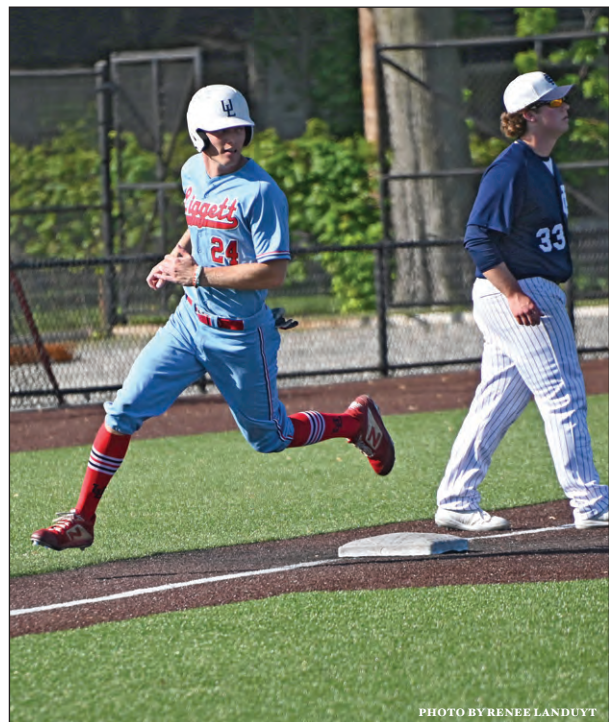


PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



COURTESY PHOTO

Boys varsity lacrosse

Grosse Pointe South

South boys varsity lacrosse had plenty of veterans on this year's team who were able to make some winning memories in their final season as Blue Devils. One of the season's major highlights was South's return as league champions.

This year saw the revival of the MAC Red boys lacrosse tournament to decide a league champion. South fought its way to the tournament's championship game, winning 9-8 in what was a thrilling battle against Dakota.

In the postseason, South made it all the way to the regional championship game, trying to capture the regional title that has eluded the team in recent seasons. However, a loss to Country Day in the regional title game ended the Blue Devils' season.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen had ups and downs throughout the spring during the lacrosse season. The team finished last

in the MAC Red Division, but still ended with a respectable overall record just under .500 at 8-10.

In the playoffs, the Norsemen earned a big opening-round victory in the regional against crosstown rival University Liggett in a game that was highlighted by five goals from senior Ethan Michalski. The 9-7 win over the Knights moved North to the regional semifinal round, where the team lost to Detroit Country Day.

University Liggett

Liggett's boys lacrosse team this year consisted of a lot of young talent that the program was largely focused on developing for the future. The Knights finished the season just above .500 with a final record of 8-7. Those eight victories included a couple of wins over Catholic League rivals Bishop Foley and Shrine Catholic, although the Knights did not compete for a CHSL title this spring. The season ended in the opening round of regionals when Liggett lost to Grosse Pointe North.

Boys varsity track & field

Grosse Pointe South

South's boys varsity track and field team added accolades to the program's legacy in 2023. The biggest were the team's MAC Red and regional championship wins. The Blue Devils were co-champions in the MAC Red Division, taking the top spot alongside Dakota. South went on to dominate the regional meet to start the postseason, taking first place by nearly 50 points and scoring in every single event.

Grosse Pointe North

Despite finishing last in the MAC Red Division for the 2023 regular season, the Norsemen were not completely shut out of the postseason at the end of the spring. North finished fifth in the regional but sent three athletes to the Division 1 state finals. State qualifiers for North included Dawayne Lochart, Reinaldo Williams and David Rochon.

University Liggett

The boys athletes of Liggett's co-ed track and field team saw some success with three athletes making it to the Division 3 state finals. One of them went on to be a state champion, with Jake Juip taking first place in the 100-meter adaptive race state final for the second consecutive year. The Knights' other state qualifiers included Taurian Dorty, who competed in the 100 and 300 meter hurdles, and Michael Darlington in the 1600 and 3200. Their efforts helped qualify them for states at the regional meet, where the Knights finished fifth overall as a team.

Boys varsity golf

Grosse Pointe South

Making it to the state finals has become the norm for South boys golf in the last decade and that did not change in spring 2023. While taking the top spot in the MAC Red Division, South also finished third in the Division 1 regional tournament to qualify for states for an 11th straight year.

At states, South was led by Brennan Sullivan, who shot a two-day score of 153, while senior Evan Brown had a two-day total of 156. The Blue Devils' finished the weekend tournament with a team score of 626, which put them sixth overall in the state for Division 1 to close out the year.

