

Scan Here:

TO SEE EVERY LISTING IN GP

SINE & MONAGHAN REALTORS

ED RINKE

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line
(Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)
(586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

\$289

per mo. 24 Months

\$1,995

Down

FIND NEW ROADS

No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

*Pricing is priced on 24 month lease, 10,000 miles per year, plus tax, title, plate. See Salesperson for details. Expires 1/31/24.

2024 Chevy Blazer LT

Purchase a 2024 for \$33,979 Stock #541203

Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 2, 30 PAGES
ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 95¢)

MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
Your community newspaper since 1940

JANUARY 11, 2024
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

Auditor says books out of whack

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — It may have been an old “Honeymooners” TV episode in which a ham-fisted Ralph Kramden threatened to send his nasal-voiced wife, Alice, “Bang, zoom, straight to the moon,” for thinking she added \$50 to the family’s bank account by buying a \$100 dress at half off.

Although Alice never reached orbit, Ralph’s frustration showed in the grimaces of some Park council members this week listening to an auditor explain why the city’s financial statements were out of this world.

One of the problems, now corrected, was debiting revenue accounts for nearly \$1 million worth of promised but unreceived federal grant money to offset storm-water flooding cleanup costs during summer 2021.

Although funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency could arrive at any moment, memorializing them beforehand in city ledgers is counting chickens before they hatch.

“We have some challenging things to talk about,” Ali Barnes, a

See AUDIT, page 2A



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

Houston, we have a winner!

Fireworks capped off a rousing national anthem, sung by former American Idol semi-finalist Fantasia Barrino-Taylor, in front of 70,000 fans who packed NRG stadium in Houston Monday, Jan. 8, for the College Football Championship between the University of Michigan and University of Washington. Tailgaters had to race into the stadium early before storms rolled through two hours before kickoff, but that didn’t dampen fans’ enthusiasm to watch college football’s only remaining undefeated teams vie for the national title. When the horn sounded, only the Wolverines stood unbeaten thanks to a 34-13 win over the Huskies for the national championship. It is Michigan’s first national title in the CFP era and first since 1997.

Farms tables discussion of Helm proposal

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Farms city council Monday night waited until after a complete presentation by Prudence Cole, president of The Helm’s board of directors, to state it couldn’t yet make a decision on whether to allow City Attorney William Burgess to work with the institution on ballot language for a senior services millage, because it wasn’t provided the information in advance of the meeting and two members were absent.

The proposal, which

The Helm is pushing to make the August primary ballot, would provide up to 0.4 mills annually to essential senior services, costing the average Farms resident \$84 per year, or \$7 per month.

More specifically, Cole said the tax revenue would go toward expanded remote services to allow in-home checks, expanded services at the Ridge Road center and adult day care services, where seniors could spend the day and be provided with activities, meals and care.

“The current model of

See HELM, page 3A

New dog park open

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Dog owners now have a second option to let pooches run free and play with canine friends with the opening of the Mack Avenue Dog Park.

The 13,000-square-foot facility is next to city hall with entrance off of Torrey.

“We’re not 100 percent done but it’s getting a good reaction so far,” said DPW Director Jim Kowalski. “We’ve already sold as many dog park passes as last year and might even hit two or three times as many. It’s really convenient for

people who live in the neighborhoods around city hall who don’t want to drive to Lake Front Park.”

Spring will see the installation of a two-tiered water fountain that can be used by dogs and owners alike, more benches and more waste receptacles.

“The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation also agreed to fundraise for us so we can install some play equipment,” Kowalski added. “We gave them a wish list, so we’ll see what happens. It took a while to get the fountain, so as the weather got colder we

See DOGS, page 2A

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

CALL (313) 343-5578

GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

Awards to encourage continued historic character

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — The City of Grosse Pointe now will incentivize homeowners who play a role in ensuring the city maintains its historic character in keeping with homes such as 266 Lakeland, designed by industrial architect Albert Kahn in 1912, and 17315 E. Jefferson, designed by architect Charles Platt in 1928.

Kahn also designed the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House and Platt, the Alger House at The War Memorial.

Residents dismissed a historic district proposal in 2021, and implementation of design standards as suggested in the recently passed master plan update still could be forthcoming, but in the meantime, an Architectural Beautification Commission Awards Program begins this year.

A sister program to the annual beautification awards honoring aesthetic properties, the architectural awards, according to its guidelines, will “recognize homeowners and business owners who build, restore or renovate a property which conforms and is sympathetic to its original architecture and surrounding structures.”

Those selected by the City’s beautification commission will be honored at an annual awards ceremony in October and receive temporary lawn signage, a certificate and a City of Grosse Pointe Pewabic tile.

See AWARDS, page 4A

Week Ahead	3A
Opinion	6A
Schools	10A
Features	1B
Obituaries	4B
Sports	1D
Classified ads	6D

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Renee Liu

Home: Grosse Pointe Farms

South graduate to study health policy in China

6 56525 10011 6

PHONE: (313) 882-6900 ♦ FAX: (313) 882-1585 ♦ MAIL: 16980 Kercheval Ave., 48230 ♦ ON THE WEB: grossepointenews.com ♦ E-MAIL: editor@grossepointenews.com

ED RINKE

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line
(Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)
(586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

\$259

per month, 24 months

\$1,995

Down

FIND NEW ROADS

No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

*24month lease, 10,000 miles per year, plus tax, title, plate. See Salesperson for details. Expires 1/31/24.

2024 Buick Envista Preferred

Purchase a 2024 for \$24,399 Stock #CWZPPX

ED RINKE

26125 Van Dyke • Center Line
(Just south of 696 on Van Dyke)
(586) 754-7000 • www.edrinke.com

\$199

per month, 24 months

\$0

Down

FIND NEW ROADS

No Appointments Necessary for Oil Changes

*Pricing is based on 24 month lease, 10,000 miles per year, plus tax, title, plate. See Salesperson for details. Expires 1/31/24.

2024 SIERRA 1500 DBL PRO

Purchase for \$35,429 Stock #6540289

Flood case reinstated on technical grounds

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Unlike storm and sewer water that three summers ago backed minute-by-minute into thousands of basements in the Park and neighboring Pointes, a liability case against sewer system operators is progressing almost imperceptibly through the courts.

Jurists with the Michigan Court of Appeals reversed the Wayne County Circuit Court and agreed last

month to address suits prompted by flooding during summer 2021.

On a scale of to-the-rafters basement flooding and through-the-roof dollars in property damage, the appeals court’s five-sentence decision Dec. 13, 2023, is a minor turn-around with major implications.

“It isn’t really a substantive victory that we can boast about,” said Paul Doherty, an attorney representing plaintiffs. “It’s a procedural victory, but the Court of Appeals recognized that these

need to be heard on appeal.”

Neither does the appellate decision signal the court’s sympathy with plaintiffs. Rather, the decision is more of a technical correction of a case that had gone off course.

“I think it’s 95 percent procedural, in all honesty,” Doherty said.

Last spring, Wayne County Circuit Judge Annette J. Berry cited government immunity when dismissing suits before Doherty and other

See FLOOD, page 4A



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Conrad Koski, left, was honored with a proclamation from Mayor Louis Theros Monday, Dec. 11.

CPA honored for 22 years on Farms PS pension board

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Having retired from the position last year after serving since 2001, Farms resident Conrad Koski was honored with a mayoral proclamation Monday, Dec. 11, for 22 years of service to the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Retirement System Board.

“Conrad was one of the first citizen members of a board I got to meet when I first was elected to city council in 2001,” Mayor Louis Theros said. “... I learned a lot about municipal finance working with Conrad. I learned a lot about our retirement systems. ... It’s extraordinary to have a citizen willing to spend so much

time with us on the council on these boards.”

In his professional life, Koski, a CPA, worked for Arthur Young and Co., before spending 25 years as treasurer, chief financial officer and chief executive officer of First of Michigan. He finished his career at the accounting firm Patrick O’Hara P.C.

On the Farms pension board, Koski saw to it that by the time he retired, the public safety retirement system had a funded ratio of 112.7 percent of accrued actuarial liability.

“When I first got on (council) 10 years ago, that was my first committee assignment,” Councilman Joe Ricci said of the pension board, “and I was always pretty

good with numbers, but with Conrad, he looked at them a different way and two and two always equaled six.”

Upon accepting the proclamation, Koski said he believes the Farms to be the best-run city in the Pointes.

“I do have an ulterior motive for participating in this committee,” he added. “My dad and my grandfather were both Detroit police. My dad was a patrolman on Wayne State University campus and my grandfather was a detective in the Detroit Police Department for many years, so I worked my (behind) off to keep that police fund up there where it should be. Hopefully they’re happy with it too.”

Woods gets clean audit

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — City council found out it hit a sort of trifecta during its audit presentation Monday, Dec. 4.

The city received a clean audit, also known as an unmodified opinion, the audit contained no findings and the city received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

This is the 50th consecutive year the city has received such a certificate, the longest current

streak, according to the GFOA, for an award established in 1945. The city also for the 10th straight year received a Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award from the GFOA for producing a high-quality report designed to be readily understandable by the general public.

“This all shows the city’s commitment to transparency and detail,” Josh Yde of Plante Moran told council regarding the city’s fiscal year 2022-23 achievements. “And an unmodified opinion is the highest level of assurance we can give.”

While findings in an audit don’t signal any red

flags, they can be areas where the auditing team thinks a municipality can streamline its bookkeeping.

“That’s a real testament to your team,” Yde added.

Councilman Michael Koester said this is the first time he can recall in his dozen years on council an audit has come back with no findings.

“They’ve always been really minor, but what can we do to help?” he asked Treasurer-Controller Shawn Murphy.

Murphy said the timetable for putting the budget together and getting the audit done works well.

“We can’t be any faster

See CLEAN, page 3A

DOGS:

Continued from page 1A

figured why bother. But that will be in as soon as the weather breaks.”

Kowalksi said total cost for the project will end up being around \$35,000, with the bulk of

that — \$22,000 — for fencing.

Rules for both dog parks are the same. A permit is \$50 and residents must have a current dog license, including proof of the necessary vaccinations, plus a homeowner’s insurance policy with at

least \$100,000 coverage for any damage or injury caused by the dog.

A pass can include up to three dogs in a household, although only two dogs are permitted in either park per adult at a time. Passes cannot be issued to puppies younger than 4 months

due to how long it takes for them to get fully vaccinated.

Also new this year is allowing dog owners to walk leashed dogs on the walking path around Lake Front Park.

“One of the reasons for that is we hope it will scare the geese away,”

Kowalski said.

Todd Hastings, owner of Serenity Dog Training, said he’s a big proponent of dog parks.

“It’s essential for dogs to be well-rounded and well-adjusted to get off-leash exercise and give them a chance to be away from humans and play

with their own kind,” he said. “People who go to a dog park the first time can be a little apprehensive.”

“When dogs bark at each other, it’s not necessarily a sign of aggression,” he added. “It’s them saying, ‘Hey you, let’s play.’”

AUDIT:

Continued from page 1A

managing principal of Yeo & Yeo CPAs and Advisors told the council Monday, Jan. 8.

That’s an ominous way to launch an audit presentation.

Usually such state-mandated, annual audit overviews in the Grosse Pointes are semi-celebratory affairs. Refrains of “strong footing” and “more than average savings” counter glazed-over gadflies affirming C. Northcote Parkinson’s law of triviality: “Time spent on any item of the agenda will be in inverse proportion to the sum involved.”

“We would be here until tomorrow if we were to go through all the notes and supplementary information,” Barnes said.

Among new financial

realities, the city’s 37 percent rainy-day fund reported by last year’s auditor is halved to 16 percent, or \$2,063,410, enough to operate the city nearly two months before savings expire.

Barnes called it the “bare” minimum.

“You’re on the low end of where your fund balance should be,” she said. “That is something to consider moving forward.”

Assigning blame or pity for trying but failing to keep proper books is unclear. New Finance Director Ginger Moriarty, hired in March, is on the auditor’s sunny side. City Manager Nick Sizeland is in a hurry for the Park’s foundational documents to be amended allowing him oversight of the finance department.

For years the finance director has worked independently of municipal administration, reporting

to the council.

“Coming in at the point (Moriarty) did in the fiscal year is very challenging,” Barnes told the council. “She and the team she’s working with really did the best job they possibly could.”

This is Yeo & Yeo’s first year auditing the Park. It won a five-year contract in July.

“I cannot fathom why things were or weren’t reported the way they were,” Barnes continued. “It’s not my job to point fingers at anyone, just point out to you these were issues identified and corrected to the best of our knowledge. You should be in a better place moving forward.”

“I’m pleased we’re overhauling the system,” Councilman Max Wiener said.

“Second only to our moral integrity is our financial integrity,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “We’ve been on a journey as we continue to professionalize that.

Tonight is a huge step in that direction.”

Councilman Tim Kolar, an accountant who won office in November promising to shore up the city’s financial status, said, “We have a fresh look at things and can see all the problems that individuals like me, a former auditor, were clearly seeing. Our financial statements, which are publicly available, show we are not in a good financial situation. That’s all come to light now. Now we can all move forward knowing the truth.”

Notable audit findings are a:

- ◆ \$398,116 operating loss in the water and sewer fund;
- ◆ \$758,685 total net position for the marina fund, a portion of which members of the recreation commission plan to use for facility improvements; and
- ◆ \$307,391 increase in the street fund.

The public safety department is now listed

as \$1,938,326 under budget due to changing allocations of employee fringe benefit costs.

“The finance director and city manager agreed that for this year those costs would reside in general government instead of being pushed out, which is partially why general government ends up over budget,” Barnes said.

She said it could take a couple of years to root out and correct all eventual changes.

Niggling snafus included recording funds in places the current team doesn’t think they should be.

“For the most part on a day-to-day transaction issue, financial statement transactions are relatively accurate,” Barnes said. “A transaction would be reported for the most part. It just didn’t make it to the correct fund.”

A narrative accompanying the audit contains references to Moriarty’s

corrections:

- ◆ Journal entries. “Journal entries did not include supporting details indicating what the entry was for or who approved it. The new director is attaching support to all entries and we recommend that be a standard practice moving forward.”
- ◆ Tax collections. “Prior to the new finance director, several tax distributions to other taxing units were not distributed within the required timeframe nor were recorded in a separate tax fund in the general ledger.”
- ◆ Bank reconciliations. “Prior to the new finance director, bank reconciliations were not completed timely throughout the fiscal year.”

Neither did accounting records meet standards of the Uniform Accounting Procedural Manual or state treasury department, according to the audit.

Your Comfort Is Our Goal

- Heating • Cooling • Humidifiers
- Air Cleaners • Rheem Air Conditioners

Offering Generators

CALL TODAY FOR FREE QUOTE

586-293-6883

PriebeMechanical.com

Wm. PRIEBE mechanical

since 1989 Heating & Cooling

Forton's

Equipment Sales & Service

Snow Blower Repair and Tune Up

Snow Shovels and Ice Melt For Sale

Honda Snow Blowers For Sale!

(586) 775-7472

21707 Harper Avenue

Saint Clair Shores, MI 48080

CONCIERGE CARDIOLOGY

PREVENTATIVE HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS AT ITS FINEST

HOVER YOUR PHONE OVER THE QR CODE BELOW TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HEALTHSPAN'S SERVICES

healthspan

WITH DR. GINETTE

18450 MACK AVE, SUITE 101 | 313.583.4333

DRGINETTE.CO | @HEALTHSPANMICHIGAN



From left, Lt. Colin Connaire, Sgt. Bert Ruggero, Officer Ryan Milroth and Officer Adam Bremer gather near the food residents brought on Christmas Eve.

Special delivery in Park

Christmas Eve was the first of four holiday deliveries during which Grosse Pointe Park residents brought food to police officers on shift. Meals arrived during shift changes Christmas Eve, Christmas morning, New Year's Eve and New Year's morning. The idea to deliver holiday meals to public safety officers began around five years ago as an effort by Park resident Beth Kurta to thank and show officers how much residents appreciate their hard work throughout the year.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Eleanor Simiaka and her brother, Henry, drop off food to Lt. Colin Connaire in the lobby of the police station on Christmas Eve.

CLEAN:

Continued from page 2A

because we have to wait for the numbers from the

property assessors," she said. Property taxes continue to be the city's main source of revenue, increasing some \$500,000

in 2022 to \$16.7 million. The increase was due to inflation being above the 5 percent cap on taxable value under Proposal A. The city ended the year

with a fund balance of \$7.5 million, an increase of \$1.7 million over projections due to spending \$800,000 less than budgeted.

HELM:

Continued from page 1A

supporting our seniors for the last 45 years, a population which is growing, is not sustainable through philanthropic efforts," Cole said. "The projection from the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments is that our (senior) population in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods will be at 22 percent by 2030."

A recent poll of 400 registered voters — conducted by EPIC/MRA — found 61 percent of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods residents would support a senior services millage.

After discussion, council voted 4-1 to table the matter until the Monday, Feb. 12 council meeting. Mayor Louis Theros and Councilman Joe Ricci were absent, with Councilman Neil Sroka opposed.

"We are absent two council people, so what we will have to do is that we will have to put this back on the agenda," Mayor Pro Tem Beth

Konrad Wilberding said. "It's a millage and it's language. It's important. We need the information before making a good decision, otherwise we're delinquent in what we're doing here."

"... How you go into a process dictates how that process will fold out and can dictate the outcome, so a healthy beginning knowing all the facts is

probably the most astute."

Sroka noted concern that pushing off the matter could make the Farms "late to the game" in terms of having enough time to draft ballot language before potentially being asked in March to approve placement on the ballot.

Cole thus far also has been before the Grosse

Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods councils, which both approved their attorneys to work with The Helm's legal team on drafting language.

Seventy-two of the 83 counties in Michigan already have a senior services millage, while Royal Oak and Birmingham passed senior millages this past November.



WOODMASTER KITCHENS

586-778-4430 | woodmasterkitchens.com

SERVING THE GROSSE POINTE COMMUNITY SINCE 1963

Kids suspected in carjackings

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Police are wearing kid gloves during their investigation of four males implicated in a pair of armed street crimes in the Kercheval business district during the run-up to Christmas.

"This is where it gets tricky: They're all juveniles," said Jim Bostock, Park public safety director.

He didn't give their ages nor cities of residence. They're suspected of an armed carjacking Tuesday, Dec. 12, on Beaconsfield near Kercheval and a failed attempt one block down Kercheval Saturday, Dec. 23.

"Two have been interviewed and released into their parents' custody," Bostock said. "Three of the suspects' parents have been cooperative."

Michigan offenders 17 years and younger are considered juveniles. An amended criminal code states juveniles convicted of carjacking shall be sentenced as adults. The amendment isn't effective until October.

The attempted carjacking two days before Christmas played out as partial replay of a successful version in the area less than two weeks earlier.

At 8:25 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, three masked men dressed in black converged on a male motorist parked in the 15000 block of Kercheval and demanded his car keys. One of the suspects emphasized the demand

by pointing a rifle at the victim.

"The driver refused to give up his keys," Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. "During the exchange, a few people came walking by. That sort of scared off the suspects."

"All three suspects ran from the area towards Alter Road (in Detroit)," Bostock said in a news release. "The suspects were observed on video surveillance from an area business."

Almost the same thing happened Dec. 12 on Beaconsfield.

The only differences were that one of three masked men wearing black had a pistol, not a rifle. They also got away with a vehicle.

"When incidents like this occur, it becomes an all-hands-on-deck situation," Bostock said.

The department responded with increased patrols, plain-clothed operations and seeking assistance from local, state and federal agencies.

"We're waiting for the results of (seven) search warrants," Bostock said. "It's a unique situation because it involves juveniles instead of adults. We want to make sure we get this right. We have one shot at this."

"It's a hard, delicate balance to maintain," Mayor Michele Hodges said. "We want the community to know it's in good hands, but also only so much can be said to not compromise any investigations. Things are trending in the right direction."

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Senior Citizens Commission meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.



AWARD-WINNING ARTISTRY
SUPERIOR SELECTION
EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ahee

AHEE.COM | 313.886.4600

South grad earns prestigious grant

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

From All-State to All-American to all-world.

That’s been the trajectory so far for Renee Liu, an All-State swimmer from Grosse Pointe South High School who went on to be named an All-American swimmer at Johns Hopkins University. Her newest title is Schwarzman Scholar.

She is just one of 150 students worldwide, out of more than 4,000 applicants, to receive the grant. She’ll spend next academic year at Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University in Beijing. The fully funded master’s program in global affairs is designed to prepare future leaders with an understanding of China.

“Relationships between countries lie in their people,” the 2022 Johns Hopkins graduate said. “It’s hard to trust and appreciate a culture when you don’t understand its customs and people.”

The experience will be especially meaningful for Liu, as her parents, Roland and Song, are originally from Beijing. It also helps that she speaks Mandarin.

“We were there in 2008

for the Olympics when Michael Phelps won eight gold medals,” she said. “That was amazing.”

Swimming, it turns out, is how Liu ended up in Grosse Pointe Farms, having moved here from Canada when she was 12.

“We lived in Michigan when I was born and then moved to Canada when I was young so my parents could continue their education,” she said. “I started swimming when I was 6 or 7 and when I was about 10, I realized I was getting good at it so I started putting in more effort.

“High school times are measured in yards, whereas every other country uses meters,” she continued. “I had a better chance of swimming in college if we moved here. We considered some other places, but we really liked Fo (South girls swimming coach John Fodell).”

The move paid off as Liu ended up swimming at Johns Hopkins, from which she graduated in three years with a degree in biomedical engineering. Her younger brother, Troy, is a senior at South and also an All-State swimmer.

Liu’s interest in science also swelled during her time at South.



Renee Liu with her parents, Song, left, and Roland, upon graduating from Johns Hopkins University.

“It was fun and I made a lot of good friends in my classes, just like on the swim team,” she said. “The AP teachers were great because they stressed an understanding of the why, not just the facts. It made me realize there’s so much more to discover.”

Currently a senior research assistant at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, a teaching hospital associated with Harvard Medical School, this won’t be Liu’s first time studying abroad.

One project took her to India where she helped develop an app that gives users access to vision tests typically only found

in clinics.

“After my trip to India, I realized not only can we

as Americans bring a lot to other countries, but we have a lot to learn from other countries as well,” she said. “The main focus will be studying China’s healthcare system and how we can improve our system, too, because of the different technologies.”

Liu looks back on her time growing up in the Pointes fondly.

“Although it’s a predominantly white area, I never felt like an outsider,” she said. “Everyone was super welcoming.”

As the only Asian-American in her graduating class, Liu started a Chinese cultural club.

