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City atty cuts hike

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city’s legal counselors emerged from an account review session in the same place they entered — as the city’s legal counselors.

Attorneys with The Kelly Firm, which the Park first retained 15 months ago but placed in limbo during the holidays while considering its proposed \$20,000 rate hike, passed muster upon lowering the increase by \$5,000.

“It’s a real value we’re getting,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The firm received a one-year, \$115,000 flat-rate contract extension for legal services regarding normal operations of the municipal administration, city council, planning commission

See HIKE, page 2A

2024

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See Section C

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Wicked weather



Rain to sleet to snow to brrrrrr...

A fender bender occurred just outside the Grosse Pointe News office at Kercheval and Notre Dame around 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12, as road conditions turned treacherous. While rain cut down snow totals in some areas, metro Detroit accumulations from the Jan. 12-13 storm were greatest in Oakland County and increasingly lower to the east and by the shoreline. The freezing temperatures also closed schools Tuesday and Wednesday. Find more storm photos on page 2A.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Wire fire

Sam Pietrowsky took this photo at the corner of Hollywood and Morningside in Grosse Pointe Woods of a power line that fell and caught fire during the rain/snow/lightning storm the evening of Friday, Jan. 12.



COURTESY PHOTO

Eyeing new ‘Communicator’

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A deadline looms for reviving a spring edition of the city newsletter.

Publication is intended to overcome resident complaints about poor communication from city hall.

Unless a commitment to the project is made soon, there won’t be time to plan, produce and distribute a suitably comprehensive print version until fall.

The city council this month tabled until its February meeting a recommendation by the city manager to retain a communications firm that produces print and online municipal newsletters.

The company’s civic client list includes but isn’t limited to Harper Woods, Mount Clemens and Center Line Public Schools. Work extends to noted local organizations such as the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, plus private sector outfits, including Oakland Mall and about a dozen other real estate groups.

A cost-cutting aspect for clients is sharing revenue from advertisements the publisher drums up and rounds out for each edition.

“Most municipalities don’t have revenue sharing with advertising,” Scott Chambers, owner of Drive Creative Services, told the council Jan. 8.

“One of the unique options of Drive is revenue sharing with the municipality of 40 percent of their advertising sales,” City Manager Nick Sizeland wrote in a memo to council.

Based on Drive’s success with other municipal clients, Sizeland recommended retaining the agency to produce two 16-page print and online editions annually, summer and fall-winter, at an initial cost of \$22,500.

“After revenue share of 40 percent due to advertisements, the total cost estimate could be roughly \$13,500,” Sizeland said. “This number most likely would decrease due to amounts of advertisements.”

He foresees expanding publication to quarterly.

The arrangement works for Drive and its clients, according to Chambers, who served as publisher of the Grosse Pointe News during the ownership of Robert Liggett.

“As of October 2018, Drive began producing the Harper Woods newsletter, ‘The Insider,’” he said. “We develop adver-

See EYES, page 3A

Cotton new BoE president

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE — Sean Cotton is the new president of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education after Ahmed Ismail chose not to continue in the role, citing personal reasons.

“I appreciate those of you who have reached out to me and want me to continue as president,” Ismail said. “We’re dealing with some family medical issues right now that will take about three to six months to get through and I don’t feel I have the capacity to do that right now. It’s a good



Sean Cotton

10 hours a week job.”

A new slate of officers was selected at the board’s first meeting of the year Tuesday, Jan. 9. Ismail, who has been involved off and on with the board for 20 years, was elected president in

January 2023.

“We’re very fortunate to have someone I think can step into that role and do an awesome job of it,” Ismail said in nominating Cotton for president.

The motion was seconded by Ginny Jeup and, surprisingly, was approved unanimously 6-0. Lisa Papas was absent due to health reasons. The vote was met with applause from the audience as Ismail handed the gavel to Cotton, saying, “Here you go, Mr. President.”

“I’m not who I hoped to have as president but I understand and I’m hon-

See COTTON, page 9A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Will Johnson

Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Former Blue Devil plays key role in Michigan’s national title win



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Private office to fill space next to Jerry’s

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Having been vacant since Jerry’s Club Party Store shifted next door in early 2020, the building at 383 Kercheval soon will have new, but quiet, life as a private office for the medical examiner of St. Clair County and Saginaw.

The Farms resident and his wife — Daniel

and Jody Spitz — have owned the building at the corner of Kercheval and Lakeview around eight years and in March 2020, received zoning board of appeals approval to rent the space out to Pointe’s Pantry — a meal delivery business providing chef-crafted, ready-to-eat meals.

Ultimately, because the space proved unable to meet its needs, Pointe’s Pantry never

moved into the building, dispelling some residents’ concerns about increased traffic to the residential area.

Instead, it will be used for computer work, reviewing reports and the occasional meeting with an attorney.

Rather than any new signage, the medical examiner plans simply to etch his name into the door.

“Exterior, we need to

clean up that alleyway,” Jody Spitz said, “and then interior, we’re putting new floors in right now. We’re removing four or five layers of flooring — it’s actually incredible — and then we’re planning to go with an industrial look, so faux brick on some of the walls inside.”

The ZBA earlier this month approved 5-0 a variance to allow an office commercial use in

a residential zoning district. Members Louis Theros and Joe Ricci were absent.

Much of the approval had to do with the fact the first floor never has been residential, nor are shower or kitchen utilities currently in place.

“The property in question is located in the R-1 Single Family District, but has not been used as a residence for an extended period of time,”

member Lev Wood said as part of the motion. “Rather the property has been occupied by commercial or community service uses for an extended period.

“It is significant that the retail party store next store at 381 has been in use in the same building for approximately 60 years, established well before the current zoning ordinance was enacted.”



White washed

Lake St. Clair turned choppy and blowing snow made visibility low last Friday, as evidenced by this photo, taken at the corner of Provencal and Lakeshore.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Left, snow covered the trees and landscape of the short course at the Country Club of Detroit. Right, before the rain began, roadways were covered in snow, including Grosse Pointe Boulevard. The rain came Friday evening and washed away much of the snow, leaving behind ice as temperatures dropped below zero.

HIKE:

Continued from page 1A

and municipal court.

The breakdown of services is \$90,000 for gen-

eral city business and \$25,000 for the court, including prosecution. Terms are retroactive to November.

“Litigation or special assignments are

excluded from general legal services and will be billed at the firm’s discounted rates of \$150 to \$165 per hour,” according to an agreement the city council approved this month. “This agreement shall automatically renew unless either party provides 30 days written notice of intent to terminate.”

Automatic renewal of the \$115,000 flat rate occurs at a maximum 3 percent (\$3,450) inflation increase.

Although council members in December

declined to renew the contract citing further negotiations, Kelly continued representing the jurisdiction until a decision was made.

The council assigned the personnel committee to reevaluate the pact and return this month with a recommendation to sign on the bottom line or seek someone else.

“We met with Jim Kelly on Dec. 20, to review the contract,” said Councilman Marty McMillan, chairman of the committee. “We redrew it and you see it in front of you.”

“The biggest numerical change is the contract is now \$115,000,” Councilman Max Wiener said.

Relegating contract consideration to the personnel committee put the city’s outside legal counsel at risk of replacement.

Among the committee’s roles are overseeing the performance of the city attorney, city manager and finance

director.

Kelly Firm founder and principal Dan Kelly, who also is an elected member of the Michigan State University board of trustees, won the job of representing the Park more than a year ago with a municipal money-saving annual fee of \$100,000, according to City Manager Nick Sizeland.

In December, Kelly presented city officials a \$20,000 increase for the coming two years.

“It’s not an insignificant increase in rates,” Wiener said at the time. “Inflation’s inflation, but it’s not an insignificant jump.”

Councilwoman Christine Gallagher chaired the personnel committee at the time it recommended retaining Kelly. She was the only member of the council recommending approval of the higher rate increase in December.

Hodges in December appointed Councilman McMillan as personnel chairman.

“My thought is to bring this back to the personnel committee rather than go through this bit by bit for another half hour,” McMillan said at the December council meeting.

“I have no objection,” Kelly said.

Kelly said his firm barely broke even, if at all, representing the Park last year. The job required more work than anticipated.

“We are substantially over (the number of hours representing the city) than we anticipated,” he said in December. “But I put together what I suggested to the council is a reasonable increase.”

“It is a significant increase,” Councilman Tom Caulfield responded.

Kelly characterized the city as a loss-leader.

“We see a value to the firm in representing a community such as Grosse Pointe Park, a value that cannot always be reflected within an hourly rate,” he wrote to council in his rate pitch.

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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Book reading

On a frigid Sunday, Jan. 14, author Sharon Elizabeth Sexton read her book, “MLK Jr.’s Detroit Dream: Memoir of a Civil Rights Foot Soldier,” at Coreander’s Children’s Bookshoppe in Grosse Pointe Park. The autobiography details Sexton’s experience as an 8-year-old black girl going to Detroit with her parents and brother to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during summer 1963, when King shared the first version of his “I Have a Dream” speech. The memoir includes, in chronological order from a child’s point of view, the events, triumphs and tragedies from that summer until King’s death in 1968. While reading it to visitors at Coreander’s, Sexton sang a few lines of “We Shall Overcome,” a popular song from the ’60s, and described in an animated voice what it sounded and felt like as marchers came down the street, as well as the excitement the crowd felt for the event.

Woods updating sign ordinance

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Just in time for upcoming state and federal elections, city council is updating its sign ordinance, including provisions relating to political yard signs.

The move comes in part due to a 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that said municipalities cannot regulate signs based on content.

“Ordinances have to be content neutral,” said Brigitte Wolf of McKenna, which runs the city’s building department. “You can regulate things like sizes, colors and placement, but you can’t limit things like political signs or for sale signs.”

Before the Supreme

Court’s unanimous ruling, many municipalities had ordinances specifically related to how long a property owner could display political signs leading up to or after an election.

The new ordinance now refers simply to “temporary signs,” which can be displayed twice a year for up to 30 days. The twice yearly stipulation fits in with election cycles that consist of a primary and general election.

“You don’t want to be too restrictive, but you don’t want a lot of signs, either,” Wolf said. “This is the most straightforward approach.”

The signs can be up to 6 square feet and include 10 message units. One unit is considered a word, an abbreviation or a

10-digit telephone number. The 30-day window begins when a complaint is filed and confirmed by the building department.

“It could be a lot longer,” Mayor Art Bryant said. “Someone could have a political sign up for 30 days and then a neighbor complains, that’s when the 30 days actually starts.”

Councilwoman Vicki Granger, in office since 1997, said there have been a few sign ordinance revisions in that time.

“We’ve had a couple overhauls in the last 25 years, but I think this is the best version we’ve had,” she noted.

The new ordinance will get a first reading at council’s meeting Monday, Jan. 22, and a second reading Monday,

Feb. 5. It takes effect 10 days later, right before the Feb. 27 presidential primary.

Most of the ordinance relating to commercial signage remains the same. That includes a prohibition on signs that rotate, flash or blink, and signs blocking doors, windows or fire escapes.

Also prohibited are signs with words such as “stop,” “danger” or “look” that could mislead or confuse vehicle operators.

Signs also cannot contain language banned by the Federal Communications Commission that would be considered obscene, profane or indecent if broadcast. Any display of the human body that would constitute public nudity also is outlawed.

City’s Winterfest coming to Neff Park

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Quickly approaching two decades of cold weather fun, the 19th annual Winterfest at Neff Park takes places 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27.

Residents are invited to head down to the lakefront for a scavenger hunt, carnival games, ice skating, ice sculpting, curling, broomball, frisbee golf and a hockey shootout.

Surprise guest stars will stop by the pavilion from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. for family photo opportunities.

Complimentary s’mores and hot chocolate will be provided alongside warming fires, while those craving something more hearty have the option of a \$5 catered BBQ pulled pork or hot dog meal.

— Laurel Kraus

Planning for Chilly Fest

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Big things are expected of next month’s winter festival.

“I anticipate this being the most popular and well-attended Chilly Fest we’ve had to date,” said Chad Craig, Park recreation director.

Chilly Fest is noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, on lower Kercheval, between Charlevoix and Mack.

“We’ll have a ton of activities,” Craig said.

His lineup includes a rock-climbing wall, Mobile High Ropes Course, pony rides, a petting zoo, raffles, wood carving, a rubber fish

toss and, for the first time, bed frame races.

“There’s something for all ages,” Craig said.

Headlining the festival is a chili cook-off at Cabbage Patch Saloon, 15130 Mack, between Maryland and Lakepointe.

Some events wouldn’t happen without businesses providing services and donating toward raffles.

“It’s great to partner with our businesses,” Craig said. “The chili cook-off is always a big hit. This event just continues to grow in popularity and attendance.”

— Brad Lindberg

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 22

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council special meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Rescheduled Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Winterfest, noon to 3 p.m. at Ghesquiere Park.

Shot of art with a twist

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Expect the prospect of surrealism to come from Sip ‘N’ Paint, a trial recreation program mixing adult beverages with art instruction.

“If it goes great, we can look at doing another one,” said Stedman Taylor, Park recreation specialist. “If it’s terrible, we won’t ever do it again.”

Sip ‘N’ Paint is 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at the Tompkins Community Center, Windmill Pointe Park.

Attendance costs \$50

and is limited to 16 people, all of whom must be at least 21 years old.

“Even though the Tompkins Center can hold a lot of people, we thought we’d start with something small and see how it goes,” Taylor said.

Attendees must bring their own beverages.

Emily Finan, the department’s art instructor and a teacher in Lakeview Public Schools, presides.

Register for this and other Park programs at Windmill’s Lavins Activity Center or online

at recpro.grossepointe-park.org.

Valentine workshop

Finan also teaches the Valentine’s Day Art Workshop for children ages 5 to 13, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Tompkins Center.

Attendees are provided aprons and supplies to make crafts and gifts.

Magic show

Gordon The Magician puts on a show 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Okulski Theatre,

Windmill Pointe Park. Tickets cost \$15.

Headliner Gordon Russ made his professional debut in 1988, according to his website, gordonthemagician.com.

His performance history includes Art on the Pointe, the Ann Arbor Art Fair, Playland amusement park in Rye, NY; festivals in Chicago and at the Toledo Zoo.

“Gordon and his sidekick, George the Raccoon, want to bring smiles, laughter and fun to Grosse Pointe Park,” according to a post on the Park’s Facebook page.

— Brad Lindberg

EYES:

Continued from page 1A

tising (and) a revenue share program with the city to help offset the cost of publishing. Since that time, we have steadily increased our outreach to begin working with the city of Center Line, Chesterfield Township, Mount Clemens and the Recreational Authority of Roseville and Eastpointe in publishing their newsletters.”

Advertisements are kept separate from municipal information.

“Advertisements don’t clutter the news section,” Chambers said. “All the ads are in the back. Everything in the front portion (would be) strictly about the Park.”

Councilmembers sent the question to the Community Engagement Committee, the chairman of which, Councilman Brent Dreaver, was absent from the meeting due to illness.

“Some of the feedback I got from Councilmember Dreaver in advance of this is he does feel there’s a lot to flush out,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “Perhaps there is more to consider and we should throw this to the Engagement Committee to evaluate further and come back with a recommendation so it’s a holistic communication strategy.”

“I’m fine with tabling it,” Councilman Tom Caulfield said. “My only

concern is if we’re going to commit to this and want to get a summer presentation out, if this doesn’t get approved in February, you’re looking at a fall (launch).”

“Yes,” Chambers said.

He worked in the newspaper business more than 20 years.

“I like to think I know what I’m doing,” Chambers said. “I’m steadfast with stuff and don’t mess around. I’m here to get a job done and help you.”



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‘The moments you dream of’

Former Blue Devil Johnson helps U-M reach college football mountaintop

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

As the confetti fell inside NRG Stadium in Houston last Monday, Jan. 8, sophomore Will Johnson and the University of Michigan Wolverines reached the mountaintop of college football. The former Grosse Pointe South Blue Devil, and son of former Michigan Wolverine defensive back Deon Johnson, achieved the dream he and his family imagined for so long — being a national champion.

“Those are the moments you dream of as a little kid growing up,” Johnson said. “Doing it with a group of guys who you really love like your brothers, it means so much seeing all your hard work and dedication pay off. It was our goal all year to be national champions.”

The Wolverines defeated the Washington Huskies 34-13 in the championship game, with Johnson being named Defensive Player of the Game. It was the culmination of what he and the Michigan team had been working toward for years, especially after the end of the 2022 season.

Michigan was eliminated from the 2022 College Football Playoff



Will Johnson, second from left, celebrates Michigan’s national championship game victory with his family, from left, father Deon Johnson, mother Kafi Kumasi and sister Kayli Johnson.

before it had the chance to reach the championship game, losing in the Fiesta Bowl to Texas Christian University 51-45, in what was widely considered an upset. It was a heart-breaking end to Johnson’s freshman season, but also the perfect motivation for him and his team going into 2023.

“We went out in a way where we felt like we lost a game for ourselves,” Johnson said. “... It made us lock into being detailed and disciplined. It brought us together, especially with everything we went through this season; it made us stronger throughout the year. We always had the main goal of being national

champions, but made sure to always be present in the moment and take everything day by day to reach that goal.”

The Fiesta Bowl loss made Michigan perhaps the most motivated football team in the country entering the 2023 season. The reasons for that motivation only kept coming with what was a turbulent year for the Wolverines, beginning with head coach Jim Harbaugh serving a three-game suspension imposed by the university in the midst of an NCAA investigation regarding alleged recruiting violations.

Some of the biggest sports headlines of the year then surrounded Michigan as allegations of illegal “sign stealing” of opponent play calls swirled around the program. Harbaugh was suspended another three games, including Big Ten matchups against Penn State, Maryland and arch rival Ohio State.

The Wolverines prevailed through it all, however, and Johnson sees the national championship win as only proving Michigan’s



Proud papa, Deon Johnson, stands with his son, Will Johnson, who was named Defensive Player of the Game after his University of Michigan Wolverines won the national championship last week.

dominance no matter what anyone else says.

“If you see this season and our team, and you don’t give us respect for how talented this team is and give us the credit and know we were the No. 1 team in the country and can’t see that from the play, then you just don’t really know football,” he said.

“... We beat everyone that people said we couldn’t and didn’t listen to the outside noise.”

Johnson finished the 2023-24 season with four interceptions, the final being the biggest. Being named Defensive Player of the Game in the national title game was thanks in large part to an interception he made on the very first play of the second half.

Trailing 17-10, Washington received the ball to begin the second half looking to go on a drive to potentially tie the game. However, Johnson intercepted a ball thrown by Washington QB Michael Penix Jr., this season’s Heisman Trophy runner-up, on the Huskies’ very first play from scrimmage in the third quarter.

“I wouldn’t say I knew how much I shifted the momentum in the moment,” Johnson said about the play. “I saw the pressure up front and saw him throwing it my way. It looked like it was going out of bounds, but I saw I had a chance to go get it and make a play, and I knew once I came down I had caught it. ... After the fact, I did realize it was pretty big to get that ball back.”

Johnson’s interception gave Michigan the ball, leading to a field goal to create a 10-point lead. Washington never fully recovered, only scoring three more points in the game while Michigan cruised to a 21-point victory.

When the clock hit all zeros at the end of the fourth quarter and Michigan was officially the national champion, the celebration began — complete with Harbaugh sporting Johnson’s signature glasses, the “turnover buffs.” Johnson was joined on

the field by his mother, Kafi Kumasi; sister, Kayli Johnson; and dad, Deon Johnson.

Being able to share those moments of celebration with his family are memories Johnson will carry forever. It was especially moving for him to be there with his dad, who sported the maize and blue as a Wolverine 30 years ago.

“Getting to finally give him that hug, it was like a ‘we did it’ moment,” Johnson said. “We put in a lot of work and a lot of long hours that nobody saw. I really can’t even describe it, seeing how happy he was when he came down on the field and seeing my sister and my mom, it was something I had dreamed of and wanted growing up.”

While Johnson, who hails from Grosse Pointe Park, was close to committing to the Ohio State Buckeyes near the end of his high school career, it seems safe to say the promises of building a legacy made to him by Harbaugh and quarterback JJ McCarthy have paid off. Even with a national championship already on his resume, there are still big things Johnson sees himself wanting to accomplish in Ann Arbor.

Johnson will play at least one more season at Michigan before being eligible for the NFL Draft. With some personal setbacks due to injury slowing him down early in the 2023 season, Johnson has his sights on preparing harder in the coming offseason to reach his full potential in 2024, and help the Wolverines keep the national championship trophy in Ann Arbor one more year.

“Coming off last year, I didn’t have much time to prepare for this season because I had surgery,” Johnson said. “I worked into the season slowly and didn’t start feeling like myself until the last few games of this season. ... This offseason is going to be huge for me to really drive and hone in on my craft for next year and be the player I know I can be.”

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Grosse Pointe Woods

Ticket trouble

A resident in the 1800 block of Lancaster filed a report around noon Tuesday, Jan. 9, after eight tickets to a concert in Huntsville, Ala., were charged to her credit card totaling \$1,379.

She received the tickets in the mail but is protesting the charge with her credit union.

Bye bicycle

An electric bike worth \$1,400 was stolen in the 1300 block of Hollywood sometime overnight Wednesday, Jan. 10.