Grosse Pointe North

North boys golf finished the 2023 regular season second in the MAC Red Division behind Grosse Pointe South. Competing in Division 2 for the postseason, the Norsemen found themselves left out of states after finishing 11th in the regional tournament. Junior Nicholas Truza had North's best performance at the regional, shooting 77 on the day. In the end, no player from a public school qualified for the Division 2 state tournament.

University Liggett

The Knights' boys golfers saw another successful spring in 2023. Liggett notched a

couple of big tournament wins during the regular season, taking the top spots at the Greenhills Invitational in Ann Arbor and the Husky-Shorian Invite in St. Clair Shores, as well as winning a Catholic High School League championship. In the Division 3 regional tournament, the Knights took second place and earned their spot in the state finals yet again.

Out of 18 teams at the Division 3 finals, Liggett ended up fifth overall with a team score of 662. Sean Sullivan led the team at states with a two-day score of 160, while Steve McMahon close behind at 161.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Boys varsity crew

Pointe rowers from Detroit Boat Club Crew had two boats in the boys division compete at the USRowing National Championships in June in Florida. A pair of South Blue Devils in Charlie Hoffman and Henry Skupien were just seconds away from a national championship, finishing second by only two seconds in their pairs national title race. Brennan Supino and Oliver Sharpe competed in the 2x U17 national championship race, finishing fifth in the country.

4D | YEAR IN REVIEW

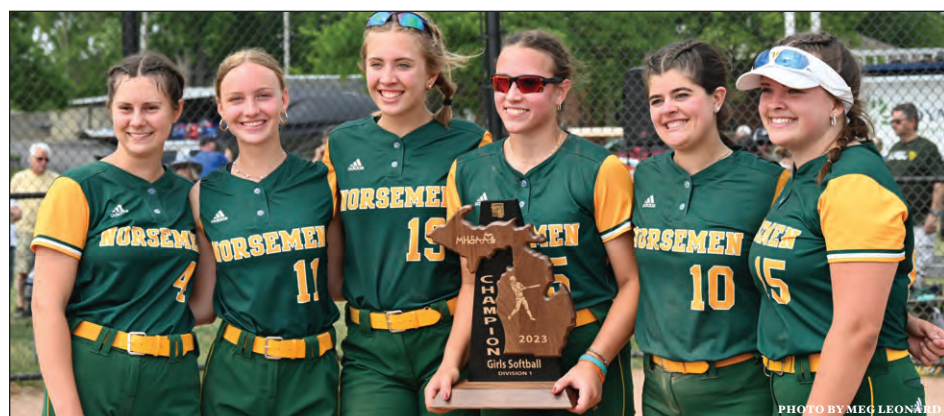
Spring 2023

Girls varsity crew

Rowers from the Pointes racing for Detroit Boat Club's women's crew team made big waves this spring by becoming national champions. The team qualified for the

USRowing Youth National Championships in Florida in June, where the Women's 4+ boat put on a dominant performance, winning the national title race by seven seconds.

Rowers in the national championship boat included Ryleigh O'Donoghue, Olivia Bachert, Ava Sjogren, Cassie Summerfield and Carly Brown.



Girls varsity softball

Grosse Pointe South

South varsity softball entered the 2023 season as a young team looking to find success and also build momentum for the future. Their campaign ended with the team securing 23 total wins — the third most in program history — and finishing fourth out of seven teams in the MAC Blue Division. In the post-season, the Blue Devils dominated Cass Tech 16-0 in the district semifinal round before falling to Grosse Pointe North in the district championship game.

Grosse Pointe North

North's varsity softball team registered quite a 2023 season last spring by winning a district championship over rival Grosse Pointe South and, for the first time since 1992, a Division 1 regional championship.

The Norsemen took the regional crown by overpowering two opponents in the second weekend of state playoffs — an 18-2 throttling of Detroit Renaissance in the regional semifinal and a 9-1 win over Livonia Churchill in the regional championship game — outscoring them by a combined 27-3.

With a trip to the state semifinals on the line, the team advanced to the state quarterfinals, or "Elite Eight," where they met up with softball powerhouse

Hartland at Wayne State. Though North's season ended with a 3-0 loss to the Eagles, the team finished the year carrying two championship trophies and a final record of 20-11.

University Liggett

The 2023 Liggett girls varsity softball team made last May its month by going undefeated, rattling off 13 straight wins and capturing the Catholic High School League championship against Our Lady of the Lakes with a 9-1 victory.

It was Liggett's second CHSL title in three years. During its win streak, the Knights outscored opponents 180-30. In 10 of those games, Liggett held opponents to two runs or less.