“There may have been some stereotypes, like

how my friends told me after we got to know each other that they thought I’d be shy and nerdy,” she laughed. “But it’s all about learning different cultures.

“We did little things ... inviting them over to learn how to make dumplings,” she continued. “But even when COVID hit and people were calling it the ‘China virus,’ I never once heard that from my friends.”

Once she returns from China, Liu plans to go to medical school.

“I’ll be applying pretty soon,” she said. “It would be great to be close to home in Ann Arbor. Or maybe New York City, because they have such a diverse patient base.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

Renee Liu during her days as an All-American swimmer at Johns Hopkins University.

FLOOD:

Continued from page 2A

attorneys had a chance to investigate and argue their clients’ claims.

“In those cases, multiple plaintiffs were listed in addition to proposed class actions,” Doherty said. “So, our cases were all assigned to one judge, (Annette J.) Berry (of Wayne County Circuit Court). As part of docket management, half of her docket was transferred to another judge. This was done while the defendant’s motion to dismiss the case was pending. It created a procedural nightmare.”

The Court of Appeals, with Judge Thomas C. Cameron presiding, responded by granting an application for delayed appeal in complaints against the Great Lakes Water Authority, which is contracted to provide wastewater services for the Grosse Pointes and 74 other communities in

southeast Michigan.

“Judge Berry dismissed all of the cases, but she didn’t have all the cases,” Doherty said. “Unfortunately, she didn’t quite understand that when she entered her opinion and order.”

There were questions about some of the plaintiffs’ cases being filed late or not, none of which matters now that the complaints are back on the starting blocks.

“They granted our delayed application, meaning all of our cases are now properly before the Court of Appeals,” Doherty said. “It gets to rectify multiple procedural errors that were caused in the trial court. That’s all. The good news is we have what we should have had all along.”

He doesn’t anticipate a quick resolution.

“We will file our briefs,” Doherty said. “Defense will file their briefs. The court will set oral arguments, which will probably be in a year or so. After oral arguments, the court will issue an opinion, which could be (another) six months to a year.”

A representative of the Park declined to comment.

Drone gives officers eye in the sky

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City council meetings are known to drone on, but the officials who met Monday, Jan. 11, quickly accepted a nearly \$26,000 donation for the public safety department to own and operate an unmanned aerial vehicle.

“The donation offsets all costs for the creation of the drone unit,” said Chief

Jim Bostock during the Dec. 8 city council meeting.

The donation totaling \$25,794 is the latest from the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation.

“The foundation is all about providing officers with tools that help them do their job,” said John Wolski, foundation president. “Technology is a big part of that.”

Wolski anticipates the aerial vehicle being espe-

cially helpful given the public safety department’s multiple missions.

He said, “A drone can help the department on both sides of the room, so to speak, on the law enforcement part of it and the firefighting and rescue part.”

“Please extend our gratitude to the foundation for being yet another wonderful partner in protecting our people, their property and our tax base,” Mayor

Michele Hodges told Bostock.

In June of last year, the foundation, a tax-deductible, 501(c)(3) organization, donated \$31,985.50 for 16 body cameras, eight in-car cameras and related storage software.

In March, it gave the Park \$26,000 to outfit 22 officers with life-saving, ballistic-resistant vests.

Bostock anticipates

See DRONE, page 8A

Ex-employee arrested for theft from Bakehouse 46

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Seeing as the man let himself into the Kercheval business with a key, the City’s public safety department knew it was looking for a former or current employee after \$1,200 was stolen from the register and a small safe within Bakehouse 46 in The Village at 3:15 a.m. Monday, Dec. 18.

Following an investigation by Detective Mike

Narduzzi — part of which included the Bakehouse team providing the department with names of disgruntled ex-employees — Devon Robert Andrews was arrested and arraigned before Municipal Judge David Draper Friday, Dec. 29.

The 32-year-old Detroit man faces one count of breaking and entering a building with intent, which is a 10-year felony, and one count of larceny in a building, which is a four-year fel-

ony and/or a \$5,000 fine.

Because he was previously convicted for a concealed carrying violation through Wayne County Circuit Court and is therefore a habitual offender, the penalties become the maximum.

Draper entered a not guilty plea on Andrews’ behalf, before setting bond at \$25,000 10 percent and requiring a tether.

“My concern is, I have these (four) warrants out there and it looks like

you’re not showing up to court,” Draper said. “... I need you to show up to court. You can handle all these things. You’re going to have lawyers to help you, but I need you to come to court.

“My recommendation — you’re really young, you’re 32 — let’s clean this stuff up,” Draper later added when Andrews requested he reconsider the bond. “... You don’t need to be looking over your shoulder.”

See ARREST, page 8A

AWARDS:

Continued from page 1A

“We’re going to be

able to call out those people who are lovingly restoring homes or building homes that look like they’re in keeping

with the other structures in our community,” Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. “We’ve tried various ways to

encourage that and I think this will go a long way.”

Judging will be based on four criteria:

- ◆ whether the renovation is aesthetically pleasing and compatible to the structure’s original architectural design;

- ◆ whether the materials used in construction are consistent with the original materials used in the property or surrounding properties;

- ◆ whether the new construction and additions will be aesthetically pleasing and compatible with surrounding structures or existing struc-

ture in case of an addition;

- ◆ and whether the renovation or construction has taken place within the last three years.

“People will be able to nominate themselves or can nominate a property that they see and appreciate,” Tomkowiak said. “... It’s great to be able to recognize the character and the fabric of what makes this community so unique.”

The deadline for applications each year — applications will be posted on the city website, grossepointecity.org — is June 1.

Grosse Pointe News

USPS 230-400

PUBLISHED EVERY
THURSDAY BY
WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GROSSE POINTE NEWS reserves
the right not to accept an advertiser’s
order. Grosse Pointe News advertising
representatives have no authority to
bind this newspaper. Only publication of
an advertisement shall constitute final
acceptance of the advertiser’s order.

Your clothes deserve the best!

105 YEARS of quality and service to Grosse Pointe!



50% OFF
YOUR FIRST ORDER
when you sign up for

FREE Pick-up & Delivery! SAVE TIME!
Limited Time Offer. Minimum Order of \$50.00. One per customer/per household.

www.BELDINGCLEANERS.com
15139 Kercheval • Grosse Pointe Park • 313.822.5800

City of Grosse Pointe

Going, going gone

Various DeWalt power tools, a Sur-Ron electric bike and a NAMI Burn electric scooter were stolen from an unlocked garage and shed in the 400 block of Notre Dame between Saturday, Dec. 9, and Wednesday, Jan. 3. The stolen items are worth \$12,000 and an investigation is ongoing.

Suspended license

A 20-year-old Detroit man was cited for a suspended license after being pulled over at Mack and University for defective equipment at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6.

More than weight lost

A member of the Neighborhood Club reported someone stole \$250 from her fanny pack while at the establishment Saturday, Jan. 6. An investigation is ongoing.

Attempted assault

An emergency medical technician reported being the target of an attempted assault in the emergency room entrance of a local hospital at 11:50 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6.

Smash, not grab

Nothing was missing from inside a vehicle which had its rear window broken on Village Lane between 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, and 9:30 a.m. the next morning. The suspect drove a white sedan.

Helping hand

A patient refusing to leave a local hospital at 12:20 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 7, only did so once officers arrived. — Laurel Kraus Report information about these and other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Park

More car break-ins

Several vehicles parked in the 1100 blocks of Bishop, Harvard and thereabouts were broken into overnight Saturday, Jan. 6. Police tried to stop an unknown suspect driving a white Hyundai, which they think might be stolen, but the person drove away at a high rate of speed.

Drugged driving

A 79-year-old Warren man was arrested last week for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs. Officers were alerted to him slumped over the steering wheel of a vehicle at the intersection of Jefferson and Harcourt at

PUBLIC SAFETY

3:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5.

Gate crashers

It is common for car thieves, fleeing felons and drunken drivers speeding south on Moross to miss the 90-degree turn onto Lakeshore and crash straight through the wrought-iron entry gate to Farms Pier Park.

But car thieves extended gate crashing during the holiday period to Windmill Pointe Park on Windmill Pointe Drive in the Park. Employees of the park reported the incident to police shortly after 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24.

“There was damage to one of the entrance gates,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. “Inside the park was an unoccupied vehicle that had obviously crashed into the gates. Whoever was driving it was gone. We impounded the car and found out a couple hours later it was stolen in Detroit and hadn’t been reported.”

The unknown suspects weren’t recorded by security cameras. “It will be investigated by Detroit,” Pittman said.

Car break-ins

Multiple larcenies from parked vehicles occurred early Thursday, Dec. 28, on various blocks of Lakepointe, Maryland and Wayburn near Kercheval. “(The) suspect is witnessed on surveillance videos from area businesses breaking into vehicles and then fleeing westbound in the north Kercheval alley towards Alter Road (in Detroit),” according to police. Authorities described the unknown suspect as a thin black man wearing blue jeans, a black hooded jacket and carrying a black backpack. “(He) is seen carrying stolen property,” police said.

Failed car theft

The owner of a 2011 Hyundai discovered an attempt to steal the vehicle while parked in the 15300 block of Mack between 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, and 1:20 a.m. the next day.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Unhappy new year

A 43-year-old St. Clair Shores woman was ticketed for an expired registration and no proof of insurance after being stopped on southbound Lakeshore near Lochmoor around 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2. Her 2014 Chrysler

Town & Country also was impounded.

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Bad review

A poor review left on a food delivery website may have led to a woman’s vehicle being damaged in the 1700 block of Huntington the evening of Thursday, Jan. 4.

According to a police report, the woman placed an order for groceries and was expecting a female to deliver them. A black male made the delivery and when the resident asked where the female was, he replied, “Oh, that’s my girl.”

The complainant left the female a negative review after discovering the order was wrong. A few hours later she saw the same male standing by her vehicle before he ran off heading east.

She discovered the next morning the driver’s side front tire of her vehicle had been punctured.

Not a nice compliment

While working at a business in the 20300 block of Mack the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 6, a man told police a black male around 20 years old commented on his newly purchased moped, which was parked behind the business. Several hours later he heard the moped start and saw the same man riding off on it, followed by a four-wheeler. Detectives are investigating as the victim found both items listed

for sale on Facebook Marketplace.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Merry Christmas

An unknown suspect went on a shopping spree to McDonald’s, Dollar General, a Coney Island, party store and more places using a 41-year-old Farms man’s Bank of America credit card information Monday, Dec. 25. Two days prior the man had provided a valet attendant with the physical card at The Godfrey Detroit hotel.

Cleaned spotless

After an air duct cleaning company conducted work in the 200 block of Moran in early December, the homeowner noticed her white gold diamond necklace and her mother’s yellow gold ring missing from jewelry boxes in the master bathroom vanity.

The company advised the woman to make a police report and said they would conduct their own investigation.

Fool me twice

A frequent customer to a business in the 18000 block of Mack paid for a pizza at 4:49 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 30, but walked out with two cans of soda and a cookie hidden inside his jacket.

The same man was caught on surveillance camera stealing a bottle of tequila a week prior, but the incident was not reported.

In both incidents, the approximately 40-year-old man, who has a full beard and mustache, was wearing a dark baseball hat, dark jacket,

blue shirt and dark pants. He drove a silver Land Rover Range Rover.

Slow, steady wins the race

After driving through a solid red light at Mack and East Warren at 3:53 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, a 66-year-old Detroit man was found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.19 percent, for which he was arrested.

Clairvoyant

A 38-year-old Detroit man told an officer he knew he was stopped because his car did not have a license plate when he was pulled over at Mack and Moross at 12:04 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4. He said it was because the vehicle was purchased a few days prior.

The man was cited for driving while license suspended, not having insurance and obstructed vision because of illegally tinted front windows.

Nice try

Nothing was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 200 block of Ridge that was rummaged through between 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, and 9:15 a.m. the next morning.

Feeding frenzy

Two pairs of new shoes, Ray-Ban sunglasses and kids’ winter coats were among the items stolen from a vehicle in the 300 block of Cloverly between 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, and 10 a.m. the next morning.

Mother may I

A 22-year-old Detroit woman driving her mother’s car told an officer she had never obtained a license when she was pulled over for speeding 43 mph on Moross at 10:24 a.m. Saturday, Jan.

6. She was cited for not having a driver’s license, speeding and not having proof of insurance.

One man’s trash

Lululemon clothing and a Madewell bag were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 200 block of Merriweather overnight into Saturday, Jan. 6.

A good Samaritan in the Woods noticed the stolen work bag laying near Prestwick and it was returned to the owner with important client documents inside accounted for.

\$10 each

A \$20 bill was stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 100 block of Beaupre at 6:25 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6.

Surveillance video shows two unknown males — one wearing a black hoodie with a large blue circular logo on the back — enter the vehicle and leave in a white Chrysler 300 with a black bumper sticker on the back.

End of the road

After swerving in and out of her lane on Lakeshore multiple times, a 52-year-old St. Clair Shores woman pulled over and put on her hazard lights at 1:05 a.m. Monday, Jan. 8.

She was found to have a shredded tire from driving on a flat for an extended period of time.

The woman admitted to having a glass of wine at her friend’s house in the Park and a preliminary breath test found her blood alcohol content to be 0.15 percent, for which she was arrested.

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



FREE!
Monitored Smoke Detector
with purchase of security alarm and monitoring services.
www.PointeAlarm.com
313-882-SAFE (7233)
19261 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods 48236



THE ONE PLACE THAT CAN KEEP YOU ACTIVE, FIT AND HEALTHY.

We’re committed to keeping your mind sharp and your body strong. From workout classes to nutrition programs, there are many ways to help keep you fit, strong and looking and feeling your best. Whether you’re taking the first steps to getting back into shape or maintaining your best self, we can help. Visit us online or in person and see all the ways The Helm is there on your fitness journey.

VISIT: HELMLIFE.ORG
313.882.9600

COMING UP
• Belly Dancing
• Walk with Ease
FAVORITES
• Chair Yoga, Yoga
• Strength & Balance
• Body Alignment
• Guided Meditation
• Enhance® Fitness
• Fitness Combo
• Awesome Abs
• Active Fit
• Tai Chi

LIFE’S A JOURNEY. FIND YOUR WAY.

The Helm
158 Ridge Road
Grosse Pointe Farms



POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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

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

OUR VIEW

Cool! Why we’re so happy about GPF’s proposed pool redo

Are we about to take a deep dive into plans to redo a local outdoor swimming pool in the dead of Michigan’s winter? You betcha.

That’s because when the story about plans to redo the Grosse Pointe Farms pool (“Pier Park due for pool renovations” by Laurel Kraus) appeared on last week’s front page of the Grosse Pointe News, residents rejoiced.

We suspect the news was greeted with an especially enthusiastic hoot and holler by the many families with young children and dedicated morning lap swimmers, who essentially live at the Pier throughout the summer. The same goes for the thousands of past and present swim families throughout the Pointes, who know all too well the limitations the current pool presents to competitive swimmers in the Lakefront Swimming Association (LSA).

Calling the pool redo “the next big project — and probably the most significant project in the park for generations,” City Manager Shane Reeside conceded the central draw for residents from late May to September “has definitely lived its useful life.”

According to Reeside, the plan would be to realistically begin work in 2025, after a small committee of community representatives meets with architects and the pool designer to discuss features, layout and cost estimates.

Members will include representatives from the parks and harbor committee and the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation, as well as community members who have involvement with the pool.

Let’s say that last part loud enough for those in the back row to hear: as well as committee members who have involvement with the pool. That should include families with young children, lap swimmers and competitive swimmers.

We call on the park to not only include people representing these groups on this committee, but also to hold robust discussions and information sessions with other community members. The Farms has done a wonderful job with recent projects doing just that, including with the development of the latest master plan and addition of new pickleball courts.

We say, let’s rinse and repeat with the new pool.

As for residents who don’t think the competitive swimming portion of the pool is important, we encourage you to engage in a conversation about its value with Farms resident Todd Briggs. Briggs is a former Iron Man competitor, swim parent to two high school All-Americans and the Pointe’s unofficial “historian” of the community’s storied swim programs, including the summer Lakefront League at Pier Park.

“The Farms pool is 100 feet because the mayor back in 1963 or so said, ‘(expletive) the Lakefront League. We’re not building the pool 25 meters. If the kids want to compete, they can join the GP Yacht Club or CCD.’ That is a direct quote from Les Roddis, the Farms coach in 1963 (or so) when the Farms pool was built.”

So the Farms built it, then essentially said, “If you don’t like it, don’t come.” Many of us in town can’t afford to belong to one of our beautiful (but expensive) country clubs, so we’re grateful that sentiment is a notion of the past.

Briggs added that before the pool was built, young swimmers practiced in Lake St. Clair. A fun novelty for swimmers in the height of training maybe, but hardly a sustainable option these days with frequent beach closings due to high E. coli levels.

Hopefully the Farms renovation will spur on other parks to consider lap and competitive swimmers when they eventually renovate. No two pools in our parks sys-



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

‘Finding Nemo, Jr.’ at Parcels

Disney Pixar’s “Finding Nemo, Jr.” will be performed at Parcels Middle School at 7 p.m. Jan. 11 and 12. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at mi01000971.schoolwires.net/parcels. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students. The play consists of Parcels fifth through eighth graders — 52 students in the cast and 30 on the tech crew. Pictured from left are Henry Somers as Crush the turtle, Mack Kohler as Nemo, Tennyson Fiske as Marlin and Charlotte Torrento as Dory.

GUEST VIEW By Tom Mercer

Why Coaches vs. Cancer is especially meaningful

A series of special basketball games will take place in Grosse Pointe South’s main gym, beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, to help raise important funds for the American Cancer Association.

The games are part of South’s second annual Coaches vs. Cancer fundraiser. This event is personal to me for two reasons. The first is because I will be on the bench, as I am every game, as the assistant coach for the Blue Devils boys freshman basketball team.

When I became an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance and learned about our corporate partnership with American Cancer Society’s Coaches vs. Cancer game, I approached head coach Steve Benard last season about hosting this basketball game at South. We wanted to do something to create awareness and celebrate those in our com-



munity battling this disease and help raise funds to support important research.

The environment is much like other home basketball games, but with even more purpose. The American Cancer Society provides a series of informative public address announcements to be used during the game. Fans can purchase T-shirts to support the cause and a QR code will be available on game day to make a direct donation to the American Cancer Society.

Our varsity team will have special Coaches vs. Cancer warm-up shirts and will sport other accessory items.

Our ultimate goal is to raise \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society.

There is a second reason this event is especially personal for me — I am a cancer sur-

See MERCER, page 8A

tem are alike in terms of length, lane distances and standardized equipment like starting blocks, and many lack the depth to allow diving starts. The state of Michigan requires 2.5 meters deep (or 6 feet, 8 inches of pool depth) to allow diving. The standard length for competitive summer swimming is 25 meters.

Here’s a how they all differ in length and other features:

◆ Park: 24.5 yards and no lane lines on the pool’s bottom to direct swimmers.

◆ City: 25 meters, which meets standard pool length to host finals. The City also has starting blocks because it is the proper depth. And don’t forget the awesome recreational high dive.

◆ Shores: 25 yards, which meets the distance standard but not depth. Therefore, no diving is allowed. Swimmers must use a wall start.

◆ Woods: 25 meters and allows diving on both ends. A model pool for competitive swimming.

◆ St. Clair Shores: As a Lakefront member, SCS’s pool is 25 yards, but no diving is allowed. The city has discussed renovations to change that.

◆ Farms: Perhaps the quirkiest of the pools with a 100-foot lap length, which equates to 30 meters or 33 1/3 yards. No diving is allowed either for swimming or recreational diving. Swimmers not only have to swim more distance than normal, they also can’t use a dive to cover any of that ground.

Only Grosse Pointe Woods and the City of Grosse Pointe should formally host the annual

“finals” swim meet because their facilities are the closest to regulation we have in town.

Beyond the pool, we are also excited about the proposed splash pad and bathhouse renovations at the Pier. The park is a gem of a facility overall, but the bathhouse is old, outdated and a former diamond that’s now just rough.

Thank you, Grosse Pointe Farms, for taking on what’s anticipated to be a multi-million-dollar project. Due diligence that includes proactively seeking professional expertise and community input will ensure this endeavor goes along swimmingly.

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.

Long way to go

To the Editor:

I’m disturbed and dismayed as a person of African-American ancestry that: “Throughout the judges’ ruling it is given that black people think and act en masse, not as individuals” is considered appropriate to the discussion of redistricting (“GP’s unified state House district ordered redrawn” published Jan. 3, 2024). How patronizing and insulting is that, if these judges believe this? I dare say that it would be outright racist. I put it right up there with: “Well, I tell you what, if you have a problem figuring out whether you’re for me or Trump, then you ain’t black.”

So much for judging people by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. We obviously, still have a way to go to true equality.

MICHAEL A. RAGLAND
Grosse Pointe Woods

WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

EDITORIAL
(313) 882-6900

Jody McVeigh:
Editor in Chief

Meg Leonard:
Senior Editor
Sports Editor

Mike Adzima:
Sports Reporter

Kyla Bazy:
Obituary Writer

Laurel Kraus:
Staff Writer

Renee Landuyt:
Staff Photographer

Brad Lindberg:
Special Writer

EDITORIAL
Ted O’Neil:
Staff Writer

PRODUCTION
(313) 343-5573
Ken Schop:
Production Manager

John Pigott:
IT Manager

David Hughes:
Graphic Artist

Mary Schlager:
Graphic Artist

Donna Zetterlund:
Graphic Artist

ADVERTISING
(313) 882-3500
Shelley Owens:
Advertising Manager
Paul V. Biondi:
Account Executive
Julie R. Sutton:
Account Executive
Melanie Mahoney:
Administrative Assistant
MARKETING
Olivia Monette:
Marketing Specialist &
Audience Development
Manager
CLASSIFIED
(313) 882-6900 ext 567
CIRCULATION
(313) 343-5578
Kristin Martin Duus

Member Michigan Press Association,
National Newspaper Association and
Society of Professional Journalists

GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

January 11 – 17

LOCAL 4
Expect More.

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
38° 26°	36° 26°	33° 14°	23° 10°	20° 5°	25° 15°	19° 14°
Snow Showers	Snow to Rain	Snow Showers	Snow Showers	PM Snow Showers	Heavy Snow	Snow Showers
60%	70%	90%	60%	50%	0%	0%
SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:19 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:20 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:22 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:24 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:25 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:26 pm

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

Seeks funds for crime-fighting LPRs

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Crime-fighting automotive license plate readers could be installed throughout the sister suburbs by summer.

A campaign to privately finance a network of license plate recognition cameras is the latest project of the newly formed Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Public Safety Foundation.