The green Rad Power bike was left unlocked against the side of the house.

License to steal

The license plate was stolen off a vehicle sometime before midnight the evening of Sunday, Jan. 14, while it was parked on Eastbrook Court near Yorktown.

—Ted O’Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Credit fraud

The evening of Wednesday, Jan. 3, an unknown male entered a store on Mack and took possession of a bicycle and global positioning system totaling \$4,499.99 that had been charged over the phone to a credit card.

“Several days after the items were picked up, the store was notified the credit card was used fraudulently without the owner’s permission,” police said.

Inside job

Police said they know who vandalized a car

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

parked overnight Wednesday, Jan. 10, in a municipal lot on Mack at Lakepointe.

The vehicle belongs to a 48-year-old man from Fife Lake, a town southeast of Traverse City that used to be a stop on the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, nicknamed The Fishing Line due to serving numerous fishing spots.

Investigation revealed the victim’s friend’s estranged husband caused the damage,” police said. “(The) suspect (was) cited for malicious destruction of property.”

Package stolen

An Amazon package containing a vintage Etsy gold pendant worth \$317 was stolen after delivery to a front porch in the 1000 block of Yorkshire early Friday afternoon, Jan. 12.

—Brad Lindberg

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Triple play

Three people were arrested after a vehicle was stopped on southbound Lakeshore near Briarcliff around 11 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10.

The driver, a 23-year-old female from Roseville, and two passengers, a female, 20, and male, 21, of Detroit, are all charged with interfering with a public safety officer.

The driver also was ticketed for having an open bottle of wine in the vehicle.

Need for speed

A 22-year-old Detroit man was ticketed for an expired vehicle registration and no proof of insurance after police spotted him driving well below the speed limit on northbound Lakeshore near Vernier around 11 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11.

—Ted O’Neil

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

City of Grosse Pointe

Two for two

A black man in his 40s stole \$220 worth of alcohol from a business in the 300 block of Fisher at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9.

Detectives suspect it was the same person who stole \$600 worth of champagne from the business at the end of December.

An investigation is ongoing.

Major loss

An unknown person hacked into a Grosse Pointe man’s business bank account and stole approximately \$190,000 Wednesday, Jan. 10.

An investigation is ongoing.

Expired

Traffic violations led to a 51-year-old Southfield man being pulled over at Mack and University and cited for an expired driver’s license at 3:20 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Suspended

A 40-year-old Center Line woman was pulled over for equipment viola-

tions at Mack and Cadieux at 2:40 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, before being cited for a suspended license.

Three strikes

After being advised not to trespass at Grosse Pointe businesses on three separate occasions Thursday, Jan. 11, a 52-year-old Detroit man was arrested.

—Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Taking, not caring

Two months after hiring a caretaker for her husband, a 77-year-old Farms woman walked into her kitchen in December and saw the 27-year-old Detroit woman holding her wallet.

The woman, who said she needed gas money, was fired immediately, but the homeowner has since realized five pieces of gold jewelry are missing.

DWLS

A 43-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over at Anatole and East Warren — the officer clocked an expired license plate tab, cracked windshield and illegally

tinted windows — at 4:02 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, and was cited for driving while license suspended, improper plates and not having insurance.

On the run

After a vehicle was pulled over for a number of traffic violations at Mack and Ashley at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, the passenger — a 37-year-old Detroit man — first gave the officer a false name before admitting he was a parole absconder and there was a warrant for his arrest for criminal sexual conduct.

The man said he was “tired of being on the run,” and that he had been “running for a long time,” before he was arrested and turned over to the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Felony forgery

A 56-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over for an expired license plate at Mack and Moross at 8:59 p.m. Wednesday,

Jan. 10, before being arrested on a felony forgery warrant out of the Wayne County Third Circuit Court.

Narcotics

Because he ran a red light on Mack at 11:02 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, a 32-year-old Detroit man ultimately was arrested for possession of suspected cocaine and schedule 2 narcotics.

When he later was released on personal bond, the man told an officer he appreciated how fairly he was treated at the station and that the drugs actually belonged to his girlfriend.

Red light

After driving through a red light on Mack at 7:42 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, a 36-year-old Detroit woman was pulled over and cited for driving while license suspended.

—Laurel Kraus

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



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Farms audit shows good financial standing

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — “I hate to bring some great news to the community, but somebody’s gotta do it, so once again, our auditors have given us an unmodified opinion that the city conforms with all financial requirements that we need to,” said Lev Wood, councilman and chair of the Farms audit and budget committee, when the fiscal year 2022-23 audit was presented to council in December.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the city’s general fund saw \$19.4 million in revenue and \$18.4 million in expenditures, with an ending fund balance of \$6.6 million.

Its unassigned fund balance — colloquially known as the rainy day fund — increased \$641,000 to \$5.2 million, or 27.8 percent, of the city’s expenditure budget. Administrators aim to keep the fund between 20 to 30 percent of the total budget.

While 74 percent of the city’s revenue comes

from property taxes — \$13 million was brought in during the fiscal year — it also received \$1.1 million in federal grants due to the American Rescue Plan Act and reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for June 2021 flooding, as well as state revenue sharing.

“That’s increased in the last couple years due to the 2020 census,” Finance Director/Treasurer/Controller Tim Rowland said. “We had an increase in population.”

In its water fund, the city saw its cash position increase by \$317,000.

“We had a good year last year with water usage, upwards of about 54.5 million units sold,” Rowland said, “but in the current year we had such a wet summer, our usage is down about 7 percent for this current fiscal year, so it’s something we’re keeping an eye on with our current water usage in the water fund.”

On the expenditure end, the city spent \$6.4 million on capital improvements.

The money went

toward six public safety vehicles, renovation of the fire hall, lighting improvements and security cameras at the department of public works, four lawn mowers, new roofs for the Pier Park gatehouse and concession stand, the park’s new playscape and landscape improvements, seawall repairs using a \$750,000 state grant, a new HVAC condenser in city hall and a new phone system for city buildings.

The Farms also spent \$3 million for road improvements to Fisher, Ridge, Cloverly and part of Kercheval — funding was provided via \$400,000 from the general fund; \$1.8 million from the road millage; \$200,000 from capital; and \$626,000 from Act 51 funds — and \$1.1 million on the Fisher water main replacement.

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Farms’ pension system reached funding levels of 86 percent for general and 106 percent for public safety. Its other post-employment bene-

See AUDIT, page 8A

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I SAY By Meg Leonard



Hail!

city of Houston, home to NASA.

Our three eldest children, all of whom are young adults, generously acquiesced and insisted the youngest member of our family, a high school freshman who is perhaps the most invested person they know regarding Michigan football — or anything U-M really — be the one to go. My older kids also insisted that as alumni of the school, my husband and I couldn't possibly miss this game.

By a stroke of tremendous luck, combined with being University of Michigan season ticket holders since our college days in Ann Arbor, my husband and I scored three coveted tickets to the College Football Playoff's National Championship game in Houston Monday, Jan. 8, to watch U-M face the University of Washington for all the marbles.

With game tickets in hand (nosebleeds, but who cares?), it was on to finding flights, a hotel room and rental car. Check, check and check.

Only one problem remained — we are a family of six, with only three tickets. Imagine a scene in our house from "Willy Wonka," with four hopefuls vying for the Golden Ticket. PowerPoint presentations of "Who is the Most Deserving Child to Go to the Natty?" ensued.

Honestly, as parents we felt guilty that ultimately only one of our four kids could go with us, for what was sure to be an experience of a lifetime. But even if we could secure more game tickets, the trip was just an astronomical amount of money for our whole crew to go. Apropos I suppose for the

We hugged it out and three of us took off for Houston the day before kickoff for arguably the most anticipated game in Michigan football's 144-year history.

Unless you have been living under a rock, or are in denial as a fan of certain teams to the west or south of Ann Arbor, you know U-M won the game, 34-13, to win its first national championship since a shared title in 1997, and its first outright national championship in the decade-old CFP era.

Of course the game's outcome was worth its weight in gold. But there were so many great moments on this trip, I wanted to highlight a few:

◆ Skymiles: Even though we voluntarily invested in this trip, it was great to offset what was essentially middle class extortion in the form of airfare, thanks to the efforts of my son and husband. They won extra Skymiles by throwing



From left, Jack, Meg and Bill Leonard soak in Michigan football's national championship win.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEG LEONARD

touchdowns in a game simulation the gate agents set up for fans heading to the natty. Score!

◆ Tex Mex: I have a daughter who attends college in Texas, so this state and its cuisine are very familiar to me. Let me tell you, I have never — and I mean never — had as good of a serving (or two) of queso as I did in Houston. Heavenly. Haunting. I have decided Texans are as friendly as they are because they have a happy belly full of queso at all times.

◆ Players: As it turns out, the hotel we booked happened to be Michigan's official team hotel. Former and current players were around every corner. Although the massive lobby resembled a beehive at all times, it was awesome to welcome the team back from an afternoon practice Sunday and to send them off to the National Championship game Monday. All were very

accommodating to the countless requests for selfies and autographs. Shout out to Kenneth Grant, a 339-pound defensive tackle who can best be described as "country strong." He took a very animated photo with my son and could not have been friendlier. Another shout out goes to defensive lineman Kris Jenkins, who told my son and a friend of his who also was there, "I'll make sure to get The Dub for you guys tomorrow."

◆ Parents/families: It was a pure delight to see the players' parents and families celebrating at the hotel after the win. I saw one player's mom relaxed in a chair, with her son's jersey on, a set of balloons in one hand and a new championship hat on her head as she sipped a celebratory glass of champagne. I smiled at her and said to her, "Earned," knowing the sacrifices she and her family made over the

years to get to this moment. "Earned" she said back to me, as she raised her glass in the air and we shared an imaginary toast.

I also saw two local families with players on the team, including former Grosse Pointe South stars Joey Klunder and Will Johnson, the latter of whom just played in the most important game in his career and earned Defensive Player of the Game (see our exclusive story on him on page 4A). I couldn't be happier for these two and I know I speak for many when I say thank you for providing us with unmatched hometown pride.

I also saw dozens of other familiar faces from GP — Pointers represented in force in Houston.

◆ Friends/classmates: One of the best parts of this trip was to celebrate the win with my niece, a fellow South and U-M alum. My husband and I

also reunited with so many of our college friends, including my former South and U-M classmates Jeff and John Joliet, the latter of whom probably would love for me to remind/convince readers of all of his athletic prowess on the Blue Devils' baseball diamond. Hanging out and joking with old friends like the Joliet brothers and seeing classmates we haven't seen in decades were definite highlights of this whole experience. We caught right up with them, as though no time had passed. That's testament to the magic of college and one of the main reasons we hold those years in Ann Arbor so dear.

We had to jump through a few hoops to get to Houston, but it turned out to be a trip of a lifetime. It was a powerful reminder of why this school means so much to us and to so many others. Hail to the victors, valiant.

WILLIAMS:

Continued from page 6A

therapist and regional director for a leading outpatient orthopedic company, I understand how important it is to be a member of a team that employs a variety of backgrounds, cultures and experiences. The benefits of this diversity go beyond the field of play and contribute to well-rounded experiences for our students that can enrich their lives.

We are all united in this work at University Liggett. Director of Community Engagement and Belonging Michelle Cureton, who champions a community of belonging through education, professional development, progressive initiatives and so much more, also serves as one of our head coaches with our varsity dance team.

As a University Liggett alum and school administrator, I also take great pride and responsibility in the continuous upbuild of our school to make it better for future generations. I've had the honor of expanding our team of coaches at University Liggett in a manner that better reflects the diversity represented in our surrounding communities. Representation is vital for validation, support and reducing negative stereotypes of populations that have been historically under-represented. In doing so, representation also promotes understanding, respect and compassion through social cohesion amongst student-athletes and coaches.

Some of the head coaches we've hired from historically marginalized populations over the past year are: Jeff Collins (tennis), Mike Matthews (basketball), Kevin Glenn (football), James Scott (basketball), Psauntia Andrews (softball), Renecia Cunningham (volleyball) and Michelle Cureton (dance).

In addition to these coaches, there are several others who have been taking on the responsibility of inspiring and shaping the lives of our youth through University Liggett athletics for years, including Dytarious Edwards (baseball), Craig White (basketball) and Mike Pace (basketball), as well as Juwan and Micah Harper (basketball).

While representation is essential, it is not the end goal; it is merely one step toward vital progress. With athletics being our school's largest and most outward-facing department, it has been quite heartening to use it as a vehicle to advance University Liggett's formal effort to "continually and rigorously take action to create a space where all feel heard, valued and embraced by our school community."

Dr. Leython Williams is assistant head of school for athletics and ancillary programs at University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods. He is a 2003 University Liggett grad and played Division I football at Central Michigan University, after which he earned his doctorate in physical therapy from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.



Selfridge ANG gets new planes

SELFTRIDGE ANGB — A new breed of military aircraft will fill the landing pattern over Lake St. Clair when a squadron of 12 KC-46A Pegasus tankers touch down next year at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township.

"This decision is very

good news for Selfridge Air National Guard Base now and for the future," said Candice Miller, Macomb County public works commissioner and honorary commander of Selfridge. "Selfridge is perfectly positioned to

See SANG, page 8A

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RAYMOND JAMES

Council, police honor former city veterinarian

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The “Animal Farm” maxim, “Four legs good, two legs bad,” doesn’t apply to Dr. Lawrence Herzog, hometown veterinarian. Park Mayor Michele Hodges described Herzog as “the person who makes our four-legged friends stay healthy.” He’s practiced in the city since the mid-1970s. For 41 years of his nearly half-century career, Herzog worked as the Park’s city veterinarian. Duties ranged from harboring stray animals, mending injured ones and helping police corral or eliminate dangerous ones. “He’s worked hand-in-

hand with public safety my entire time here,” said Chief Jim Bostock, hired in 2003. “It’s been a pleasure to work in Grosse Pointe Park,” Herzog said. “I’m proud that my kids got to grow up around all of the good officers. I’m very impressed by their professionalism and what they do to increase the overall quality of life in Grosse Pointe Park.” He remains in practice at the Grosse Pointe Animal Clinic on Kercheval, but discontinued work as the city’s vet. “For the record, I’m not retiring,” Herzog said. On Monday, Jan. 8, the city council unanimously honored him with a resolution. “Dr. Herzog and the work done at the Grosse Pointe Animal Clinic has

had a positive and everlasting impact on the quality of life for pets and pet owners for decades,” reads part of the resolution. “Thinking of you, Dr. Herzog, ‘honor’ came to mind,” Hodges said. “It perfectly aligns with you. It’s a person of superior standing, one whose work brings respect and is respected and has much public esteem.” “You’ve been a tremendous asset to the community, a good friend and very generous with your time,” Councilman Marty McMillan told Herzog. Bostock suggested the resolution. “He’s more than worth the recognition and a thank you for all that he’s done for us in the community and public safety,” Bostock said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Brushing up on recycling

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary President Sherrie Jones welcomed Dan Venet and J.P. Bauer of Priority Waste to the club’s Jan. 9 meeting at Ford House. Venet and Bauer shared little-known recycling and waste collection information with the group, as well as the high-tech approach Priority Waste uses on a daily basis. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Club members extend an open invitation to residents to visit the club for its presentations at 7 a.m. Tuesdays. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.

Woods woman sentenced in fatal crash

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A Grosse Pointe Woods woman will spend five to 15 years in prison after pleading no contest to a charge of operating a vehicle under the influence causing death. Brooke Lynn-Denise Charles received the sentence Friday, Jan. 12, in Wayne County Circuit Court. Pleading no contest means Charles accepted the sentence without admitting guilt. Charles was accused of striking

Connor McMahon the evening of June 13, 2023, while he was changing a flat tire on his vehicle on eastbound I-94 near the Vernier exit. She then left the scene and was arrested by Harper Woods police. Charges of failure to stop at the scene of a serious personal injury accident and resisting arrest were dropped. McMahon was a teacher at Fraser High School, from which he graduated. —Ted O’Neil

Car thefts double

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Car thefts in 2023 were at least twice the number from the year before. Around 80 cars were stolen in the Park during 2023, according to Chief Jim Bostock. The total is more than twice the total

from 2022, he said. He said totals haven’t been this high for about 10 years. Many thefts were of Kia products, some models of which lack anti-theft immobilizers, which prevent a vehicle from starting when someone attempts to use a key or key fob that doesn’t match

the car. “The swath of Kia thefts taking over the country make up a substantial amount of that number,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “Along with coordination from mutual aid departments, we’ve made several arrests over the past couple of weeks and identified a number of additional suspects, which has, in turn, allowed us to

gain more search and arrest warrants,” Bostock said last month. Bostock said the department has around two dozen theft-prevention devices available to give free to residents. Kia provided them last summer for Kia owners, but Bostock said the remaining inventory is now available to owners of all makes and models. Despite increased thefts,

he doesn’t envision any one resurrecting a multi-agency car theft task force. About eight or nine officers assigned to the task force worked for agencies in the Park, Detroit, Wayne County and Highland Park. “When it started, there were a lot of arrests made,” he said. “The reason it was disbanded is, over time, we were basically a recovery unit doing work for insur-

ance companies. We were recovering shells of cars and not making arrests.” He solicited residents to report suspicious activity. “Even if it’s just for us to check it out and put their mind at ease that everything’s OK,” Bostock said. “In many cases, we’re able to get good leads from video cameras on the side of residents’ homes. We’ll compile that information and build upon it.”

A swing and a miss

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Whether offered as rhetoric, repartee or rigmarole, an unsubstantiated accusation of wrongdoing against a planning commissioner fell flat. Neither did it sidetrack the commission’s ongoing work to update zoning codes. The only thing the accusation achieved was to put the city attorney front and center to affirm the commissioner meets the commission’s standards of ethics. Those standards are higher than those normally demanded of Park officials and thereby add to the commissioner’s rightful standing to serve on the board and rule on zoning matters, according to the attorney. Park resident Graig Donnelly claimed during

the Oct. 24 planning commission meeting that Commissioner Jimmy Saros had a conflict of interest due to working in his family’s local real estate and property management business. The implication that Saros could steer commission decisions toward personal financial gain came up during Donnelly’s opposition to the commission’s proposed establishment of transition districts buffering commercial and residential neighborhoods. Donnelly owns his residence in one of the proposed transition districts, he said. Likewise, Saros’ company also owns a parcel in a business district that is likely to be rezoned for mixed use. “I am part owner of a property management company and we own real

estate as well,” Saros said at the commission’s Nov. 8 meeting. “We sell property regardless of what the zoning is.” Donnelly didn’t attend the meeting. He was in downtown Detroit opposing construction of the Schaap Center for the Performing Arts one block from city hall. “I don’t think this presents a conflict of interest,” said Park Assistant City Attorney Morgan McAtamney of The Kelly Firm. The issue has been litigated in Michigan “time and time and time again,” she said. “This situation is not considered a conflict of interest and has not been considered a conflict of interest by the courts of this state.” Among facts in Saros’ favor is the zoning code’s citywide application. “I have absolutely no concern in saying that this particular issue of voting on a whole-cloth zoning

ordinance amendment is not a conflict of interest,” McAtamney said. “Further,” Saros said, “I don’t know if (proposed new zoning) will lead to increased value of any given parcel. It would be one thing if we were brokering a transaction or developing a parcel that was conditional on new zoning going through.” McAtamney said commission bylaws exceed the city’s ethics ordinance regarding conflicts of interests. “Language in the ethics ordinance only considers a conflict of interest if there is a direct financial interest, whereas language in the planning commission bylaws specifically contemplate there will be a direct or indirect financial interest,” she said. In a written report to the commission, she said,

“This situation appears to be more of what is colloquially referred to as a ‘conflict of loyalty’ or ‘conflict of duty.’ In other words, Mr. Saros does have both his obligation to his business interest and to his duties as a planning commission member.” To support her finding, she referred to the state Planning Enabling Act. “The Act specifically contemplates that members of the planning commission are to be residents of the municipality they serve,” she wrote. “This means that members are intended to have a financial and personal interest in the community they serve and that these zoning ordinance amendments will present conflicts of loyalty for all commission members in one sense or another.” “I have zero concerns

about a conflict of interest with Commissioner Saros,” Commission Vice Chairman Michael Vethacke said. “Part of the bylaws (state) the (city) council should be appointing people (to the commission) who are knowledgeable of and representative of various segments of the community. Property owners are a valuable segment of the community.” On top of all that, the commission is an advisory body. It lacks final say in anything. “The planning commission is only a recommending body,” McAtamney said. “(The city council) doesn’t have to give any weight to decisions of the planning commission.” “If we say ‘no,’ they can still say ‘yes’ and vice versa,” said Planning Chairman Patrick Coletta, an attorney.