The Knights then dominated their way through the Division 3 district tournament in June. In two games, Liggett outscored opponents 38-1 on the way to winning the district title — a 12-0 win over Detroit Edison and a 26-1 drubbing over Cristo Rey.

The team moved on to the regional semifinal, but saw its hot streak come to an end against Wixom's St. Catherine of Siena by a score of 21-6. Rookie head coach Psaunita Andrews was named 2023 CHSL softball coach of the year for leading the Knights to a 24-5 record.

Girls varsity lacrosse

Grosse Pointe South

South's girls lacrosse team had its share of ups and downs in 2023. The Blue Devils finished the year just above .500 with a record of 9-8-1, going through some hot winning streaks and cold losing stretches. South lost four games in a row at one point, but then bounced back to win its last four games of the regular season, building some momentum for the playoffs. The team began the playoffs with a 17-2 victory over rival Grosse Pointe North in the opening round of the regional tournament. South's season came to an end in the next game, falling to Bloomfield Hills in

the regional quarterfinal.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen had a shaky 2023 girls lacrosse season, ending the year with a record of just 2-13. North's two wins came over Temperance Bedford and Notre Dame Prep, but a six-game losing streak to close the regular season led to a loss in the opening round of regional playoffs to Grosse Pointe South.

University Liggett

Knights girls varsity lacrosse earned a 9-6 overall record in 2023, losing only two Catholic High School League games during the regular season to Ann Arbor Father Gabriel

Richard and Divine Child. The team also beat city rival Grosse Pointe North in a 14-8 win.

The squad moved on to the postseason after earning a spot in CHSL playoffs and the state tournament, where the Knights lost in the first round to a strong Marian team.

Liggett's offense was paced throughout the season by freshman Livy Marcero, who had 67 goals, prompting head coach Amanda Amine to declare that big things are ahead for Marcero in the 2024 season. Defensively, senior Izzy Fruehauf and freshman goalie Madeline Unkel led the way for the Knights.

Girls varsity track & field

Grosse Pointe South

South's girls track and field team has practically made it a tradition to get to the state finals and the team did it yet again in 2023. The Blue Devils, once again helmed by legendary coach Steve Zaraneck, were third in the MAC Red Division this spring. However, a second-place finish at regionals sent the team to the state finals for an incredible 40th consecutive year. South did not emerge from states with any champions, but hitting the

mark of four decades of consistently competing for state titles made 2023 a landmark year.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen's girls varsity track and field team finished the 2023 season strong by having four athletes make it to the Division 1 state finals. North ended the regular season fifth in the MAC Red Division and the Norsemen were fourth at the regional finals meet. North's state qualifiers included Lilian Deskins,

Lucie Leonhard, Zofia Lutabroska and Liliana Ivanaj.

University Liggett

Liggett's coed varsity track and field team had two athletes from the girls side make it to the Division 3 state meet. The team missed out on a regional title, but at the regional meet senior Penny Griffieon qualified for states in the 3200 and sophomore Kerith Short qualified in the 1600. Both runners won the region in those events.

Girls varsity soccer

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils had plenty of highlights during the spring season, including the play of senior Olivia Dimuzio, who led the team with 17 goals. South finished third in the standings in the MAC White Division for the regular season and the team's final record for the year was 9-6-3. The Blue Devils did not make it as deep into the playoffs as they had perhaps become used to in recent seasons, winning in the opening round of districts before losing 3-0 in the district semifinal to Dearborn.

Grosse Pointe North

This was a year that will never be forgotten in the history of Grosse Pointe North girls soccer. After a rocky regular season, the Norsemen did what many thought was the unthinkable, becoming state champions in Division 2 for the first time in the team's history.

North's playoff run began in the district round when it defeated Lamphere 1-0 to capture the district title. In the regional semifinals, the Norsemen shocked much of the soccer world when they defeated Division 2 powerhouse Marian 3-2 in a penalty shootout. A couple nights later, North defeated Trenton in the regional championship game, securing a spot in the Division 2 final four.

The Norsemen earned a victory over Linden in the state semifinals to punch a ticket to East Lansing and the Division 2 title game against East Grand Rapids.

The championship game was packed with action and drama. East Grand Rapids took an early 2-0 lead and it was up to North's Meredith Dodenhoff to cut

the deficit in half before halftime. A lucky bounce led to the Norsemen tying the game 2-2 in the second half, sending the game to extra time and eventually a shootout, where the Norsemen prevailed 3-2.

Some Norsemen received accolades following the championship run. Forward Amelia Streberger and goalkeeper Grace McCormick were both named first team All-State, with Streberger also making the state Dream Team. Senior midfielder Megan Robert was second team All-State.