“We have locations where we’d like to place them if and when we get

the funds to do so,” said Dan Jensen, foundation executive director and retired Farms public safety director. “Then, we’ll work on the next project.”

The foundation, which Jensen said is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 charity, has been busy since forming less than one year ago.

“It’s designed for collaboration among law enforcement to maximize public safety through technology,” Jensen said.

Projects are intended to be outside the normal

boundaries of municipal budgets, he told the Park City Council Jan. 8.

“We’re grateful for the partnership,” Park Mayor Michele Hodges said. “I especially like that you put the emphasis on enhancements to public safety. Taxpayers should be paying for the core services. Partnerships matter. We can’t get it done without partnerships.”

Nor is the group trying to get in the way of other foundations, such as the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation, which this week donated nearly \$26,000 to the Park to buy a drone; or the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, which last year renovated the public safety gym, the women’s locker room and funded two command officers to attend a law enforcement conference.

“The more you have,

the merrier,” Jensen said of public safety foundations. “We’re here not to compete, but to assist. We’re all together as a team.”

His group’s mission is “to enhance the capabilities of the public safety department of each of the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods by ensuring the provision of first-class, cutting-edge law enforcement and security technology and training with the goal of providing the highest standard of public safety achievable.”

Jensen said the foundation’s first project consisted of a \$235,000 upgrade of Wi-Fi at Grosse Pointe South High School. First-responders now can communicate with each other inside the building using radios and cell phones.

“One thing (the six police chiefs) had an issue with was communi-

cation at Grosse Pointe South. There was none, basically,” Jensen said. “The walls are two feet thick in spots. If we get an active shooter at South, everybody working the roads in all five Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods will immediately head for the school. To get there and not have communication once entering the building was ridiculous.”

Drones with heat-finding thermal imaging cameras are another foundation contribution.

“We have a smaller drone we can use in hallways,” Jensen said.

License plate readers are next. They cost anywhere from less than \$1,000 to considerably more, record and track plate numbers along with the place, time and vehicle type. Data can be shared in a network, not just in isolated locations.

“Detroit has approximately 27, all on the east-side,” Jensen said. “They’re outstanding.”

Flock Safety, a provider of license plate readers, claims more than 3,000 municipal customers reporting a combined 1,000 crimes per week resulting in up to 70 percent reductions in crime.

“When we catch (criminals), they go to school, which is what they call prison, and say don’t go to the Grosse Pointes because they have cameras everywhere,” Jensen said.

The foundation is so new its website is still being developed.

Jensen said he can be contacted by email at gpssafetyfoundation@gmail.com or at the foundation’s office, 63 Kercheval, Ste. 222, in the Farms.

Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, was involved in the foundation’s work at South High School.

MERCER:

Continued from page 6A

vivor.

In fact, I’m still in the battle. In 2018, I was diagnosed with two different forms of cancer. I then received a third diagnosis of a more severe form in 2019.

It felt like my world was falling apart. The hardest part of the journey is the mental side. You think about all the things you potentially won’t be able to experience. I have three daughters and a son. My thoughts went to not being able to walk my daughters down the aisle, not seeing my son grow up to be the man he’s going to be, spending more time with my amazing wife and becoming grandparents.

Faith played a critical role for me, my family and our support network. It was truly amazing to experience the collective power of prayer. We have been so blessed through the process. It’s brought us closer together as a family. It’s caused me to become much more intentional in the things I do and things I don’t do.

Your whole way of thinking changes when you are told the five-year survival rate is less than 10 percent for similar cases. I recently had my four-year post-surgery follow up and I am currently showing no signs of the third form of cancer!

My focus has become making a difference with those I come in contact with. None of us know how much time we have left. I just know I want to make a difference in whatever way I can. That’s what led me to begin coaching at Grosse Pointe South.

Life is short. I want to live it well.

I hope to see a packed house at South on Friday. It’s just one more way we can all make a difference in this important battle. To donate to this effort, head to main.acsevents.org/goto/gpssouthbasketball.

Tom Mercer is the assistant coach on the boys freshman basketball team at Grosse Pointe South. He also is an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance in Grosse Pointe Woods. He and his family reside in the City of Grosse Pointe.

Dim view of tennis lights

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Although outdoor tennis at Windmill Pointe Park isn’t as popular as it used to be, there’s no intention of relegating it to the dark ages.

Yet, that is where the courts are headed if the lighting system isn’t improved.

“The tennis lights have seen better days,” said Chad Craig, municipal recreation director, during a recreation commission meeting last month. “They’re probably a bit past their lifespan.”

Although not every light works, there are enough to behold the flightpath of

a tennis ball.

“If somebody wants to play in the evening, there’s light to do it,” Craig said. “Ten or 15 years ago, we were reserving those courts all the time. Now, not as much.”

He thinks activity would increase if players had lighted access, including during early mornings.

One way or another, something has to be done.

“It would be nice if we, as a commission,” Craig said, “could decide to eliminate lights altogether and just use natural daylight, or install a lighting system so we can play early in the morning, later in the season or year-round.”

“Let’s get more infor-

mation about the lights themselves,” said Michael Hindelang, commission chairman.

Starting four years ago, Craig began contacting vendors about repair and replacement costs.

“We have three or four contractors who give us prices on new lighting,” Craig said. “That might be something to look at for the (fiscal year) 2025-2026 budget,”

“If we’re considering replacing them or removing them, this body should work on some reasonable guidelines because its going to impact the use of other things,” Hindelang said.

“There are fixture issues,” Craig said. “The

wiring is aged. A few years ago, our electrician and park maintenance supervisor tried to work on one of them. Smoke came from the wiring.”

He suspects it’s not worth the cost of repairing poles and fixtures compared with the benefits of replacing them with energy-saving yet brighter light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, as DTE Energy is doing with streetlights in the city.

“Our city electrician felt we should replace everything at this point,” Craig said. “With the quality of the poles and age of the wiring and the amount of energy used, it most likely would be beneficial to completely install something new. My guess is there wouldn’t be as many sets of lights needed with LEDs.”

MINNIS:

Continued from page 7A

Terry and I spent many a boisterous meal with Pete and Marilyn at the now defunct Grosse Pointe Hunt Club and we were fortunate to be invited over for family visits when Lindsey or Patti and her girls were in town. And Pete couldn’t resist inviting us over for an important Michigan game — is there any other kind? — knowing full well we were not fans.

Marilyn was always a perfect hostess and helpmate to Pete. When Christmas or Marilyn’s birthday or their anniversary came around, Pete knew where to go: AHEE Jewelers. (Heck, even the kids worked there at some point!) We wish our best to Marilyn and are happy she has children and grandchildren nearby to fill her days.

Pete was a devoted family man. As his children attest, he took them with him to countless sporting events, both in Detroit

and nationally and abroad. He put four kids through the University of Michigan and, in Pete’s telling, spent enough on braces to put their dentist’s kids through college.

We will miss the retelling of Pete’s many stories, like the time he met two pilots in a Lakeland, Fla., bar looking to repossess Denny McLain’s plane or his ongoing jest that former Detroit seafood restaurateur Joe Muir had only one clam for his clam chowder, which he kept on a string to dip into the soup for taste.

Thanks, Pete, for your friendship and memories. Rest in peace, Semper Fi!

(A 2,400-word story by Chad Livengood on Pete’s long career can be found in the Jan. 8 Detroit News.)

John Minnis is a past Grosse Pointe News editor and publisher.

DRONE:

Continued from page 4A

using a drone to track suspects, search and rescue and for crime scene mapping. The unit’s thermal imaging camera detects body heat for nighttime tracking, yet also can be used at any hour to detect flames within walls — so-called hot spots — at fire scenes.

“Starting in fiscal year 2025, annual costs for maintenance, software, software upgrades and insurance will be approximately \$5,600,” Bostock said.

A team of two officers will be trained and licensed as drone pilots.

“Because it can be difficult for the pilot to maintain eye contact with the drone while also looking at the hand-held control device to obtain information about

the drone’s altitude, remaining battery power, a live video feed for the drone’s camera, etc., most police departments provide for a visual observer to assist the pilot,” according to “Drones: A report on the use of drones by public safety agencies,” published in 2020, by the Police Executive Research Forum.

Bostock intends to buy a DJI Matrice 30t drone costing \$10,114.

It features four propellers, a radar-like obstacle avoidance system, 40-minute flight time and a laser rangefinder. Options, such as batteries, a speaker, spotlight, carrying case and more boost the initial price to \$14,204.

Farms police used their drone last August to help Park police capture an alleged attempted car thief hiding in a rear yard of the 1300 block of Devonshire.

ARREST:

Continued from page 4A

der. It’s got to be really stressful and tiring. This is the time. 2024. Let’s clean this up. We’re

starting here and you can do this.”

Andrews will return to court for a probable cause conference at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, followed by a preliminary exam at 9:30

a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18.

“Another case in the books,” said Narduzzi, who also recently spearheaded a number of arrests connected to a statewide Lululemon theft ring.

FALL & WINTER
CLEARANCE



1794 Mack Ave • Grosse Pointe Woods
313-821-4494



TOM FINCHAM



586.899.5565

T.FINCHAM@YAHOO.COM

WWW.FINCHAMRE.COM



FOR SALE

27853 ASHLAND
HARRISON TOWNSHIP

PROUDLY SERVING ALL OF GROSSE POINTE AND SURROUNDING
WATERFRONT COMMUNITIES

Richard Elementary gets DAR grant

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Students at Richard Elementary School were in for a fun look at history after returning from winter break.

Principal John Kernan applied for, and received, an American Revolution Legacy Grant through the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution by working with the local Louisa St. Clair chapter.

“I’ve worked with them in the past on things like Constitution Day and holding flag-raising ceremonies,” Kernan said. “When they told me about this program, I jumped at the chance to apply.”

Kernan received \$1,500 — one of only 20 grants awarded nationally — that was used to bring in Uncle Sam’s

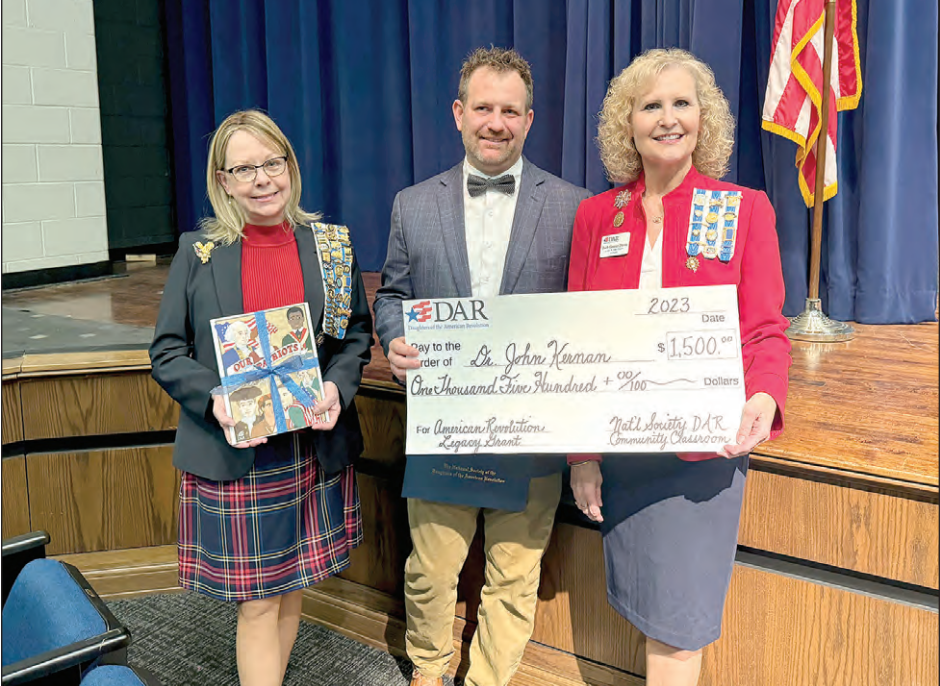
Comedy Jam for a school assembly Tuesday, Jan. 9.

“History can be a little dry to talk about, but it’s important to our country,” Kernan said. “This seemed like a cool idea and it’ll be another experience for our kids.”

Uncle Sam’s Comedy Jam is the brainchild of Doug Scheer, a magician based out of Oakland County who does a dozen different assembly shows.

“He comes in wearing the full red, white and blue outfit and top hat,” Kernan said. “He’s very engaging and there are some interactive opportunities for the students.”

According to Scheer’s website, the 45-minute show focuses on the Declaration of Independence and its framers, the separation of powers, the Bill of Rights and more.



COURTESY PHOTO

Richard Elementary School Principal John Kernan, center, with Patty Drury, left, and Barb Davis of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Scheer’s other shows cover topics like science, math, ecology and mem-

ory improvement. “Some of the topics might be a little over

their head for the younger students, but the main message is

about the core democratic values and respecting each other’s opinions,” Kernan said. “We want the kids to come away from it understanding that you might not see eye-to-eye with someone, but they’re still a good person.”

Kernan said he applied for the grant at the end of the 2022-23 school year and had to use the money by May, then write a synopsis of how it was spent.

Barb Davis, a retired Grosse Pointe Public School System teacher and community classroom chair for the Louisa St. Clair DAR chapter, encouraged other teachers to apply next year while announcing Kernan’s award at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Caring from the classroom

More than 30 years ago, the student associations at Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools started an Adopt-a-Family program, allowing students to help families in the community who are having a difficult time during the holiday season.

This year, South adopted 26 families and North adopted 27.

Each year the administration, counseling and social worker teams at all Grosse Pointe schools are asked to refer families who may be in crisis to the program. Students are asked to “adopt” a family, raising money and collecting gifts for the children and household items for the family. Students raise the money, do the shopping, wrapping and delivering. Each family gets a bag of food to go along with the presents, like peanut butter, fruit, a gift card and more.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The North Student Association “adopted” two North families, while North homeroom classes and support staff adopted another 25 families. When Student Association Advisor Jonathan Byrne sends out the Adopt-a-Family notices in early November, teachers and their third-hour classrooms are eager to join in the holiday giving and host a family. The student association adds a \$50 Kroger gift card and fruit basket for each family, purchased with funds raised from the fall homecoming dance. Michael Viviani’s commercial foods class adds a gift-wrapped cookie tray — the icing on the top of the deliveries.



Above, Eleni Melhem, Christina Fett, Hayden Crane and Vincent Sceglio wrap presents during third hour. Left, Kelsie George and Lucy Stidham, committee chairs for Adopt-a-Family at South.



Sara Johnson and Elizabeth Vassel wrap a few of the kids’ presents.

ULS theater students earn accolades

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The University Liggett School Players took several individual events at the state theater festival and once again came away with superior results.

Earning superior marks were seniors Giovanni Thams of Grosse Pointe and Olivia Johnson of Detroit for solo musical performance. Johnson also earned a superior rating for her monologue. Senior Kelsey Beckett of Grosse Pointe Park earned excellent marks for costume design and costume construction. Juniors Alexa Kalyvas of Grosse Pointe Woods and Addison Swegles of Grosse Pointe Shores earned superior marks for duet acting. Swegles also earned an excellent mark with her

monologue. Sophomore Kate Casey of Detroit and freshman Max Brown of Clinton Township earned excellent marks in duet acting.

The Liggett Players also kicked off the performance of “Radium Girls.”

Theater Association State Thespian Festival with their main-stage performance of “Radium Girls.”



Where Families Find Fun For Generations

Shop Online at whistle-stop.com
(586) 771-6770 | Mon-Sat 10-8 • Sun 12-5
21714 Harper Ave - 8 1/2 Mile, St. Clair Shores

maple & mill

17139 KERCHEVAL
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN
313-571-3385

KITCHEN & BATH SHOWROOM

MON - FRI 9 - 5
AND
BY APPOINTMENT

 @MAPLEANDMILLCO
[MAPLEANDMILL.COM](https://mapleandmill.com)

Popular eatery opens on Mack

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The wait is over for the seventh Bucharest Grill location, which opened at 19876 Mack Thursday, Dec. 14. “We’ve had people asking us to come out this way for years,” said Ricky Vidal, one of the store’s managers. “We wanted to lockdown Detroit first before we started expanding outside the city.”

Vidal said he had 20 people working opening day and couldn’t keep up with orders.

“We’ve been really busy,” he added. “It’s a blessing.”

Most known for its shawarma — a Middle

Eastern sandwich served on pita bread — Bucharest Grill was named best in the city by Hour Detroit magazine and Metro Times.

Vidal said the chicken shawarma has been the top seller so far. It features marinated chicken breast, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, mayonnaise and garlic spread. It also can be ordered with fries inside the sandwich or on the side.

Other options include beef, lamb, falafel and vegetarian.

“We’ve been selling a lot of the falafel and our grape leaves are popular,” Vidal said. “We cut all of our own vegetables fresh every day.”

Aside from four Detroit locations,



Bucharest opened in Royal Oak in 2019, and in Southfield last July.

The Foxtown location, Ford Field, has a liquor license and has happy-hour specials 3 to 6 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

“People are happy about the new locations because now they don’t have to drive 20, 30 minutes downtown,” Vidal noted. “We try to please our customers.”

Vidal said he has a staff of about 50 people, but still is taking applications.

“People have said they like that we’re open late on the weekends,” he said. “We had a ‘now hiring’ sign in the window but took it down when we opened because it was blocking the view from the dining area.”

Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. See bucharestgrill.com or call (313) 965-3111 for more information.

Cottons purchase Stafford’s Hospitality Fall ribbon cuttings

COURTESY PHOTOS

Stafford Smith and equity partners, Dudley Marvin, Brian Ewbank, Butch (Christian) Paulsen, David Marvin and Reginald Smith recently announced the sale of Stafford’s Hospitality to Jon and Lauren Cotton of Grosse Pointe.

“We are proud to have served our guests, our associates and communities of northern Michigan for over 60 years,” said Stafford, founder of Stafford’s Hospitality. “We are very excited for the future opportunities this transaction presents for our family of associates, our guests and the communities in which our properties are located.”

“As a longtime resident of Michigan, I have dined and stayed in these historic establishments many times and know what each of them mean not only to our state, but also to their respective communities,” Jon Cotton said. “We will be dedicated to maintain the legacy of Stafford’s Hospitality and committed to retain their employees who have played such a key role in the success of these properties.”

Hotel Investment Services of Troy has been



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jon and Lauren Cotton.

selected to manage this portfolio.

“It is a tremendous honor, and responsibility, that we will be standing on the shoulders of one of the great hospitality legacies in Michigan,” said Ron Wilson, CEO of HIS. “Stafford is an innkeeper who has dedicated his working life to the art of hospitality.”

The Cottons and HIS, along with insight from Stafford’s leadership, are in the beginning stages of planning renovations that will be appropriate for each of these historic properties while main-

taining the highest level of service for the guests. Cotton has been doing similar renovations since he acquired the Hotel Iroquois on Mackinac Island.

The sale is expected to be completed in early January 2024.

Stafford’s Hospitality is based in Petoskey. Properties include Perry Hotel, Crooked River Lodge, Bay View Inn, Pier Restaurant, Noggin Room Pub and Weathervane Restaurant.

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



Pender’s Grosse Pointe, 20930 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, is a fine-dining establishment that is open and ready to serve the community. Pender’s offers a delectable menu in a laidback private club atmosphere. For more information, visit thependys.com or call (313) 886-9933.

Pictured during a recent Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting event are, from left, Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher, Nick Pender, owner Susan Pender, Grosse Pointe Woods Mayor Arthur Bryant, Chef Robin Robinson and Chamber Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull.



Sidecar Slider Bar, 17051 Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe, recently opened in the former Marais building. The neighborhood watering hole offers food, drinks and an arcade. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, visit sidecarsliderbar.com or call (313) 332-5236.

Pictured during a recent Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony are, from left, Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher, City of Grosse Pointe City Manager Joe Valentine, Sidecar owner Steve Simon, City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, Sidecar owner Mark Adamo, Chamber Treasurer Brian Ruhmor, Main Street Grosse Pointe President Cindy Willcock and Chamber Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull.



Pointe Hardware & Lumber, proudly serving the community since 1952, recently had a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate new ownership. Waref and Danielle Hawasli were joined by family members, friends, employees and members of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce for the ceremony, which took place Friday, Dec. 15. Pointe Hardware is located at 15020 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park. For more information, call (313) 824-5550.

Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher, left, holds the ribbon while members of the Hawasli family do the honors, surrounded by family and friends.

experience

Capricious

apparel • shoes • accessories

25% OFF

Storewide Sale

All shoes, apparel, accessories

Some Exclusions Apply • All Sales Final

74 Kercheval Avenue

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

313.458.8719

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10-5 • Sunday & Monday - Closed

Grosse Pointe News

BEST of the BEST

2023

PHOTO

FEATURES



Integrity. Heritage. Lifestyle.
2023 Top Producer at Higbie Maxon Agney.
Caitlin Kashef
caitlin@higbiemaxon.com
313-886-3400
586-212-9694
higbiemaxon.com



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

‘LaChiusa Lalapalooza’ is Jan. 14 to March 3

Solo exhibition features artist’s favorite pieces

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

After receiving the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Watercolor Society last summer, Grosse Pointe Farms artist Carol LaChiusa was more than ready to rest on her laurels.

“I was so surprised and delighted by it,” she said of the award. “Since then I’ve been doing some creations and I’ve gotten in some shows, but I haven’t been trying hard. I had decided not to do any more gallery shows — until the church approached me.”

LaChiusa will exhibit more than two dozen of her favorite pieces during “LaChiusa Lalapalooza,” from Jan. 14 to March 3, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms.

“I really wasn’t too enthused at first,” she admitted. “It’s a lot of work. It’s right after the holidays, (but) I love the church and I love its mission. I felt they wanted to do a tribute to me. ... I thought about it and I couldn’t say no.”

An opening reception is planned noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14. The weekend opening strays from the gallery’s traditional weeknight openings to accommodate more people.

“I thought it would be a more convenient

time,” LaChiusa said. The exhibition also will sate requests from fans of her work.

“I’ve had so many people ask me through the years to have another half-price sale,” she said. “I used to do them every five years where I’d sell unframed work. ... This way I’m able to accommodate people with their budgets. I’ll be able to make them happy and make myself happy.”

Though clients who own LaChiusa’s work offered to loan pieces to the show, the artist declined the offers; therefore, every piece in the show will be available for purchase, she said.

“A lot have been sold; I’ve been very fortunate,” she said. “A lot of my favorites are hanging on someone else’s walls.”

“... But I’d rather have it all for sale,” she added. “Some pieces have never been seen before. There are two I especially love that I’ve had in my home. I thought it was time to show them. They’re larger, so they’ll be the stars of the show.”