SANG:

Continued from page 7A

carry out this very important critical mission for the Air National Guard. It’s critical because the 12 new KC-46A refuelers to be placed here are vital for keeping fighter aircraft flying and in the sky all over the world.” The new, two-engine aircraft are military versions of the Boeing 777. They replace a squadron of KC-135T Stratotankers based on the four-engine Boeing 707. The Grosse Pointes’ voice in Congress, Shri Thanedar, was among

Michigan lawmakers signing a letter in December to the secretary of the Air Force advocating KC-46As be stationed at Selfridge. Signatories also urged establishing a wing of F-35 or F-15EXs at the base. “It’s time to turn our attention to support U.S. Sen. Gary Peters in his effort to make Selfridge a northern border homeland security hub,” said Miller, who chaired the Homeland Security Committee when she served in the U.S. House. “If Michigan’s delegation is successful in that, it will bring more personnel

— and possibly more air assets, water assets and certainly more research and development and intelligence capabilities — to Selfridge to protect our nation. Let’s remember the Chinese spy balloon that traveled along the northern border, including Lake Huron. Northern border security is critical to our national security.” Selfridge dates to 1917. The base is named after Army Lt. Thomas Selfridge, the first person killed in an airplane crash. He was a passenger in a Wright Flyer piloted by Orville Wright in Virginia.

AUDIT:

Continued from page 5A

fits, or retiree healthcare, is funded 67 percent for general and 80 percent for public safety.

“The state wants you to be at 40 percent or above for the healthcare and 60 percent or above for the pension, and you can see we’re kind of blowing those out of the water,” Rowland told council.

“(We’re) really one of the few communities in the state that are funded at these levels, which, in general, that’s really a testament to the city putting money where it needs to go.”

Grosse Pointe News

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Grosse Pointe News

New group focused on academic rigor in GPPSS

By Ted O'Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Unlike three current nonprofit groups that raise money for the Grosse Pointe Public School System, a new group looks to raise the bar for the district. Pointers for Academic Excellence, which recently went live with its website, has as a mission statement: “To promote community engagement and maximize opportuni-

ties for the students and staff of the Grosse Pointe Public School System to reach their full potential for individual success and community contribution.” The group was founded by Board of Education President Sean Cotton shortly after he was elected in late 2022, but said he is not involved with the organization beyond that. “We’re trying to create awareness among the public, especially parents, about the educational ini-

tiatives in the district and make sure we hit the targets the district has set for itself,” said Joseph Muzingo, who chairs the group’s board of directors. “All of us love this community and want to make ours the best-performing school district in the state.” The group’s website, pf-ae.org, lists its priorities broken down by topics including academics, arts, athletics, fiscal responsibility and focus on the future.

Each category has bullet points regarding what the organization thinks the district should focus on. The 10 board members — also listed on the website — are all graduates of GPPSS or have a long-time association with the district. “We have people ranging in age from their 20s and 30s to their 60s, but they all have a strong foundation in the community and know a lot of people,” Muzingo said. “They’re people who oth-

ers would feel comfortable reaching out to and finding out more about us.” The website also has information about college scholarships, registering to vote and AP classes. “We’re an advocacy group as far as policy goes, but we’re also a resource for the community,” Muzingo added. “If we get to that ultimate goal of being the top-performing district in the state, the entire community will be better for it,

whether you have kids in the district or not.” As for engaging the board of education, Muzingo said the group is more of a “cheerleader” for the district. “There may be times that we don’t think the district is being aggressive enough on certain goals, but for the most part we want to support efforts to be the best district in the state,” he said. “We wouldn’t attend board meetings just for the sake of being vocal.”

ULS student magazine wins highest honor in Art and Literary Magazines contest

Lambrequin, the student magazine of University Liggett School, has been recognized as a REALM First Class magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English. REALM First Class is the highest distinction offered by the NCTE for school literary magazines. This year, schools in 46 states and five countries nominated 375 student magazines. Magazines from middle school, high school and higher education were welcomed for the 2023 contest. “I am elated that Lambrequin has been bestowed with the prestigious REALM First Class award,” said Elizabeth Wagenschutz, Lambrequin faculty advisor. “This marks a historic moment for

Lambrequin as it secures its first-ever highest honor in the literary realm. I am so proud of our dedicated student contributors and the tireless efforts of our editors who have poured their time and passion into crafting Lambrequin into an extraordinary literary magazine.” The REALM program publicly recognizes excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers. REALM is designed to encourage all schools to develop literary magazines that celebrate the art and craft of writing. Schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, Canada and American schools abroad are eligible to nominate magazines.

PRIDE OF THE POINTES

Jake Tedesco of Grosse Pointe Woods was named to the Dean’s List at University of Dayton, where he is a sophomore. Tedesco is a 2022 graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School. ♦♦♦ **Harry Crane** of the City of Grosse Pointe, **Maria Mirkazemi** of Grosse Pointe Farms and **Rachel Rihani** of Grosse Pointe Park were named to the Dean’s List at Belmont University for the fall semester. ♦♦♦ **Matthew Valente** of Grosse Pointe Farms and **Jack Michaud** of Grosse Pointe Park were named to the Dean’s List at Marquette University for the fall semester. Valente is a journalism major. Michaud is an economics major. ♦♦♦ **Elizabeth Seymour** of Grosse Pointe Park was



Jake Tedesco



Jack Michaud



Emily Ebenhoeh

named to the fall President’s List at Southern New Hampshire University. ♦♦♦ **Rory MacMaster** of Grosse Pointe Woods was named to the fall Dean’s List at the University of Evansville, where he is studying marketing. ♦♦♦ **Miles Wujek** of Grosse Pointe Farms was named to the fall 2023 Dean’s List at Hofstra University. He is majoring in psychology. ♦♦♦

The following students were named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester at the University of Wisconsin-Madison: **Emily Ebenhoeh** and **Caroline Miller** of the City of Grosse Pointe; **Aaron Vyletel** of Grosse Pointe Farms; and **Emily Widgren** of Grosse Pointe Shores. ♦♦♦ **Maria Lianos** of the City of Grosse Pointe was named to the Dean’s Honor List for the fall semester at the University

of Wisconsin-Madison. ♦♦♦ **Meg Pangborn** of Grosse Pointe Woods, **Charles Logan** of the City of Grosse Pointe and **Fletcher Klaasen** of Grosse Pointe Farms were named to the fall 2023 Dean’s List at the University of Kentucky. ♦♦♦ **Audrey Leo** of the City of Grosse Pointe earned a Bachelor of Science degree in event management this fall from Iowa State University.

COTTON:

Continued from page 1A
ored,” Cotton said. “I’m stepping into some big shoes.” Cotton then nominated Ismail as vice president, a position held for the past year by Papas. “That’s something I can do,” Ismail said. The motion was again seconded by Jeup and passed 5-1, with the only objection coming from Colleen Worden. To replace Cotton as treasurer Ismail nominated Terry Collins. “He’s shown over the past number of years, even before he joined us after being appointed, that he is on top of the finances of the district,” Ismail said. “He’s meticulous in his work and I think he’d make a fine treasurer.” Collins was appointed

to the board last October to replace David Brumbaugh, who resigned due to a work relocation, for a term expiring at the end of this year. That motion passed 4-2, with Worden and Valarie St. John voting no. Worden then nominated St. John as secretary to replace Jeup, noting that she takes extensive notes during meetings and often points out errors in minutes from previous meetings. That motion failed in a 3-3 tie, with Cotton not voting and Ismail, Jeup and Collins voting no. Cotton said his abstaining was technically a vote for St. John. Papas was then appointed secretary, 4-2, with Worden and St. John voting no. Another 4-2 vote — again with Worden and

St. John voting no — saw a change in board policy as to how each trustee handles the \$30 per diem they receive for each meeting. Currently, board members have three options: ♦ Accept the money ♦ Refuse the money, meaning it stays in the general fund ♦ Direct the money to some other program within the district Trustees in the past have publicly stated their intention at the first meeting of the year. The new policy says they will make their intentions known to the superintendent in writing by Jan. 15. Worden and St. John voted against the change, saying trustees should still make their intentions known publicly. Cotton said the new policy would not stop them from doing so. Because such policies

do not take immediate effect, board members still were required to make their intentions known at last week’s meeting. St. John again chose closed captioning costs for televised board meetings and Worden again named the Parcels PTO. Jeup, who chose special education last year, said she would defer a decision until she received a better accounting of how much money was dispersed and how often. Cotton said he would forgo the money, meaning it will stay in the general fund and Collins chose the swimming and diving programs at Grosse Pointe South

High School. Ismail said he would accept the money, meaning he’ll pay taxes on it, then donate it to Special

Kids, a local program that provides therapy for children with cognitive, physical or emotional impairments.

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Wolverine Stone marks 100 years

By Ted O’Neil
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Look at most any iconic building in Detroit or the metro area and you’re most likely looking at the work of Wolverine Stone Co.

The fourth-generation family-owned business with deep ties to the Pointes celebrated a century of business in 2023.

“We’ve survived the Great Depression, World War II, the recession and the Detroit bankruptcy,” President Ron Capp said. “We’ve seen it all.”

The business was started by Benny Capp in 1923. Early projects included the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Guardian, Fisher and Penobscot buildings.

Ben Capp Jr. and his brother, Stanley Capp, took over from their father in the late 1960s. Notable projects included the Chrysler World Headquarters, Southfield Town Center Towers and Renaissance Center.

Ben Capp Jr. also was highlighted by broadcasters during the Detroit Lions’ playoff win Sunday, Jan. 14, as a season ticket holder for 66 years. It was fitting since Wolverine installed the large stone lion on the exterior of Ford Field.



The floor in the lobby of the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago created by Wolverine Stone.

Ron Capp, Ben Capp Jr.’s son, took over in 1992. He championed several restoration projects, including the Shinola Hotel, Book Tower and Michigan Central Station, as well as new projects such as MGM Grand Detroit and the McNamara Terminal and Westin Hotel at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

“We’ve been lucky that we’ve had family members who have wanted to continue the company,” Ron Capp said. “And we’ve had great employees. We take good care of them and they provide a great product and great service.”

He said that includes the management team of Matt

Bontomasi — also a Pointer — Brad Reidel,

Monika Parker and Frank Wilczewski.

Alex Capp, Ron Capp’s son, is the firm’s project manager. Current work includes the Hudson Tower and Gordie Howe International Bridge.

“We’re excited to be involved with those,” Alex Capp said. “Every job is different because it’s like figuring out a puzzle.”

He pointed specifically to the James R. Thompson Center in downtown Chicago, which opened in the mid-1980s as the State of Illinois Center.

“The floor is like an optical illusion and that was designed before we had computers,” he said.

Alex Capp said the arc of the company in some ways mirrors the history of Detroit.

“Our earliest work was things like churches, banks and government buildings as Detroit was being built up,” he noted. “In the 1970s we diversified with a tile division and expanded into more out-state markets.”

Some of that residential work has been in the Pointes.

“We’ve done restoration work on some of the large estates along Lakeshore and more modern work in other houses,” Alex Capp said. “The Grosse Pointes have such a great fabric of historic architecture.”

Alex Capp said he’s excited to see what the next 100 years might bring.

“The door is always open for more family members to join,” he said.



Before and after photos of a staircase in Detroit’s Siren Hotel after Wolverine Stone’s restoration efforts.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Brieden Consulting Group joins Oswald Companies

Brieden Consulting Group, an employee benefits agency in the City of Grosse Pointe, has joined Cleveland-based Oswald Companies, one of the country’s largest independent insurance brokerage and risk management firms. Details of the transaction were not disclosed.

The addition of Brieden strengthens Oswald’s existing Michigan presence, which is headquartered in Bloomfield Hills.

“We’ve been looking for a partner that understood how to keep the client first and to inspire the connection between the employer investment and the employee benefits,” BCG President Hans Brieden said. “Oswald is the perfect fit.”

Brieden brings an impressive book of business for employee benefits, while Oswald focuses on the four key areas of risk management in property and casualty, employee benefits, life insurance and retirement plan services.

“Oswald already provides a full slate of risk management services to our clients throughout Michigan,” said Robert Klonk, Oswald chairman and chief executive officer. “With the addition of Brieden, we are bringing to life our goal of investing even more in the state for the benefit of our clients.”

“Through this partnership, Brieden and Oswald will work together to provide a world of protection around businesses, individuals and families, so they can rest easy and focus on what they enjoy most,” said Catherine Kosin, executive vice president and Michigan market leader at Oswald.

The Brieden Grosse Pointe location and the firm’s team will continue to serve existing clientele in their current building, adding another office for Oswald. In addition to its downtown Cleveland headquarters and Michigan presence, the 130-year-old firm has offices in Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, Medina, Toledo and Pittsburgh.



COURTESY PHOTO

New owners

The Original Buscemi’s Inc. Pizza & Sub Shoppe, 15213 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, is under new ownership and celebrated that changeover with a ribbon-cutting event, courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. For information about Buscemi’s, which specializes in submarine sandwiches, homestyle pizzas, cheese bread and more, call (313) 458-8552. Pictured from left are Chamber Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull, owners Harold and Amy Conlan, Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher, Chamber Board Chairman Mark Heppner and Chamber Board Vice Chairman Alan Lowenthal.



COURTESY PHOTO

Celebrating success

Michelle and Bob Conlan, owners of Rustic Cabins Bar, 15209 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, took part in a ribbon-cutting celebration in honor of their family members becoming new owners of The Original Buscemi’s Inc. Pizza & Sub Shoppe. Both businesses joined the chamber at the same time, so the Conlans rededicated their iconic bar. Rustic Cabins has been around more than 100 years and is a staple for live music, pool, darts, pinball, foosball and more. Pictured from left are Chamber Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull, Chamber Board Vice Chairman Alan Lowenthal, owners Michelle and Bob Conlan, Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher and Chamber Board Chairman Mark Heppner.

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Easter item collection underway

Love One Another kicking off 8th year of giving baskets to charities

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Amanda McCullough’s porch runneth over — and that’s just the way she likes it.

The Grosse Pointe Woods resident is the founder of Love One Another, a nonprofit that collects items to be distributed via Easter baskets to local churches, shelters, foster homes, after-school programs and food pantries in metro Detroit.

Last year she collected enough items to fill 600 baskets, which were delivered to 11 organizations. As her organization continues to grow, she anticipates another bountiful season.

“I was inspired by all the post-Easter clearance sales,” she said of Love One Another’s origin. Collections first started in 2016, but the nonprofit officially formed in 2019. “I was trying to find a way to make good use of that (Easter) stuff and combat consumerism.

“... Here in Grosse Pointe, there’s so much we want to get rid of and our neighbors have next to nothing,” she added. “I wanted to find a way to make that connection with people who don’t have much.”

Since its inception in 2016, Love One Another has donated more than 3,100 baskets.

McCullough begins collecting each January

and by March hopes to have enough for another 600 Easter baskets, which she and a team of volunteers will pack over two to-be-determined weekends — one hosted by her parents, the other at the Michigan Children’s Law Center.

“It’s always been Easter baskets,” she said of the effort. “It’s a time of year when there’s not as much volunteering going on. We have an event where everyone helps assemble baskets. There’s music and kids. Lots of people show up — people I don’t even know who just saw it on Facebook and wanted to bring their families to help. I’ve gotten to know a lot of people in the community. We have a lot of business donors, too.”

The Grosse Pointe North High School grad said just as the amount of donations has grown each year, so has the number of organizations benefitting. Receiving this year’s baskets are Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries, Turning Point, Gleaners Community Food Bank, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center, Ruth Ellis Center, Wayne County foster care workers, La Sed Detroit, Detroit Hispanic Development Corp., Michigan Children’s Law Center and Stafford House.

“We’ve added organizations throughout the years,” McCullough said.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Love One Another, led by Amanda McCullough, is collecting items to fill 600 Easter baskets. Learn more at linktr.ee/LoveOneAnother313



From left, volunteer Chloe Pfeifer, Love One Another founder Amanda McCullough and volunteer Claudia Pfeifer stand with a truckload of Easter baskets, ready for distribution.

“Last year was the first year for Ruth Ellis. This year we added more groups that serve children in foster care.

“The community is a big part of this,” she continued, “and local businesses. We are looking for that — more businesses — and volunteers. I and my family are involved in the legal community in Detroit and the Grosse Pointe area. We get a lot of support from the legal community, from Butzel Long and other firms. And from the Wayne County Circuit Court

system and juvenile detention center. People like to do it as a team-building exercise.”

To accommodate its growth, McCullough welcomes business sponsors and volunteers, as well as more donors.

“I’m always looking for more people,” she said. “I can use volunteers, like the Girl Scout troops who fill up Easter eggs. I have 12,000 Easter eggs to fill. I need delivery volunteers, too.”

She’s starting to look for administrative and planning help as well.

In addition to her porch, McCullough has received collection help from the community. Donations are being gathered by students at Brownell Middle and Mason Elementary schools, as well as at Full Lotus Yoga and The Lon Next Door Salon & Spa.

Typical items being collected include toys such as stuffed animals, LEGOs and action figures; school and art supplies like markers, crayons and coloring books; interactive items like Play-Doh, sticker packs and puzzles; outdoor toys such as bubbles, jump ropes, chalk and reusable water bottles; and essential items

like socks and travel-size toiletries.

“They’re separated into age categories,” she explained. “We have an assembly line to make sure it’s pretty equal. Everyone gets a fun gift with a little snack and socks, a toothbrush — things they may not have, but something

they can use.”

Baskets benefit babies and toddlers up to teens and adults. All items should be new, unwrapped and small in size.

For drop-off details, call McCullough at (734) 620-2687 or email amanda.fresard@gmail.com. Monetary donations also are accepted via PayPal and items may be purchased via the Love One Another Amazon Wishlist. To access the wishlist, PayPal or social media links, visit linktr.ee/LoveOneAnother313

“Our mission is to provide essential items and a joyful holiday memory for underserved children and families in metro Detroit,” McCullough said. “These gift baskets are meant to serve as a gesture of love toward these members of our community and to plant seeds of hope and kindness.”



From left, volunteers Sabina Valenzuela, Sergio Rodriguez and Bilal Dabboussi sort and pack Easter baskets.



Love One Another Board Secretary Mickey McCullough with fully stocked baskets.

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Actors, singers, dancers, gymnasts wanted for ‘Newsies’

Workshop, audition dates coming soon

Actors, singers, dancers and gymnasts of all genders are welcome to audition for Grosse Pointe Theatre’s production of Disney’s “Newsies the Musical,” which will be performed May 3 to 12, at Parcels Middle School in Grosse Pointe Woods. Several roles are available for young and older characters.

“Grosse Pointe Theatre is one of the first community theaters in the region to perform ‘Newsies’ and we look forward to welcoming the diverse talent metro Detroit is blessed to have,” said Timothy Higgins, director and co-choreographer of the show. “The wonderful songs, electrifying dance movements and compelling storyline will touch every heart.”

Inspired by the newspaper strike of 1899, in New York City,

“Newsies” is the musically packed tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy who led a group of teenage newsies to take on powerful publishing giants to fight for fair conditions.

With the Tony Award-winning team of Alan Menken, music; Jack Feldman, lyrics; book by Harvey Fierstein and based on the Disney film written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White, “Newsies” is a powerful, inspiring, joyful and entertaining musical with a timeless message of justice and fairness for all. It is presented with special arrangement by Music Theatre International.

Auditions for the Grosse Pointe Theatre production take place 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, with callbacks 1

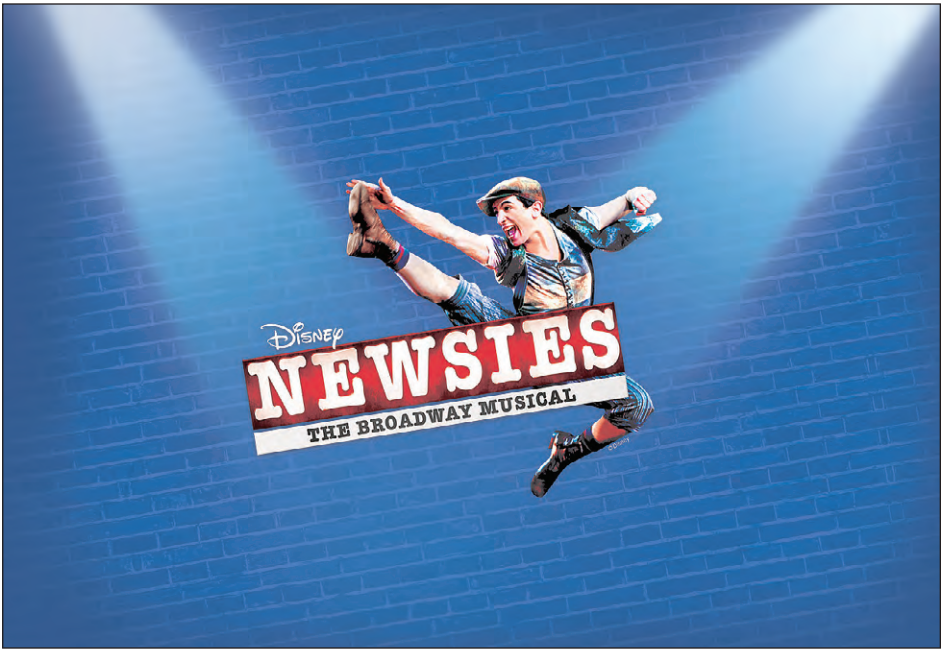
to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at the GPT rehearsal studio, 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe.

Interested actors, singers, dancers and gymnasts of all genders who can portray teenagers, young adults or adults and are committed to working together as a team are welcome to audition.

Fillable PDF applications are available at gpt.org/auditions. Completed forms should be brought to auditions. Application forms also will be available at auditions.

