

COVID-19 CASES AS OF 12/14
Since tracking began in March 2020

| | Cases | Deaths |
|--------------|--------------|---------|
| All Pointes | 5,138 (+152) | 72 (+0) |
| Harper Woods | 1,950 (+71) | 54 (+0) |

(Increase 12/7-12/14)

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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 82, NO. 50, 32 PAGES
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DECEMBER 16, 2021
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe Farms Deputy Director John Hutchins sits next to outgoing Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen.

Hutchins is new PS director

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — In a succession that was 15 years in the making, current Farms Deputy Director John Hutchins was unanimously appointed the department’s next public safety director by city council Monday night.

The position is effective Saturday, Jan. 1,

2022.

“Law enforcement and fire service are a true calling and for the select few of us who are fortunate enough to do both jobs, working for our department and the city of Grosse Pointe Farms has been a dream,” Hutchins said. “Following in the footsteps of directors (Robert) Ferber and (Dan) Jensen, whose tenures comprised over

51 years of leading this department, we will carry forward the tradition of upholding the highest standards, level of service and commitment to the community we serve. And we will continue to get better.”

Although Hutchins made it through most of his college career with the intent to go into advertising, a bit of doubt on his path and two interest inventory

tests convinced him his interests were geared toward police work. After exploring his options, the then-recent graduate set his sights on local law enforcement and put himself through the Oakland Police Academy in January 1990.

“I literally just said, I’m going to take the first job opportunity

See HUTCHINS, page 12A

Brenner joins Park council

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — In a unanimous team effort, Grosse Pointe Park City Council members voted to appoint Brian Brenner, who ran for council in the general election and was eliminated in the primary, to fill the 2-year partial term vacancy following former Councilwoman Aimee Fluitt’s resignation. Candidate interviews were conducted during a council meeting Monday, Dec. 13.

After candidate interviews, Brenner led with three votes, from Mayor Michele Hodges and councilmen Tom Caulfield and Max Wiener. Candidate Michael McCuish followed with two votes, from Councilwoman Christine Gallagher and newest Councilman Marty McMillan. Councilman Vikas Relan, stating he was torn, voted for candidate

Brian Brenner

Jay Bonnell, who was unable to attend the interview.

“I would love to hear from my team here on why they voted for certain people, what aspects (they) see,” Relan said. “... I really am torn. I see four great candidates here.”

Proponents of McCuish were impressed by his resume and thought he could add

See BRENNER, page 3A

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The holiday spirit

Houses throughout the Grosse Pointes are showing their holiday spirit with beautiful light displays, like this one on Lakeshore at Oxford.

Parking plans produced in the Park

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — At meetings of the Tax Increment Finance Authority and the Downtown Development Authority, the boards discussed and approved parking measures that will change the landscape of the business districts in Grosse Pointe Park.

In the TIFA district, the board

approved the tearing down of a house at 1166 Maryland at a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 7.

A few residents objected to the demolition, saying the city should follow action items specifically laid out in the parking study conducted by MKSK.

“The report calls for a myriad of action items long before it suggests the need for additional parking,” TIFA resident and former Park Councilwoman Darci

McConnell said.

Those in favor of tearing down the house pushed that the building currently is an “island,” with an alley entryway to its left and an existing parking lot to its right. With City Manager and TIFA Director Nick Sizeland emphasizing a comprehensive parking lot would be designed with stormwater management in

See PARKING, page 2A

Schools, public safety build post-Oxford partnership

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — After a shooting tragedy at Oxford High School left four students dead and others injured, with threats circulating metro Detroit and the Grosse Pointes, the Grosse Pointe Public School System called on local public safety departments

to help prepare for anything that may come the community’s way.

“We have a really good relationship with all six of our municipal police departments,” GPPSS Superintendent Jon Dean said. “And when we have a tragedy like (what) happened (at Oxford), followed up by the various localized threats that we were dealing with, we’re talking to our police depart-

ments throughout those constantly.”

Throughout the week of and after the shooting at Oxford Tuesday, Nov. 30, Dean was in contact with the chiefs of the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods multiple times a day as threats in the school district were brought to light.