LaChiusa scrutinized her catalogue of work, selecting only what she considers her best.

“It’s important to me to see the basics in a painting — composition, color, content, shapes and values — all the things I look for when I judge other people’s works,” she said. “I’m more strict with



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Carol LaChiusa painted this watercolor on location in Florence, Italy.



LaChiusa sits by one of her favorites — a watercolor on canvas — which depicts the view she had from her Paris hotel room.



Top to bottom, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Grand Canyon and a cyprus grove in Florida.

LaChiusa painted this watercolor on location in Mykonos, Greece.



myself; I have to take certain pieces and reevaluate them.”

Most of the paintings

she’ll display are award winners, she added, and most of them have interesting stories behind them. Like the painting LaChiusa created along the Nantucket shoreline.

“It was an old wharf,” she recalled. “The buildings were tumbling on each other. I had been painting there for a week. My work was bungeed into one pad — the whole week’s worth of paintings. A wind came along and blew my whole system into the ocean.”

“A boy from the Nantucket School of Design was standing behind me, watching

me work,” she continued. “He dove right into the ocean, clothes and all, and saved everything. Not one painting was destroyed by the salt water.”

LaChiusa pointed out the exhibition is not a retrospective of her life, rather “just a simple gathering of some of my pieces through the years. It’s mostly just works I like to show.”

She’s had plenty of opportunities to show her work throughout her career. Her paintings have been displayed in galleries and museums throughout the U.S. and beyond.

She also taught

“Watercolor Workshop with Carol LaChiusa” for nearly 20 years on local cable, instructed local art classes for decades and most recently published a catalogue of her work, “Everything’s a Painting: Watercolors with Contemporary Haiku.”

A founder of the Grosse Pointe Arts Council in 1993, LaChiusa also served as a past board member of the Michigan Council of the Arts, Southeast Michigan Council of the Arts, Michigan Watercolor Society,

See LACHIUSA, page 2B

Signature | Sotheby's

INTERNATIONAL REALTY

18000 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

ssir.com

313.888.8800

Program commemorates 250th anniversary of Boston Tea Party

Saturday, Dec. 16, the Detroit Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted “It Started with Tea,” a commemorative event celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, at The Purple Door Tea Room in Ferndale. Daughters from across the state gathered for a dramatic retelling of the events of that December night in 1773. In addition, an interactive game of bingo was played as members learned about the history of the tea party and events that led to the discontent of the people of the time, spurring the fervor for revolution.

During the celebration, the Detroit Chapter honored two local community service award winners, Alyce Hartman from Birdie’s Bookmobile and Malika Williams of L.I.V.E. Outreach. In June 2022, Hartman purchased a retired school bus and outfitted the newly christened “Birdie” with a nest full of books. Since the inception of Birdie’s Bookmobile, which travels throughout Detroit, Hartman has given out more than 10,000 books to children in the city. L.I.V.E. Outreach, created by Williams, is an organization aimed at supporting teens in foster care in the city by encouraging education, job skills, mentorship and financial literacy. Hartman and Williams provided wish lists to members so the Detroit



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PURPLE DOOR TEA ROOM

Attendees of the “It Started with Tea” event.

Marie Zawol of Grosse Pointe Woods and her granddaughter, Ellie, attended the event.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRETA RUBELLO

Chapter may continue to support both groups and their missions within Detroit. Amy Peterson, co-founder and CEO of Rebel Nell, introduced her organization to the group and shared how it supports women who are transitioning from homelessness and abusive situations. The women are given job training in various roles of the company so they can move forward in their own personal and professional journeys. Members supported the organization by purchasing jewelry made by the women of Rebel Nell from graffiti that had fallen from buildings throughout the city.

The chapter also took the opportunity to install two members and celebrate their DAR journey and commitment to honoring their ancestors with membership to DAR. As the chapter typically meets via Zoom, this was a chance to introduce its first new member, Aliya Hines of Grosse Pointe Park, and welcome her properly to DAR. Additionally, as a member of more than 20 years, Elizabeth Hertel was installed for the first time as she had not been installed with her first chapter. The Detroit Chapter, NSDAR, was organized August 2023, with the goal of infusing the city with community service,

honoring members’ unique histories and celebrating diversity. Elizabeth Findeis, chapter regent, stated in her organizing remarks, “The Detroit Chapter’s goal is to weave magic into the racially diverse quilt that we all live in. ... We want to meet the people where they are for a better understanding of who they are and their needs, while having them learn who we are and what we are about for better community outreach.” Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party was a way for members to work together to plan an event to celebrate the first act that initiated the American Revolution. Many members participated in making the event a success and look forward to future events honoring their ancestors and the patriotism that led to American independence. The Daughters of the American Revolution is a women’s service organization with more than 190,000 members worldwide who can trace their ancestry to someone who aided in American independence. DAR members have donated millions of service hours within their communities on projects that encompass a range of topics such as education, historic preservation and patriotism. Those interested in learning more about the DAR and how to get involved in the Detroit Chapter should email DetroitDAR1776@gmail.com.

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.

The Family Center

The Family Center hosts free Preschool Playtime from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays, through April 29, at The

War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Led by Danielle Mitchelson, parents and caregivers join in the fun as toddlers play, sing and dance. Playtime is recommended for ages 2 and older; younger siblings are welcome. Registration is requested by emailing [maryjo@familycenter-](mailto:maryjo@familycenter-helps.org)

[helps.org](mailto:maryjo@familycenter-helps.org). The Family Center 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 attend-

ees 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.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit grossepointelibrary.org. ♦ Teen Midterm Exam Survival Kits, all day Thursday, Jan. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. ♦ 3D Thursday, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. ♦ Hustle for Health Dance Class, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. ♦ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. ♦ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. ♦ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. ♦ Appy Hour—Expand, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. ♦ Baby Time with Miss Janet, 9:30 to 10 a.m.

See EVENTS, page 6B



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

“Baptism,” by Carol LaChiusa, was inspired by her view from a balcony in Mexico. “I’m one to look from balconies,” she said. “I was hanging out of the window and I saw the Incas gathering for an occasion outside of the cathedral, so I painted that. I called it ‘Baptism,’ because there’s a grandmother holding a baby.”

LACHIUSA:

Continued from page 1B

Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors and Grosse Pointe Artists Association; was past president of the Detroit Society of Women

Painters and Sculptors, Grosse Pointe Arts Council and Grosse Pointe Artists Association; and was the arts council columnist for the Grosse Pointe News. Learn more about her work and accomplishments at carollachiusa.com.



This orchid is part of a series of large flowers LaChiusa is known for. “I’m no longer painting large flowers,” she said. “I went into (painting) landscapes after that.”

Fulbright program sends U-D Mercy prof to beloved Belize

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Stokes Baker, an associate professor of biology at the University of Detroit Mercy, soon will depart on his second research trip to Belize.

“Belize is a biologist’s heaven,” the Harper Woods resident said. “Seventy percent of the country has conservation status. No place on the planet is like that.”

Two summers ago, Baker received a grant from the university to conduct an outreach project in Belize with the NGO, Friends for Conservation and Development.

“Three weeks in the tropical rain forest during monsoon season, to play with parrots,” he recalled of his conservation study of the northern scarlet macaw, a critically endangered species. “Those old Tarzan movies? All the noise? The jungle is like that. That is Belize. When the sun goes down, the ruckus starts.”

During his initial visit to the country, Baker was treated to a plethora of unique experiences.

“I got to do things like swim with crocodiles,



COURTESY PHOTO

Stokes Baker returns to Belize this week to study sea cucumber farming through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

got stung by killer bees, saw poisonous snakes,” he said, “and collect feathers from nesting birds using non-invasive methods.”

After a month in Belize, he returned home to conduct DNA sequencing and found much more genetic diversity than expected.

“That’s the good news,” he reported. “The

bad news is there are only 350 members left of the subspecies.”

While his first visit to Belize found him scaling trees to get close to his subjects, for his next visit he’ll take to the water. Baker will return this month after receiving a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award from the U.S. Department of State and

Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. This time, he’ll be there four months and will work with researchers to establish sustainable sea cucumber farms as a source of economic development.

Though he’s never eaten a sea cucumber himself, “Asian people have different culinary desires than we do,” he noted. “It’s a highly profitable export to China and Japan — \$90 per pound.”

It’s also a fragile fishery with a short season, he added.

“Sea cucumbers are in the starfish family and they reproduce similarly,” Baker explained. “They broadcast their eggs — the birds and bees happen in the open water— and the vast majority of fertilized eggs don’t make it. Our goal is to make it so more eggs make it.”

While there, he’ll teach as well as conduct research. Halfway through the term, Baker anticipates a visit from his spouse, Dawn Brown, an adjunct professor at Wayne State University and private practice social worker, as well as their two children.

Baker said he’s looking forward to snorkeling for sea cucumbers, “which should be a lot of fun,” he said.

“Belize is an amazing country,” he added. “We could learn a lot from Belize. They have six major languages — German, English, Spanish, Pidgin and two forms of Mayan — but somehow they all get along. Their education system is in English, so there’s a common language for everyone, but they don’t speak it at home.”

However, 50 percent of the country is in poverty, he noted. Hence, the rationale of the Fulbright — to develop a sustainable industry to encourage economic development.

Baker, who earned his undergraduate degree from Davis & Elkins College, earned a master’s degree in forest biology from State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a Ph.D. in molecular genetics from Ohio State University.

For 33 years, he’s been teaching at UDM, which the Wall Street Journal recently voted No. 52 in

the country and No. 2 in the state among higher education institutions.

“That’s based on student outcome, as opposed to prestige,” Baker said. “We’re very happy with the rankings. What makes us distinct is our courses are taught by faculty, not graduate students. Eighty to 90 percent are Ph.D. level. Our focus is on high-impact learning activities, what we call CURE, course-based undergraduate research experiments. Students are actually engaged in authentic research.”

Baker includes his students in research projects close to home, like assisting Detroit Parks & Recreation with a study of Lake Frances at Palmer Park, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on restoring native bee habitats.

“They’re student-driven projects,” he added. “My ecology lab students do collections and observations.”

Baker also plans to engage his students with what he learns during his semester abroad.

“I’ll be bringing back samples from Belize for students to work with next winter,” he said.

Patrick Colbeck to speak to Eastside Republicans Tuesday

Patrick Colbeck, an engineer, former state senator, entrepreneur and author, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, to the Eastside Republican Club at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Colbeck has applied his analytical talent to release his latest book, “The 2020 Coup: What Happened. What We Can Do.”

“The forum is open to the public at no charge, so we invite anyone interested in sound government to take part in the discussion with Mr. Colbeck following his remarks,” Eastside Republican chairman Mike Vethacke said in advance of the meeting.

Colbeck is a former candidate for Michigan governor and served two terms in the Michigan Senate where he was term limited representing the state’s 7th Senate District — Canton, Livonia, Northville,

Plymouth and the city of Wayne.

He currently serves as chief operating officer for Lindell Management, which offers business consulting services.

Following elective office, he founded Let’s Fix Stuff, the mission of which is to share real news, data and solutions despite being increasingly scrubbed from the public square by big tech and big government.

Colbeck went on to provide management consulting services more than 11 years, including six as a self-employed, independent consultant in fields as varied as healthcare, telecommunications and defense. He has been certified as a Microsoft small business specialist and has authored two other books, “Wrestling Gators: An Outsiders



COURTESY PHOTO

Author and former State Sen. Patrick Colbeck.

Guide to Draining the Swamp” and “IT Roadmap for Professional Service Firms.”

The former senator’s public service is highlighted by receipt of the Sen. Paul Fannin Statesman of the Year Award. He also has received legislator of the year awards from police, construction and senior citizen organizations.

During service as chairman of the Senate

Appropriations Subcommittees for State Police and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Colbeck oversaw expenditures exceeding \$500 million. Under his leadership, both departments were converted to performance-based budgets resulting in dramatic improvement in services.

For example, Michigan’s veterans’ services improved from last to No. 2 in the nation.

He has served active military members by co-founding Michigan Freedom Centers at Detroit Metro Airport terminals and at regional Military Entrance Processing Stations.

He is a University of Michigan graduate with Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in aerospace

engineering and the Life Sciences department at the International Space University in Strasbourg, France.

Colbeck’s engineering design work includes key elements of the life-support system for the International Space Station. He also served as an instructor at Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala.

He now lives in Canton with Angie, his wife of more than 20 years. They

are members of Northridge Church in Plymouth.

The Eastside Republican Club Forum meets the third Tuesday each month, September through May, at The War Memorial. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

Stay up to date at eastsiderepublican.club or follow the ERC on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).


Gifts of Distinction

WEDDING INVITATION SALE

15% OFF

Order must be initiated in store by January 31, 2024

16847 Kercheval Avenue • Grosse Pointe
313-882-6880 • www.theleagueshop.com

Pro Musica of Detroit premieres composer’s new work Feb. 4

The world premiere of a new song cycle based on the poetry of Greece takes place as Pro Musica of Detroit presents, “Another Country, Another Shore: New Songs for Cavafy,” starring the emerging Greek American pianist and composer Michael Malis in a matinee concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Based on the poetry of seminal Greek-Alexandrian poet C.P. Cavafy, the new work will showcase rising baritone star Constantine Novotny, accompanied by Malis on piano.

Also featured in the concert will be a presentation from the Greek Chamber Music Project, an effort spearheaded by San Francisco-based flutist Ellie Falaris Ganelin. Ganelin will perform critically acclaimed program “Uproot,” which highlights songs from the Asia Minor Greek diaspora,

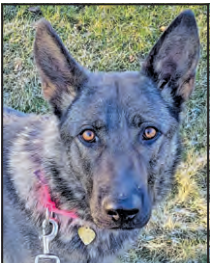


See COMPOSER, page 6B Pianist and composer Michael Malis.

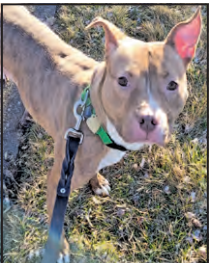
SPONSORED BY:



Michigan's Premier Landscape Company
586-774-0090
www.backerlandscaping.com



GRETA
Female, 2 years old, German Shepherd, Sable, 55 lbs.



ZURI
Female, 18 months old, Pitbull Terrier, Gold Brindle, 45 lbs.



JC
Male, 18 months old, Boxer Mix, Brown Brindle/White, 45 lbs.



JUNIOR
Male, 7 months old, Pitbull Terrier Mix, Gray/White, 45 lbs.

Adopt a PET
www.gpaas.org

313-884-1551
We do Adoptions by appointment almost every weekday
Open House Every Saturday
10:00am-12:00pm
for Dogs & Cats
20542 Harper, (Lennon & Harper) Harper Woods

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.

Alison Kidder Sparrow

Alison Kidder Sparrow died Thursday, Nov. 23, 2023, in the City of Grosse Pointe, after a lifelong struggle with depression. She was 49.

Born Feb. 13, 1974, in Grosse Pointe, to Herbert G. And Nancy W. Sparrow, Alison was a gifted artist. In her own words, she saw the world “brimming with life.” She painted, wrote, sculpted and sketched what she noticed. After graduating from Rhode Island School of Design in 1997, her works of art were exhibited in shows in Detroit, Providence, San Francisco and Chicago, where she was a member of the Palette and Chisel for many years.

Her senior year at Grosse Pointe South High School, Alison’s painting of a portrait of a classmate won the Hallmark Award for Michigan. Alison’s notable paintings include huge, finely detailed Millennium paintings and “The Cock Fight,” painted onsite in a steamy Quonset hut in Bali. Alison’s acclaimed “Blue Crucifix” headlined a Detroit Artists Market show. She explored the visual arts thanks to fellowships at Vermont Studio Center, Center for Contemporary Artists, Chataqua and Byrdclyffe Arts Colony, among others.

Alison was a generous spirit, sharing her poetry and paintings freely with friends and family. She loved to sing and speak French and had an inviting sense of humor. In Michigan she worked in disinvested neighborhoods, tutoring junior high students in reading and composition. She was an astute writer and particularly loved Russian literature. She loved spending weekends in Northern Michigan skiing, swimming and taking walks with the family.

Alison is survived by her parents, Nancy and Herbert; sister, Amy (Tony Magoncelli);

brothers, Ned and George (Kathleen); nieces, MaryLouise, Eloise and Maddie; and nephew-godson, Aidan. She was predeceased by her nephew, Russell.

A private memorial service was held. Contributions in her name may be sent to The Nature Conservancy, her favorite charity, at preserve.nature.org.

Her work may be viewed at alisonsparrow.godaddysites.com/ or bit.ly/3GYEoiz.

Bradley Charles Etheridge

Bradley Charles Etheridge, 43, passed away Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023. Brad radiated love and light, his family said, and filled their days with adventure, music and the pursuit of happiness.

Brad was born Dec. 19, 1979, in Grosse Pointe. He was a fun-loving child who loved to push the limits. His curiosity for life and adventure was the foundation of many of Brad’s passions and successes.

Among his first notable accolades was his involvement in the Grosse Pointe South High School Show Choir. He performed all over the country and the ensemble was recognized nationally. He later studied theater at Michigan State University and played the lead role in “Hair,” to rave reviews. Brad graduated from MSU in 2003, with degrees in theater and telecommunications. Shortly after graduating, Brad moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting professionally. There he met his wife and soulmate, Julie.

Brad later became a force in the craft beer community, where his passion and creativity for brewing left a lasting impact. He supported notable Michigan breweries like Dragonmead and Atwater. He was an international beer judge and for years traveled to Mexico City to judge the Copa Cerveza beer festival.

Brad filled many roles

in life and lived a life full of accomplishments. He also wrote a children’s book called, “A Pond Critter’s Tale,” an account of the lives of pond critters that follows their growth and challenges, as well as how they overcome the impossible to reunite loved ones. Brad worked with his children writing it; his wife plans to publish his book.

Above all, Brad was a great dad and loving husband — two roles that were most important to him and what he was most proud of. His legacy will live on in his family and friends.

Brad is survived by his wife, Julie Sifuentes Etheridge; children, Carmen and Ethan Etheridge; sister and brother-in-law, Dana and Brian Schaupter; parents, Cynthia and Richard Etheridge; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Yolanda and Rafael Sifuentes; sisters-in-law and their families, Jessianna Marshall, Jenny Porco, Bianca Mollinedo, Joanna Sifuentes and Josie Sifuentes; beautiful nieces and nephews, Ava and Ana Schaupter, Mako and Adrian Sifuentes, Damion Mollinedo, Janelle, Jayden and Jackson Porco and Noemi Lyon; his feisty and cuddly terrier, Ellie; and many friends and family members — all of whom Brad loved deeply and purely.

A service in memory of Brad took place Friday, Dec. 1, at Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church. It was followed by a celebration of life at the Cadieux Café, where Brad was a member of the Beer Barons feather bowling team. As a testament to the impact he made in the many lives he touched, both the church and Cadieux Café were standing-room only. Brad was so loved and will be so missed.

In remembrance of Brad, the family asks that charitable donations be made to Carmen and Ethan’s trust at Tylenda Law, 18720 Mack, Ste. 270, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.



Alison Kidder Sparrow



Bradley C. Etheridge



George S. Hendrie Jr.

George S. Hendrie Jr.

George S. Hendrie Jr., 96, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2024. He was a loving husband and father.

George was president of Color Custom Compounding prior to selling the company in 1984. He also was an avid sailor and ice-boater. At age 16, he was the trimmer for his father aboard Ferdinand the Bull, when they won the Stuart Cup in 1943. The Stuart Cup was considered the world championship of ice-boating in the unlimited class in that era. George and his father repeated as Stuart Cup victors aboard Ferdinand the Bull in 1944.

His involvement in sailing on Ferdinand the Bull ended in January 1945, when he joined the U.S. Navy to fight in World War II. Upon his return from the war, he continued racing ice-boats. He was a past commodore of the Detroit News Ice Yacht Club and Detroit Ice Yacht Club in the late 1940s and early 1950s. On or around 1961, he won the national championship for the Arrow class of iceboats.

George crewed on many victorious racing sailboats, including but not limited to first-place overall in the 1962 Port Huron to Mackinac race aboard Falcon and first-place overall in the 1988 Port Huron to Mackinac race aboard Lunatic. He was a member of the Double Old Goat Society for having competed in at least 25 Bayview Mackinac and 25 Port Huron to Mackinac races. He also was a Grand Ram for having competed in 50 Port Huron to Mackinac races. He holds the current record of 66 Port Huron to Mackinac races.

George raced for eight years on the Southern Ocean Racing Circuit. He crewed on two boats that each won first in class, Lunatic (1989) and Dynamic (1975). He was crew on three Detroit Regional Yacht-racing Association Boats of the Year. From 1982 to 1986, he skippered his own boat, Whitecap, to the season championship in Performance Handicap Racing Fleet “E” or “F,” depending on his PHRF rating each season. Whitecap was named Boat of the Year on or around 1982. In 2017, George was inducted into the Bayview Yacht Club Hall of Fame.

Most importantly, George was a devoted husband, loving father and loyal friend. He was a true gentleman and kind soul.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mary Louise Hendrie; children, Paul Hendrie, Edward Hendrie (Chris Ann) and Peter Hendrie; grandchildren, Laura Milby (Josh), Rachel Owen (Devon) and Stephanie McKay



Alfred Anton Sauter

(Brad); great-grandson, Charles Owen; and siblings, Mary Kennedy (the late Peter) and Michael Hendrie (Jan). He was predeceased by his son, George S. Hendrie III; and brother, Jack Hendrie (the late Arlene).

Services were held at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church and interment took place at Elmwood Cemetery.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Alfred Anton Sauter

Alfred Anton Sauter, 85, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024.

He was the beloved husband of the late Carol E. Sauter; proud father of Elizabeth Fischer (David), Karen Bezel (James) and David Sauter (Melissa); loving grandfather of Alexander Fischer, Isabella Lawlis (Conor), Andrew and William Bezel and Ross and Riley Sauter; and dear brother of Charlotte Walker and Marge Gray.

Al was born April 28, 1938, in Detroit, to Alfred and Marie (nee Stumpf) Sauter, both now deceased. He graduated from Denby High School in 1956, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the Detroit Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in accounting from Central Michigan University. He worked as an accountant at General Motors Corp., for 32 years, until his retirement in 1992. However, soon after retiring he began working part-time for several companies, mostly in a financial-focused capacity until his final retirement at age 72.

Al served nine years in the United States Army and Army National Guard until he was honorably discharged in 1968.

A lifelong Lutheran, Al was an active member of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church for 45 years, where he established many of his most cherished friendships. There he served many roles, including as a member of the audit/finance committee and usher team and as a communion assistant.