University Liggett

The Knights had plenty to be proud of during this year's girls soccer season, adding a couple of postseason trophies to the team's collection of hardware. Although Liggett came up just short of its ultimate goal of playing for a state championship, 2023 will stand out as one of the deepest runs the team has made in years, winning both district and regional titles.

In the regular season, Liggett competed for a league title in the CHSL, losing the league championship in a close 1-0 matchup to Cranbrook.

When it came time for the postseason, the Knights earned a thrilling 2-1 shootout win over Shrine Catholic in the district championship. Liggett then moved on to the regional round, taking the regional title with a 2-0 win against Jackson Lumen Christi. Making it all the way to the final four in Division 4, the Knights eventually saw their deep postseason run end in a 1-0 loss to Everest Collegiate in the state semifinal.



Girls varsity tennis

Grosse Pointe South

South girls tennis entered the 2023 season with measured expectations on a team with a lot of young players. The team, which is used to capturing league titles, finished fourth in the MAC Red Division. However, the Blue Devils managed to make plenty of noise in the postseason.

Surprising many, South won the regional championship thanks in large part to the efforts of the team's doubles pairings. The Blue Devils earned their place back at the Division 2 state finals, where they ended up 10th overall in the state.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen were another girls tennis team who surged in the postseason despite mixed results in the regular season. North finished last in the MAC Red, but came out at regionals and dominated in singles play to secure second place behind Grosse Pointe South and earn a spot at the Division 2 state finals. At states, North continued its strong play and made it into the top 10, ending the season seventh in the state, with senior Helaian Pietrowsky making it to the state final in No. 1 singles and

finishing as the runner-up.

University Liggett

Liggett's girls tennis program has a long history of success and made moves to continue its winning tradition in the first season under new head coach Jeff Collins. The Knights finished in a close second to Sacred Heart in the regional tournament and had three individual regional champions. The team punched its ticket to the Division 4 state finals for a second year in a row; however, the Knights finished outside the top 10 at states, landing in 20th place.

Coed varsity sailing

Grosse Pointe South

South's varsity coed sailing team cruised to a successful season, including qualifying for nationals for the first time since 2018. Some major season highlights in 2023 include:

Grosse Pointe South

◆ First place at the Michigan State Championship for Team Racing, with a three-boat format in April in Pontiac. The win qualified the team for the Great Lakes district championship.

◆ In May, the team finished fourth at the district championship for team racing, which qualified them for the National Invitational Tournament in Chicago in May.

◆ The team also finished in fourth place in the Great Lakes district championship for coed fleet racing in Chicago in May, a finish good enough to qualify them for the

Mallory National Championship.

◆ At the national championship in June, in Toms River, N.J., South finished 19th overall.

After a busy spring and summer season, the team picked up their winning ways in the fall, including an eighth-place finish in September for the girls team at the Girls Great Lakes district championship in Pontiac. That qualified the team for the girls national championship in San Diego in October, where they took 19th place.

In November, the coed team finished out the season with a 15th-place finish at the Atlantic Coast championship in New York City.

Sailor and class of 2023 South graduate Charlie Gmeiner earned All-State honors for his senior season.

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The fall season brought tons of success to the Pointes' fall sports teams, some of which set new season records, won league championships and made deep runs in the state playoffs. Many individual athletes went on to earn state championships and All-State honors. Here's a look at some notable accomplishments in fall 2023:

Boys varsity football

Grosse Pointe South

Despite a 24-17 season-ending loss to Roseville in the 2023 Division 2 district championship, the Blue Devils varsity football team earned one its most successful seasons in decades.

South finished the year at 9-2, tying the program's 1987 record for most wins in a season. The team also won its second consecutive MAC White regular season championship and its sixth division crown in eight seasons (the team was in MAC Red for two seasons).

The team also earned the biggest point differential in school history and allowed the least points overall since the 1987 season. The Blue Devils blanked L'Anse Creuse 24-0 in a first-round playoff game.

Grosse Pointe North

North's varsity football team has a lot to brag about from the 2023 season, not the least of which was repeating as MAC Gold Division champions, where the Norsemen finished in a three-way tie. The team finished 7-4 overall and paired back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since head coach Joe

Drouin took over the program in 2018. North advanced to the playoffs and beat Warren Fitzgerald in the opening round before meeting Detroit King in the second round. Though the Crusaders, who boast multiple Division I college commits, beat North 48-0 in the district final game, it's the second consecutive season North has hit the postseason in yet another sign of the program's forward progress.