All audition information, a list of teenage and adult roles, as well as music and script cuts are available at gpt.org/auditions.

Actors should note schedule conflicts and bring a headshot, or a photo will be taken at auditions. Participants



are encouraged to prepare an accent appropriate for the respective role(s) for which they wish to audition.

Rehearsals begin Monday, Feb. 12. Performance dates are May 3 to 5, and 8 to 12.

A pre-audition dance

workshop, which will teach the audition dance routine, takes place Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the GPT rehearsal studio. Registration begins at 7 p.m.; the workshop runs 7:30 to 10 p.m. Dancers should wear comfortable clothes and bring dance

shoes, including tap shoes if available. The workshop is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged for those auditioning for newsies or other dancing roles.

For more information, visit gpt.org or call (313) 881-4004.

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Family Center

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 attendees receive a free Narcan kit. For information, email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

The Family Center

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

The Family Center and University Liggett School present ULS Substance Misuse Prevention Week

Parent Information Night, from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Liggett, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods. Expert panelists John George and Leslie Lundahl, Ph.D., will discuss drug trends, signs of drug use, ways families can talk openly about drug and alcohol misuse and available resources for those seeking mental health or addiction recovery or support. Frank Wilberding, a licensed social worker, will moderate the panel. For information, call (313) 884-4444, Ext. 303, or email skost-cox@uls.org.

org.

The Family Center presents QPR Suicide Prevention Training, from 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Ages 15 and older are welcome. Attendees will learn to recognize suicide warning signs, understand ways to initiate conversation and persuade and refer someone to the appropriate resources. Training is free, but registration is appreciated. Email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

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.

Waterfront

The St. Clair Shores Waterfront Environmental Committee hosts its annual meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at St. Clair Shores City Hall, 27600 Jefferson. The 2024 theme is “Lake Safe Sustainable Programs in Our Community.” The agenda includes discussion of I-94 ramp and nautical coast cleanups, as well as guest speaker Lawrence Sobson, tree coordinator with the Department of Natural Resources. Call (586) 214-2197.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 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.

Library

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

- ◆ Saturday Drop-in Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ We Create with Procreate!, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 4th Monday Book Discussion, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ In Cold Mug Book Discussion, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at Bogartz Food & Spirits, 17441 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Mystery Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Appy Hour — Inspire, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 1,000 Hours Wolf Moon Winter Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Baby Time with Miss Jane, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Teen Game Club, 3 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Readers’ Choice Book Discussion Group, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ D&D Club, 1 to 4

p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

GPAA

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

- ◆ Crash Course on Collage and Assemblage with Marat Paransky, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20.
- ◆ Fabric Dying with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3.
- ◆ Landscapes in the Style of Claude Monet with Donald Cronkrite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 8, 15 and 22.
- ◆ Achieving Perspective in Watercolor/Acrylic with Nancy Philo, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.
- ◆ Introduction to Japanese Woodblock Printing with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17. Deadline for registering is Feb. 1.
- ◆ Needle Felting Small Creatures with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

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:

- ◆ Out-to-Breakfast Bunch, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Cracked Egg. Cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members, 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.
- ◆ Premier World Discovery presents “Italy’s Amalfi Coast” and “San Antonio Holiday,” 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23. Learn about two trip opportunities during this free program.

See EVENTS, page 5B



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‘Astounding Truths’ takes bite-sized approach to understanding the Bible

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

In the days before streaming services and smartphones, when Annie Weber was a new-lywed and new mother — her husband, freshly back from Afghanistan, was a full-time graduate student — she took advantage of her baby’s frequent nap schedule to study the Bible, “for hours a day,” she recalled.

“In my own experience, I was attending church every week, but I didn’t know the Bible very well,” she said. “I knew the traditions of the church, but didn’t have a full grasp.”

She quickly recognized the value in knowing the Word. She calls it her season of transition and it’s a path on which she hopes to guide others through her newly published book, “Astounding Truths of the Bible: A Bite-Sized Approach to Understanding the World’s Bestselling Book.”

Through her studies, as she writes in her preface, “I began to know God in a personal way. Never mind the heavy hitters of faith like Billy Graham and R.C. Sproul, my awakening was so intense, I felt like I was the world’s first theologian. I read the Bible with such shock and awe. I could not believe that the Bible provided so much incredible instruction for life and God’s character was so aptly described through the words of Scripture.”

“In the preface, I talk about my journey,” she said. “At that stage, age 28, God stripped away everything I was chasing. I was very fleshly. ... God

took away the things I was seeking — career advancement, money, bigger paychecks.”

She began acknowledging her life is not her own and saw proof of such when she felt inspired to begin writing. While Weber excelled at math and science in school — 12 years in the Grosse Pointe Public School System, though then her name was Annie Laethem — she never considered herself a writer.

“The call to write the book was clearly the Holy Spirit,” she said. “In some respects, I had a ghost writer — the Holy Spirit. I had to sit and write three hours a day.” Sitting quietly and writing was a challenge — torture, she said — for a “high extrovert.”

“Astounding Truths” is divided into four sections — The Character of God, God’s Desire for His People, Curious Parts of the Bible and God Equips His People — each of which contain 25 short, 600- to 700-word chapters Weber refers to as “daily readings.”

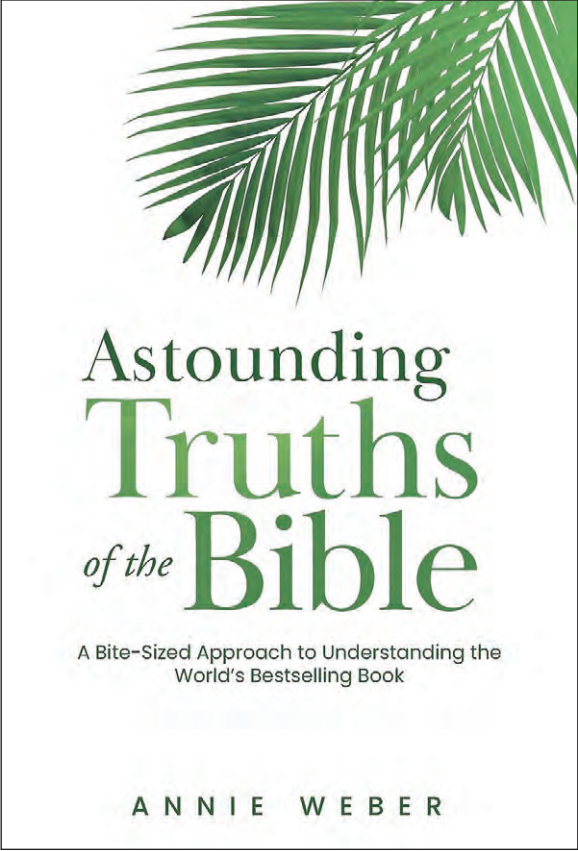
“I open with a personal, silly thing that happened in my life,” she said. “Then, here’s how this relates to the Bible; here’s the scripture.”

“For example, Paul talks about having itchy ears,” she continued. “Why does he use that phrase? ... He’s telling the people at Ephesus, ‘You’re following false teachers.’ Or, here’s why Solomon said, ‘Cut the baby in half.’ I explain stories like that. It’s out of a love to help people understand. My goal is for people to put their faith in Christ. (The Bible) is fascinating, interesting. Here’s what



COURTESY PHOTO

Author Annie Weber shares her own faith journey, as well as a better understanding of the Bible, in her new book, “Astounding Truths.”



we can learn.”

Weber disagrees with those who say the Bible is outdated and irrelevant to 2024, noting the same sin that happened then still happens now. Her

book explains how God uses the Bible’s stories to teach.

“It’s what He wants us to learn,” she said.

Weber wrote “Astounding Truths” not

only for people who’ve never opened a Bible, but for those interested in deepening their awareness of it.

“I wanted to make it a tool for people who don’t know the Bible or to become more familiar with the Bible,” she said. “This is a lighthearted way to start that journey.”

Though it takes a humorous approach, the author emphasized “Astounding Truths” does not compromise the seriousness of the Bible, nor does it replace the Bible.

“My goal is to handle God’s Word rightly,” she said. “I don’t want to be a false teacher or put people on a false path.”

She prayed for guidance while writing the book: “Help me, Lord. Use me as a tool to help people better come to you.”

Though Weber wrote the book while living in Guam — her husband, Bryan, is an Army officer and federal employee —

she made sure to include her Grosse Pointe and Michigan roots in its pages. After attending Monteith Elementary and Brownell Middle schools, she graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1999. She mentions all three schools — and her service as student council president — in the book, which also mentions the Great Lakes and her wedding at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

She speaks fondly of her childhood and teen years, which included employment at Edmund T. AHEE Jewelers, as well as the pool office at Lake Front Park.

The mother of four — she’s also a licensed foster mom — and her family will leave Guam and be reassigned to a new location in four months.

“I didn’t go to Bible college and I don’t have a doctor of divinity degree,” she said. “I’m just a normal girl. This is not written like an academic book.”

“It’s a starting block, but the ultimate goal is for someone to put their faith in Christ, like it was with my journey,” she added.

“Astounding Truths” is available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and walmart.com, as well as on her website, astoundingtruths.com.

Those interested in learning more may contact Weber through her website or @astoundingtruths on Facebook and Instagram.

She said she’d like to get the book into local bookstores, but more importantly, “I’m praying it gets into the hands of people who need it.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Don Beardsley, Deb Renshaw, Conrad Koski, Tim Scallen, Emmet Yglesias and John Koski.

Lakeshore Optimist Club of Grosse Pointe supports Goodfellows program

Members of the Detroit Goodfellows team were guest speakers at the Grosse Pointe Optimist Club meeting Dec. 13. The Goodfellows, with the help of many volunteers, put together gift packages each year for families in need so “no child is without a Christmas.” This year the nonprofit assembled more than 27,000 packages that

included clothing, socks, books, toys, dolls, dental kits and other items for children. The gifts are distributed to families who apply from five locations in Detroit and Hamtramck. The Grosse Pointe Optimist Club celebrates the efforts of the Goodfellows each year and provides them with a donation to help continue their efforts.

The Family Center offers ‘Understanding Eating Disorders’ webinar Jan. 24

The rate of eating disorder diagnoses has risen more than 50 percent in the past two years and increased its range to children as young as 5 years old. Eating disorders are not only beginning earlier, but are expanding to all populations at an alarming rate.

Through understanding the biological, psychological and social influences that precede eating disorders, as well as co-occurring mental health issues including adverse childhood experiences, conversations can take place about taking steps to prevent eating disorders. Prevention, education and early intervention are key to helping individuals live in lasting recovery.

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods hosts the webinar, “Understanding Eating Disorders,” from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, led by Lori Kehoe, clinical liaison for Sanford Behavior Health.

Kehoe has a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling and 10 years of experience working in eating disorder, substance use disorder and mental health disorder residential treatment. Her specialties and experience focus on treating the whole

person: one’s trauma, substance use disorder and eating disorder alongside one’s mental health diagnoses, for best possible outcomes and lasting recovery.

To register for the webinar, email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org or call (313) 447-1374.



OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Dr. Alexander N. Nakeff

Former Grosse Pointe Park resident Dr. Alexander Novatchis Nakeff passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023, at his home in Oceanside, Calif., after a valiant battle with cancer. Born March 23, 1940, Alex was the much beloved husband and soulmate of Carole Anne (nee Best); dear uncle of Tom (Debbie) and Jason Delibassis; great-uncle of Adrian and Isabella; brother-in-law of Noel Best; uncle of Trevor (Sam) and Heather (Craig) and their families; and godfather of Alex Pantel (Germany). Dr. Nakeff will be remembered for his many contributions to the scientific community and for co-founding the Great Lakes International Imaging and Flow Cytometry Association, or GLIFCA, now in its 32nd year. Alex was well-known and loved for his beautiful smile, concern for people and passion for causes that benefitted the welfare of others. He will be sadly missed for his warmth, conviviality, camaraderie and community spirit by his family, friends and all whose lives he touched. Alex’s Celebration of Life will be held Sunday, Feb. 18, in Oceanside, Calif. For more information, email caralex232@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to



Dr. Alexander N. Nakeff

Doctors Without Borders, donate.doctorswithoutborders.org.

The Hon. James A. Callahan

Retired Third Circuit Judge James A. Callahan, 82, died unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024. Visitation for Judge Callahan will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1491 Baldwin, Detroit, followed by interment at Mt. Elliott Cemetery, where military honors will be bestowed. Judge Callahan received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in 1967, and his Juris Doctorate from the Detroit College of Law in 1972. He was a trial attorney for 33 years prior to his election to the circuit court in 2004, and re-election in 2010. A longtime City of Grosse Pointe resident, Judge Callahan grew up in Chicago and was a



The Hon. James Callahan

proud graduate of St. Ignatius High School, which he affectionately referred to as “Iggy’s.” He served in the U.S. Navy from 1959-65, spending much of his time on the USS Savage (DE-386). After his honorable discharge from the Navy, Judge Callahan met his future wife, Shirley Malik, at a friend’s wedding in Detroit. He was so enchanted by her, he returned to Detroit, driving through the melee of the 1967 Detroit riot to get to her home on Detroit’s east side. A voracious reader of history books, Judge Callahan originally planned to become a teacher, but later changed paths when he realized he could merge his love for history with a desire to help others with a career in law. His life was a testament to the Jesuit value, “men for others,” with a long history of volunteerism and community involvement. He is a past president of the Grosse Pointe Men’s Club, where he participated in many activities, including the organization’s choral group. He served as rear commodore of the Grosse

Pointe Boat Club and was active at The Helm in Grosse Pointe delivering Meals on Wheels. He and his longtime partner, Marcia Cron, were members of the Detroit Yacht Club, where he was active in many of the club’s activities. Judge Callahan was a member of alumni groups for the University of Illinois and Detroit College of Law, as well as several veteran organizations. Known to spontaneously break into song, Judge Callahan’s considerable range was said to be “loud and louder.” He loved to sing traditional Irish songs and more than once led passengers on Irish-themed cruises in song. An avid traveler, Judge Callahan was active in retirement with Marcia. The couple visited many international destinations and had just returned from Mexico early Saturday. Judge Callahan was predeceased by his wife of 33 years, Shirley; and his brother, Michael (Linda). He is survived by his son, Michael (Debbie); daughter, Katherine; brother, John (Kelly); sister, Bridget Stalvey (Bo); granddaughter, Daphne; many nieces and nephews; and his loving partner of eight years, Marcia Cron, who said he went all out, was the best thing in her life and made her life easy and fun. Donations in honor of Judge Callahan may be made to the United Service Organizations, bit.ly/48RrwGM. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Assumption Cultural Center schedules winter activities

A variety of fitness classes, self-improvement classes and events are offered to educate, excite and entertain through Assumption Cultural Center’s winter programming. Those interested in fitness are invited to try Assumption’s KALOSOMATICS exercise program. The winter session began Jan. 8, and runs through Friday, March 29. KALOSOMATICS offers women and co-ed classes with cardiovascular emphasis incorporating aerobics, yoga and Pilates-like mat work. Beginner, intermediate and senior classes are offered, day and evening. Students may alternate classes and times to accommodate personal schedules, new students may attend any class free for one week and seniors receive a 25 percent discount. Students may join class any time during the session and registration fees will be pro-rated from the time of registration. Assumption also offers two yoga classes: Fireside Gentle Yoga and Yin Yoga. During Fireside Gentle Yoga, students are guided through gentle postures that link breath with movement while increasing strength and improving flexibility. During Yin Yoga, students hold postures that move into deeper connective tissue. By the end of class, students feel as though they just had a deep tissue massage. For those who prefer team sports, Assumption offers pickleball, a game that has swept the nation in popularity among all age groups, especially with seniors. Various clinics teach beginners how to play and help advanced beginners learn skills to improve their game. Group Pickleball Play also is available where participants are sorted by skill level. Courts are available for private rentals. Other fitness classes at Assumption are Tae Kwon Do Karate for adults and children, offering the opportunity to develop strength while learning the art of discipline. Assumption’s Winter Cultural Series includes a class to learn how to make Greek butter cookies, a favorite classic, where students make and bake on-site. The series also includes a Greek dancing class for adults during which students learn the dances of Greece while reaping the added benefit of improving one’s strength, endurance and overall fitness. Dancing classes are offered in two six-week sessions. Travel with Assumption features two trips. The first is a motorcoach trip to Montreal and Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, May 18 to 24. The second trip is a visit to Greece in September. Other opportunities for self-improvement include French language classes taught by the Alliance Francaise de Grosse Pointe, as well as Greek language classes for beginners and teens, advanced beginners and intermediates. Assumption also offers Duplicate Bridge lessons. Marchiori Catering at Assumption provides food and service for all kinds of events, from weddings large and small, to conferences, business meetings and organization gatherings, with many rooms available to accommodate events of any size. Marchiori also offers Lenten seafood buffets, a Mother’s Day gourmet brunch and soups to go year-round. Assumption Cultural Center is located at 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores. For more information or to register for events, call Assumption Cultural Center at (586) 779-6111. View the Winter 2024 brochure at assumptionculturalcenter.org.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

- ◆ Lunch and Learn: Skin Care and Healthy Hair, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, with German Treyger, D.O.
- ◆ New to Medicare, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25.
- ◆ The movie “Woman in Gold” is shown at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.
- ◆ Book Club, “Breaking the Age Code: How Your Beliefs About Aging Determine How Long and Well You Live,” 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, with facilitator Ann Eatherly.
- ◆ Watercolor Painting, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays with instructor Linda Boyle. Jan. 30 is note-

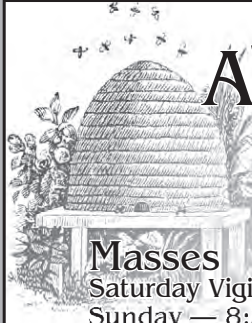
- cards; Feb. 27 is floral painting; and March 26 is landscape painting. Cost per class is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.
 - ◆ Pastries and Puzzles, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31. Cost is \$5 for members, \$8 for nonmembers.
- Rotary**
- The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Adam Hollier, director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.
- Star of the Sea**
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic School, 467 Fairfield, Grosse Pointe

- Woods, will hold an open house 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28. The event is for students in preschool, elementary and middle school grades and includes a tour of the school and a chance to talk with teachers and alumni. Call (313) 884-1070 or visit starschoolgrossepointe.org.
- 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.

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



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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
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Building Stronger Ones*

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

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Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY



“Rebecca, Stereo View,” a Polaroid image transfer by Robert Kolinski.

Exhibition runs through Jan. 31

Posterity Gallery presents “Robert Kolinski, Paintings and Photographs,” through Wednesday, Jan. 31. Kolinski was the winner of the first Village Art Takeover, sponsored by Posterity Gallery, and won a solo exhibit as part of the prize. A reception to meet the artist takes place 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25. Posterity Gallery is located at 17005 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. For more information, call Posterity Gallery at (313) 884-8105.

‘Plastic Pollution’ presentation Feb. 13

The Garden Club of Michigan will host the online presentation, “Plastic Pollution,” with Kim Cameron of Beyond Plastics, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, via Zoom. The lecture is free and the public is welcome. Cameron, who has a Ph.D. in plant physiology, will delve into the toxic connections between plastics and plants, animals, soil, water and human bodies, as well as provide information about what micro-plastic particles do to soils and how plants take up these particles. A former biology professor at SUNY Cortland and research scientist at Cornell University, Cameron became interested in plastic pollution and completed coursework with Judith Enck, Beyond Plastics founder, through Bennington College in 2022. Since then, Cameron has worked with Beyond Plastics Health Policy Director Megan Wolff, Ph.D., to develop presentations about plastics for local and non-local groups. “The Garden Club of Michigan holds conservation and environmental stewardship as one of our core principles and we are so pleased to be able to share a speaker on such an important topic with the public,” GCM Co-President Libby Candler said. “Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing issues facing our environment and health today, so we hope by making this lecture available free and online, everyone interested will participate and walk away with life changing information.” Those interested should email info@gardenclubofmichigan.org to register.

Bank of America recognizes two global volunteers

Two Bank of America employees received the bank’s prestigious 2023 Global Volunteer Awards. Christina Gaitley of Grosse Pointe Woods and Anil Kapoor of Highland Township were among 80 employees — out of more than 200,000 Bank of America employees — recognized for exceptional volunteerism in their communities.

Bank of America’s Global Volunteer Awards celebrate employees living the company’s values. Winners are recognized for their leadership and ability to make a meaningful impact. Bank of America’s Michigan Market President Matt Elliott said it was no surprise Gaitley and Kapoor — both Merrill Lynch employees — took home the honors.

“Chris and Anil’s exceptional contributions throughout the year to our Michigan communities represent the values of how Bank of America hopes to serve every community where we operate,” Elliott said. “Our team consistently steps up to answer the call, as responsible community leaders should, and the long-lasting impact of their work encapsulates how volunteerism enriches not only



Christina Gaitley

the lives of those we serve, but our lives as well.”

Gaitley has worked with Merrill for 40 years and currently serves as an assistant vice president at Merrill. She has volunteered at the faith-based nonprofit My Father’s Business for 25 years and served as the nonprofit’s director the past 23 years. Gaitley grew up on the east side of Detroit, across the street from Grace Community Church, where the charity was founded.