Al loved to travel, especially with his wife of 61 years, Carol. They enjoyed excursions throughout North America, Asia, Canada, Europe and Central



Theresa Urquhart

America. He especially enjoyed reading, daily walks in the neighborhood, coin collecting, working on home projects and the Detroit Tigers. Al was a long-time active member of the Grosse Pointe Men’s Club and for many years he volunteered for Meals on Wheels.

A kind, gentle man, he will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at A. H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state Friday, Jan. 12, from 10 a.m. until his funeral at 11 a.m. at First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Memorial contributions in Alfred’s name may be made to First English Evangelical Lutheran Church, feelc.org/give.

Theresa Urquhart

Theresa Urquhart, 96, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, in Brighton.

Theresa is survived by her children, Carol (Bud), Greg, John (Sandy), Marie and Mark (Michele); seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Dorothy. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Jack, and eight of her siblings.

Theresa was born Oct. 6, 1927, to Coleman and Mary Carroll. She graduated from St. Ambrose High School. Theresa was a woman with many talents who held some very interesting jobs. Her greatest love was taking care of Jack and her kids. She was proud of the fact she and Jack were married 72 years.

Theresa was the center of her family and enjoyed being involved in everyone’s activities. She was always ready to scratch a Michigan Lottery ticket and say a Rosary Novena for whoever had a need.

A memorial Mass honoring both Jack and Theresa will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 19, at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 38900 Dodge Park, Sterling Heights.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests buying a lottery ticket.

Memories and online condolences may be shared online at watkinsfuneralhomes.com.



A memorial mass honoring both Jack and Theresa will be held at 11:00 on Friday, January 19, 2023 at St. Ephrem Catholic Church, 38900 Dodge Park Rd., Sterling Heights, MI. In lieu of flowers, buy yourself a lottery ticket! All are welcome to attend. Please visit www.WatkinsFuneralHomes.com for more details as well as sharing memories and condolences.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Peter N. Waldmeir

Peter N. “Pete” Waldmeir, 92, retired legendary Detroit News columnist and 39-year Grosse Pointe Woods resident, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, surrounded by his family.

Pete was born Jan. 16, 1931, to Joe Waldmeir and Helen Nielsen, during the Great Depression in Detroit. Unknown to him at the time, young Pete and his sister and brother were recipients of Old Newsboys’ Goodfellow packages at Christmas. As an adult, Pete became a champion and president of the Goodfellows organization in Detroit.

Following graduation from Denby High School in Detroit, in 1948, at age 17, Pete worked as a copy boy for The Detroit News before serving as a sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951-53, during the Korean War. A proud Marine, Pete lived the corps motto, Semper Fi, throughout his life.

After serving his country, Pete returned to The Detroit News as a sports writer, working his way up to sports columnist in the 1960s, mentoring under the likes of Doc Greene, another Detroit legend. In 1972, he relinquished his position as associate sports editor and columnist to be a four-days-a-week general news columnist, a position he held until his retirement in 2004.

Pete came out of retirement for a short time to work for the Grosse Pointe News as an editorial writer and columnist following John and Terry Minnis’s purchase of the newspaper in 2017.

Throughout his 53-year career with The Detroit News, Pete earned many journalism awards, including Michigan Sportswriter of the Year (three times), the Headliner Award from the National Headliners Club, Wayne State University Journalist of the Year (where he had attended) and the Detroit Press Club’s The Best in Journalism Award. He was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2005.

Pete also wrote for such national publications as Sports Illustrated, Time and Life magazines. In 1995,



Peter N. Waldmeir

a collection of Pete’s Detroit News columns was published in a book, “Little Beads of Blood,” by Gold Leaf Press.

Pete joined the Old Newsboys’ Goodfellows organization in 1980, serving as president in 1988. He emceed the annual Goodfellow of the Year Breakfast since its inception in 1990, ceding the role to WJR’s Paul W. Smith in recent years. At his death, Pete was still an active member of 43 years of the Old Newsboys’ Goodfellow Fund of Detroit.

Unknown to many, Pete served communion every Sunday to residents as a volunteer at the St. John Senior Center and delivered Meals on Wheels for Services for Older Citizens, now The Helm at the Boll Life Center.

After retiring from newspapers, Pete became active in municipal government. He was elected to the Grosse Pointe Woods City Council in 2005, with 4,284 of the 5,739 votes cast — the highest total ever for a council candidate in the city’s then 50-year history. During his single term on the council, Pete served as vice-chairman of the Pension Fund and chairman of the Compensation and Evaluation Committee.

Before moving to Grosse Pointe, Pete was general chairman of the victorious \$22 million bond campaign that built L’Anse Creuse North High School, South Junior High, five elementary schools, bus garage and remodeled administration building. An athletic field at L’Anse Creuse Central High School is named in his honor.

Pete is survived by his wife of nearly 48 years, Marilyn; daughters, Patti Waldmeir of Chicago and Lindsey Waldmeir of Grosse Pointe Woods; son, Christopher Waldmeir (Rebecca) of Grosse Pointe; six grandchildren, Sara Perry,



Brigitte Reid

Charlotte Waldmeir, Grace Waldmeir, Lucy Waldmeir and Weston and Blakelyn Waldmeir; and three great-grandchildren, Jackson and Layla Perry and Santiago Meneses. He was predeceased by his siblings, Patricia and Joseph Waldmeir; and son, Peter W. Waldmeir (Sandra), an attorney with Miller Canfield and longtime councilman with the city of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Old Newsboys’ Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, P.O. Box 44444, Detroit, MI 48244-0444, or detroitgoodfellows.org/shop/donate/.

Arrangements were handled by A. H. Peters Funeral Home. Visit ahpeters.com for further details.

Brigitte Reid

Brigitte Reid passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, one month shy of her 90th birthday.

She was born Baroness Brigitte Anita von Hoyningen-Huene on Jan. 20, 1934, the first daughter and fourth of six children. Brigitte’s American mother, Aimee Ellis, and German father, Baron Heinrich von Hoyningen-Huene, were both studying at the Sorbonne in Paris when they fell in love. They moved to Germany where they bought the family’s beloved 2,000-acre estate at Blumenhagen. They lived peacefully in this bucolic setting until World War II shattered the life they had created. When Brigitte was 7 years old, her beloved father was killed by Russian soldiers, leaving her mother alone, far from her family in the U.S., with five children and a sixth on the way. Shortly thereafter, Brigitte, her mother and siblings were forced to leave their house, family, friends, dogs, horses — everything they loved



Grace M. Sawicki

and had ever known as home. It was devastating and life-altering.

The story of the family’s escape from Germany to the U.S. has been published and is titled, “A World Elsewhere: An American Woman in Wartime Germany” (MacRae/Viking Penguin).

Upon arriving in the states, the family settled in Maine. Brigitte went to school in Brunswick before getting her teaching degree at Wheelock College. After graduating, she moved to Grosse Pointe and remained a beloved member of the community for the rest of her days.

Brigitte was married to Eliot Peck from 1955-70. They had two daughters, Andrea and Marina. After they divorced, Brigitte earned a master’s degree in education from Wayne State University while teaching full-time and raising two young daughters. In 1972, Brigitte met John Reid, a Scottish former Royal Air Force navigator. They married and remained lovingly together until his death in 2005.

Widely respected and beloved, Brigitte taught first grade at University Liggett School as Mrs. Peck and later as Mrs. Reid from 1972 until her retirement in 1999. She continued to volunteer at the school, organizing art projects and reading to the children, well into her 80s.

Brigitte was passionate about teaching. Highly regarded for her

ability to help young children flourish, her classroom was a space where each child felt safe and was encouraged to be adventurous. She talked about equipping each student with the tools they need to be happy and successful in life, including the ability to experience joy from simple things. She called it “joy from dandelions.” She also instilled in each of her students the importance of gratitude, perseverance, curiosity, kindness and good manners.

Exceptionally creative, she was a talented artist and photographer, winning accolades from Life magazine. A Mayflower descendant through her mother’s ancestry, the walnut-shell Mayflower model ships she helped the children create at Thanksgiving were treasured by their families; and the gingerbread houses she designed, created and decorated were cherished by all who were lucky enough to receive one.

To the loving exasperation of her daughters, Brigitte was a person whose own early life was an incredible story and she didn’t hesitate to tell it to everyone and anyone who would listen; nor was she shy about telling it more than once. Brigitte’s family is especially grateful for the loving, attentive care she received at Sunrise of Grosse Pointe Woods and the new audience of co-habitants and caregivers who listened attentively and enthusiastically to her stories during the last four years of her life. She will be missed tremendously.

She was predeceased by her husband, John Reid; parents, Aimee and Heinrich von Hoyningen-Huene; and brothers, Friedrich, Michael and Christian. She is survived by her daughters, Andrea Peck Ross and Marina Peck Riedel; grandchildren,

Robin Grace Ross, Tanner Nicholas Riedel and William MacLean Riedel; son-in-law, Ralph Riedel; sisters, Dorothee (Greenberg) and Sigrid (MacRae); and dear friend, Heather Mayernik, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to the merit scholarship fund at Liggett, uls.org/scholarship.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

Grace M. Sawicki

Grace M. Sawicki, 65, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, surrounded by family.

Grace was born May 20, 1958, in Detroit, to John and Genevieve Bonior. She graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1976, and retired as a bank associate with Chase Bank.

Grace volunteered many years as an election worker in Grosse Pointe Farms. She also devoted time to an array of hobbies, including gardening and bird watching. She loved being outdoors and even more so loved being around family and friends. She was a self-proclaimed soap opera connoisseur.

Grace is survived by her husband, George Sawicki; children, John (Kirsta), Thomas (Meghan) and Katie; and grandchildren, Sofia and Annie. She was predeceased by her parents; sister, Gloria; and brothers, Daniel, Andrew and John.

A funeral service took place Jan. 9, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

Arrangements were entrusted to Verheyden Funeral Home.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

CHURCH BRIEF

St. Michael’s

St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn at noon Thursday, Jan. 18. Bruce Anderson of Moehring Woods Flowers presents, “Color My World With Flowers,” a hands-on, visual exploration of the emotional impact of flowers. There is no charge to attend; however, a freewill offering will be collected. To reserve a seat, call (313) 884-4820 by Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Worship Service





Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230-1302

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

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



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

Live authentically

Sunday Worship at 10 am
followed by Coffee Hour in the parish hall

~ Join us online for Compline on Wednesdays at 7pm ~
a brief and assuring form of evening prayer
open the link on our homepage: stmichaelsgpw.org

20475 Sunningdale Park
313.884.4820 stmichaelsgpw.org

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*

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

FAN, Family Center, coalition offer free Narcan training

The presence of fentanyl in today’s drug supply has caused a dramatic rise in the number of overdose deaths. That’s why Families Against Narcotics, a Macomb County-based nonprofit that assists individuals and families affected by substance use disorder, is teaming up with two Grosse Pointe organizations for Narcan training at a Grosse Pointe bar.

At 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, FAN — in partnership with the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition and The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods — will hold a free Narcan training at Rustic Cabins, 15209 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

Narcan, a brand name naloxone nasal spray, is a safe medication that can save someone’s life by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose caused by drugs like heroin, prescription painkillers and fentanyl. Everyone attending the one-hour class will

receive a free Narcan kit.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control, an average of 307 people die of drug overdoses every day in the United States. The vast majority of those deaths involve fentanyl or other synthetic opioids, and many overdoses happen in places where people socialize, like restaurants and bars.

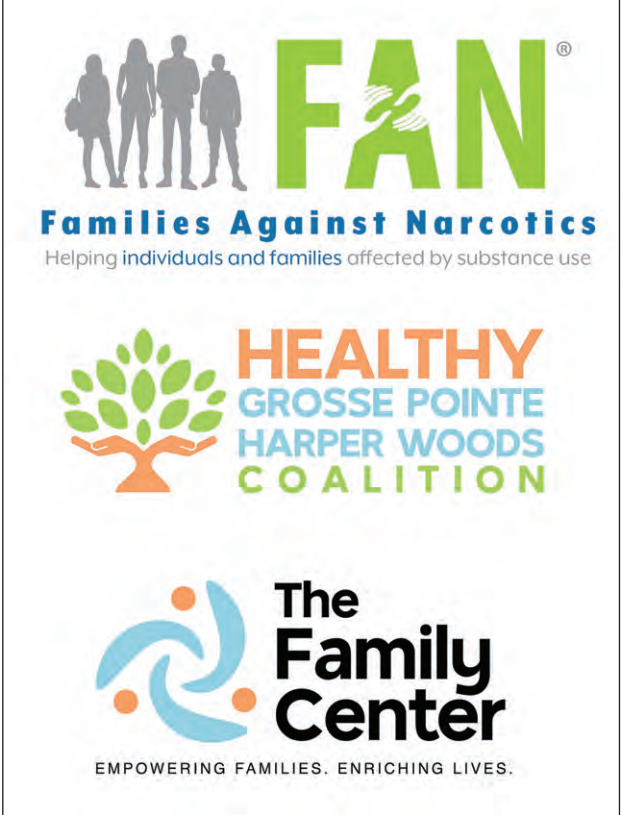
“The reason my husband Bobby and I decided to host the Narcan training at the Rustic Cabins is because we felt we could bring in local business people who have the same concerns about the rise in drug overdoses in our community,” Rustic Cabins owner Michelle Conlan said. “We have kids who are in their 20s and both know at least one person who has been affected by an overdose. So, when MaryJo Harris reached out to me, it seemed like a great idea. We feel that as parents and local business owners, it’s important to help in any way we can to try

and educate people, so hopefully someone can prevent this from happening to someone they know.”

Harris, director of programs and administration for The Family Center and coordinator of Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods, explained the goal of this training.

“The Family Center and the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods coalition have partnered with FAN to provide Narcan training in our community at a local college, our libraries and community centers,” she said. “The goal of offering Narcan training at a bar is to provide the bar employees and community members with the knowledge of how to help someone who may have had an opioid overdose. This further broadens our outreach to other areas of the community that we have not previously engaged.”

This training also is important because of



today’s opioid-crisis-turned-fentanyl-crisis. “Fentanyl has been found in nearly every type of illicit drug and witnessing an overdose at a bar, restaurant, concert hall or local gathering space

is becoming a more likely possibility for all of us,” said Marissa Engardio, supervisor of FAN’s RESCUE Overdose Response & Education program. “The Rustic Cabins event will not

only bring our instructor-led training directly to bar patrons, but ensure that attendees leave equipped with Narcan and the confidence to use it. I hope this event will open the doors to similar spaces in Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities. What better place to take positive action during this crisis than our local pubs, where Narcan can often be immediately useful?”

Rustic Cabins will remain open for business during the Narcan training and any patrons in the bar are welcome to attend.

The three organizations hope to team up with other Grosse Pointe-area bars and restaurants to host more trainings in 2024. FAN also provides free naloxone trainings for individuals, groups or businesses, either in person or virtually. For more information or to request a training, visit families-againstnarcotics.org/naloxone or call (586) 438-8500.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Kentucky Colonel

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary member Paul Lechner, left, stands with Club Administrator Dennis Hyduk, who recently was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel — the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth of Kentucky and Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear. Kentucky Colonels are Kentucky’s ambassadors of goodwill and fellowship around the world. Commissions are presented for contributions to the community, state or nation, as well as for special achievements of all kinds. Hyduk was celebrated for the honor during the club’s Dec. 12 meeting at Ford House.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Milk & Honey

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club member Wayne Manchester, left, stands with Casey Kempton from Milk and Honey, during the club’s Dec. 12 meeting at Ford House. Milk and Honey is a ministry Kempton leads that supports in-need Nigerian widows with life-skills training and education. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an open invitation to join their Tuesday morning presentations at 7 a.m. Message the club on Facebook for more information.

COMPOSER:

Continued from page 3B

alongside Malis and Novotny.

Malis also will perform his solo piano work, “Hold Tightly Your Vision of How Things Will Be.” The program will be rounded out by chamber music selections featuring pianist Ethan Mihaescu and violinist Nikolas Simon.

The concert program also features popular songs from Mikis Theodorakis, a composer, poet and leading political figure in Greece. The musical listing includes crowd-pleasers, like music from “Zorba the Greek” that will be recognizable to audience members.

The afternoon concludes with Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky and Korngold. The program also includes performances by Ellie Faralis Ganelin on flute, Ethan Mihaescu on piano and Nikolas Simon on violin.

The Sunday matinee concert will be hosted by Cecelia Sharpe of WRCJ 90.9FM. Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$5 for students with valid ID. Each ticket includes an afterglow with the artists.

For tickets and details, visit promusicadetroit.com or call (734) 210-1687.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Thursday, Jan. 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

GPPSS

The Grosse Pointe Public School System hosts its last information night at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, for kindergarten and Young Fives, at all district elementary schools.

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club will host a tribute to the late Jean Gilbert at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. The club will acknowledge Gilbert’s service during World War II as a WAC in the U.S. Army Air Corps. The meeting takes place in the veterans room on the lower level of The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. For information, call (313) 881-7511.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

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

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, Ascension St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, Bethel Baptist Church, 24600 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 6:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 17017 12 Mile, Roseville.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Ecumenical Breakfast

The Grosse Pointe Men’s Ecumenical Breakfast meets at 7:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cost of the breakfast is \$7. Registration is not

required and first-time guests eat free.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs.

Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

◆ The movie “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. Tuesdays, 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

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

◆ Egyptian Belly Dancing, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 17 to May 1, with instructor Stephanie Carr.

◆ Walk with Ease, 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 18 to March 28, with instructor Carolyn Bradt.

◆ Out-to-Breakfast Bunch, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Cracked Egg. Cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for nonmembers, plus the cost of the meal. Sign-up is required, even for those driving themselves to the restaurant.

◆ Body Alignment, 1 to 2 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 22 to April 29, with instructor Gwendolyn J. Scales.

◆ Awesome Abs, 2:30 to 4 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 22 to April 29, with instructor Gwendolyn J. Scales.

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 grossepointeartistscenter.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.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Ruth Azar, founder and director of The Second Mile Center of Detroit, speaks about the power of positivity. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Screenings

Residents can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening, hosted Friday, Feb. 9, at the Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. Screenings check for level of plaque buildup

in arteries, cholesterol levels, diabetes risk, kidney and thyroid function and more. Special package pricing begins at \$159, but consultants will create a package that suits each individual. Advanced registration is required. Call (877) 237-1287 or visit lifelinescreening.com.

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.

LIFE & LEISURE

JAMES R.
FIKANY
REAL ESTATE CO.
Est. 1962

714 NOTRE DAME
GROSSE POINTE
313-886-5051
www.fikany.com

2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 4C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 6C & 7C COMICS

Back in time Lecturer takes a look at colonial Detroit

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Those interested in the colonial history of Detroit are invited to learn about the area’s earliest years, 1701-96, when Jonathan Quint shares his findings during the next Your Old Mansion lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Quint, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, will introduce attendees to key people, places and events that defined the period.

“Local residents and historians may not know too much about this period,” said Quint, who hails from Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and has lived in the U.S. since

2016.

His story starts with the Huron, Ottawa and Potawatomi people, who together established a network of trade and alliances, making the Detroit River an important crossroads.

“A lot of time, history will gloss over the indigenous cultures that lived in Detroit,” Quint said. “There was incredible diversity in the different tribes that lived here.”

Quint will discuss French explorer Antoine Laumet de La Mothe, Sieur de Cadillac, founder of Ford Pontchartrain du Détroit, as well as Maj. Gen. Anthony Wayne. He’ll also share stories about daily life, describing, for example, how German-born protestant missionaries interacted with the



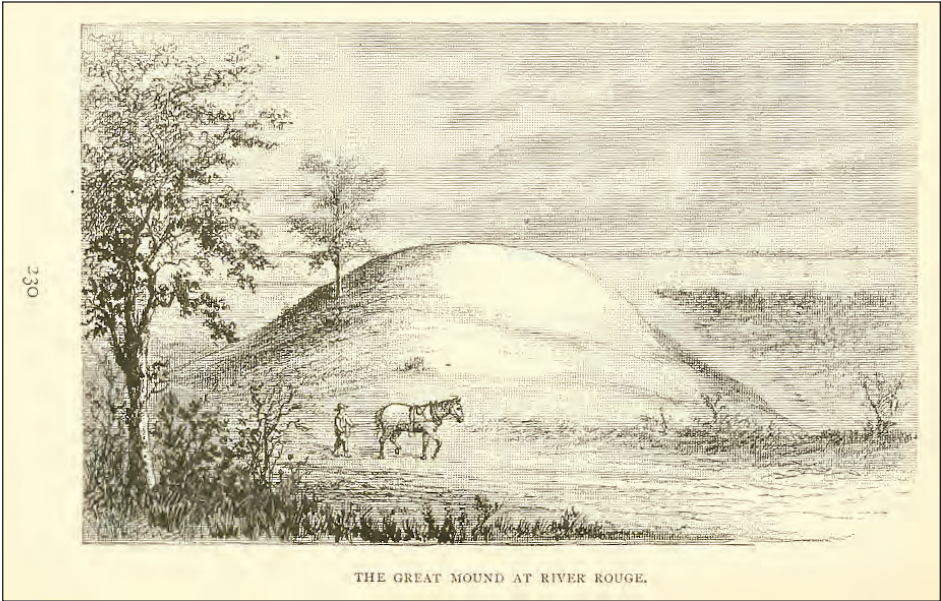
Jonathan Quint

indigenous people, local settlers and British military.

While many people are familiar with the city’s more “modern history,” Quint said there was a “fascinating dynamic in its earlier periods.

“From 1701 to 1796, three empires claimed the space,” he noted, “the French, the British and the Americans. There was a lot of upheaval and change in a short amount of time.”

Quint will explore how Detroit and its residents became involved in the American Revolution. For the British, the city



COURTESY PHOTO

An 1880s illustration of an Indian burial ground.

was a staging point for organizing raids against Americans in backcountry settlements in Kentucky and Virginia. For American Revolutionaries, it became a place of confinement. For example, Daniel Boone and other soldiers were captured and imprisoned in a British fort in Detroit.

Quint said Michigan or Detroit history buffs will enjoy his presentation, “especially those inter-

ested in the colonial and early republic period,” he said. “Anyone with an interest in art and culture as well.”

Quint’s PowerPoint will include visual elements like paintings, photographs, sketches and maps.

“I’ll also be talking about the Clements Library and what resources are available to anyone interested in this period,” he said. “... I’ll be laying out key dates.

There’s a lot to engage with and a lot to learn about.”

This Your Old Mansion lecture is the second in a series. Tickets are \$25 for GPAA members, \$30 for nonmembers. Proceeds support GPAA’s free programming for senior citizens, veterans and students in art programs at area high schools.