University Liggett

This football season was the first in what Liggett hopes to be a new era on the gridiron under head coach Kevin Glenn. There were plenty of exciting moments this fall as the Knights dropped only two games during the regular season. Junior running back Gary Stacy made several highlight reel plays throughout the season, including a five-touchdown performance against Our Lady of the Lakes.

The Knights earned themselves a playoff berth at the end of the year, but found themselves eliminated after the first round with a loss to Detroit Central, making the team's final record 7-3.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Boys varsity cross country

Grosse Pointe South

Despite earning a top 10 finish at the regional meet in late October, South's boys varsity cross country season finished short of reaching the state final.

South raced to a fifth-place team finish at regionals with 164 points. Senior Jet Miller just missed qualifying for states with a 19th-place finish in 17:15.5, while teammate Jack Martin finished in 22nd

place. The top 15 runners advance to the state final.

"It was a fine season for our Blue Devils," South head coach Mark Sonnenberg said. "It's an honor and a privilege to coach these guys."

Grosse Pointe North

North's boys varsity cross country team also fell short of reaching the state final, but managed a top 10 finish in region-

als, finishing seventh overall with 192 points.

Despite battling against the injury bug all season long, several runners persevered and competed well in a tough region that included some of the state's top runners.

Caleb Kosel, Wes Ramsey, Michael LoPorto and David Rochon all overcame injuries at various points of the season to help lead North.

Boys varsity soccer

Grosse Pointe South

The 2023 fall season had some ups and downs for the Blue Devils' boys varsity soccer team. South finished last in the MAC Red Division, winning just a single league game, and endured a 10-game losing streak at one point. However, South did earn bragging rights this fall with a 9-2 win against crosstown rival Grosse Pointe North.

In the playoffs, the Blue Devils won their first-round district game 8-0 against Cass Tech, but then were eliminated in the district semifinals by U of D Jesuit.

Grosse Pointe North

North's boys varsity soccer team had its struggles through much of the regular season before finding some momentum late in the fall. The Norsemen finished fifth in the MAC White Division with a 1-9 league record. When it came time for the postseason, however, North was able to string some wins together. The team won its first two games of the district round by a combined score of 10-0, punching its ticket to the district final. North's season would end in the district title game with a loss to De La Salle Collegiate.

University Liggett

The Knights' boys soccer team had a largely successful fall season, even if it did land short of the team's ultimate goal of playing for a state championship. Liggett won its second consecutive CHSL Cardinal Division Championship, defeating Bishop Foley 4-1 in the league title game.

During the regular season, the Knights won their first 14 games in a row and went on a streak of nine games without conceding a goal. When it came time for playoffs, the Knights won the Division 4 district championship with a 6-0 victory against New Haven. Liggett went all the way to the regional final, where it found itself in a CHSL rematch with Bishop Foley. This time, however, the Knights were on the losing side in a close 1-0 game decided by a penalty shootout.

Five players were honored at the end of the year in All-State voting. Senior captain Claudio Cavallo was first team All-State while fellow captain Cass Cooley was second team All-State, along with John Francis. Bobby Harthorn was recognized as third team All-State and senior goalkeeper Preston Barr received an honorable mention.



PHOTO BY RENE LANDUYT

Girls varsity cross country

Grosse Pointe South

South's legendary girls varsity cross country coach Steve Zaranek entered his 45th season as head coach of the Blue Devils program and, for the 45th consecutive year, sent at least one athlete to the state final meet last November at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn.

In 2023, junior Savannah Spangler kept that streak alive, thanks to her 12th-place finish in the regional meet. Not only did Spangler, a junior, finish in the top 15 individual runners who qualified for the state final, she also led the Blue Devils to a fifth-place team finish at regionals with 142 points from among 15 teams. Spangler finished in the

top 100 of 261 runners in the Division 1 state championship meet, breaking the all-important 20-minute mark in 19:38, a full 16 seconds off her previous best.

The Blue Devils also got contributions all season long from Chloe Caulfield, Adelina Parikh, Sarah Koval, Kloie Roy, Morgan Deenik, Calisse Budek and Rylee Piornak. South placed fourth overall at the MAC championship out of 33 teams from the Red, White and Blue divisions.

Grosse Pointe North

North's 2023 girls varsity cross country team had the privilege of being led for a final time by Scott Cooper, another legendary

coach in the Pointes who hung up his coach's whistle at season's end after more than 30 years. His team finished eighth overall at regionals and competed in countless bad weather meets throughout the season.