“Someone came to the church one day and asked for food and we didn’t have it,” said Gaitley about the impetus for the founding of My Father’s Business. “It started as a cupboard.

Now it’s a full community resource and ‘choice’ pantry where individuals decide on what they want to receive.”

My Father’s Business serves anyone in the community in need. Beyond providing basic needs such as food, clothing and hygiene items, it also assigns a volunteer to meet with individuals to discuss what may be preventing them from improving their situation. The organization also provides referrals for free legal assistance, affordable housing resources and more.

“Detroit has been through a lot and people are incredible and many have not received what they should,” Gaitley said. “There are many ways for any one of us to make an impact. Every volunteer experience is an opportunity to show love and respect for another individual and an honor to walk with them through a challenge toward a goal.”

Kapoor, who has worked in the Advisor Development Program at Merrill for 10 years, has been volunteering with the Salvation Army since 2014. He started volunteering with its meal delivery program, a “Bed and Bread” truck, which provides food for the hungry 365 days a year.

GROSSE POINTE ANIMAL ADOPTION SOCIETY

Animals Available for Adoption at gpaas.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

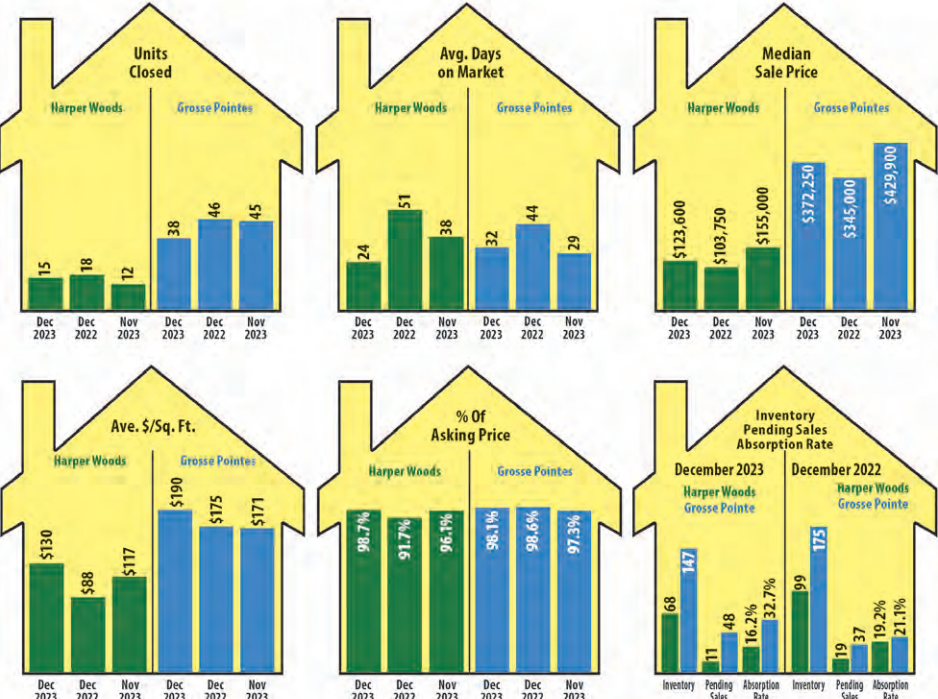
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December housing data for Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods

December 2023 housing data has been released by the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors. The effects of high interest rates, unquenched demand and extremely low inventory are clearly visible in the year-over-year data for the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods. While demand has slowed sufficiently to move the absorption rate into “balanced” territory and sellers experienced the need to sell for less than asking price, dollar-per-square-foot price strength has continued in both markets. The strength of days on market significantly also indicates that buyers are

recognizing the value of purchasing a home. It also suggests that only the lack of inventory is responsible for the lack of sales. Finally, the winter months in southeast Michigan typically see the fewest number of sales. How the market will respond as we move toward Q2 of 2024 remains unknown. The recent decline in mortgage rates is, however, expected to be very encouraging for buyers. As a consequence, whether buying or selling real estate, always use an industry professional like the members of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors when it comes

to your housing needs. — Courtesy of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

Notes:

Inventory: The number of homes for sale at the beginning of each month plus the number of homes listed during the month.
Pending sales: The number of accepted offers reported for the month.
Absorption Rate: The division of the number of pending sales in a month by inventory. An absorption rate higher than 18.3 percent is considered a seller’s market. An absorption Rate under 15.3 percent is considered a buyer’s market.

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2C GP GABBY | 3C MOMBEAU’S TABLE | 6C MOVIE JUNKIE MARK | 8C & 9C COMICS



From left, Kimberly Elliott as Judy, Meg Berger as Violet, Ron Bernas as Franklin Hart and Jennifer Dewey as Doralee.

‘9 to 5 The Musical’ takes the stage at Grosse Pointe Theatre

Grosse Pointe Theatre’s production of “9 to 5 The Musical,” with music written by Dolly Parton, takes the stage Jan. 26 to Feb. 4.

Based on the iconic movie and set in the late 1970s, this story of friendship and revenge is outrageous, thought-provoking and hilarious. Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy — giving their boss the boot. While Hart remains “otherwise engaged,” the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that has always kept them down.

Director Rachel Settlege of Grosse Pointe

Park saw the film as a kid and has always wanted to direct it.

“I love the feminist themes,” she said. “I’ve spent my whole life doing women’s rights and international human rights work for my day job, so I love shows that have strong female leads and explore the issues of

‘I’ve spent my whole life doing women’s rights and international human rights work for my day job, so I love shows that have strong female leads and explore the issues of empowerment, equality and freedom for women.’

RACHEL SETTLEGE
Director

empowerment, equality and freedom for women.” The cast has been rehearsing since October to bring this story to the GPT stage.

More than 40 years after the movie was first released, songstress Parton is as popular as ever.

“She brings her entire spirit and joy of life into the musical,” Settlege

said. “I think she can touch a nerve with people and really make them feel something. Her songs speak to the human experience.”

“9 to 5 The Musical” continues Grosse Pointe Theatre’s 76th season, which also includes the upcoming shows, “The Play That Goes Wrong,” April 5 to 14, and Disney’s “Newsies,” May 3 to 12. Tickets are on sale for the rest of the season or individual shows at gpt.org/buytickets.

This season, an additional weeknight has been added to the schedule, with shows both Wednesday and Thursday nights the second week.

The Wednesday, Jan. 31, evening performance will be Women’s Wednesday — a girls’ night out with friends. Ladies are invited to pull out their circa 1980 office outfits from the back of

the closet and wear them to the performance — with the appropriate hair style, of course. All attendees to that evening’s performance will receive a special gift, while supplies last.

“9 to 5 The Musical” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

For tickets, visit gpt.org/ninetofive or call (313) 881-4004.

The cast

Meg Berger as Violet Newstead
Jennifer Dewey as Doralee Rhodes
Kimberly Elliott as Judy Bernly
Ron Bernas as Franklin Hart Jr.
Erin Getzin as Roz Keith
Robby Mullinger as Joe
Alex Quinlan as Dwayne
Joshua Stuckless as Josh
Kristina Kamm-Mardlin as Missy
Bronwen Mischel as Maria
Britta Peele-Spitzer as Kathy
Soula Burns as Margaret
Kenneth Franzel as Tinsworthy
Anthony Dondero as Bob Enright/Boys Club
Dominic Aldini as Security Guard/Cop/Boys Club
Melissa Schroeder as Doctor/Office Worker
Kristin Pagels Quinlan as Candy Striper/Office Worker
Megan Welenc as New Employee/Office Worker
Sean Belanger as Dick/Boys Club
Ashley Gatesy as Hospital Nurse (Intern/Orderly)/Office Worker
Ron Blair as Detective/Boys Club

The crew

Rachel Settlege, director
Beth Teagan, apprentice director
Dennis Penney, musical director
Rachel Hutchison, vocal director
Noah Hanahan, co-choreographer
Nick Marinello, stage manager
Raven Ross, assistant stage manager
Randie Kohler, producer
Gretchen Archinal, assistant producer
Tom Archinal, lighting design
Paul Gonzalez, sound design
Gordon Richardson, technical director
Beth Gauthier, set design
Annie Kordas, set dressing
Julie Nixon, properties
Alexa Baxt, costume design
Kimberly Elliott and Haley Sommerstorfer, make-up and hair co-chairs
Maria LaRose, publicity and photography
Kristin Pagels Quinlan, dance captain
Cara Motzkus and Eric Vreeland, sound crew

The details

◆ What: “9 to 5 The Musical”	8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3
◆ When:	2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4
8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26	Where: Pierce Middle School, 15430 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park
8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27	How: Tickets are \$35, including fees, at gpt.org/ninetofive , by calling (313) 881-4004 or at the door.
2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28	
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31	
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1	
8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2	



THIS WINTER AT FORD HOUSE

Snowy Saturday
January 20 & 27
February 3 & 10

Lecture:
Haven Hill at 100 Years
February 8

Trivia Night
January 25
February 22

Valentine’s Day
Dinner & Concert
February 14

Storytime:
Love Grows Everywhere
Tuesdays in February

Maker Studio:
Screen-Printing
February 17



Kimberly Elliott, Jennifer Dewey and Meg Berger have fun rehearsing a scene for “9 to 5 The Musical” with Ron Bernas.



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Grosse Pointe Gabby

The Pulse Of The Pointes

Being overly concerned at the gym

Dear Gabby: I was really nervous to get back to the gym. It's been YEARS since I've really been a regular.

I felt like everyone was staring at me and I cannot figure out why. Are there certain unwritten rules I need to be aware of?

— Self Conscious in the Shores

Dear Self,

Maybe you look amazing! Don't always assume

people are looking your way for something negative. Also, remember you haven't been there and everyone is probably scoping out the new clientele!

That said, after speaking with a few gym owners and frequent flyers at the fitness studios — as well as polling our social media community — here are the top pet peeves (in order) when it comes to pumping iron:

1. Blabbing on the

phone during a class or while on a machine — or worse, sitting on a machine on the phone when someone else could actually be using the machine.

2. Smelling bad. There are so many great items these days like Lume deodorant wipes. I highly recommend them!

3. Not paying attention to the instructor and talking loudly with your friends (note: in

some situations and classes talking is fine, like when it's timed and nobody has to keep count! Use good judgment.)

4. Sweating on mats or machines and not cleaning it up.

— Gabby

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



Gift giving gone wrong

DEAR ANNIE: On Dec. 19 of 2022, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Ahead of time, my husband and I talked with both sets of our parents and we all agreed that we would not be exchanging Christmas gifts that year. I wanted for Christmas to be quiet so that I could focus on my newborn and healing my body. Everyone said they understood.

Christmas came and went. We FaceTimed all the new grandparents and set dates for them to come visit their new grandchild. When my dad and his wife visited, they brought us gifts. I felt embarrassed telling them that I appreciated it, but I didn't have anything for them in return. They assured me it was fine.

My dad texted me a few days later extremely upset that I did not get him anything. He said it was very thoughtless of me and made him feel like he didn't matter. I was baffled.

I explained that we had already talked about not exchanging gifts, so I truly thought it was OK to stand by our no-gift-giving plan. No matter what I said, he was insis-

tent I had ruined Christmas for him. I felt extremely guilty.

Since then, he has never mentioned it. I haven't either.

This past Christmas, I made sure to buy my dad a few things, but only because I felt obligated, not because I wanted to. It's completely changed the meaning of Christmas for me.

I still feel very hurt by his reaction, and I wonder if I should have said or done something differently. Please help me move past this? — NEW MOM

DEAR NEW MOM: First off, congratulations on the birth of your now 1-year-old baby girl. The only one that is acting like a baby in this matter is your father.

It makes sense that you would feel a little bit pushed into buying your father a gift. Since you still are carrying hurt about your dad's reaction, why not speak with him about it and tell him how you feel?

Most times an open and honest conversation has the power to transform your feelings from being hurt to being listened to and understood.

DEAR ANNIE: I've been married to my husband for 16 years. He and his ex-wife did not end on good terms.

We have never been invited to any holiday gatherings from his grown kids, who are married and have kids of their own. We are, of course, invited to all the grandkid's birthday parties.

In the past, I have tried to plan Christmas gatherings, but my texts were ignored. I delivered Christmas gifts every year after Christmas and sometimes into March. We didn't get to see the kids open presents.

So, last year, I decided I was not going to be Santa anymore since we are never extended an invite to join them for Christmas. My kids call me and ask what the plans are for Christmas. His kids, crickets.

I feel bad for my husband because they never plan a birthday, holiday or even a visit. Father's Day is no different. Any other blended families have this problem? — STEPMOM

DEAR STEPMOM: This has to be most difficult on your husband, but ultimately it is up to him

to repair his relationship with his adult children and find out why they ignore you and your invitations for Christmas gatherings.

It is nice that you go to the grandkids' birthday parties. This indicates that the relationship is not beyond repair. It sounds like there is hope. But it also sounds like there is a lot of anger about the divorce directed at your husband, and the best thing you can do is support your husband in taking the steps to repair any damage that was done.

As your husband is mending his relationship, try not to point out to him all the terrible ways they have treated him (he knows that), but rather focus on his actions and what he can do to control himself.



DEAR ANNIE: I am seeking advice on a very important and personal matter: my future marriage.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

I am a 30-year-old female who has dated my partner for seven years. We have lived together for two of those years. He embodies so many qualities I admire, and I feel a deep love for him within my soul.

I know our future is going to work out because we have similar goals, values, a plan for marriage and ideas about where we want to live. Knowing this brings me a sense of security and safety.

I am writing because I feel an overwhelming loneliness inside. On a day-to-day basis, I feel we lack emotional intimacy, despite my efforts to cultivate it. We rarely spend time together; his priorities are his career and his circle of friends.

I have had heart-to-heart talks with him about this and receive empathy in the moment, but there have been no actionable changes. Ultimately, I don't feel like a cherished priority.

I'm having trouble discerning if this is normal as relationships evolve over time? Or if we fundamen-

tally have differences in the closeness we desire from a partner. — LONELY IN LOVE

DEAR LONELY IN LOVE: I am sorry that you are feeling a loneliness inside. It certainly could be due to you feeling like your boyfriend puts his career and circle of friends ahead of you, but it could also be an old childhood wound that needs tending to. I would suggest the help of a therapist to get you out of the feelings of loneliness.

When you've had your heart-to-heart talks with your partner, have you told him exactly how you feel? That you would like more time spent together and more intimacy?

It could be that you are different in your fundamental closeness and it might not work, but you have to have the conversation first so that he knows how you're feeling.

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

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We Tried It!

I've been on the hunt for an awesome cosmetic case for a while now.

Whenever I travel, I usually stuff all of my skincare and makeup products into a few separate cosmetic bags. They are all bulky, annoying to carry and it's difficult to find the item I am looking for when it's floating around at the bottom of some unmarked bag.

Yes, I could just minimize the products I use when I travel, but that's unfortunately just not who I am. I like my stuff and I want to bring it with me.

With a few 2024 trips on the horizon, I figured Christmas was the perfect time to find the unicorn bag I was looking for.

Every Christmas, my sisters and I do a gift exchange where we each purchase a few gifts for one sister. We send over a wishlist of potential

things we might want and then let the sister decide what she is going to purchase. This year, our budget was \$150.

I wasn't even sure what to ask for within the allotted budget. Instead of sending a wishlist to my

sister, I told her I was looking for a large, clear cosmetics case that was great for travel and could hold all of my stuff.

She accepted the challenge and I figured it was most likely a lost cause.

Lo and behold,

Christmas morning rolls around and I open up my gifts from my sister, Abby.

When I saw the Calpak Cosmetics Case, I was so impressed. This thing is so durable yet also super



lightweight. The middle of the bag unzips and two spacious, clear compartments lay flat for easy access.

I got the largest size, but the bag also comes in two smaller sizes if you aren't a hoarder like me.

After using it a few weeks now, I can safely say this is my absolute favorite bag I've ever owned. I never forget anything because it's all clearly laid out and easy to see. The top handle makes it easy to carry and it flattens perfectly to fit in a suitcase or duffle bag.

It's incredibly durable, easy to wipe down if there are any spills and perfect for TSA inspection. In addition, it has about 15 different trim color options to fit your loved one's personal style.

The price point is a little high at \$95, but the quality is so impressive I think the

price is justified.

Is it too aggressive to say I am actually in love with this cosmetics case?

If anyone in your family travels frequently or loves to keep all of their toiletry items in one bag, this is a must-purchase gift for them. You can purchase the Calpak Cosmetic Case at calpaktravel.com.

I am giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators because it's made to last and is the perfect travel accessory.

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

2024 NEW YEAR, NEW YOU



COURTESY PHOTOS

Let this be the year you create the best version of yourself – from the inside out! Healthspan has a team of pros assembled and waiting to guide you on your path.



BODY COMPOSITION IS A SPRINGBOARD TO GOOD HEALTH

Certified personal trainer Lauren Owen exhibits the proper way to lift hand weights at the Healthspan facility in Grosse Pointe Farms.

TOP PHOTO: Cardiologist Dr. Ginette Gomez, center, with her team of professional health advocates, including specialists in fitness, diet and other aspects of good health.

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

The challenges of the past few years of a pandemic have reiterated the fact that nothing is as important as good health. It provides not only every basic function for life, but also offers confidence, glowing beauty and the energy needed to accomplish goals and live happily. The reality is that getting there is different for everyone.

For those interested in a customized integrated approach to healthcare, there is Healthspan. Located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Dr. Ginette Gomez and her team are on hand to provide expertise to help maximize good holistic health and guide clients on how to be proactive in preventing common diseases that age the body and challenge longevity.

The team is quick to remind their patients that optimizing health goes beyond the scale. Healthspan’s 12-week Balanced Body Program is designed to create sustainable lifestyle habits that support healthy body composition and overall well-being. Whether the goal is to gain muscle, improve bone density, reduce visceral fat or merely find the perfect balance of healthy lifestyle practices, the Healthspan team makes it easier to develop and maintain lasting vibrant health. Total costs for the program are \$1,980.00 or \$165.00 per week.

The program takes a deep-dive into three top pillars of good health: Cardiology, nutrition, and fitness. Using an individualized approach, the Healthspan care team of experts guide each client toward a “balanced body” that branches out to encompass many areas of optimal wellness. Though the program works on body composition, it expands the definition of fitness to a more comprehensive one — which includes food, movement, stress management and more.

The care team includes Board-Certified Cardiologist Dr. Gomez, DO, Registered Dietitian Meghan Pendleton, and ACE-Certified Personal Trainer, Lauren Owen.

The team works closely together to ensure each client’s needs are completely met. A belief in prevention, collaboration, inclusiveness and sensitivity toward every patient sets this team’s work apart from any other program.

“We don’t believe in a one-size-fits-all

approach, or that ‘healthy’ has to look any specific way. We help patients define their own unique program goals based on health history, physical exams, bloodwork, fitness assessments and nutrition testing. Our mission is to help people find balance for better health and a better life,” Dr. Gomez emphasized.

Healthspan is located at 18450 Mack Ave., Suite 101. To schedule an appointment, email Dr. Gomez and team at info@drginette.co, DM “RECOMP” or call (734) 626-5522.

MONTH 1
WEEK 1
Initial visit plus Rx labwork

WEEK 2
Lactate testing and fitness Rx

WEEK 3
Labwork with follow up and health coaching session

WEEK 4
Counseling with a review of labwork

MONTH 2
WEEK 1
Self practice

WEEK 2
Health coaching session

WEEK 3
Self practice

WEEK 4
Nutrition session

MONTH 3
WEEK 1
Self practice

WEEK 2
Health coaching session

WEEK 3
Self practice

WEEK 4
Nutrition session and care team assessment



GOOD NUTRITION BUILDS ROBUST CELLULAR HEALTH

Healthspan’s on-staff dietician, Meghan Pendleton, works with each client to develop a personalized nutritional plan based on each patient’s bloodwork, metabolic levels and food preferences. A customized plan helps the individual achieve sustainable results and long-term top energy levels.



A RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON TRUST MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Dr. Gomez understands the importance of the doctor-patient relationship in building and maintaining lifelong health. Her open, honest approach to communicating with patients is a hallmark of her professional style. When both patient and doctor work together on the development of a custom plan, a sense of trust is created that lends confidence to decisions and successful outcomes for maximum healthfulness and longevity.

Did you know?

Fun facts about the incredible blueberry



Blueberries may improve exercise recovery rates. A 2018 study has shown that eating blueberries can increase muscle strength recovery. This low-calorie treat is not only delicious, but also provides antioxidant benefits. So enjoy this lovely Michigan fruit along with all its amazing perks!