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

Six-week class teaches fundamentals of walking as exercise

Walking 10 to 20 minutes each day benefits overall health; walking 30 to 60 minutes every day can help reduce pain, stiffness and inflammation from arthritis.

“Walk With Ease” can help you get started on a walking plan.

The Helm presents “Walk With Ease,” a six-week program of the Arthritis Foundation. The program meets 1 to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 18, to March 28, at The



Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms. Walking will take place indoors at The Helm, so need to worry about cold, wet or icy conditions.

Instructor Carolyn Bradt will teach ways to safely incorporate physical activity into everyday life. Participants must be able to walk 10 minutes at a time. “Walk With Ease” is free to members, future members and the general public. Participants must register for the entire program.

Comprehensive studies confirm this program reduces pain, increases balance and strength,

and improves overall health. Each session begins with a pre-walk discussion covering a specified topic related to

exercise and arthritis, followed by a 30-minute walk that includes a warm up and cool down. Suggested homework is

two additional 30-minute walks per week. Register online at helmlife.org or call (313) 882-9600.

ASK THE EXPERTS By Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW What is your default for 2024?

Make joy your default.

Someone I admire shared this simple thought she came across before the holidays and she was wholeheartedly embracing the wisdom throughout the season.

I love the idea. It’s like building muscle memory for joy. The more you exercise it and the more you seek out joy as your baseline, the more developed it becomes. The more you find it in your day-to-day life.

Instead of all that striving that comes with New Year’s resolutions (and research suggests resolutions are usually unsuccessful), how much more satisfying might it be to consider what our default might be in 2024? To focus on being intentional about what we want to be organized around or recover to when daily life gets challenging. Or how we want to course correct when our thinking, attitude or behaviors strays from what is important to us. Could it be...

Delight? Compassion? Kindness? Gratitude? Connection? Mindfulness? Curiosity? Generosity?

I’m not suggesting our default is where we are going to be every moment or that we should even strive for that. We need the bad with the good, difficulty and ease. We benefit from the discomfort of our wide range of sloppy — and sometimes undesirable — emotions to help us be clear about what we value, how we want to show up for ourselves and others and what is most important to safeguard.

So what might your default be? What value would you most like to consistently embrace? There will be moments — likely many — when it will be hard

to get there. But the optimism that comes with a new year is a good time to reflect on what we want to be attentive to and what we want to create more of. Here are some prompts to help you consider this idea:

- ◆ What helps you cultivate what you value?
- ◆ What compromises what is important to you?
- ◆ Who are the people who access and bring out the best of you?
- ◆ What are the meaningful connections that nurture what matters most to you?
- ◆ How do you recover from setbacks or disappointment? What aids your course correction?
- ◆ What habits or rituals reinforce how you want to engage with the world around you? To live in a way that best reflects your values?

However imperfectly, choose your default and lean in. Being clear about what you want to be oriented to will help you recover as you navigate the trials and tribulations you’ll inevitably face. Do your best to create moments that reveal what is most important to you.

Mary Beth Garvey, LMSW, is a licensed social worker with more than 25 years of experience providing individual, group and family therapy in the private and public sectors. Check out her blog at marybethgarveytherapy.org/.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

Animals Available for Adoption at gpaas.org
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
313-884-1551 OR www.gpaas.org

20542 Harper
(Lennon and Harper)
(313) 884-1551
www.gpaas.org

Meet **AGNES**
Female,
18 months old,
shorthair,
Tortoiseshell.

Meet **JOLLY**
Male, 3 years old, Pitbull
Terrier Mix, Gray/White, 50 lbs.

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

Old-Door Specialist
Village Lock are experts in the repair and maintenance of the grand old doors of Grosse Pointe

- LOCK RESTORATION
- PLANE AND ADJUST
- NEW HARDWARE

With the change of seasons and age, old doors do not work as well as they used to. With expert care, they can be restored to their original beauty, security and ease of use for you to enjoy for years to come.

Call us today! We can help...

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

Pressured to post workplace reviews

Dear Gabby: My boss wants me to post positively about his company on my personal social media accounts, but I really don't post much. I like my job, but I just don't feel great about promoting the company on my own time and having my work life clash with my personal one.

Should I raise my concerns with my boss? He keeps checking if I have posted, but do I risk messing with our generally good working rapport? Can he fire me for something like this?

— Conflicted in the Farms

Dear Conflicted,

Did your boss make this a condition of your employment when you started your position there? If so, and you agreed, you likely don't have much recourse.

If this is something he asked of you recently, is it something that he is planning to pay for? Not per post of course, but it should be during work hours only and treated as a work assignment.

If you just plain don't want to do this, it is completely acceptable and understandable — and most likely could be

remedied by having a frank conversation with your boss.

Another option would be to establish a "work life" account and just post what he asks off of that. Perhaps do that first, and ask forgiveness later.

On the flipside, it's great if happy and excited employees want to post about their employers, but when the company becomes tied to all of their employees' posts, and everyone gushes about their place of work, it appears inauthentic.

That loses the point

entirely, doesn't it?

Maybe ask your co-workers how they feel about it first. If there's a consensus, then you will have much more backing if you all approach your boss.

It's a slippery slope, and one that's worth addressing, but be certain to tread thoughtfully and carefully as you proceed.

— Gabby

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



Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

DEAR READERS: Please enjoy this excerpt of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

So even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day down in Alabama with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right down in Alabama little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little

white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work

together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning: My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heighten-



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

ing Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that, let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every vil-

lage and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: Free at last. Free at last. Thank God almighty, we are free at last.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to dear-annie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM.

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



This may be a new low in laziness. I succumbed to the temptation of buying a pair of pants that actually promise to do part of the working out for me.

As usual, I was hooked by the sales pitch in an Instagram ad for Sweetflexx, the workout pants that can burn an additional 255 calories per day while wearing them. This claim is actually backed up by a study done at Yale School of Medicine, so it's pretty legit.

I received the pants, which seemed like a pretty standard pair of black workout pants, and cost approximately \$75 (less

than Lululemon, more than Gap). The only difference is that there are vertical bands on the legs from about the knee to top of the thigh — almost like a boning in an old fashioned dress — but significantly more comfortable.

The bands don't even look bad, actually, and I received a few compliments (which is, I assure you, not normal for me when wearing regular leggings of any sort).

When I first put them on they felt on the tighter side, but comfy. The bands are definitely noticeable when trying to do a squat or even when just walking. After a while I pretty much



forgot about the strain of the bands, and I wondered if maybe they were already just loose and not effective.

However, at the end of the day when I was a little more tired, I started to notice the stretch again. Overall, it's minimal discomfort if it's really working.

The next task was doing a workout class while wearing the pants. They are a little thicker than my normal gym pants, so I had to live with that. Doing step ups seemed a little more difficult, as did squats and mountain climbers.

They held up well and didn't roll over or fall down

in the class I attended, so all good there.

Overall, I can't see why one wouldn't wear these if there's a chance of burning over 1,785 bonus calories a week (that's half a pound!).

Since I only have one pair, the option isn't really there to wear them every single day, unless I have the washing machine going nonstop. However, I will absolutely wear these as much as possible.

I am giving Sweetflexx 5 alligators — and will likely purchase another pair. The best seller and the ones I chose were the full length hi-rise resistance pants in black. I'm waiting for a post-Christmas sale to pull

the trigger. There are many colors and styles available, as well as detailed information regarding the Yale study on their website. Visit sweetflexx.com for more information or to order.

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

5 Out Of 5



Wood-fire oven pizza at the Bricks

It's big, it's wood covered in copper and it's piping hot at 750 degrees.

No clue where I'm going with this? Well, I'm going to The Bricks, where you'll find the biggest wood-fire pizza oven in town and oh, so much more!

Located on the corner of Kercheval and Lakepointe in Grosse Pointe Park, you will find this amazing restaurant that caters to all your dining desires: pizza night with the kids, a private gathering or a nice date night over some excel-

lent wine, appetizers and conversation.

Opening its doors in August 2019, owner and executive chef Trenton Chamberlain, of Chamberlain Hospitality Group (which also includes Red Crown, LeRouge Boulangerie and Brine Oyster House), has a desire to cook fresh and flavorful dishes that are geared to hit every taste bud, with every bite. And when I say fresh, you can't get more fresh than having your own farm.

Fox Hollow Farm, located in Metamora, provides a true "farm to table" concept. The farm provides all of The Bricks' seasonal vegetables. And, as a good part of its menu is grain based, it has the privilege of a personal grain mill that transforms ancient grains to flour onsite. And we all know you can't have pizza and pasta without flour. There's even a pizza on the menu that bears the farm's name — and it includes a fresh cracked egg.

Did I also say pasta? I sure did. The Bricks offers a simply delicious menu. From a classic ragù — meat sauce with or without meatballs (get the meatballs) — to my personal favorite, cacio e pepe (add the prosciutto), you'll be beyond satisfied and likely have leftovers, too.

Back to that piping-hot, copper-covered, wood-fire pizza oven: The Bricks offers more than 10 styles to choose from aside from the obvious: cheese and pepperoni. I highly recom-



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

mend the Swine & Fungi or the Il Contrario pizzas. Both pair excellently with the shareable antipasto salad.

I've heard the roasted beet salad and olive tapenade spread are a must, too. I'm a creature of habit, so it's hard for me to stray from arancini when I see it as an

appetizer option.

Phil Reik is The Bricks' pizza master. You can taste the love and pride he puts into his creations. He's even hosted some deep-dish pizza events with beer pairing from a local brewery. Who doesn't love beer and pizza?

See FOOD, page 3C

Braising season

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Everyone keeps talking about soup season. And yes, I have made many soups since Thanksgiving. But a good braise makes your house smell equally amazing if not better.

The meat gently cooks in the oven after a good sear and creates a wonderful flavor in under an hour. A bone-in, skin on chicken thigh is far superior to a boneless chicken breast. The bones add depth to the sauce and the skin adds a needed fat for a cold winter night.

Peppadew peppers are sweet and packed in a tangy brine. They add so much wonderful flavor to the chicken. They’re fruity with an acidic kick to liven up a charcuterie board or in this case a braised chicken thigh. You can find them in jars next to the capers at most grocery stores. When in doubt, just ask for help.

Red bell pepper is also added along with lots of garlic. I added fresh parsley at the end to give it some freshness. In my opinion, this is best served over egg noodles.

I don’t mean to sound cliché but this recipe is

- absolutely mouth tantalizing. It hits all the notes.
- Cheers,, Mombeau
- Braised Chicken Thighs with Peppers**
- 6 chicken thighs, bone in, skin on
 - ½ cup flour
 - 1 tsp garlic powder
 - 1 tsp salt
 - 1 tsp pepper
 - 2 red bell peppers, sliced
 - 8 sweet peppadew peppers sliced
 - ½ large onion, sliced
 - 3 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
 - ½ cup dry white wine
 - 1 cup chicken broth
 - Vegetable oil
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - ¼ cup chopped parsley
 - Preheat your oven to 350. Pat your chicken dry

and add to a freezer bag along with the flour, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Give it a good shake to fully coat the chicken.

In a large, ovenproof skillet with a lid, heat 1 tbs of vegetable oil over medium to high heat.

Once hot, add the chicken skin side down. You want to render the fat out of the skin and brown until crisp, about four to five minutes. Also, you will want your stove fan on. Be careful not to burn. Flip and cook for three minutes on the other side.

Remove the chicken and set aside. Turn the heat down to medium and add in the peppers and onions. Cook for two minutes then add the garlic. Stir everything together then add in the wine which needs to be reduced by half.

Make sure to scrape up all the brown bits at the bottom of the pan. Chicken stock gets added next and then the chicken thighs should be placed back in the pan. Spoon some of the sauce over top. Bring to a slight simmer. Cover and cook in the oven for 30 minutes.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Garnish with fresh chopped parsley and warm slices of a good baguette.



The red wine myth

One of the most enduring myths of red wine is that the older it gets, the better it is.

Where this erroneous line comes from is buried in history, but it’s likely no true wine lover came up with it. Most wine lovers know that certain wines age nicely for decades, but most red wines are best within a few years of their vintage, if not immediately.

Besides, aging wine is a task that amateurs should not try without understanding details of the game.

My guess is that non-wine lovers, hearing praise being heaped on bottles of 20-year-old red Bordeaux, assume that all older red wine is better than the young stuff. In fact, I believe that wines that might be better with age also may be enjoyed while young. Just decant the wine for an hour and

watch it improve.

A lot of red wines are rated by so-called experts on a scale of weight and power. The heavier the wine, the better it is, they tell us. And thus the implication that it will age for decades. Such assumptions have more exceptions than you’d believe.

Often, wines that are powerful when released can improve with a little time in the bottle. But there is no guarantee they’ll age well for long periods.

A century ago, the main reason French and Italian red wines were aged was that they weren’t drinkable when young. Many of these wines were coarse and unbalanced. People found that by holding them for a while, some of the bad stuff dissipated; roughness would diminish.

Today’s red wines are

better in that respect. Most young, fruity wines that are awkward and astringent when young improve with a few additional years in the bottle, but some may simply get old and tired. Once the vibrancy of youth flees, a wine can be unappealing.

Before wine quality improved, around the 1970s, many bad wines were made. In the bad old days of Bordeaux, many vintages (notably in the 1930s and early 1940s) were terrible. Rain before harvest produced wines that were lackluster when young and never improved.

By contrast, great vintages can produce great wines. Red Bordeaux from 1945, 1949, 1953, 1959, 1961 and 1970 remain targets of collectors.

Too many people these days equate concentration (dark color, high alcohol) with greatness. In fact, some of the most elegant wines are far more appealing to consume soon after they were made. And such wines can age as well.

This is particularly true with merlot, a grape variety that is supposed to yield a more supple, approach-

able wine than cabernet. My experience with merlots is that most of them don’t age very long, reaching a peak at age 5.

The best trait for any wine, red or white, is balance. If a wine tastes good when it’s young, what’s the harm in opening it sooner? Still, some Americans hold to the belief that dark, concentrated red wines should be held until they are nearly senile.

The longest-lived dry red wines being made today are Barolo (from Northern Italy), California petite sirah, cooler-climate syrah and some California cabernet sauvignons.

Best consumed at five to seven years of age are Chianti, zinfandel, Cotes du Rhone, pinot noir, barbera, gamay, grenache, tempranillo and many others.

Except for certain wines, the best bet is to open a wine sooner than later.

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

FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

Follow The Bricks Pizzeria on Facebook and Instagram (@thebrickspizzeria) for updates and information on Phil’s events.

It’s a popular stop along the trolly route come summer. You can sit at the bar and watch the magic happen over amazing cocktails with friends, or grab a table on the spacious outdoor patio and let the kids play video games while you enjoy a few delicious appetizers. With excellent service, a professional kitchen managed by Chef Montana Smallman and a gracious general manager,



Shannon Nowowiecki, always making the rounds throughout the dining rooms, The Bricks Pizzeria



is a guaranteed great experience. Visit them at 15201 Kercheval from 5 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday through Saturday. Reservations are encouraged. Stay tuned. Stay hungry.

Homemade Hand-Dipped
ONION RINGS & MUSHROOMS

Kennedy's
IRISH COFFEE
BAR & GRILL EST. 1980

Delivery available through Doordash, Grubhub and UberEats.

LIONS - NFL WILD CARD ROUND
Congratulations!!!
ATTENTION!!
OPEN SUNDAYS
NOON - 11PM
Come watch the
NFC NORTH CHAMPS...
DETROIT LIONS
VS
LA RAMS
Sunday 8pm
\$5 BURGERS!
12PM - 4PM

Best BURGERS IN TOWN!

Grosse Pointe News
BEST of the BEST
20 23

18666 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms
CALL for CARRY-OUT
313-881-5675
SEE MENU

Big New Musical.
Big. Huge.

PRETTY WOMAN
THE MUSICAL

FEBRUARY 20-25

FISHER THEATRE / BROADWAYINDETROIT.COM
GROUPS (10+) BROADWAYINDETROITGROUPS@THEAMBASSADORS.COM
(SUBJECT: PRETTY WOMEN)

4C | LIFE & LEISURE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VISUAL NARRATIVE FILMS AND WEST HALL FILMS
Left, Garret Ryan as Jordan Tyler and Spencer Scruggs as Benji Williams in the 2022 movie “Lost Inside,” directed by Jeff Hindenach.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Lost Inside”
2022 - Not Rated
1 hr 35 min
★★★★☆

The days of being self quarantined during the Covid pandemic aren’t that far behind us. I can recall the feeling of isolation. Going grocery shopping at 7 a.m. to avoid the crowds. Walking on the opposite side of the street from approaching strangers. And spending long hours indoors, in search of ways to avoid the inevitable boredom. So a movie about an agoraphobic musician rekindled some of that anxiety.

young actors. Benji Williams (Scruggs) is a rock star who’s had a meteoric career and was considered a one-hit wonder. His days of fame and fortune were numbered due to his difficulty in handling the notoriety that went along with it. The screaming mobs of fans and pushy paparazzi eventually got to him and after a couple of infamous incidents, he completely withdrew and hid in an apartment, out of the public eye and scrutiny. We catch up with him after five years of self-imposed isolation. We meet Benji, suffering from an extreme case of

to discover his whereabouts, and his mother passed away. Due to his condition, he missed her funeral and we find him occasionally chatting with the urn containing her ashes. Out of the blue, a complete stranger suddenly appears in his apartment. In reality, Jordan (Ryan) is Benji’s alter ego. He’s a quick-whitted, smart aleck whose constant banter is a bit of a comic relief in the film. Obviously he knows everything about Benji and he knows just what to say to get under his skin. Jordan pops up when we least suspect it, like sitting on the toilet when Benji’s

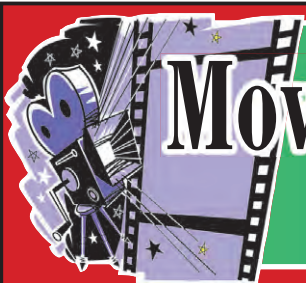


Serra Naiman as Sylvia.

“Lost Inside” is the brilliant writing and directing debut for Jeff Hindenach, and it portends a bright future for him. The film is gently paced and could easily have been adapted from a stage play. It’s full of gentle wit, intense conversations, and great insight into the inner workings of the mind of a recluse. It’s also an excellent showcase for three newcomers to the screen: Spencer Scruggs, Garret Ryan, and Serra Naiman. Look for big things from this talented trio of gifted

agoraphobia. He never leaves his apartment, and is spooked by someone knocking at his door, even when it’s just a delivery person. The hermit spends his days watching TV, playing video games, and occasionally having zoom calls with a therapist, which doesn’t seem to be helping him much. The very thought of leaving his apartment terrorizes him. We learn that over the five years he’s been cooped up, much has happened. His girlfriend left him, his fans are trying

taking a shower. Or chiming in when Benji’s trying to talk to someone else. It also drives Benji nuts when he flicks his cigarette ashes into his mother’s urn. Then one day, a pretty young woman knocks on his door. It’s his new neighbor Sylvia (Naiman), who’s just moved in. She’s a vibrant, chatty character determined to get Benji to overcome his fear of the outside, no matter how long it takes. They begin their relationship by sitting in their respective door-



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin



ways, playing a game where they try to toss pieces of fruit into each other’s glasses of wine. Scruggs does an admirable job displaying the pain he’s going through attempting to break out of his paranoia. It’s almost torture watching his facial contortions. You can’t help but wonder if Sylvia has some ulterior motive for befriending and helping Benji.

As you’d expect in a film that takes place in basically one location, you really get a sense of claustrophobia. This is aided by the astute camerawork of U n n i k r i s h n a n Raveendranathen (try saying that name three times quickly). The movie was filmed during the heart of the pandemic, so it naturally relies heavily on a tight screenplay and great acting. Mr. Hindenach’s first film succeeds brilliantly and I look forward to see where he goes from here.

Note to parents: The film is not rated, but I think it’s suitable for the entire family. Currently streaming for free on Hoopla and Kanopy (with your library card) and Tubi. Also on Plex, The Roku Channel, and 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.



Left, Spencer Scruggs as Benji and Serra Naiman as Sylvia on a date.



Left, Garret Ryan as Jordan Tyler and Spencer Scruggs as Benji Williams

Laloo (Goodbye Requiem)

On the wings of the bluebird
When morning is new
Oh, carry my kisses on feathers of blue
For happy the heart that knows how to sing
And lives on a love that is light as a wing
Laloo, laloo, laloo, laloo

In the warmth of the day
Spread my singing with light
For hope must be golden both happy and bright
And shelter my storms in the heart of the cloud
For tears that are tempered are richly endowed
Laloo, laloo, laloo, laloo

When the morning comes on
and the bluebird has flown
Oh, then, let my love like my first steps be blown
To the end of the earth, to the top of the sky
To all of my darlings, I love you, goodbye ...
Laloo, laloo, laloo, laloo.

Joan LeGro Bushnell



“Laloo” is the final poem written by Joan LeGro Bushnell, written just days before her death Monday, Dec. 4, 2023.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: The New Moon is in Capricorn. Avoid shopping or important decisions from 9:15 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. EST today (6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Capricorn into Aquarius. Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 11, 2024:

You are intelligent and perceptive. You care about social justice, and you want to help others. This is a slower paced year. Take a rest. Rejuvenate your energy. Concentrate on your own needs and the relationships that bring you happiness. Trust your intuition.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today's New Moon is the perfect opportunity for you to think about resolutions that you might have considered for this new year. This particular New Moon urges you to think about your attitude to authority. You are independent and self-reliant and might chafe at authority. Tonight: Friends and groups.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Each New Moon is an opportunity to make resolutions and set intentions. Today is an excellent day to ask yourself what further training or education you could get that would improve your job or your career, or what learning or travel might enrich and enhance your life. Tonight: You're high-viz.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

The New Moon today is a lovely opportunity to take care of paperwork and unfinished business related to shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt and all that red tape stuff you like to avoid. Tonight: Explore!

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Today the New Moon opposes your sign, and it will again on Dec. 30 at the end of the year. Bookends for you. Each New Moon is the perfect opportunity to set intentions or make resolutions. This New Moon relates to partnerships and close friendships. Ideas? Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

As this year begins, today is the perfect day to think about what you can do to improve your health, either by eating better or getting more exercise or both. Sometimes dropping a bad habit is a great benefit as well. Tonight: Focus on friends and partners.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The New Moon today is the right day to consider how you balance work and play in your life. Both are necessary. You want your life to be well-rounded with a good balance between duties and obligations versus free time. How is this working out for you? Tonight: Get organized.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The New Moon today is an excellent chance to think about how to improve your relations with family members, as well as how to improve where you live so you enjoy your home more. These are both important considerations for you. Tonight: Socialize!