Though no individual Norsemen qualified for the state final, North registered a top 10 finish at the MAC championship, taking ninth overall among 22 teams in the Red division. North's top varsity finishers included Lucie Leonhard, Katie Madigan, Ashlei Anatolio and Zofia Lutoborska. Hope Fegan, Mimi Trupiano, Nicolina Gusmano and Belle Kalus rounded out North's best varsity finishes at the MAC meet.

Coed varsity cross country

University Liggett

Two runners from University Liggett School's coed cross country team made three their lucky number when each qualified for the Division 3 state final for the third consecutive season at the regional meet in late October.

Junior Kerith Short finished the humid and hilly 5K in 23:33.6, taking 15th place overall out of 73 runners.

On the boys side, junior Michael Darlington raced to sixth place out of 86 runners in 18:52.3. Freshman Clayton Gady crossed the finish line in 22nd place, giving the Knights two top 25 finishes for the boys team.

At the Division 3 boys state championship, Darlington ran a personal best, finishing 121st out of 253 runners in 17:34.

In the Division 3 girls race, the Knights' Kerith Short ran her best race of the season, finishing in 134th place out of 248 runners in 21:24.9.

Boys varsity tennis

University Liggett

Liggett's boys tennis program is always looking to compete for championships and the Knights did just that again in the 2023 fall campaign. While the team finished as the Division 4 state runners up, Liggett's Sebastian Courtright earned an individual state title in No. 1 singles.

This was Courtright's third season in a row making it to a singles state final, but his first being crowned a champion. Liggett also won the regional championship as a team before heading into the state finals.

Grosse Pointe South

This year, South's boys varsity tennis program continued to flourish as one of the most successful teams in metro Detroit in nearly the last decade. The Blue Devils were yet again MAC Red Division champions, continuing a streak of league titles that goes back to 2016. South also was crowned regional champions again with a dominant performance in the playoff tournament. The regional title punched a ticket back to the Division 2 state finals for the Blue Devils, where the team finished 14th overall.

Grosse Pointe North

North boys varsity tennis found success in 2023 by once again reaching a spot where it could compete for a state title. The Norsemen went 6-4-1 in matches through the regular season, which landed them second in the competitive MAC Red Division only behind Grosse Pointe South. North also finished second to South in the regional tournament, but second place was enough to send the Norsemen to the Division 2 state finals. There, the team finished 16th overall in the state.

6D | YEAR IN REVIEW

Fall 2023

Girls varsity golf

Grosse Pointe North

North's girls varsity golf team found itself in a rebuilding year, but remained competitive throughout the season. The team finished fifth in the MAC Red championship, with freshman Catie Kaslatis landing on top the Norsemen's leaderboard by shooting 122. Though the team didn't advance to the state final, Morgan McIntyre led teammates Lea Paluzzi, Alyssa Burney, Kaslatis and Scarlett Flynn by shooting 116 at the Division 2, region 12

tournament at Farmington Hills Golf Club to close out North's 2023 season.

Grosse Pointe South

Starting the season with a team of 10 athletes, only half of which had ever swung a golf club, South's girls varsity golf team pulled together a winning season. It included a 2023 MAC Red Division championship and an outstanding performance at the Division 2 region 12 tournament at Farmington Hills Country Club, where the Blue

Devils stormed back after a rough start to shoot a team score of 353. That was good enough to place them in the third and final qualifying spot for the state final. South finished 11th in a field of 18 teams at the state final match with an overall score of 706. Mercy High School took the top spot, shooting 636. Sophomore Lyla Hampton shot a team best 158. She was followed by senior Cate Hampton (174), Tenley Stiyer (181), Murphy Russell (193) and Maggie O'Brien (226).

Girls varsity swim & dive

Grosse Pointe South

Grosse Pointe South varsity swim and dive took fifth place at the 2023 Division 2 state final in Holland Saturday, Nov. 18.

South finished the day with 156 points in a fifth-place team finish, edging out Farmington High School by a single point.

The Blue Devils earned sixteen All-State honors at the state final, including Mischa Eng, Heidi Bryan, Whitney Handwork, Kiera Collins, Hannah DiDio, Lorelei Carr and Charlotte Bedsworth.

The team also placed second in the 2023 Wayne County championship meet and won the MAC Red Division championship for the 27th time since 1997, where head coach John Fodell was

named MAC Red Coach of the Year.

Grosse Pointe North

Grosse Pointe North took 10th place overall at the 2023 Division 2 state final in Holland Saturday, Nov. 18, earning 88 points to beat out 11th place Berkley by four points.

Five Norsemen earned All-State honors at the state final, including Avery Beal, Cailey Hard, Mia Melham, Addie Wakefield and Kennedy Hasting.

North also took second place at the MAC Red division championship. Beal earned Swimmer of the Meet honors.