HEALTHSPAN’S BALANCED BODY PROGRAM

An integrative lifestyle-approach to body composition and weight management using three core pillars of health

Cardiology

- Includes a comprehensive physical exam and review of bloodwork
- Creation of a personalized health plan focused on the risk reduction of disease and an emphasis on extending longevity

Nutrition

- Includes metabolic rate testing
- Counseling sessions with a complete bloodwork review
- A personalized nutrition plan

Fitness

- Includes the creation of a personalized exercise plan
- Physical assessment and lactase measurement for cardiorespiratory fitness
- Health and fitness coaching sessions

ADD SOMADOME SESSIONS TO PROVIDE FOCUS AND STRESS RELIEF



Attention to deep reflection, meditation and introspection in the new year is a great resolution for reducing stress. By using the Somadome, you’ll improve the overall calm that supports more robust holistic health. Surveys conducted on its effects on concentration, mindfulness and anxiety symptoms found that a single dome session reduced stress in 100% of the participants. The binaural beats used with Somadome affect the brain in areas of mood, attention, and perception of sensory information. For more information on Healthspan’s Somadome treatments or to make appointments, call (734) 626-5522.

Questions before exercise can help

Routine exercise can be beneficial for people of all ages. Adults who want to be more physically active can speak with their physicians and ask these three questions to ensure the transition from a sedentary to a more active lifestyle goes smoothly.

Should I get a heart checkup?

Doctors may already be monitoring patients’ hearts even if they have not exhibited symptoms of heart problems in the past. However, it’s best to discuss heart health in greater detail prior to beginning a new fitness regimen. The risk of heart attack or cardiac complications may slightly increase when individuals begin to participate in a new moderate-to-intense activity. So a physician might want to

conduct a heart checkup in order to determine if a patient has an underlying heart condition.

Which types of activities should I look to?

Physicians can recommend certain activities depending on a person’s age and medical background. Though exercise is beneficial for everyone, certain activities may not be. For example, AdventHealth notes that high-impact activities like jogging and jump rope may not be suited for individuals with arthritis or chronic pain.

Should I take extra caution while on medication?

Prescription medication use is another variable that must

be taken into consideration before beginning a new exercise program. Each medication produces different effects, and a 2016 study published in the Methodist DeBakey Cardiovascular Journal noted that certain medications evoke an acute drop in blood pressure, which can disturb balance and increase fall risk, while others actually facilitate greater improvements in health outcomes. That means the dynamic between medications and exercise is unique to each medication, which underscores the importance of speaking with a physician whenever a fitness regimen or new medication is started. There are many health benefits to moving your body regularly, and a trusted physician can help guide you on what will work best for you.

6C | LIFE & LEISURE



Above, the big BBQ bash and right, Danny (Ifans) and Glenda (Otto) hit the road.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CRUSADER ENTERTAINMENT AND MACQUARIE FILM CORPORATION

Rhys Ifans as Danny in the 2003 movie “Danny Deckchair,” directed by Jeff Balsmeyer.



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

MOVIE REVIEW
“Danny Deckchair”
2003 - Rated PG 13
1 hr 40 min
★★★★☆

Are you suffering from the mid-winter blues? Or feeling post-holiday malaise? Do you miss seeing that elusive orange orb in the sky AKA “the sun?” Well I have the perfect cure for you. Just give the delightful rom-com “Danny Deckchair” a viewing and if you’re not in a better mood, you need to check your vital signs. It’s sort of an Australian Frank Capra movie the whole family will get a kick out of. I first watched this quirky, offbeat little rom-com many moons ago and recently gave it another shot. It was every bit as fun and enjoyable as I remembered. Maybe even better. As I recall, it was the first movie I’d seen Rhys Ifans in. He certainly has made a number of memorable films over the years including “Notting Hill,” “Snowden,” “The Amazing Spider-Man,” and a film I recently reviewed here,

the excellent “Nyad.” His IMDb bio shows he’s acted in a whopping 87 films and TV shows! Not too shabby, Mr. Ifans! Danny Morgan (Ifans) is a simple, scruffy cement worker living with his girlfriend Trudy (Justine Clarke) in Sydney, Australia. He’s been looking forward to a camping holiday all year. When Trudy foils his plans so she can pursue a news anchor named Sandy played by Rhys Muldoon, she arranges a backyard BBQ to appease him. At the party he rents a mess of helium tanks and fills up a bunch of balloons and attaches them to a lawn chair. Danny jokingly threatens to fly away in this contraption and accidentally actually ends up floating away — leaving the gardening shears he was going to use to release the balloons and help him descend, behind. And the adventure begins. There’s an absolutely wonderful scene when Danny is soaring across the sky just as a major fireworks display begins. I’m not sure how this was



achieved, but it doesn’t look like CGI was involved. It’s just one of the many memorable moments in this thoroughly charming film. Danny flies through the night and through a major thunderstorm, and crashes into the backyard of Glenda Lake (Miranda Otto), in the small town of Clarence’s lovely meter maid. The townsfolk at first think he’s an alien. However the couple makes up a story about him being her old college professor paying her a visit and thus Danny is reborn. And what a transformation. He becomes a happy-go-lucky, carefree bloke the whole town loves. After a haircut and shave, he becomes the town dandy and all the women swoon over him. He even gets involved in



Left, Miranda Otto as Glenda Lake and Rhys Ifans as Danny Morgan at the ball.

local affairs, stumping for a politician, extolling the importance of the little guy. Who wouldn’t love a chance to start over like Danny? Danny and Glenda start to get serious, much to the envy of the other women in town. The two actors have wonderful on-screen chemistry. It also irks Glenda’s former suitor, police Sgt. Dave (Frank Magree). He’s a bit suspicious of Danny and starts investigating into who he really is. Every good story has to have an antagonist, doesn’t it? I won’t give anything more about the movie away, but let’s just say, you won’t be disappointed. “Danny Deckchair” was written and directed by Jeff Balsmeyer. Unfortunately he’s only made a couple movies and is better known as a storyboard artist and second assistant director. Believe it or not, the film was inspired by a true story. In 1982 “Lawnchair Larry” Walters took to the air in a lawnchair with 45 helium-filled balloons attached to it from San Pedro, Calif. During his 45-minute flight he reached an altitude of 16,000 feet, much to the dismay of local air traffic controllers. That

was just the starting point for this marvelous tale. The story also evokes memories of “The Wizard of Oz,” with Danny being transported to a new world, much like Dorothy was. And I don’t think it’s a coincidence that one of the lead characters is named Glenda. I’m sure you can pick out other “Oz” references. If you’re looking for an offbeat, quirky, fun movie the whole family will enjoy, be sure to give “Danny Deckchair” a watch. Currently streaming for free on YouTube. 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.



Danny’s ex-girlfriend Trudy played by Justine Clarke.



Soaring in the middle of the fireworks.



Danny and his buds.



Sgt. Dave (Frank Magree) with the evidence.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 3 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. EST today (12:01 a.m. to 12:30 a.m. PST.) After that, the Moon moves from Aries into Taurus.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 18, 2024:

You're a dreamer. You have excellent powers of imagination, plus a quick wit and a flippant style. This is the final year of a nine-year cycle for you, which means it's time to let go of people, places and things that have held you back. Commune with nature.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

This is an excellent day for financial planning or drawing up a budget. Research will pay off. A discussion with someone older or more experienced could be helpful to you. Meanwhile, you might earn praise from bosses, parents and VIPs for your practical suggestions. Tonight: Profits!

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This will be a productive day for you because the Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with Saturn, which in turn is lined up with Mercury. It's an excellent day to make travel plans. It's a good day to promote your ideas about publishing, legal matters or medicine and higher education. Tonight: You're pumped!

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Any kind of behind-the-scenes research will pay off today and ultimately benefit your partner, shared property or discussions about inheritances, insurance issues and taxes. A boss or parent might be involved. It's a solid day for decisions! Tonight: Research.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Important discussions might take place today. They might initiate with a female colleague, either a friend or a member of a group. It could involve travel plans or something to do with publishing, higher education or legal matters that involve your partner or spouse. Tonight: Schmooze.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

People notice you today. One of the things they might notice is your practical suggestions that relate to work, your health or a pet. These suggestions might involve reducing costs or getting the best bang for your buck. You're a big spender but surprisingly practical when you want to be. Tonight: You're admired.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You will be productive today because you want to explore new ideas and go beyond your comfort zone or your daily habits. As a result, discussions with your kids or your partner might result in fabulous travel plans or something to do with a social outing or the arts. Tonight: Explore!

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This is an excellent day for discussions about taxes, debt, shared property, inheritances and all that red-tape stuff that we like to avoid. Practical ideas about how to make home repairs or improve a family situation could be a result that benefits everyone. Bravo! Tonight: Check your finances!

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Be receptive to suggestions from others, especially partners and close friends, because they might have some practical ideas that will benefit you or your

kids. Sit down and learn something new. Make a plan for the future. Tomorrow depends on what we do today. Tonight: Vigorous discussions.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your efficiency and effectiveness at work (or in any job that you set for yourself today) will result in solidifying or improving your home base in some way. You might see ways to boost your earnings, which will bring this about. Tonight: Work.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

This is a solid, practical and productive day! Listen to the advice of others. Likewise, share your own wise words about how to do things, how to cut costs, how to save money and how to reduce waste. These are all areas of your Capricorn expertise. Tonight: Play!

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Research plus the advice of someone older or more experienced might help you in matters related to real estate or a family situation. It's possible for you to get richer through real estate or improving your home this year. Perhaps someone has ideas that will help you. Tonight: Relax.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Make an effort to share ideas with others, especially someone younger, because the result will be a practical advantage, perhaps in dealing with others. Or perhaps the advantage is important information that you need to know. Listen and teach. Tonight: Conversations!

BORN TODAY
Actor Kevin Costner (1955), actor Dave Bautista (1969), actor Mark Rylance (1960).

Find 7 Differences



Color The Picture



Contract Bridge

EVEN EXPERTS ARE HUMAN

North dealer.

East-West vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K J 10 6 3
♥ K Q 9 6 2
♦ 10 7
♣ 5

WEST

♠ A 2
♥ A J 5
♦ 9 5 3
♣ A Q J 4 2

EAST

♠ Q 8 5 4
♥ —
♦ K J 8 6 4 2
♣ 7 6 3

SOUTH

♠ 9 7
♥ 10 8 7 4 3
♦ A Q
♣ K 10 9 8

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 NT
2 ♣	2 ♦	3 ♥	3 NT
4 ♥	Pass	Pass	Dble

Opening lead — three of diamonds.

Bridge is much too difficult a game for anyone to always play perfectly. Mistakes are fairly frequent, even at the highest level. The most that anyone can realistically hope to do is to hold their mistakes to a minimum.

Consider this deal from the 1977 world championship match between the United States and Sweden. When the U.S. held the North-South cards, the bidding went as shown. North's

two-club bid over one notrump showed length in both major suits.

West led a diamond against four hearts doubled, and the American declarer took East's king with the ace. A trump to dummy's queen, West following low, revealed the 3-0 trump division. South then returned to his hand with a diamond and this time led a spade.

West followed low, as most defenders would, and declarer went up with the king, since West was marked by the bidding with the ace of spades. Next came a low spade to West's ace, after which it didn't matter what West played next. With proper play, South was bound to make the contract.

However, West could have defeated four hearts by going up with the ace of spades at trick four and exiting with a spade. South would then have found it impossible to stop West from scoring two trump tricks with the A-J no matter how he continued.

It is not difficult to prove that the correct play at trick four was for West to go up with the ace of spades and return the suit. But in the heat of battle — when a defender does not have the time to analyze a situation completely and instead reacts instinctively — it is easy to make a mistake. West was only doing what came naturally.

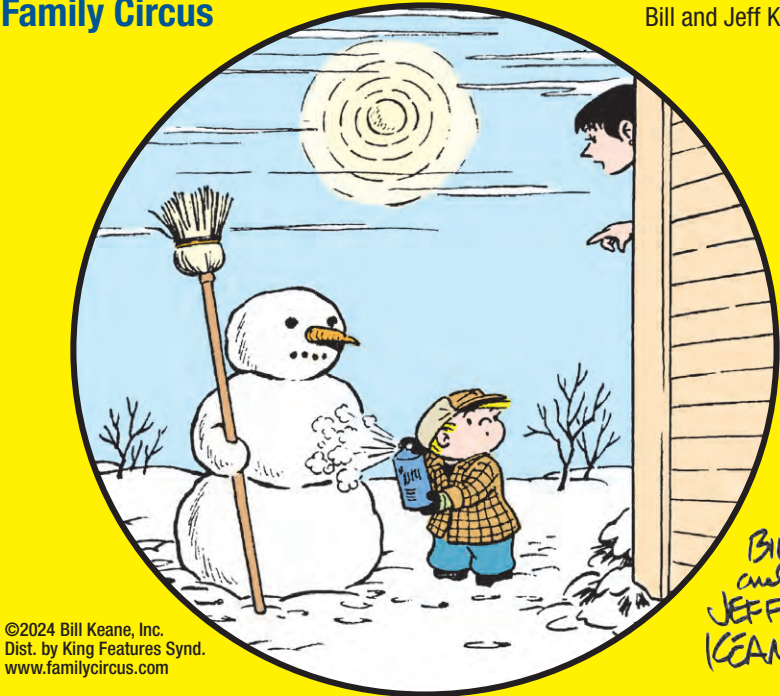
©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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www.familycircus.com

Bill and
Jeff
Keane

“Hairspray won’t keep him from melting.”

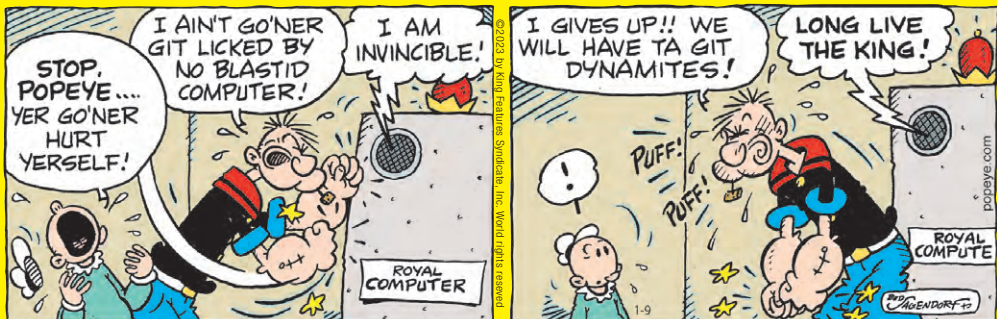
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



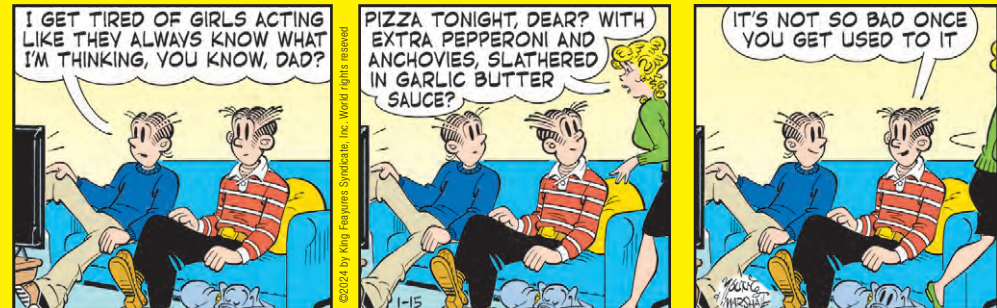
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



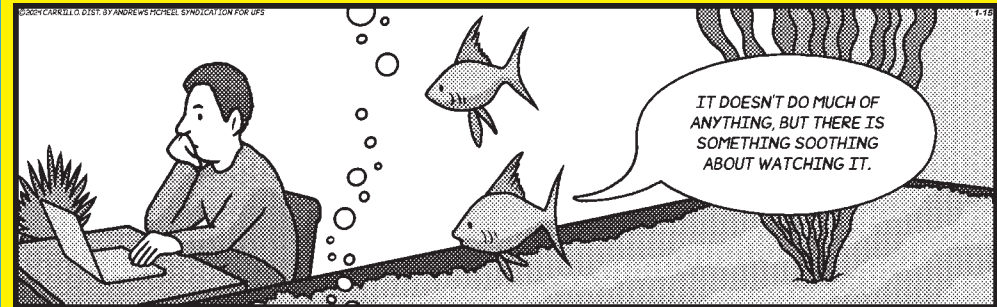
Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

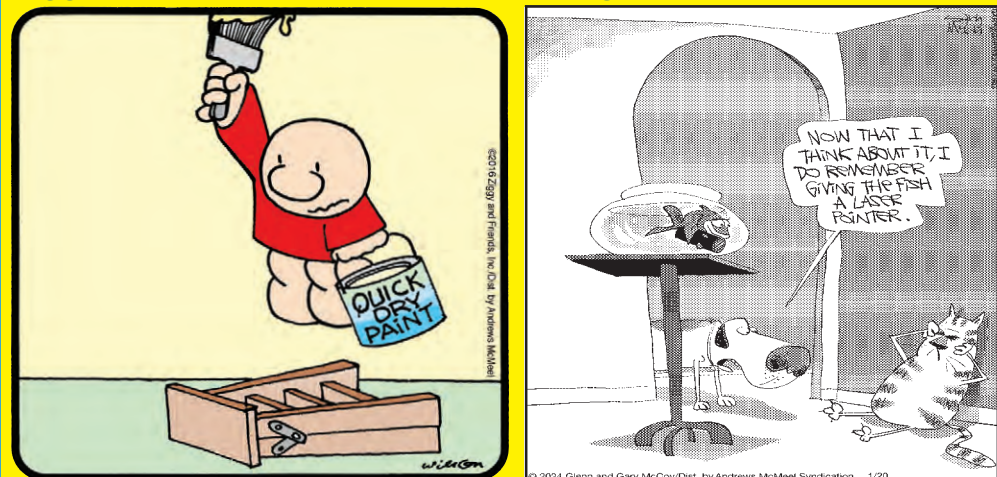


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

1/18

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

1/11 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 18, 2024

ACROSS

- Rich's opposite
- Notary's tool
- First light
- Where a gutter is mounted
- More knowledgeable
- High woodwind
- Take suddenly
- Place for a tattoo or bracelet
- Penny
- Crystal ball, e.g.
- Butter bit
- Action figure that inspired a movie series
- Health org. based in Atlanta
- Musical finales
- Like a 34-degree angle
- British singer Rita
- Fish such as a steelhead
- Like a cherry tomato
- Requirements
- Org. that ranked Chris Evert as its first No. 1 player
- Unfavorable votes
- United-Healthcare competitor
- Tight-fitting
- Said "I double-dog-dare you" to, say

- Personal website section
- Enlarging, as a hole
- Chocolate confections
- Strictness
- Currently occupied
- They surround
- Swiss valleys
- W. Hemisphere alliance
- Hoax
- Mark from a surgeon
- A Great Lake
- Cookie in a certain DQ Blizzard
- "Well ... I'll pass"
- Actress Dickinson or Harmon
- Affliction treated by VA clinics
- Pharma products
- People you look up to
- Fish in the herring family

DOWN

- Good name for a cribbage player?
- Power's tool
- Female gametes
- New start for a movie series
- Mop, on deck
- Shortbread
- Container
- Request
- Director Brooks

- Word before "school" or "cook"
- Edit dishonestly
- Prez on a 19-Across
- Came in first
- Volleyball court divider
- Marsh plant
- Play parts
- Collect, as accolades
- Long cold spell
- She wore Dorothy's ruby slippers
- Beginning to see a point, informally
- Pull along
- Dispensary liquid
- Humble ... or a hint regarding the last 4-6 letters of 26-, 27- and 29-Down

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/11 Solution

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www.upuzzles.com

Dirt Floor by Rich Feely

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						68						69		

Comics

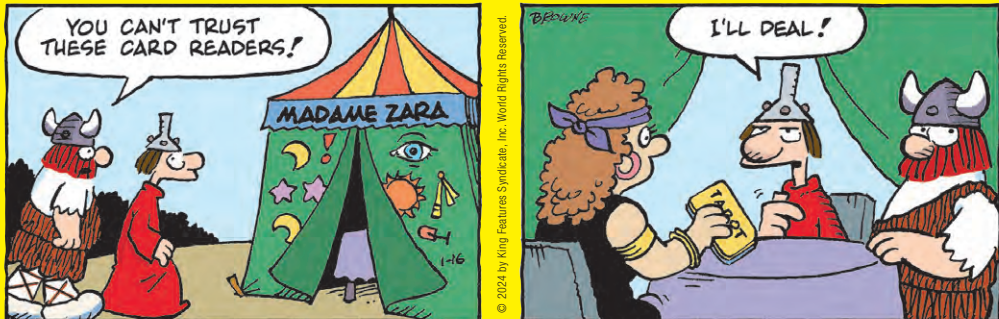
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



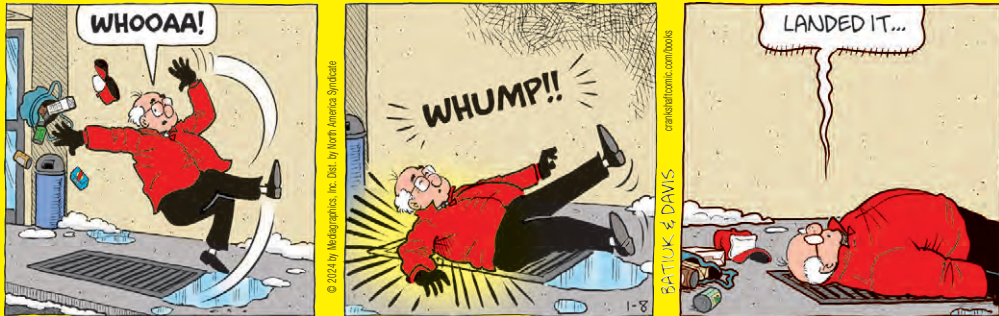
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