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

We are gregarious. We need to be seen, and we need to see others. We need to be heard, and we need to hear others. The New Moon today is a perfect time to think about how well you communicate

to others and how you might improve your communicating style. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today's New Moon takes place in one of your Money Houses, which begs the question, How are you handling your money? What about your spending habits? For that matter, how are you handling your possessions and taking care of them? Tonight: Conversations!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today's New Moon is in your sign, which is the perfect time to take a realistic look in the mirror and ask yourself what you can do to change your appearance so that you create a better impression on your world. Ideas? You value the respect of your peers. Tonight: Check your belongings.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

The New Moon today is in a hidden part of your chart, which means this is an excellent day to think of how your childhood habits might trigger today's behavior. Sometimes this is a good thing; sometimes not. A bit of navel gazing might reveal some truths. Tonight: You win!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Today's New Moon is the perfect time to think about your friends. Your friends are important because they can influence the way you think. And the way you think is how you will make your choices, and your choices create your future. Tonight: Solitude.

BORN TODAY
Singer-songwriter Mary J. Blige (1971), actress Amanda Peet (1972), actress Son Ye-jin (1982).

Find 12 Differences



Find 10 Differences



Contract Bridge

THREE HURDLES TO SUCCESS

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ J 10 5
♥ 9 2
♦ 6
♣ A K 8 7 5 3 2

WEST

♠ 7 4
♥ J 5 3
♦ Q 9 8 5 4
♣ Q 10 9

EAST

♠ K Q 9 8 2
♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ A 7 2
♣ 6

SOUTH

♠ A 6 3
♥ A K 7 6
♦ K J 10 3
♣ J 4

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	Dble	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT		

Opening lead — seven of spades.

Assume you reach three notrump on the bidding shown and West leads the seven of spades. East covers dummy's ten with the queen, and the question is how to proceed from here.

Clearly, your best move at this point is to duck East's queen. If you won the trick, you would subject yourself to the possibility that West might later gain the lead and return a spade through

dummy's J-5.

After you duck the queen, East shifts to the deuce of diamonds. You don your thinking cap again and then put up the king. Granting the possibility that East might have the A-Q of diamonds, it is surely wiser to play the king than the jack. You should not jeopardize the contract by playing the jack, because East is virtually certain to have the ace of diamonds for his opening bid.

When the king of diamonds holds, you next lead the jack of clubs, planning to play low from dummy if West follows low. This play guarantees the contract even if East wins the trick with the queen. In the actual case, though, West covers the jack of clubs with the queen -- and you duck it!

The composite effect of your first three plays is that you wind up making the contract. Dummy's six club tricks are more than the defenders can cope with, and you are sure to come home with at least nine tricks.

But note that if you won the first spade or did not play the king of diamonds at trick two, or took West's queen of clubs with the king at trick three, the outcome would be altogether different. You would fail to make three notrump because you did not clear all three critical hurdles.

©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



©2024 Bill Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

**"I'll start dismantling the tree.
You handle the grief counseling."**

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

1/11

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

1/4 Solution

© 2024 by Andrews McMeel Syndication

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 11, 2024

ACROSS

- Pink cocktail, informally
- Free TV spots
- Insect in a cloud
- Quantity of brownies
- Too
- Went by horse
- Attending a brunch that celebrates Pride? Try our ...
- Atop
- Man, with all due respect?
- "Ah, OK"
- Skilled
- Watching basketball in the Mile High City? Try our ...
- Gunk
- Try finding
- "Them's fighting words!"
- Supreme pontiff
- "... woman, hear me roar"
- Watching hockey in the Motor City? Try our spicy ...
- ... Tac
- Airport
- Lady who performed at Super Bowl LI
- Metal brick
- Chocolate with caramel inside
- Decide
- Planning to drop the ball at a New Year's party? Try our ...
- Nebraska city
- Foul aroma
- Game with Reverse cards
- Give the star treatment?
- Fueling up for the law exam? Try our ...
- Sharif of "Doctor Zhivago"
- Arab leader
- Hardwood tree with thin bark
- Cacao bits
- Index that lists Harley-Davidson as HOG
- Group of solar panels
- Relative of THC
- Rowers' implements
- Unadventurous
- Ewan who says, "Hello there!" in "Revenge of the Sith"
- Honey ...! (sweet cereal)
- Pick apart grammatically
- More devious
- Town south-west of Vail
- ABBA song whose title is a cry for help

- What you may hold for years
- "Keep your eyes closed!"
- "... don't shop" (pet fostering slogan)
- Camping shelters
- DVR pioneer
- Grow old
- Faux pas
- Pre-owned
- What bouncers check
- Links peg
- Put off paying for drinks
- K-12 grp.
- Alternative to corn
- Small green veggie
- Long, long
- Winter hrs. in Calgary
- 37-Across legend
- Larionov
- Clean with a cloth
- Spot might bark after spotting one
- Different ones
- & Perrins
- Brute from "Revenge of the Nerds"
- B on the periodic table
- Ramen taste
- Sudsy
- "Luther" star
- Elba
- Dame
- Nasty look
- Killer whale
- Affleck of "Shakespeare in Love"
- League for the 23-Across: Abbr.
- Once bitten, twice ...

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/4 Solution

© 2024 by Andrews McMeel Universal
www.upuzzles.com

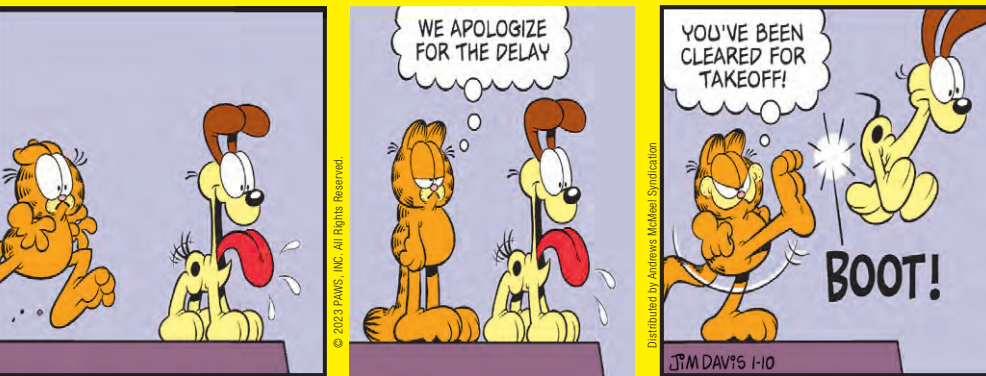
1/11

Pickin' Chicken by Daniel Hrynick

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
	20				21				22			
		23		24					25			
			26						27			
28	29	30			31	32	33			34	35	36
37					38				39	40		
41					42				43			
		44	45	46					47			
48	49				50	51	52			53		
54					55				56		57	
58					59				60			61
62					63				64			
65					66				67			

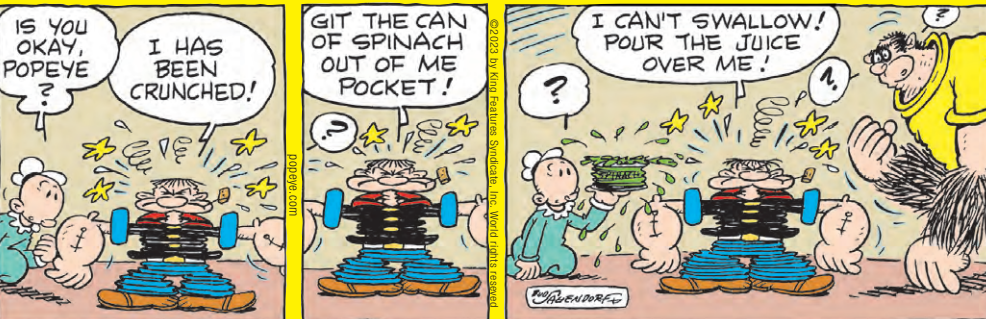
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



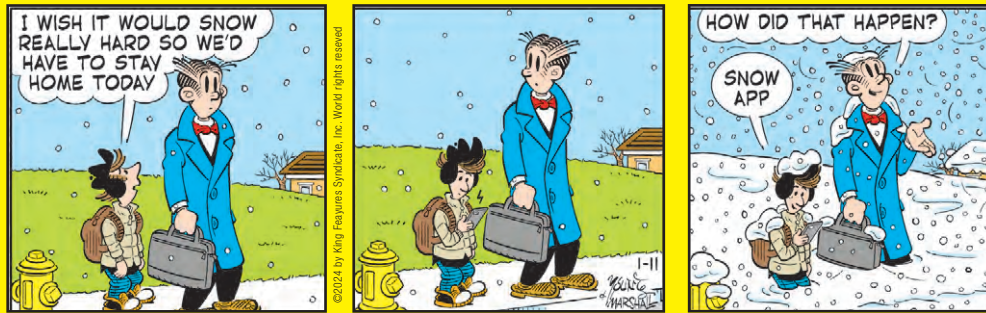
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



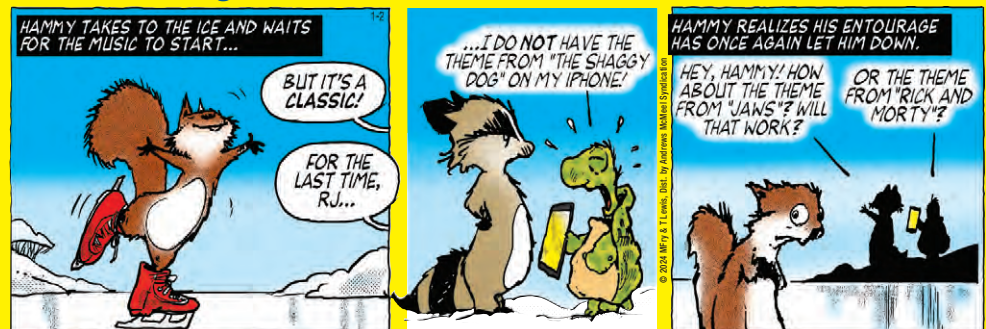
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



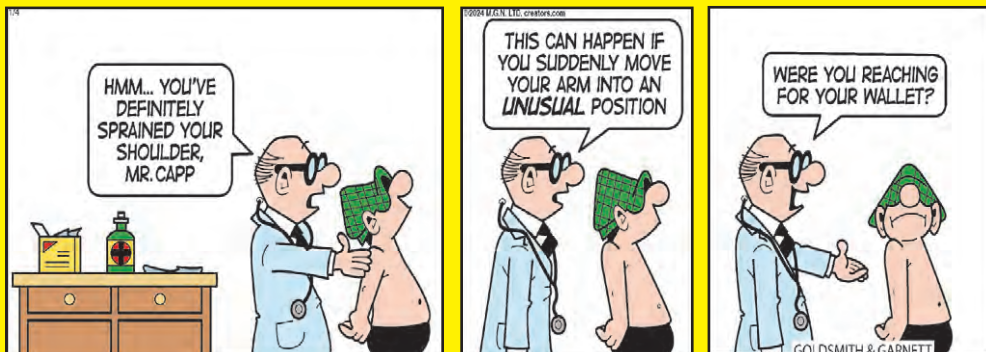
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



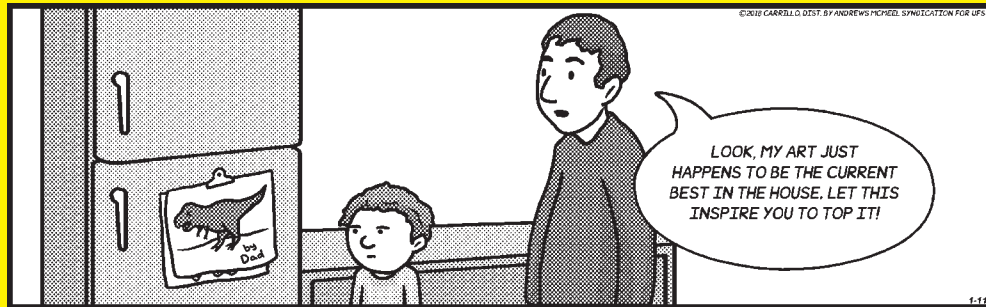
Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

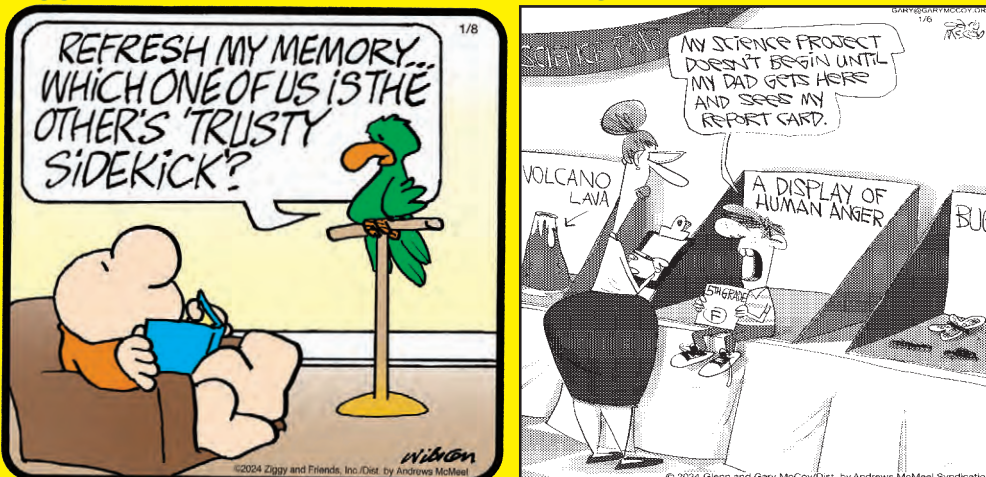


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

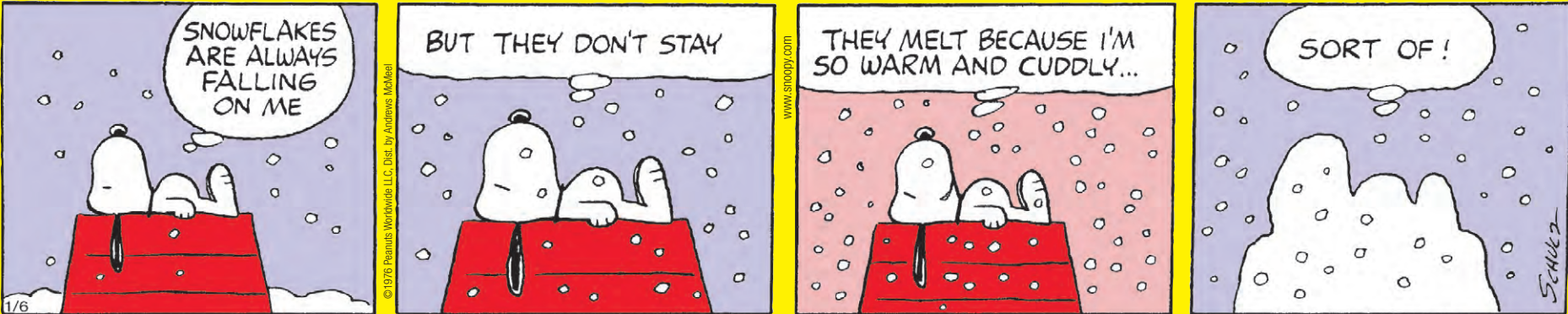
Glenn McCoy



Comics

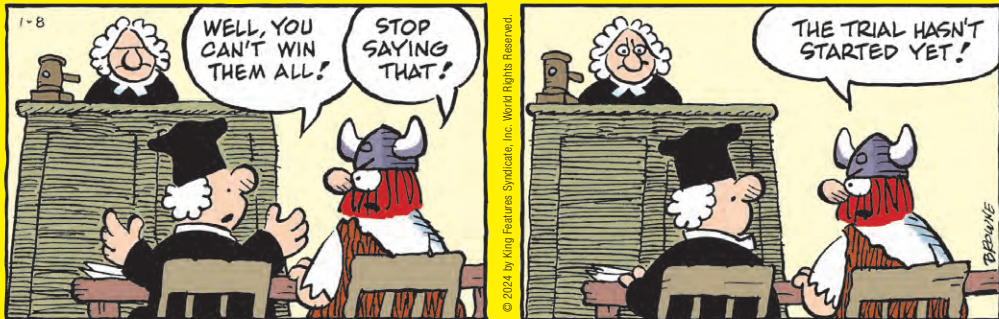
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



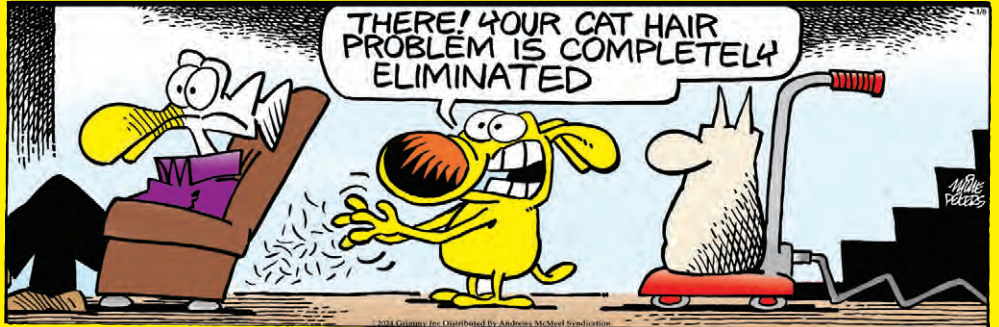
Crock

Created by Bill Rechlin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



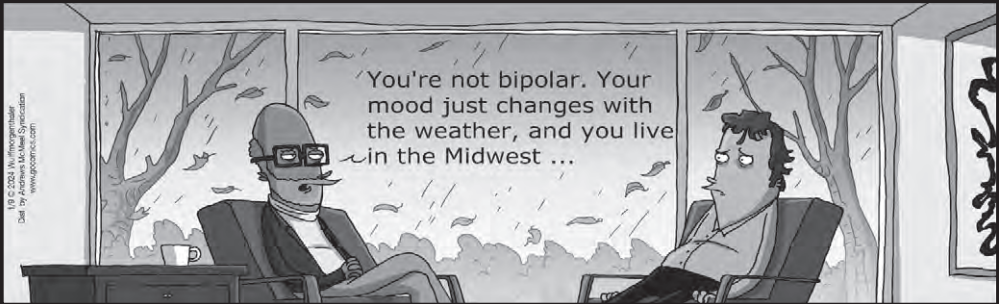
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



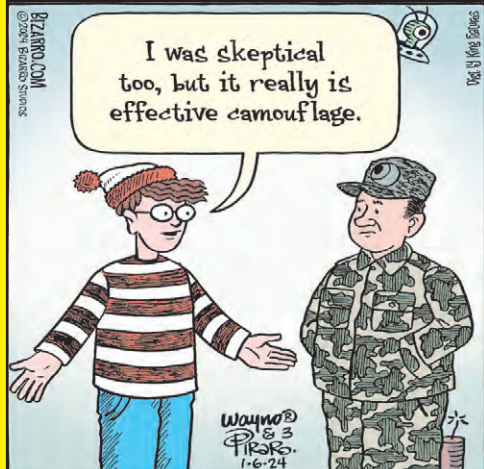
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



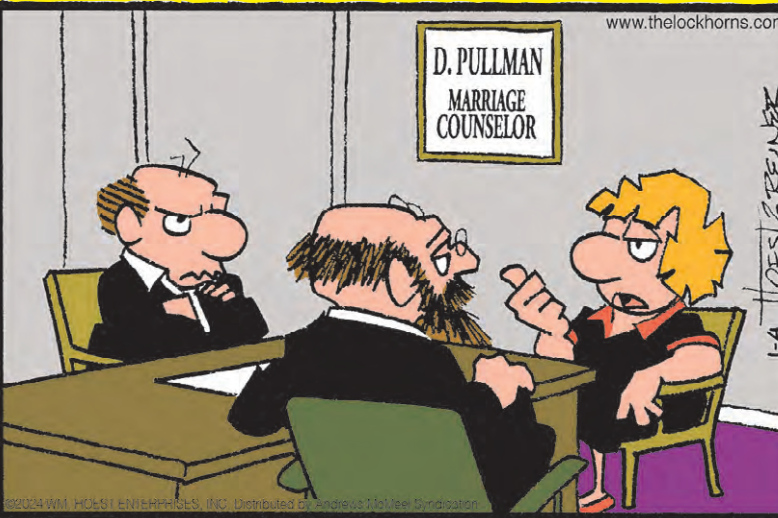
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



SPORTS



DINO RICCI
(313) 460-2225
18412 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms

SINE & MONAGHAN
REALTORS®

26 years of Real Estate Experience Working For You

2D GIRLS BASKETBALL | 4D UNIFIED BASKETBALL | 6D CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Richards joins 1,000 career point club in South’s double overtime win

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South boys varsity basketball senior team captain Karter Richards hit a landmark 1,000 career points in a gritty 75-73 double-overtime win over MAC Red foe L’Anse Creuse North Thursday, Jan. 4, on LCN’s home court. Richards also scored a career-high 37 points in the win. “Obviously Karter was Karter,” South head coach Steve Benard said immediately after the win. “He’s having a top-five player-of-the-year type of season right now.” Benard said after losing key players to graduation last season, Richards has elevated his game even further this year. “He’s stepped up and he’s playing inside, he can play out, get steals. You know he’s scoring all over the place. He’s

just had a phenomenal year,” he said. A remarkable game from Richards, paired with big contributions from starters Tory James, Vince Vachon, James Michelotti and Nate Davey, helped the Blue Devils gut out the win in a contest that went back and forth all game long. “We get every team’s best effort,” Benard said. “You know we’ve been top of the league for the last few years. I don’t think I have ever lost to LCN, so they are gonna get up to play us.” LCN entered the game at 1-1 and South at 2-0 in the MAC Red. “So now they have two losses in the league loss column so it’s really big,” he added. After tipoff, South quickly turned over the ball twice and found itself down 4-0 by the 6:20 mark. South then faced an 8-0 deficit before scoring its first

points, which came thanks to a bucket by Davey. Richards finally pushed South ahead 11-10 with 2:29 left in the first with a steal and score, putting the Blue Devils in business after their slow start. The quarter ended 17-13 in the Crusaders’ favor. “I knew it was going to be a challenge, playing them at home, but our guys are ready to play,” Benard said. “I have guys that are seniors and veteran guys like (Vachon) and these guys are coming ready to play. We can’t just come and be ready to only play the big teams, like Warren Lincoln and UD-Jesuit. Our guys come ready to play every night.” In the second quarter, South found better ball movement and the basket with more regularity, particularly from the perimeter and three-point line as the quarter progressed.