University Liggett

Under new head coach Chris Cornell, the Knights' girls varsity swim team competed in

the Catholic High School League, the annual Wayne County meet in September and Division 3 state championship this November at Oakland University.

Due to a small roster of eight swimmers and no divers this season, the athletes worked out with their respective club teams throughout the season — Pointe Aquatics, which trains at Grosse Pointe North, and Grosse Pointe Gators, which trains at Grosse Pointe South. Three swimmers qualified for the state final and competed in the preliminary round, including sophomore Annabel Klaasen in the 500 free, freshman Liliana Halajian in the 500 free and the 200 free, and senior Allie Roth in the 100 breast.

Girls varsity volleyball

Grosse Pointe South

Grosse Pointe South girls varsity volleyball wrapped up the 2023 campaign with one of the program's most successful seasons on record. The team captured the 2023 MAC White regular season championship and did not lose a set against conference opponents in the regular season, going 30-0 for a perfect 10-0 division record.

The Blue Devils beat rival Grosse Pointe North twice in the regular season and went on to beat the Norsemen in the post-season district championship.

South eventually reached the regional final, where they faced Division 1 juggernaut and reigning state champion Bloomfield Hills Marian, where they got a taste of how difficult it is to dethrone a champion, losing in three straight sets, 25-13, 25-15 and 25-15.

South finished the regular season at 20-9-3, with an overall record of 24-10-3, including its playoff run to the regional final.

Grosse Pointe North

Though Norsemen head volleyball coach Chelsea Brozo faced the challenge of molding a younger roster than previous seasons, North's varsity volleyball team put together a tenacious, no-quit team that went 13-4 on the season. The Norsemen notched big regular season wins over tough teams like Fraser, Utica and Sterling Heights Stevenson. Though the team lost twice to archrival Grosse Pointe South in regular season play, they bounced back each time to secure a victory in the next match on their schedule.

Setter Elizabeth Wozniak and outside hitters Lauren LeFebvre and Grace Cleary helped lead North to its successful season with a 7-3 record in the the MAC White, where they finished second overall. North beat Hamtramck and Cass Tech, each in three straight sets, in the district's first and second rounds, but fell for the third time in 2023 to the Blue Devils in the district final.

University Liggett

Boys head golf coach Dan Sullivan took over as the Knights head varsity volleyball coach this year and by season's end declared his newest team the "most cohesive" group he has ever led in his 16 years coaching athletics at the school. The team stayed competitive in the Catholic High School League, marching to an 8-7-1 overall record. The Knights entered the 2023 season hoping to defend its 2022 district championship, a year when they also advanced into the regional round of the Division 3 state tournament.

In this year's playoff action, Liggett successfully defended its district crown by beating Detroit Central in three straight sets, preventing Central from scoring more than 10 points in any one of those sets. Sullivan got outstanding offensive efforts this season from senior Gabi Szajenko and junior Lydia Fedewa, who were nominated for All-Region honors.

Girls varsity field hockey

Grosse Pointe South

South varsity field hockey is a team that always looks to contend for a state championship and 2023 was no different. The Blue Devils had a mostly dominant regular season, finishing with a 12-4-1 record. The team was led in points by Scout Webber, who finished with 22, and was closely followed by Lauren Carron, Evelyn Wodzisz and Bella Babcock. South defeated Mercy 4-0 in the opening round of the Michigan High School Field Hockey League playoffs, but the team was eliminated in the next round with a close 1-0 loss to Chelsea.

Grosse Pointe North

North's varsity field hockey team found wins a bit harder to come by in 2023, finishing the season with a record of 5-11-1. Ella Dobbs and Josie Cueter led the team in points, and North found itself amid a four-game losing streak entering the postseason. North's hopes of a playoff run were dashed quickly with a 3-0 loss in the opening round to crosstown foe University Liggett.

University Liggett

Liggett's girls varsity field hockey team finished a challenging season at 6-10 overall. They seemed to pull together some momentum in the postseason, losing in the Final Eight round to powerhouse Detroit Country Day.

The team saw great leadership from its four senior captains, Hallie Marcero, Tori Nugent, Allie Roth and goalie Harper Wallace.

Other standouts were sophomore Livy Marcero in the midfield and freshman Maisey Huebner on defense.

The team notched two wins over rival Grosse Pointe North — once in regular season and once in playoffs. Head coach Amanda Amine said next year's team will bring back a lot of talent and she expects her players to have a strong season next fall.