“We were doing that because obviously when we’re analyzing

threats to our school district ... there’s no way to talk about those without involving our local police,” Dean said.

As discussion continued, a meeting was set for the six municipalities’ chiefs of public safety to meet with the school district and discuss moving forward.

See PARTNERS, page 4A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Will Thompson

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods Marine Corps veteran, attorney finds joy in family, outdoor adventures

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Officer returns to duty four years after accident

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The swearing in of the Farms’ newest officer Friday, Dec. 10, marked a homecoming in the department as fellow officers celebrated the return of one of their own.

Officer Veronica Cashion, who first was sworn in as a Farms public safety officer in 2012, lost the job she loved in 2017, after she was hit by a car while off duty and left with a torn rotator cuff, twisted pelvis, concussion and large gash on her head.

“It’s been a roller coaster,” she said. “Four years ago I would have never thought I was going to be back on the street.”

The pull to continue helping her friends and fellow officers first brought Cashion back to the department as a part-time dispatcher toward

the end of 2018, a role she held until Friday’s reinstatement.

Her time behind the desk, experiencing department operations from the other side, will serve her well as an officer, she explained, because of the different perspective she was offered and the gain of a new respect for the dispatchers serving alongside her.

Now, she said, she is feeling “100 percent better.”

“I want to finish my career,” Cashion said of her return to the department. “If I start something, I want to finish it. ... Plus I have aspirations of being promoted and teaching others what I know from my past experiences, so that’s always been my goal.”

As the lead on programs such as Shop with a Cop — officers took students with mental and physical disabilities on a



Officer Veronica Cashion’s husband, Jim, pins on her badge.

shopping spree and to a luncheon at Pier Park to help them become more comfortable with law enforcement — and Crafts with a Cop — mak-

ing crafts with students inside schools — prior to her unexpected hiatus, Cashion also intends to restart the programs as a focus on community policing.

“Now that we have a

resource officer, I’m going to work with him and get this going again,” she said, “and do some other projects, too, with the kids and with the community, if I can.”

Although the opposite

of what Cashion’s drive for her career would suggest, she initially entered college in pursuit of a civil engineering degree, with no intent to become an officer. A friend who convinced her to take a few law enforcement classes with him can be thanked for her realization that she found the subject matter intriguing.

“I fell in love with it,” she said. “... I’m not sitting behind a desk. It’s always something different every day. You’re helping people. Even if it’s just getting that cat out of that tree, you’re helping someone. That’s what I wanted to do. Money’s not everything.”

Cashion’s career includes four years with the Detroit Police Department and another four with Harper Woods, before she found her home at the Farms department.

“(They) just welcomed me with open arms,” she said of her return, “so I’m very excited to be back.”

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Officer Veronica Cashion with Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen.

No signs of foul play in witness death

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Michigan State Police were brought in to investigate a death at a home in the 300 block of Kercheval at 2:50 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, after an unconscious man was reported to Farms public safety by family members and the officers arrived to find the individual deceased.

The 55-year-old Farms man was a witness in the 2010 death of JoAnn Matouk-Romain, which the Farms department ruled a suicide, while family members insist it was murder.

Detectives from the Special

Investigation Section of the Michigan State Police were asked to conduct the death investigation by the Farms Department of Public Safety due to a conflict of interest, according to a tweet by MSP Metro Detroit.

“Detectives have completed their investigation of the scene and are awaiting results from the medical examiner,” the tweet read. “At this time there are no signs of foul play.”

The investigation is ongoing.

— Laurel Kraus

BRENNER:

Continued from page 1A

unique expertise to the council. McMillan added McCuish’s perceived level of calm and collect-edness would be an asset.

Wiener said while he believed either McCuish or Brenner would be a fine choice for the seat, he wanted someone who would hit the ground running on challenges currently facing the Park. Brenner’s attendance at meetings and involvement throughout the years pushed him to the top for Wiener.

“It’s not a secret that he and I are cut from very different cloth politically,” Wiener said. “But having talked to him, the one thing we have in common is we both believe strongly in the town and we want to do the work to help the city.”