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

South senior guard Karter Richards (No. 11) is joined by his family on the court to celebrate his milestone of 1,000 career points as a Blue Devil.

Down 19-16, South also got more aggressive on the press. Richards pressured the ball handler at midcourt, with Davey moving in for the steal. South moved the ball quickly up court to

find James for an attempted three, which Richards rebounded for the putback for a 19-18 game. The teams continued exchanging points until the half ended with the

Blue Devils up 29-28, thanks to a three pointer from James on the team’s second-to-last possession. South entered half- See SOUTH, page 4D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

North’s Auld focused on competing for titles after milestone victory

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Dec. 29, 2023 is a day Grosse Pointe North senior Preston Auld will always remember as a milestone in his wres-

ting career. That was the day of the Lakeview Invitational in St. Clair Shores, where Auld’s first-round victory gave him his 100th career high school wrestling win.



COURTESY PHOTO

North senior Preston Auld is serving as a captain of North varsity wrestling this season as he looks to return to Ford Field and the state championships for a second year in a row.

“Going into the match, I knew it had the potential to be my 100th win, because it was the first round of a tournament and I was the higher seed,” he said. “...I went into the match pretty nervous. It wasn’t really anything special though. I just went out and did my thing, then got to celebrate my 100th win, which was really nice.” Auld ended up emerging as the champion of the Lakeview Invitational at 144 pounds, beating out John Kaminski of Warren Mott in the final match. Getting win No. 100 and taking home a trophy as a tournament champion at Lakeview just a few weeks ago serve as more accolades in Auld’s already strong wrestling career. Currently in the mid-

dle of his fourth season as a North wrestler, Auld has been a regional qualifier in the postseason three times and made it all the way to Ford Field and the individual state championships at the end of last season. Some might say those are impressive feats for someone who only began wrestling just before entering high school. However, after taking the mat for the first time in eighth grade, it did not take long for Auld to find a passion for the sport. “My freshman year, it kind of clicked with me,” he said. “I went into my first tournament, which was the district tournament, and I came into that really blank and fresh and placed fourth. That really gave me confidence that I was good at

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Preston Auld

School: Grosse Pointe North

Sport: Wrestling

Sponsored by Village Grille

this and made me want to stick with what I was good at.” Auld has been building up his skills and racking up wins since his freshman year as a Norseman and has built himself into one of the most accomplished wrestlers in the program. Along with his 100th win and a tournament title, Auld also is currently a top-10 ranked wrestler in the state for his weight class, as ranked by

Michigan Grappler. One of the main things that has helped Auld achieve so much success is the principles he tries to adhere to as a wrestler. Perhaps the most important one he follows is patience: not being too aggressive and letting the match come to him. “I see myself as more of a passive wrestler,” Auld said. “I sit back and see what the other See ATHLETE, page 2D

Auld or Nothing

• 3 time regional qualifier and 2023 wrestling state finals qualifier

• Achieved 100th career win on Dec. 29

• Member of North varsity wrestling since freshman year



BEFORE OR AFTER THE GAME...

Reserve Our Private Banquet Room!

LUNCH • DINNER • SPORTS BAR • SHOWERS • KIDS GAME ROOM • BUSINESS MEETINGS

Village Grille

16930 Kercheval Avenue (bet. Cadieux & Notre Dame)
313-882-4555 • www.villagegrillegp.com

Grosse Pointe’s
Friendliest
Family Restaurant!

2D | SPORTS



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

South’s Morgan Duff tries to push past the Norsemen defense down low.



Eva Borowski of North and South’s Madelyn Schwesinger have a friendly post-game catch up following the crosstown rivalry.



North’s Natalie Babcock pulls up for a shot from the post against South. Babcock finished the game as North’s leading scorer with 21 points.

North continues hot start with rivalry win over Blue Devils

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North girls basketball team has been rolling to start the new season. The team jumped out to a 5-0 start in December and entered the new year looking to capture a big rivalry win in the first game of MAC Red Division play. That game was a showdown with crosstown foe Grosse Pointe South last Friday, Jan. 5.

The Norsemen were on their home court as they welcomed the Blue Devils. While South kept it close at times, North managed to maintain a lead much of the way en route to a 49-36 victory.

“It’s a little tough playing the rivalry game coming off the break and having some time off,” North girls basketball coach Gary Bennett said. “... I thought both teams played hard and really competed. It was a good game and a good win for us to get. ... (South) played really hard and did a nice job and it was a competitive game but it felt good to get the win coming off

the break.”

Friday’s game saw the teams trading shots at the beginning, with the first half being a closer game. The second quarter saw North begin to separate itself a bit, but the Blue Devils were able to keep the game within single digits as the Norsemen took a 23-15 lead into the half-time locker room.

North’s offense, currently the second-highest scoring team in the MAC Red, kept the pressure on South continuing into the second half. With the game still within reach for South to start the second half, the Norsemen stayed at a pace that allowed them to stay ahead, not giving the Blue Devils much chance at making a run, even with the lead not expanding to double digits at the end of the third quarter.

South trailed 36-28 heading into the final quarter, but couldn’t quite close the gap. The Norsemen continued to score and keep a solid advantage all the way to the end before securing the win by 13 points.

Natalie Babcock led

the Norsemen with 21 points in the win, while freshman Ella Richardson put on an impressive performance scoring 13.

“She has a really bright future,” Bennett said, praising the freshman, Richardson. “She’s very coachable and reliable and responsible. ... She’s been getting better every single day because she works hard. If you had told me at the beginning of the year that she would put together back-to-back games of 10 and 13 points, I would’ve said it isn’t going to happen, but she’s been working on getting stronger.”

The Blue Devils were led by Maddy Benard, who tallied 17. Fellow junior Morgan Duff finished scoring nine.

North went on the road to face Port Huron Tuesday, Jan. 9, after press time, and the team remains on the road for its next game against Eisenhower at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11. The Blue Devils also were on the road Tuesday, Jan. 9, after press time, taking on Dakota. They return home Thursday, Jan. 11, to host Port Huron at 7 p.m.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

guy is going to do. Once I get comfortable, maybe 30 seconds or a minute into a match, then I’ll do my own thing. The way I’ve been coached is just to show up every day and try my best every day and those are the basic principles I try to follow.”

Auld’s pre-match routine of listening to relaxing music like Bob Marley and Bob Dylan helps calm his nerves before matches and prepare him to be more patient and precise on the mat. He also knows his skills and mentality when it comes to wrestling are largely thanks to the help of his long-time coaches.

North wrestling head coach Jaron Nelson has been at the helm all four years of Auld’s time as a

Norseman. He gives a lot of credit to Nelson and the rest of North’s staff for helping grow his passion for wrestling and teach him important lessons on and off the mat. With their guidance, Auld has his sights set on returning to the state championships at Ford Field this March and earning a spot on the podium this time around.

“I really appreciate (Nelson) a lot because he’s taught me everything I know, from the basics to everything else,” Auld said. “He helps me on and off the mat. If I’m going through something, I can talk to him about it. He’s a great teacher. And assistant coach Jake (Girard), I really like working with him because he helps me fine-tune everything. He likes going over the small stuff with me and

making sure I get everything right.”

Auld has always had a strong admiration for his coaches and what they have been able to teach him. That appreciation is returned by the staff, who take pride in Auld’s character and want to see him finish his career as a champion.

“(Preston’s) commitment to wrestling for both fun and passion showcase his exceptional talent and unwavering determination,” coach Jaron Nelson said. “Beyond his athletic abilities, Preston’s leadership skills are truly exceptional, and he continues to inspire and amaze those around him both on and off the mat.”

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



COURTESY PHOTO

Preston Auld celebrates with family after achieving his 100th career high school wrestling win at the Lakeview Invitational on Dec. 29.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala – with top athletes winning scholarships! Submit online at:

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News



PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

South alum Johnson honored in national victory

Former Grosse Pointe South star Will Johnson helped the University of Michigan win the national championship 34-13 over the University of Washington Monday, Jan. 8, at NRG stadium in Houston, Texas. Johnson had four tackles and a key interception on the Huskies’ first possession of the third quarter and was named Defensive Player of the Game in the 2024 national championship game.

Norsemen struggle on offense in loss to Romeo

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After losing its first two games in MAC White Division play in December, the Grosse Pointe North boys basketball team closed 2023 on a high note with two victories to win the Anchor Bay Holiday Tournament. The team’s first game of 2024, however, did not see that momentum carried into the new year.

The Norsemen hosted MAC White rival Romeo last Thursday, Jan. 4, hoping to capture their first league win of the season. The Bulldogs controlled the pace of play much of the night with North unable to keep up, ending 60-45 in favor of Romeo.

“That was the worst game that we’ve played all year,” North boys basketball coach Rob Johnson said after the loss. “We had gotten into a nice groove over Christmas and won the Anchor Bay tournament. ... (The Romeo game) was our lowest point total of the year. Our scoring was spread out, which is nice, but they sat back in that zone and we had a lot of good shots, but didn’t make them.”

While neither team got



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North’s Vasilios Vasilos steps up on defense to guard Aidan Tague from Romeo.

off to an explosive start, it actually was the Norsemen who had the better first quarter. North emerged on top 11-9 after a low-scoring first frame. However, the second quarter was when Romeo’s offense picked things up. The Norsemen remained on the same offensive pace it had in the first quarter while the Bulldogs began scoring faster, making it 31-22 with Romeo in front at halftime.

With the game still within single digits to start the second half, Romeo continued to outpace the Norsemen. North scored only seven points in the entire third quarter, allowing the Bulldogs to pull even further ahead and lead 47-29 going into the final quarter. North had its best offensive showing in the fourth quarter, while Romeo already had the game largely in hand, eventually cruising to the

15-point victory.

Scoring for the Norsemen in the loss was spread out. Leo Perettie, Devin Headd and RJ Williams had seven points each, while Vasilios Vasilos had six points on two shots from long range.

The Norsemen take pride in their depth as a team this season; however, some might see the team lacking a standout scorer to take over a game when needed. That

is why Johnson is looking to his starting point guard to step up and begin filling that role more often.

“The guy who has to step up and be our go-to guy is Leo Perettie,” he said. “He only had seven against Romeo, but against Anchor Bay in the tournament championship game he had 27 points. Even against Port Huron North and some of our other games, he’s been averaging close to

17 a game. That’s the guy that if we’re struggling with him, then we might have an off night.”

Last Thursday’s game against Romeo is the start of a long stretch of MAC White league games through January and into February that make up the heart of North’s schedule. The team faced off against Warren Lincoln on the road Wednesday night, Jan. 10, after press time, and then returns to host Eisenhower at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12.

The loss to Romeo put the Norsemen at 0-3 in MAC White play so far this season. To help reverse the team’s fortunes in important league games, Johnson is telling his team to always look ahead.

“Something we’ve been preaching is we can’t let us missing shots dictate how the rest of the game goes,” Johnson said. “Sometimes we’re not going to have our night. ... We can’t let missing shots dictate how we’re going to play on defense or our rebounding and our energy and effort. We can always control our energy and our effort and if we miss a few shots, we just have to move onto the next play.”



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

South goalie Jacob Haack attempts to cover the puck under heavy pressure from the Catholic Central attack.

Haack makes 46 saves, Blue Devils fall to Shamrocks in first game of '24

Grosse Pointe South boys varsity hockey opened the new year with a match-up against Detroit Catholic Central last Thursday, Jan. 4. Despite being on home ice, the Blue Devils were out-matched by the Shamrocks in a 6-0 loss.

South showed fight in the loss, facing a tough test against a Catholic Central team currently ranked by MLive as No. 1 in the state in Division 1. A particular standout for the Blue Devils was goalie Jacob Haack, who faced a barrage of 52 shots in the game while managing to save 46.

The loss marked the third in a row for the Blue Devils going back to December. South hosted MIHL division rival Trenton on Tuesday, Jan. 9, after press time. The team then heads on the road for its next game Friday, Jan. 12, taking on Riverview Gabriel Richard at Wyandotte’s Yack Arena at 7:15 p.m.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Jamir Harris of North gets ready to shoot from the wing.



North's James Ware goes in for a layup.

Unified basketball unites community for rivalry game

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South unified basketball teams tipped off their respective seasons going head-to-head against each other last Friday, Jan. 5. The Norsemen played host to the first of two showdowns between the teams this year and North emerged victorious 54-41, in a game that was much closer than the final score reflects. The game was close almost the entire way, with neither team gaining too much of an edge. However, the final minutes of the fourth quarter saw the Norsemen pull away thanks to 13 unanswered points by James Ware and Jamir Harris. Harris especially thrilled the crowd with a series of clutch three-pointers. “The energy and

excitement from both teams was outstanding as always,” North unified basketball coach Drew Kisskalt said. “The feeling of pride and belonging are so important for our players and opportunities like these give them exactly that. It’s such a great experience for all the players and fans in attendance.” The game was a strong start to both programs’ fifth seasons. Both teams find themselves with bigger schedules this winter thanks to more schools in the area beginning their own unified basketball programs, creating even more opportunities for the players, coaches and fans to enjoy the fun. The North-South games are the highlight of the season for both teams and even with this first meeting finishing in favor of North, both teams are proud of the

effort on the court and the support they received in the stands. “All of the kids from North and South opened the season with a great game,” South unified basketball co-head coach Steve Zaranek said. “Sportsmanship was superb, the competition was fun and challenging, and the fans were incredibly supportive. A great start to the season.” North was back on the court against Woodhaven on Tuesday, Jan. 9, after press time, and is on the road at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, facing Royal Oak. South played in the Unified Showcase at Little Caesars Arena Tuesday, Jan. 9, after press time, and hits the road Friday, Jan. 19, to face Sterling Heights. South hosts North in the second rivalry showdown of the season at 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2.



Titan McKenzie brings the ball up the floor for the Blue Devils.

SOUTH:

Continued from page 1D

time ahead, but lost the battle of the boards in the first half. “We got owned in the first half,” Benard said of the rebounding battle. “I keep my more vocal aggression for my team for certain situations and I was a little bit vocal with them at halftime. So I kicked them in the butt a little

bit and they responded.” Benard said he addressed his team’s effort, telling them it wasn’t enough. “That’s not the makeup of our team,” he said. The second half replicated the first in terms of back-and-forth scoring. But the night’s biggest highlight for South outside of the win came quickly in the third quarter. Richards entered the second half

just one point shy of the 1,000 career points mark, reaching the milestone within seconds of the third quarter, helping South regain the lead 31-30. “I feel like since it was such a close game, I had a smile (when I got my 1,000th point), but I just had to get back on defense,” Richards said. “... For it to be a MAC Red game and then playing at LCN, I have a bunch of good friends here, so I was happy to do it against them.” South ultimately ended the quarter down 45-40. The fourth quarter saw some important three pointers by James and more offense from

Richards, who at that point had 15 points and 27 points respectively, with five minutes left to play. With the score knotted up at 59 all and 1.7 seconds left, South successfully prevented the Crusaders from putting up a shot, sending things into overtime. The Blue Devils relied on great ball movement in both overtimes and stingy defense with clutch free throws from Vachon, Richards and James. The first overtime ended 67-67 with the Crusaders hitting a game-tying three with no time left to send it into a second overtime. With 3.7 seconds left in double OT, South clung on to a 74-73 lead. Richards inbounded to

James, who was immediately fouled. James hit his first free throw to spot South up by two, but missed the second. The Crusaders failed on a buzzer beater, leaving the Blue Devils with a hard-fought 75-73 win. “We battled through those 10 points to start the game. Then we got outscored in the second quarter and we really responded in the third quarter. Down the stretch, we made 12 of 14 free throws starting in the fourth and TJ made some big shots when he had to,” Benard said. “We weren’t really prepared for the zone they threw at us in the first half, but at the end of the day, our kids just need to get out there and play basketball at that point. You just have to play.” Richards is just the fourth player in South history to join the 1,000 career points club. He is now in the record books with Tim Kramer (1973-74), Sean Bruce (1983-87), Adam Hess (1996-99) and Anthony Benard (2019-23). Above all, Richards said he was happiest with the win.

“I just think we talked about halftime toughness and I think in the second half we came out being more tough, getting more 50-50 balls,” he said. “And I feel like that closed it out.”

Coaches vs. Cancer Game

All three teams from Grosse Pointe South’s boys basketball program will participate in a fundraising effort to help beat cancer, beginning at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, against Sterling Heights Stevenson. The “Coaches vs. Cancer” event, a joint effort between the American Cancer Society and National Association of Basketball Coaches, will take place during the freshman, junior varsity and varsity games that evening. The games are a culmination of several weeks of fundraising for the American Cancer Society by South’s boys basketball program, led by freshmen boys assistant coach and cancer survivor Tom Mercer. Throughout the three games, players and coaches will honor lives lost to cancer, celebrate survivors and show appreciation for the caregivers who selflessly help others. To donate to this effort, head to main.acsevents.org/goto/gpsouthbasketball.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
POLICE DEPARTMENT
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE
AUCTION OF
IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED VEHICLES

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on **JANUARY 17, 2024** at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

2013 BASHAN MOPED	LHJTLBBN1DB006232
2017 MINI DIRT BIKE	L5NYAFT90H1051121
2003 SATURN L200	1G8JU54F03Y529954
2005 LINCOLN T-CAR	1LNHM81W85Y636923
2007 FORD CROWN VIC	2FAHP71W37X140734
2005 CHRYSLER 300C	2C3JA63H95H505094
2000 DODGE CARAVAN	1B4GP44G7YB730526

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Lt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section
POSTED: January 03, 2024
PUBLISHED: January 11, 2024
A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.

City of Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan

NOTICE TO BIDDERS – WATER SERVICE MATERIAL INVENTORY – AEW PROJECT NUMBER 0160-0461 Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Work consists of hydroexcavating water service lines to identify and document service line material. Plans and specifications must be obtained through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com. Plans will be available beginning Friday, December 22, 2023. An electronic, public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Paul Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.: 1/11/2024

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it’s games, meets or matches, high school winter sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week’s biggest hits and highlights from include:



UNIVERSITY LIGGETT BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING

Brendan Beland, who competes as University Liggett’s sole boys varsity swimmer this season, earned two additional county and state cuts in a meet against Sterling Heights Stevenson and Grosse Pointe North. Beland’s cuts came in the 200 IM and 100 free, an event in which he also took first place in a time of 50.82.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY

University Liggett senior forward Sullivan “Sully” Estes was named Player of the Month by the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League, thanks to her performance in December with the Knights girls varsity squad, the state’s No. 1 ranked team. Sullivan, an alternate captain, scored 11 points last month, including three goals and eight assists.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

AAA HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe South junior Adam Czarnik will be part of the Oakland Junior Grizzlies AAA junior hockey team representing the United States at the 16U International Silver Stick tournament in Toronto, Canada beginning on Jan. 11. Czarnik is also a member of South’s varsity football, basketball and baseball teams.

SOUTH GIRLS SOFTBALL

The Grosse Pointe South girls softball program will host its 10th annual clinic from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 16, in the main gym at South. The clinic is for players in kindergarten through eighth grade and costs \$75. All proceeds benefit South softball. Instructors for the clinic include members of the Blue Devils coaching staff and current players. The clinic will focus on basic throwing techniques and fielding, as well as hitting fundamentals. There is an opportunity on the registration form to request being placed in an advanced group to work at a higher skill level. For more information, email South varsity head coach Bill Fleming at gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com.



GROSSE POINTE UNITED GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS

Grosse Pointe United Gymnastics (GPUG) took fifth place out of 10 teams at the Fraser Invitational Saturday, Jan. 6, at Fraser High School. Individual placements in Division 2 competition include:

- **Lucy Tull (Grosse Pointe South)**
Floor — 9th place (8.625)
All around — 10th place (31.325)
- **Ainsley Tanghe (Grosse Pointe North)**
Beam — 6th place (8.35)
- **Makiya Latham (North)**
Floor — 8th place (8.725)
All Around — 8th place (31.825)

In Division 1 competition, **North’s Allie Mattes** had top finishes in each event, including:

- Vault — 3rd place in vault (8.4)
- Bars — 2nd place (8.575)
- Beam — 4th place (8.775)
- Floor — 2nd place (9.175)
- All Around — 2nd place (34.925)

2024 SPORTS CALENDAR JANUARY

11 THURSDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Royal Oak
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Eisenhower
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive Tri-Meet (@ GPS)
- » 6:30 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ AA Skyline
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Port Huron

12 FRIDAY

- » TBD - GPN Girls Wrestling @ Fowlerville
- » 4:45 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ Bloomfield
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Everest
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey @ Cabrini
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. Eisenhower
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Farmington
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Stevenson
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ Riverview GR

13 SATURDAY

- » TBD - ULS Boys Hockey vs. TBD (CHSL Final)
- » 9 a.m. - GPN Wrestling @ Armada
- » 3:45 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Clarkston (@ W. Bloomfield)

14 SUNDAY

- » No Events Scheduled

15 MONDAY

- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. LCN

16 TUESDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Royal Oak
- » 6 p.m. - GPS @ GPN Boys Swim & Dive
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Cardinal Mooney
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Roseville
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. New Haven



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

17 WEDNESDAY

- » 3:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey @ St. Clair Shores
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Dakota
- » 8 p.m - GPS Girls Hockey vs. OLSM

18 THURSDAY

- » 5:30 p.m. - GPN + GPS Wrestling MAC Gold Meet (@ GPS)
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. PHN
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Chippewa Valley

19 FRIDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops @ Sterling Heights
- » 5 p.m. - GPN + GPS Girls Wrestling @ Groves
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ Eisenhower
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Bishop Foley
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey vs. Romeo
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Riverview GR
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. FGR
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ LCN

20 SATURDAY

- » TBD - GPN Girls Hockey vs. TBD (@ Traverse City)
- » 9 a.m. - GPS Comp. Cheer @ Lake Shore
- » 9:30 a.m. - GPN Wrestling @ Woods-Tower
- » 10 a.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive vs. DLS
- » 12 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Salem
- » 3 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey vs. Marysville
- » 8 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey vs. Dakota

21 SUNDAY

- » TBD - GPN Girls Hockey vs. TBD (@ Traverse City)

22 MONDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops @ Sterling Heights
- » 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics vs. Birmingham (@ GPN)

23 TUESDAY

- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Everest
- » 5:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hockey vs. Woodhaven
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Ford II
- » 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive @ Anchor Bay
- » 7 p.m. - GPN @ GPS Girls Hoops
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Metro Jets