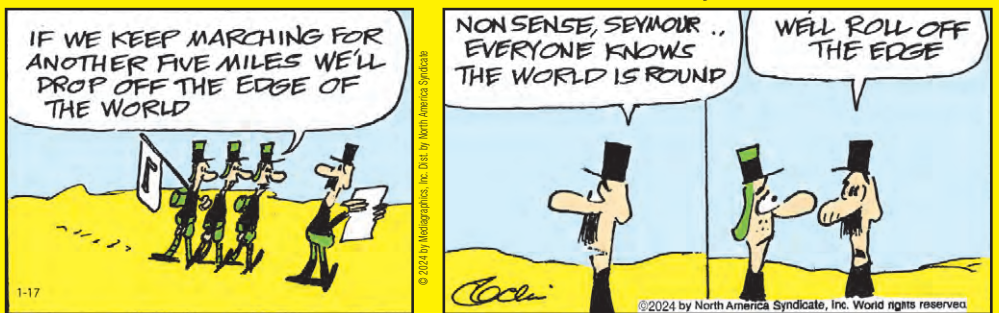
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechlin and Brant Parker



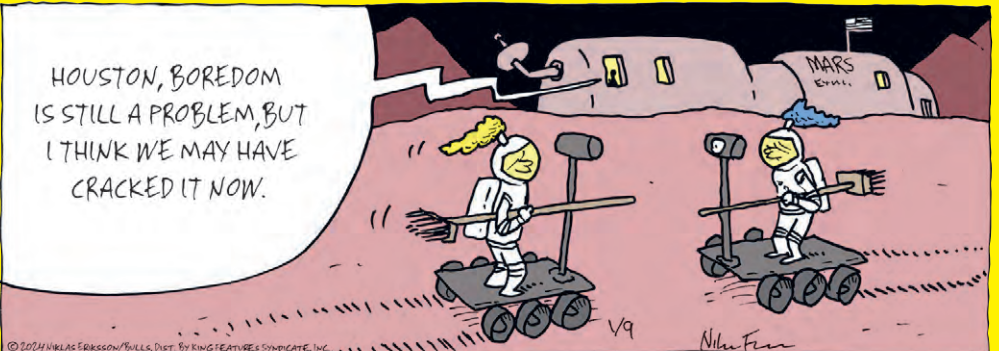
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



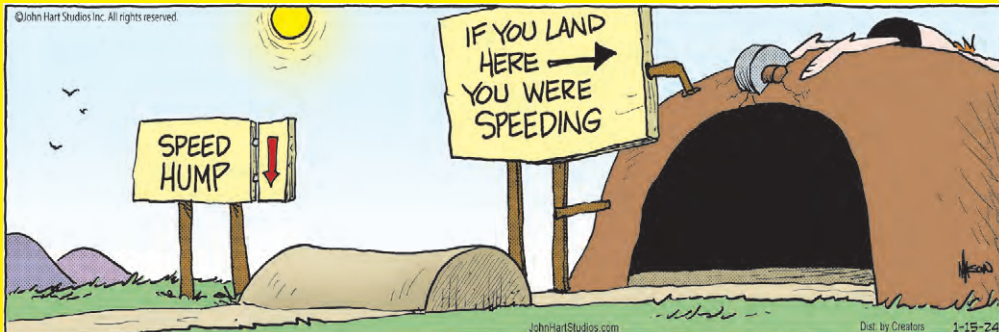
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



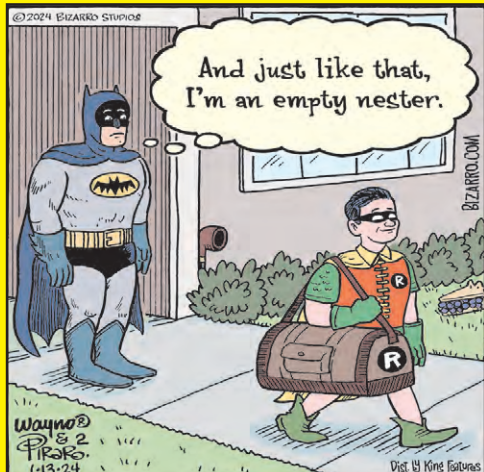
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



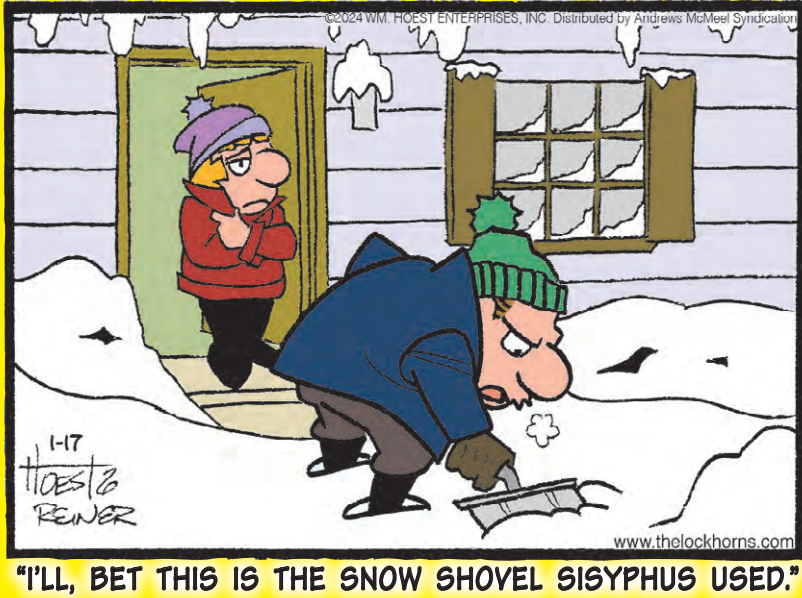
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



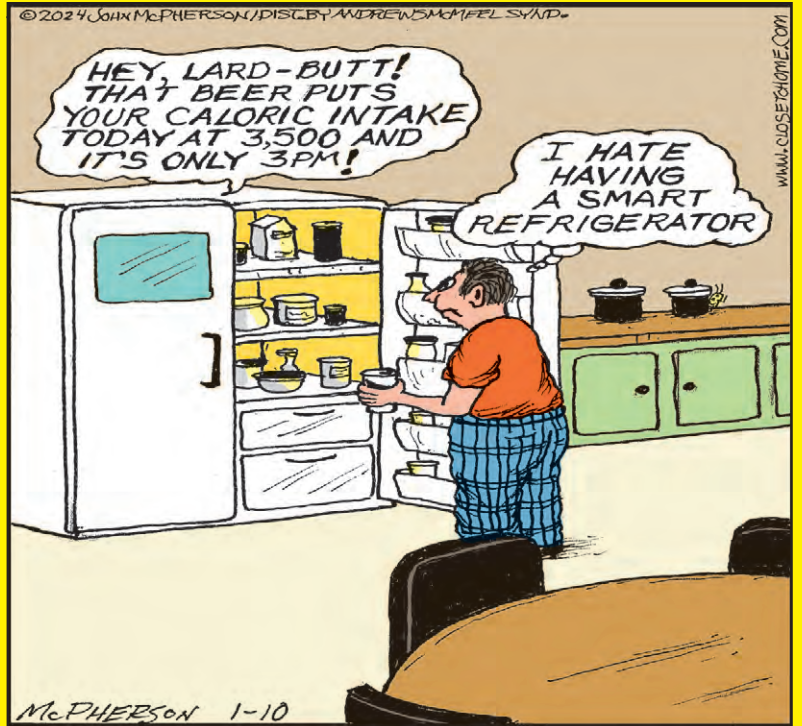
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson





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Kid Scoop Together

Martin Luther King, Jr. DAY OF SERVICE

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”
— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Service was at the heart of Martin Luther King’s philosophy. He urged Americans to take action to improve the lives of others.

In 1994, Congress passed the *King Holiday and Service Act* to support efforts to make the King holiday a day of service. Since then, millions of Americans have honored the memory of Dr. King by making Martin Luther King Day as a “day on” instead of a “day off.”

People across the nation spend Martin Luther King Day volunteering to make their communities better places. Some will plant community gardens, clean up parks or beaches, and others will read to children or the elderly.



Take a look at this list of MLK, Jr. Day Service ideas. Then look at each picture. Number the project you think each kid chose in the circles.

1. Clearing an elderly neighbor’s sidewalk.
2. Collecting canned goods for a food bank.
3. Help coach a younger child’s team.
4. Help a neighbor with some yardwork.
5. Play a game at the senior center.



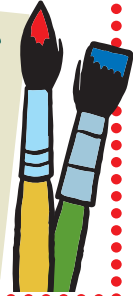
School Sign Painter

Write in the missing vowels to complete these signs.

SCH__L
CL__N UP D__Y
TH__S M__ND__Y!

USE THE
R__CYCL__ AND
C__MP__ST B__NS!

H__LP M__KE
OUR SCH__L
B__TT__FUL



Many communities have a place that helps volunteers find ways to help others. Write the letter that comes after each letter of the alphabet on the spaces at right to find a place you can call to see how you can be of service to your community.

V
_ U _ N _ K _ T _ M _ S _ D _ D _ Q _
_ B _ D _ M _ S _ D _ Q _

Service Starts at Home

Sometimes the best place to be of service is in your own home. Make a list of five things you could do on Martin Luther King Day to help your mom, dad, a grandparent, brother, sister or neighbor.

TASK	COMPLETED	
Empty the dishwasher for mom	☐ YES	☐ NO
	☐ YES	☐ NO
	☐ YES	☐ NO
	☐ YES	☐ NO
	☐ YES	☐ NO
	☐ YES	☐ NO

Extra! Extra! Helping Others

Look through the newspaper to find:

- ☐ An organization that helps others
- ☐ A person helping others
- ☐ Adjectives about helping
- ☐ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events

Standards Link: Civics: Know how various American holidays reflect values, principles and beliefs of Americans.



Kid Scoop Puzzler

Trash Bag Team

These students helped with a park clean up. How many bags of trash did each student fill? Use the clues to complete the chart.

- The 4 students filled a total of 15 bags.
- No one filled more than 7 bags.
- None of the students filled the same number of bags.
- Cassidy filled 5 bags.

Students	Bags
CASSIDY	
OWEN	
BODIE	
SAM	
TOTAL	15



Standards Link: Mathematical Reasoning: Use a variety of strategies to solve problems.

Double Double Word Search

ACTION
CLUES
GARDENS
GREAT
HELPING
HOLIDAY
HOME
IDEAS
KING
PROJECT
MEMORY
DAY
READ
SERVICE
STUDENTS

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

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

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

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kidscoop.com/activity-pages/

Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week’s word: **VOLUNTEER**

The verb **volunteer** means to work or help someone for no pay.

The fourth grade students **volunteer** to read to the kindergarten students.

Try to use the word **volunteer** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Problems in the News

Reading your local newspaper is a great way to learn how to help your community. Look through today’s newspaper and find one or more problems in your community. Is there something you could do to help?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.



Why was the broom late?

ANSWER: It overslept.

Write On!

Make a Difference

Write about how you make a difference in someone’s life within your family, your school, or in your community.



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Knights reclaim CHSL title in rematch

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett boys hockey team went into the Catholic League Cardinal Division championship game last Saturday, Jan. 13, with a familiar task ahead. For a fifth year in a row, the title game saw a matchup of Liggett against Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard and the Knights were able to avenge their 2023 title game loss to the Irish with a 1-0 victory to take back the CHSL crown.

“It was a great win,” Liggett boys hockey coach Colin Smith said after his team emerged victorious from this year’s CHSL tournament. “... The final game was a defensive battle. Our positioning has been a huge improvement in the last few weeks. After our loss to Flint Powers (last Wednesday) we had a player-to-coach, heart-to-heart meeting and the team really responded.”

The Knights entered the Catholic League tournament coming off a 4-1 loss to defending Division 3 state champions Flint Powers Catholic on Wednesday,



PHOTO BY BARBARA JOHNS

University Liggett boys hockey triumphed over Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard 1-0 on Saturday, Jan. 13, to win the CHSL Cardinal Division championship.

Jan. 10. The team rallied and moved on Friday, Jan. 12, for its CHSL tournament semifinal matchup against Cabrini.

Liggett endured a nearly two-and-a-half-hour bus ride through snow and ice to make it to Trenton for the game, but the long trip did not slow the Knights down one bit. Liggett rolled through the Monarchs for an 8-0 victory in the

semifinal, complete with a hat trick from captain Kevin Vreeken. Austin Allaer also netted two for a multi-goal night. Goalie Ben Wehrmann got the win and the shut-out.

Then it was on to the championship and the meeting with Gabriel Richard that has become all too familiar for the Knights. The Irish won last year’s title with a 5-4 win in overtime, but this

year’s championship was decided by defense and goaltending.

Liggett won the game with the only goal for either side scored in the first period by junior Gary Stacy. It was then up to senior goaltender Maksim Johns to fend off the Irish the remainder of the game. He did just that, making 29 saves in the shutout win.

“Both of them are great,” Smith said about

the performances in net by Johns and Wehrmann last weekend. “They feed off each other. No matter which one is in the net, the other one is supporting the heck out of them from the bench. They’re a great duo in practice and in the locker room. As a coach, it’s a dream when you have two goalies who are reliable and have the confidence where no matter who is in net, we

know our goaltending is going to be superior.”

The Knights now enter the final stretch of the regular season in late January and early February. Next up on the schedule is a meeting with Romeo, hosted by Liggett at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19.

The Catholic League championship win could serve as a huge momentum boost for the Knights as they look toward the end of the season and, eventually, the state playoffs. For Smith, it is all about continuing to build on the improvements made in the league tournament in order to finish the regular season strong.

“This was a huge stepping stone for us,” Smith said. “We’ve been talking about some of the things we definitely need to improve on. Things like passing and finding lanes are a big one. Over the past few weeks, we’ve watched a lot of film and are watching our mistakes, learning from our mistakes and I definitely saw that translate into this weekend and want to see it turn into a building block now as we get into crunchtime.”

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

South’s Wayman making most of lone high school hockey season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South senior Anne Wayman has come a long way since she began playing hockey at 9 years old. After playing several

years at the Triple-A level for clubs like Belle Tire and Honey Baked, Wayman is having perhaps the most fun she has ever had playing the game after deciding to spend her final year of high school with South’s

girls varsity hockey team.

“I figured that I would come over to South to try something new and was already friends with players on the team,” Wayman said. “They encouraged me and told me so many good things about (the team) and I really like it so far.”

The transition from Triple-A to high school has been fruitful both for Wayman and the Blue Devils as a whole. She currently is South’s team leader in points with 22, including eight goals and 14 assists through 15 games.

Perhaps years of Triple-A hockey made Wayman more than prepared to put up better

statistics at the high school level. While getting her name on the stat sheet more often is a bonus, it is the strong feeling of chemistry and support from her teammates and coaches that has made playing for South feel so different.

“The skill level from Triple-A down to high school is very different, but I’ve been more successful at the high school level,” she said. “Everyone is so supportive on the team. My coaches are really supportive and I’ve been getting more playing time, so it’s been a really good experience.”

The goal for Wayman and South girls hockey this season is to compete for a state championship.



PHOTO BY ERIN WAYMAN

Grosse Pointe South senior Anne Wayman is playing her first season of varsity hockey with the Blue Devils after spending years at the Triple-A level.

All the Way-man

- Leads South girls hockey with 22 points thru 15 games
- 14 of team-leading 22 points are assists
- Playing first season with South varsity hockey, was previously with Belle Tire and Honey Baked

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Anne Wayman

School: Grosse Pointe South

Sport: Hockey

Sponsored by Pointe Capital Management

onship. A title with her high school team would be a fitting culmination of what Wayman has worked hard for her entire hockey career, ever since playing on backyard ice rinks built by her dad, Marty, a 1990 South grad.

The team chemistry Wayman enjoys with South is emphasized by the way she plays the game. Leading the team

in points with more assists than goals is a prime example. Wayman is a playmaker, but with an eye for creating chances for anyone on the ice, always willing to share the wealth as long as it helps the team to victory.

“I always make sure to make smart plays on

See ATHLETE, page 2D



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Boys swim and dive teams seeing early season success

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

Grosse Pointe South’s boys varsity swim and dive team earned a state cut in the 200 medley relay in the first meet of the new year, giving the team state berths in all three relay events for the upcoming state final meet in March.

That achievement came Saturday, Jan. 6, when the Blue Devils headed to Battle Creek to compete among 10 teams in the Spartan Invitational. South turned in some season-best swims, including

the 200 medley relay, and finished sixth overall.

Some top swims came from senior Troy Liu, who took first place in two events — the 50 free in 21.88 and the 100 free in 48.79. Senior co-captain Ben Bryan took third overall in the 100 fly in 53.23. Junior diver Troy Richard finished in eighth place among 22 divers with 305.50 points.

The Spartan Invitational was part of a busy early January for the Blue Devils, who started the month by hosting Chippewa

Valley Thursday, Jan. 4. Though South pulled off a 145-38 win, the meet proved challenging for the team, which had just completed an intense training period called “hell week” in the days leading up to it.

Thursday, Jan. 11, South hosted a quad meet over Dakota, De La Salle Collegiate and University Liggett. The Blue Devils finished first with 107 points. Dakota took second place with 43 points, followed by third place De La Salle (30) and fourth place Liggett (6). South won seven of the meet’s 12 events.

Liggett’s six points were earned by its one and only swimmer competing for the school this season, sophomore Brendan Beland. Beland finished third in two events — the 500 free in 5:14.72 and the 200 free in 1:53.40, the latter of which South’s Bryan won and also earned a state cut in the event in 1:49.01.

South senior co-captain Liu also earned a state cut at the quad meet in the 100 back in 57.29.

North

Grosse Pointe North’s boys varsity swim and dive also got its regular season off to a winning start Thursday, Jan. 4, when the host Norsemen beat Sterling Heights Stevenson 117-50 in North’s first dual meet of the season. North



PHOTO BY DAILEY JOGAN

Swimmers from Grosse Pointe South take off from the starting blocks in lanes 4, 5 and 6, during a quad meet against Dakota, De La Salle and University Liggett Jan. 11.

took first place in eight of the meet’s 12 events.

Norsemen co-captain Tommy Moreland took first in the 200 free (1:57.63) and 100 fly (56.67). Connor McMahon took first in the 50 free (23.26) and 100 breast (1:09.44), while freshman Brady Winbigger took top spot in the 500 free (5:24.42).

North swept all three relays against the Titans, including the 200 medley relay team of Winbigger, McMahon, Tyler Collins and Paul Stephens in 1:51.53. The 200 free relay team of Moreland, McMahon, Alex Robinson and Christian Torresi also took first place in

1:39.21. In the third and final team race, North took the top two spots in the 400 free relay. Moreland, Torresi, Alejandro Delgado and Collins took first in 4:00.63. The team of Winbigger, Owen Johnston, Robinson and James Jewell finished second in 4:41.50.

Liggett’s Beland also competed alongside North and Stevenson, taking first place in the 100 free in 50.82.

North hosted its second dual meet of the season against Eisenhower, taking its second straight win 127-56 Tuesday, Jan. 9. North swept 11 of 12 events, with the excep-

tion of diving, against the Eagles.

Though the Norsemen are still looking to secure state cuts for the state final in March, head coach Kyle Kinyon said he can see his team making progress.

“Some of my favorite moments of this season (have been) witnessing personal best swims by half the team, as well as seeing swimmers that are new to the sport understanding the process of competitive swimming and tracking their progress each week,” he said.

North and South went head-to-head Tuesday, Jan. 16, at North after press time.



PHOTO BY DAILEY JOGAN

South’s Troy Liu, center, finds himself in a tight race against teammate Ben Bryan, bottom, Jan. 11, in the 100 fly. Ultimately Bryan hedged forward to place first in 55:65, just ahead of Liu’s second-place finish of 55.73.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

the ice,” Wayman said. “I get more assists than goals and I always try to pass the puck when a teammate is open. I’ve always been told I need to shoot the puck more and I’m working on that. I’m a really aggressive player and a team player. My coaches always call me a clutch player.”

Whether it is goals or assists, Wayman just cares about her points helping lead South to

wins. This year, they largely have, as the Blue Devils currently hold a 13-1-1 record after 15 games.

There is still plenty of hockey left to be played before the state finals in March. Until then, Wayman is looking forward to helping South continue to win before she moves on to college at Grand Valley State University, where she intends to join the women’s club hockey team. She hopes to head to Grand Valley next fall with her name holding some place in

South history.

“I’m still hoping to win (All-State) and get my picture up in the hallway,” Wayman said. “... I’m getting there, but I need to play harder and get more points on the board and help my team.”

Nominate Your Athlete

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



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Wayman leads South in points through 15 games with 22.



PHOTO BY ERIN WAYMAN

Wayman spent previous seasons playing Triple-A hockey with Belle Tire and Honey Baked before joining the Blue Devils.

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



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South freshman Ciara Pongratz drives to the basket after making a steal in the Blue Devils' win over Port Huron Jan. 11.