Caulfield and Hodges said Brenner would enhance the council’s make-up in terms of resident representation.

“I looked at it from a resident’s perspective overall and I think Brian checks a lot of boxes, I’ll say that, for a general resident overall,” Caulfield said.

“We need to ensure that (residents) are represented responsibly in a way that contributes effectively to the problem solving, the dialogue, the deliberation and to the team dynamic,” Hodges said, “and in a way that strengthens our outcomes because of that diversity of thought and because we do have good representation on

the council, which therefore means we march forward together as a community. None of us want to go back to the days of division and I don’t think we have to settle for that. ...

“I believe Brian Brenner is right for this moment at this time,” she said. “I mean he really does complete this team.”

With Relan expressing indecision, newcomer McMillan suggested waiting to make a decision until the January council meeting, giving council members time to get to know the candidates better. The motion failed 3-3, with Gallagher, McMillan and Relan in favor and Hodges, Caulfield and Wiener opposed.

“I don’t see any reason why we can’t move forward with this,” Wiener said, emphasizing council was in agreement there were qualified candidates on the table.

“Because we have six people voting (and) we know how everyone voted,” Relan said, “... if I change my vote to McCuish, then we’re still at a stalemate. If I move my vote to Brenner, then we have a 4-2 majority. And it seems like it’s weighing on me which, that sucks for me, because again we have great candidates here. ... I don’t want to hold everything up. That’s not my intention here at all. ...

“Obviously we have a 3-2 plus me, so I’m torn,” he said. “If I can say I’m not feeling well and back out, then you guys can have your vote and get your majority. But, I’m willing to make a motion.

Let’s make a motion to move Brian Brenner into the appointed seat vacating council member Fluitt’s resignation.”

The motion was seconded by Wiener and unanimously approved. Hodges thanked the group for their willingness to work together.

“I do think (the unanimous vote) is a very important step forward to embrace our new colleague,” she said, “and I know that this wasn’t an easy decision for all of you, so thank you for that compromise and consensus and for being a team.”

“I’m well aware that I was not the first choice for several of the current council members,” Brenner said in an interview, “but yes, having the vote of confidence, having all of them vote in support, was very meaningful and appreciated.”

With a failed race for a council seat during the general election, Brenner said he applied to fill the vacancy because of his belief in the team.

“I don’t think a lot of us expected the election to turn out so strongly in the favor of the crew that did,” he said. “... When this group won, I thought, ... ‘If ever I was going to do this, now was the time,’ because I believe very strongly in the team that was elected. ... It was my belief in the ability of this group to tackle a lot of the (challenges) that we have facing us. I couldn’t think of a better group to be with.”

A Park native, Brenner hopes his skillset and perspective will help him

continue to move the city forward.

“At this point I think our priorities are excruciatingly clear,” he said. “Nothing is more important than keeping our basements from blowing up every time it rains.”

He added he also will support the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery, as he sees it as an influential project for partnership in the community.

“I think we have a tremendous opportunity in the Park to work collaboratively with the Schaap Center,” he said, “to promote entertainment in the Park, to promote our local dining and bar scene. I’ve seen this firsthand, where working with local entertainment venues can really benefit the hospitality industry. And additionally, we’re always talking about being inclusive and getting people out to the Park and showing off the Park, and I think there’s nothing more exciting than this. ...

“I think this is a tremendous opportunity to attract people down here and support our businesses and hopefully grow this as well across Alter,” he added. “... Having thriving neighbors is great for everybody.”

At the end of the day when excitement of the new appointment wears off, Brenner said he’s ready to get to work.

“We’re not here to pat each other on the back for having your buddies get you into council,” he said. “It’s a job to be done.”

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, DEC. 20**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee of the Whole meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- THURSDAY, DEC. 23**
- ◆ City, Farms, Park and Shores city offices closed.
- FRIDAY, DEC. 24**
- ◆ Christmas Eve — all city offices closed.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

Veteran, attorney inspired by family, the great outdoors

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The 2001 tragedy that devastated the nation — the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — had a serious effect on a young Will Thompson.