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YEAR IN REVIEW | 7D



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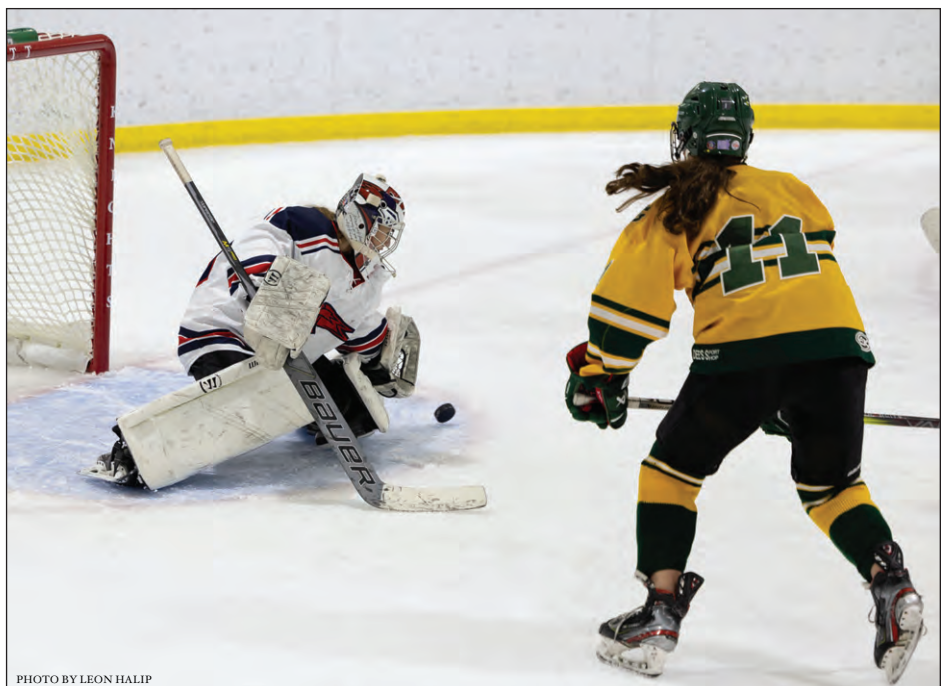


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HOCKEY:

Continued from page 2D

which brought the season to an end.

University Liggett

The Knights had high hopes for the 2022-23 season, looking to finally make a deep run into the Division 3 state playoffs and compete for both regional and state titles. A

five-game win streak to start the season bolstered those expectations even further and the Knights ended up finishing second in the Metro League East Division behind Riverview Gabriel Richard.

A four-game winning streak to end the regular season gave Liggett plenty of momentum going into the postseason, and regionals began with a dominant 8-0 win over

Marysville in the semifinals. With perhaps their best chance to finally break out of the regional round in years, the Knights battled to overtime with Detroit Country Day for the regional title. However, the winter ended in heartbreak as Liggett fell short in overtime 4-3.

Senior Steve Wheatley led the team in goals with 29 and points with 54 in 25 games.

HOOPS:

Continued from page 2D

streak, winning its first five games in a row and winning seven of the first eight games of the season. That pace proved to be unsustainable throughout the entire season, but players like

Preston Barr and key senior leaders Josh Pierce and Jarren Purify led the Knights to a winning record of 13-9 for the season and helped get them as far as the semifinals in the Catholic High School League tournament.

Liggett seemed to have a knack for playing in and winning close games

during certain points of the season. The team went to overtime in three games, winning all three. However, when it came to the playoffs, the Knights' luck in the clutch seemed to run out. Liggett's season ended in the opening round of districts with a loss to Madison.

SWIM & DIVE:

Continued from page 2D

breast and finishing in 11th place in 1:00.52. Other state finalists from North included Keegan Wettstein, James Jewell, James Gusmano and Alejandro Delgado, who competed in team relays.

Based on last season's success, North moved up to the MAC Red Division and will compete alongside city rival Grosse Pointe South in the 2023-24 season.

University Liggett

Coined last season as "The Little Team That Could," based on the boys varsity swim team's small roster of four, University Liggett's Brendan

Beland and Charlie Bronk qualified for the Division 3 state finals last March.

Beland swam a personal best in 2:04.87 in the 200 IM to finish 14th in the state. He scored three team points for the Knights. Beland missed the finals cut in the 100 fly during Friday's prelims, finishing 25th in 56.48.

Despite putting up some competitive times, freshman Bronk fell short of making it to the final round in both of his individual events out of prelims. He finished 23rd in the 500 free in 5:08.46, and 32nd in the 100 back in 59.97.


Cranbrook-Kingswood won the D3 State Championship with 271 points. Beland returns for the 2023-24 season as Liggett's only varsity swimmer.

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