Junior Maddy Benard had 22 points against Port Huron.

Blue Devils roll over Port Huron for first MAC Red win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After back-to-back losses to open MAC Red division play, the Grosse Pointe South girls basketball team came into last Thursday night, Jan. 11, looking for a much-needed boost of momentum. Standing in front of them was Port Huron, the team that two nights before took down previously undefeated Grosse Pointe North. South looked impressive all night on its home floor and came away with a 50-31 victory.

"I was really happy with how we played and it was probably our most complete game yet," South girls basketball head coach Kevin Richards said. "We thought, after the North game, we were getting closer to playing 32 minutes of basketball the way we want to play. ... I thought last night was our closest to that we've had, which is really encouraging."

Everything seemed to be clicking for South in last Thursday's victory. The 50 points scored were well above the team's average of 41

points per game this season. The defense for the Blue Devils also stood out, holding Port Huron to well under its team average.

South's defense kept the Red Hawks to just 17 points in the first half, while the team's offense helped it build a seven-point lead going into the halftime locker room.

Up 24-17 going into the second half, the Blue Devils did not slow down. South got contributions from seemingly everyone on offense, including big shots by junior Maddy Benard and freshman Ciara Pongratz.

An explosive third quarter helped South grow its lead from seven at halftime to 21 points, taking a 43-22 advantage into the final quarter. The Blue Devils had the game well in hand and were able to let the full roster get a taste of the action en route to closing out the win by 19.

Benard led the Blue Devils in the win, racking up 22 points on the night. Pongratz finished with 10 points, six of them coming on shots from beyond the three-point line.

In all, eight players on South's roster finished the night with at least a point on the stat sheet. Richards said he believes the team's strong night on offense circles back to the defensive effort.

"We didn't play a lot of man (defense) in the game, but that's all we've been playing in practice and I think we're starting to be in the right spots with our pressure," he said. "Maddy Benard and Morgan (Duff) really set the tone with pressure on the basketball. We were able to trap and turnover and get some easy baskets early, which I think in turn helped the perimeter shots go in."

South was scheduled to play in a non-league game against Clarkston Saturday, Jan. 13, as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Classic at West Bloomfield, but the game was canceled due to weather. The Blue Devils hosted L'Anse Creuse North Wednesday, Jan. 17, after press time. They head on the road for their next game against Eisenhower at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19.

Former Blue Devil closes book on college football career with All-American season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Football has been a part of Nick Fannon's life as long as he can remember, and it seems like it practically runs in his blood, so much so that it has earned him status as a collegiate All-American.

"My dad, my uncles, my grandparents, they all played (football), so it was something I always knew I would get into," Fannon said. "Growing up in the backyard playing with my brothers until I got old enough to actually strap on some shoulder

pads. I was thrilled to do it and I was working every day with my dad in the backyard and season as a senior with the Albion College Britons, Fannon was named a Second Team

'My support system, my family, they've given me so much with opportunities to follow my dreams and play at the college level.'

NICK FANNON, 2020 GROSSE POINTE SOUTH GRAD AND 2023 SECOND TEAM ALL-AMERICAN AT ALBION COLLEGE

playing with friends, so finally getting into it I was excited and it carried over year to year." Thanks to his performance in 2023, his final

All-American in Division III by the American Football Coaches Association. Fannon's love for the game lasted from his

time in youth football with the Grosse Pointe Red Barons to his days at Grosse Pointe South High School. In fact, many of his Blue Devil teammates also were fellow Red Barons, helping Fannon's high school football experience set the standard for teamwork and chemistry he still carries today.

"It was pretty cool to see all of us grow up together," Fannon said. "By the time we got to high school, we all knew each other's strengths and weaknesses and played along with each other."

"I was so honored and was thankful that I had great teammates who helped make me look a lot better than I am in certain situations," he said. "Throughout the off-season, I had lots of guys saying this was my year to go do something big. ... I just wanted to go out there and enjoy my last season and get some more wins. We fell a bit short in league play and didn't get to play for a championship — and I would trade my All-American status for that any day — but walking off that field the last time, it felt good knowing all the work I put in had paid off in some regard."

While Fannon gives high praise to his teammates for helping him play his hardest, the numbers from his All-American season prove his worth. Fannon fin-



For the 2023 season, Fannon had 12.5 sacks and 20.5 tackles for loss.

ished the 2023 campaign with 12.5 sacks and 20.5 tackles for loss, along with 53 total tackles.

The season and the All-American honor were the culmination of everything Fannon worked so hard for at every level in his life. It goes back to the teachings of his college coaches, high school coaches at South and even youth coaches with the Red Barons. Most importantly, however, it all comes back to his family too.

"From a young age, it was always preached to me by my dad and my whole family that if you're going to do something, then you put your all into it," Fannon said. "I love the game of football and always will. I think it's the best way to spend a Saturday or any day of the week. My support system, my family, they've given me so much with opportunities to follow my dreams and play at the college level. ... My sib-

lings all play sports, too, and I don't want them to see me lacking in anything."

Albion's game Nov. 11 against Alma College was the last time Fannon put on shoulder pads. Now, he is on to his next venture in life as he heads to Western Michigan University to finish a five-year engineering program, looking to earn a degree in civil engineering.

With some work in the classroom still to be done and an unknown but promising road ahead, Fannon knows he can keep his head up and focused on whatever goal is in front of him thanks to lessons learned on the gridiron.

"No matter where you're at, there's always a depth chart in life," he said. "Put everything into whatever you're pursuing. You never know when you're going to get an opportunity and by the time that comes around, you want to be prepared for it."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Grosse Pointe South alum Nick Fannon finished his senior season with Albion football as a Second Team All-American in Division III.

I SAY: SPORTS EDITION By Mike Adzima

Lions’ historic playoff win gives redemption to players and community



It was a little over 45 minutes before kickoff on Sunday night when my brother-in-law Jimmy and I made our way to our seats in Ford Field. Around us, chants of “Jared Goff! Jared Goff!” were erupting through the stadium with the Lions on the field for warmups. That was the first sign that Sunday, Jan. 14, would be different. No matter what happened that tried to slow them down, it seemed like it was destiny for the Detroit Lions to win their first playoff game in over 30 years with a 24-23 victory over the Los Angeles Rams.

For me, this was a moment literally a lifetime in the making. The last time the Lions had won a playoff game before Sunday night was in January 1992. My parents were not even married yet, and I wouldn’t be born for another six years.

If you know me, then you know that in my 26 years on this earth I have been nothing but loyal to Detroit sports. Unfortunately, that has meant plenty of heart-break especially at the hands of the Lions. For those of you out there who are older than me and have had to endure even more of it, I feel for you.

However, Sunday was a night for us. I was thankful to be one of the more than 66,000 people in the sold out crowd (thank you mom and dad for the late Christmas present) there to witness what will stand as a moment in history for Detroit sports.

What makes it even more special is how it came together both on and off the field over the course of the past few years. As Lions head coach Dan Campbell famously said in a speech during an episode of

Brad Holmes and what they were building, and it has worked.

Jared Goff played a major part in that, getting us to believe in him. Sunday night was an exorcism of his own demons just as much as

ing to do with the Lions what Goff was able to accomplish in just three seasons.

Stafford may have gone off to LA and got his Super Bowl ring, but the reception that awaited him in his return to Detroit indicated clearly that the fans have moved on. We have a new guy, Jared Goff, and last night he made Lions fans happier than Stafford ever could have.

It was incredible to see the reactions of the fans inside Ford Field when Goff took the final knee to seal the game. So many people finally feeling lifetimes worth of frustration and heart-break lifted off their shoulders. People, including myself, just stood there taking in the moment. Hugging and high fiving not only your friends but the strangers in the seats around you, because we were all family that night.

The best part is that Lions fans get to do it all again this coming Sunday in the Divisional round. While it seems like the game against the Rams will be my only in person Lions playoff experience this year, everybody knows that Ford Field will be rocking just as much, if not more, when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers come in on Jan. 21.

Regardless of what happens from here on out and how far the Lions end up making it in the postseason, Jan. 14, 2024 will serve as a landmark day in Detroit sports history. Perhaps the best story in the entire NFL this season is still going, and what a ride it has been. It has shown us all just how much sports can mean to people and to a city, especially in an area like southeast Michigan. Most importantly, it has reminded us just how good it feels to finally win one.

‘Perhaps the best story in the entire NFL this season is still going, and what a ride it has been. It has shown us all just how much sports can mean to people and to a city, especially in an area like southeast Michigan. Most importantly, it has reminded us just how good it feels to finally win one.’

Blue Devils girls hockey wins 5-3 for 3rd straight over Norsemen

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Girls varsity hockey teams from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North met head-to-head for a third time this season last Thursday, Jan. 11. With South technically playing host at the rink both teams share at East Side Hockey Arena, the Blue Devils won 5-3 for the third consecutive time this season over their crosstown rival.

The Blue Devils jumped out to an early lead with Sophia Reynolds finding the back of the net first. South pushed the game to 2-0 when Tinley Gram added another to the tally near the end of



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The Blue Devils’ 5-3 win over North last Thursday marked the third win for South over its crosstown rival this season.

the opening frame and South at a two-goal advantage.

North struck back early in the second period, however, when Cameron Beers scored, closing the gap to 2-1.

The Blue Devils were able to answer and return to a two-goal lead just a few minutes later

when Gram netted her second of the night. Heading into the final frame, South was up 3-1.

An early third-period goal by North’s Ella Dobbs once again brought the Norsemen closer. South struck

back again, however, with Gabby Vosburg putting the Blue Devils up 4-2 with only a few minutes remaining. Another late South goal by Bella Peruski helped to seal South’s win, and a goal in the final seconds by North’s Josie Cueter brought the final score to 5-3.

While this was South’s third win over North this season, it was the closest game of the three contests between the sides. The Blue Devils won the previous matchups 7-3 and 6-0.

South hosted Orchard Lake St. Mary’s on Wednesday, Jan. 17, after press time and will go on the road to face Washtenaw United at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19. The Norsemen head up north for a weekend tournament in Traverse City, beginning with a matchup against the North Michigan K-Stars, also on Friday, Jan. 19.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

North’s Ella Dobbs, left, and South’s Abby Evans, right, meet at center ice for the opening faceoff Jan. 11.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2024

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present, except Cheryl Costantino
MOTIONS PASSED
1) To excuse Councilmember Costantino from tonight’s meeting due to a previous commitment.
2) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held December 18, 2023 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Board of Review meeting held on December 12, 2023 and the Planning Commission meeting held on December 20, 2023.
3) to schedule a Public Hearing for January 29, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of public input and comment on the proposed Harper Woods Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
4) to add to the agenda payment to Guardian Sewers and Core and Main for an emergency water main repair.
5) to schedule a Closed Session at the January 17, 2024 meeting with the City Attorney providing a legal opinion on the marijuana application process.
6) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:55 p.m.
RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 128986 through 129101 in the amount of \$395,764.46 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Turf and Timber LLC in the amount of \$12,700.00 for the trimming and/or removal of trees. (3) approve the request for repairs to the perimeter heat pump and valves in City Hall to be performed by K & S Ventures in the amount of \$6,810.00. (4) approve payment to McKenna Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$8,372.72 for the professional services provided on the site plan and special land use reviews for the potential marijuana retail businesses and for the update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
2) to authorize those Council members interested to attend the Michigan Municipal League’s Annual Legislative Conference March 12-13, 2024, in Lansing, Michigan, with the City paying all necessary and related expenses.
3) to approve payment to Guardian Sewers in the amount of \$82,000.00 and to Core & Main in the amount of \$17,383.01 for the emergency repairs of a 12-inch water main, for a total of \$99,383.01.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, January 18, 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:

SOUTH BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Due to inclement weather Friday, Jan. 12, the “Coaches vs. Cancer” event has been rescheduled for Friday, Jan. 26, against Dakota. All three teams from Grosse Pointe South’s boys basketball program will participate in this special fundraising effort to help beat cancer, beginning with the freshman game at 4 p.m. “Coaches vs. Cancer” is a joint effort between the American Cancer Society and National Association of Basketball Coaches, and will take place during the freshman, junior varsity and varsity games that evening. The night is a culmination of several weeks of fundraising for the American Cancer Society by South’s boys basketball program. 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.





PHOTOS BY MEG LEONARD

Team co-captain Karter Richards, right, will help lead Grosse Pointe South’s boys basketball program to raise funds to help fight cancer at the Coaches vs. Cancer event, rescheduled for Friday, Jan. 26, against Dakota High School.



PHOTO BY VISUAL SPORTS NETWORK

ALL IN THE FAMILY

From left to right, South senior and team captain Sophia Reynolds, junior Molly Reynolds and sophomore Audrey Reynolds make it a family affair as trio of cousins lacing up this season for Grosse Pointe South girls varsity hockey.



PHOTOS COURTESY UNIVERSITY LIGGETT

Ian Flynn and the University Liggett Knights boys varsity basketball team are on a three game win streak after their latest 41-40 victory over Everest Collegiate.

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The University Liggett boys basketball team notched its third straight win after starting the season on a six-game losing streak. The Knights hosted Everest Collegiate in a CHSL matchup that ended in a narrow 41-40 win for Liggett. Liggett hosted Cardinal Mooney on Tuesday, Jan. 16, after press time and plays on the road at Bishop Foley Friday, Jan. 19, at 5:30 p.m.



NORTH BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The Norsemen traveled to Warren Lincoln last Wednesday, Jan. 10, for a MAC White showdown. North fell just short, losing to Lincoln 60-52, dropping a second straight game. The team’s contest against Eisenhower on Friday, Jan. 12, was postponed with a rescheduled date still to be announced. Up next for the Norsemen is a home matchup with Port Huron Northern Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.

Does your team have a newsworthy quick hit or highlight from the week to share? Send it along to mleonard@grossepointenews.com.



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A look back at a sports week for the ages in the great state of Michigan

By Meg Leonard
Senior Editor

This past week in local sports might be what many would consider an “all-timer.” It started Monday, Jan. 8, with University of Michigan’s crowning as college football’s national champions. That same day, a buzz filled the halls of Grosse

Pointe South High School and traveled downtown to Little Caesars Arena when South’s unified basketball team played a showcase game on the Pistons’ home court. Six days later, Sunday night, the Detroit Lions played their first home playoff game ever at Ford Field. Safe to say these last seven days had

Michiganders’ sports-loving hearts exploding with joy once the Lions’ secured the team’s first playoff win since 1991. The week’s non-stop action has us catching our breath and counting our lucky stars. Those major storylines were capped off by more good news — Sunday’s 4-2 Red Wings win over Original Six rival

Toronto Maple Leafs, this Monday’s 129-117 Detroit Pistons victory over the Washington Wizards, Michigan State’s 73-55 basketball win over Rutgers that included scoring from fan favorite Steven Izzo and a 73-65 U-M hoops victory over archrival Ohio State Monday afternoon. Irrespective of various

allegiances, this week somehow made nearly every sports fan in Michigan happy. The Grosse Pointe News sports team was fortunate enough to witness a few of these events in person. Senior Editor Meg Leonard traveled to Houston to take in all the sights and sounds of Michigan’s 34-13 win for the national champion-

ship, while sports reporter Mike Adzima roared along with 63,000-plus fans at Ford Field last Sunday to watch the Lions beat the Los Angeles Rams 24-23. Take a moment to look back at scenes from a few of the biggest events from one of our state’s most memorable sports weeks in decades.



COURTESY PHOTO

Some native Grosse Pointers and fellow U-M alumni gather with their families inside of the stadium before the national championship game. They include, back row from left, Jeff Joliet, John Joliet and Bill Leonard and, front row from left, Henry Joliet, Ella Joliet, Grosse Pointe News Senior Editor Meg Leonard, her son Jack Leonard, Hayden Joliet, Jack Joliet and Jake Joliet.



Visitors flocked Houston’s convention center for the 2024 College Football Playoff FanFest, where fans could purchase National Championship swag, participate in skills competitions, take photos with bowl game trophies from the Rose, Fiesta, Sugar and Orange bowls, as well as the National Championship trophy.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

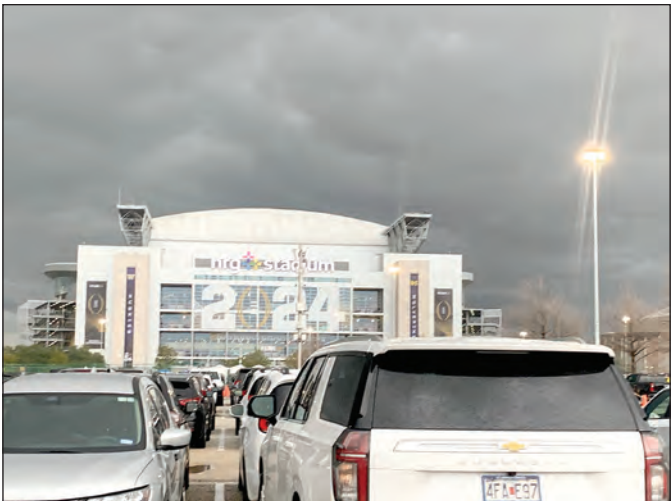


PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

An image of the National Championship game graced an entire tower of a skyscraper in downtown Houston near the Discovery Park district, one of several buildings that marked college football’s title game.

Grosse Pointe South freshman Jack Leonard is all smiles upon meeting defensive tackle Kenneth Grant at the team hotel the night before Michigan’s national championship game.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD



Dark skies brought tornado watches and washed out pregame tailgates about two hours before kickoff, ushering fans into NRG stadium early before the national championship game between the University of Michigan and University of Washington.

PHOTO BY MEG LEONARD

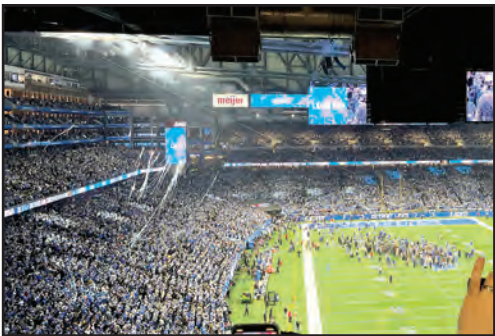


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The celebration begins as Honolulu blue and silver confetti falls at Ford Field after the Lions defeated the Los Angeles Rams 24-23 in the NFL Wild Card round, the team’s first playoff victory since the 1991-92 season.

Grosse Pointe News sports reporter Mike Adzima, left, and his brother-in-law, Jimmy Campbell, arrive inside Ford Field ahead of the Detroit Lions’ NFL Wild Card playoff game against the Los Angeles Rams.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY SMITH

Grosse Pointe South’s co-ed unified basketball team does its shoot-around warmup on the Detroit Pistons’ court at Little Caesars Arena Tuesday, Jan. 9. The Blue Devils went on to defeat Livonia Churchill 30-26 in the Unified Basketball Showcase.

DESIGN BY JOHN PIGOTT

2024 SPORTS CALENDAR JANUARY

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



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

- » 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

24 WEDNESDAY

- » 2 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Lake Shore (@ Little Caesars)
- » 4 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ Port Huron
- » 6 p.m. - GPN + GPS Comp. Cheer Chip. Valley
- » 6 p.m. - GPN + GPS Wrestling MAC Gold (@ GPN)
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. LCN
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops @ Romeo
- » 8 p.m. - GPN Girls Hockey vs. Washtenaw

25 THURSDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Sterling Heights- 4 p.m.
- » 6 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops @ Cranbrook
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops vs. Shrine
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Port Huron
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops vs. Dakota
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey @ Cranbrook

26 FRIDAY

- » 3:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey @ OLSM
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops vs. Lincoln
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hockey @ Bishop Foley
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops vs. Dakota
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hockey vs. Skyron

27 SATURDAY

- » TBD - Gymnastics @ Lakeland
- » TBD - GPN Comp. Cheer @ Lamphere
- » TBD - GPN Girls Wrestling @ Fitzgerald
- » 5 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Skyron
- » 6 p.m. - GPN Hockey @ Anchor Bay
- » 7:30 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ Allen Park

28 SUNDAY

- » No events scheduled

29 MONDAY

- » 7 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ LCN
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops @ Dakota



PHOTO BY LEON HALIP

30 TUESDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPS Unified Hoops vs. TBD
- » 6 p.m. - GPS Boys Swim & Dive @ Fraser
- » 6 p.m. - GPN Boys Swim & Dive @ Dakota
- » 6:30 p.m. - ULS Girls Hockey vs. Sacred Heart
- » 6:30 p.m. - Gymnastics vs. Bloomfield Hills (@ GPN)
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hockey @ OLSM
- » 7 p.m. - ULS Girls Hoops vs. Lutheran North
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Boys Hoops @ Eisenhower
- » 7 p.m. - GPS Boys Hoops @ Stevenson
- » 7:30 p.m. - ULS Boys Hoops @ Everest

31 WEDNESDAY

- » 4 p.m. - GPN Unified Hoops vs. Allen Park
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPS Girls Hoops @ Port Huron
- » 5:30 p.m. - GPS Wrestling @ Annapolis
- » 7 p.m. - GPN Girls Hoops vs. Eisenhower
- » 8 p.m. - ULS @ GPS Girls Hockey

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