“I was part of that generation that sat in a classroom and watched the second plane hit the towers,” he said. “That was pretty impactful.”

Thompson joined the U.S. Marine Corps after graduating from Grosse Pointe North High School and served more than four years, including a tour of duty in Iraq in 2006, and another in Afghanistan in 2008.

“There was a lot of excitement at the time,” he recalled, noting his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, 2nd Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., which called for jump school, dive school, sniper school and more training. “It was more than standard infantry. ... Mine was a fast-paced job.”

After his service, Thompson returned to Michigan to further his education at Wayne State University.

“When I got out of the Marine Corps, I had thought I’d go into the FBI,” he said. “They were recruiting heavily people with accounting and finance backgrounds.”

While earning an undergraduate degree in finance, Thompson got an internship with DTE Energy, which eventually prompted him to use the GI Bill to go to law school, which he also did through Wayne State.

Currently, Thompson is a litigation attorney with Varnum. His practice is primarily focused on complex commercial, tax and insolvency litigation.

“I like the process,” he said. “It’s a skill set that you apply to different problems,” from breach of contract claims to complex fraud claims, according to his biogra-



COURTESY PHOTOS

Will Thompson plays with his son, Ben, during a national park visit.

phy at varnumlaw.com. Thompson also is vice president of the Detroit Veterans Bar Association and performs around 50 hours of pro bono work for veterans each year.

Thompson said he likes getting dressed up and going to court, but since the pandemic has “made the industry more relaxed,” he also is able to work from anywhere, including the home he shares with his wife, Ellisse, their two children, Ben, 3, and Harper, 1, and their new puppy, Koda.

“My family inspires me,” he said. “I want to be a good dad and a good husband.”

Thompson married his high school sweetheart — they met in foods class at North — in 2012. As fate would have it, she, too, became an attorney.

“People ask us, ‘Don’t you argue about stuff with each other?’” he said. “We don’t. It’s actually helpful; we might have ideas that we can bounce off one another. It’s a partnership, in a sense.”

“We also know what each other is going through,” he added. “I’ve been in trials where it consumes your life. You’re in it for 12 hours, 16 hours a day. She knows she has to take over on the home front in a way. Or I know I have to when she’s in court.”

Another shared passion the Thompsons have is the great outdoors.

“We are an outdoor junkie family,” he said. “We set a goal to see all the national parks before our son is 18.”

They’ll have to average two a year to reach their goal, he added, and they visited four last summer. So far, they’ve been to at least a half dozen national parks and they already have



Will and Ellisse Thompson enjoy a day on the lake.

planned a trip to Acadia National Park in Maine next summer.

“I’ve been to a lot on my own,” he added. “I grew up in Boy Scouts with camping trips.”

Thompson’s top three are Glacier National Park, for its beauty; Yellowstone National Park, for its animals — “It’s as close to a zoo as you can get in nature,” he said — and Mesa Verde National Park for its history.

“It’s the most well-preserved Native American ruins in the United States,” he said. “There are dwellings built into the cliffside. ... It’s sort of a spiritual trip.”

Along with boating and swimming with his family, Thompson reunites with his fellow servicemen each year for an outdoor adventure.

“I have good memories and great friendships,” he said of his time in the military. “We get together every year to go rafting or canoeing.”

“I really appreciate being in the outdoors.”



The Thompson family — Will, Ellisse, Ben and Harper — during a visit to Mesa Verde National Park.

PARTNERS:

Continued from page 1A

The meeting, occurring the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 7, consisted of talk about what went well in addressing the threats, what could have gone better and what needs to happen moving forward.

“The directors of public safety) want to talk more with us about training,” Dean said. “They want to talk about ways that we can partner (and) have officers available to support the people in our buildings.”

Overall, the group’s meeting Tuesday resulted in the desire to have more officer presence in schools and continue the discussion between public safety and the school system on how to keep the community’s children safe.

“The biggest takeaway is the spirit of collaboration and commitment that all six of the (municipalities) and us have to keeping everybody safe,” Dean said. “I think another really important takeaway, and something I’m really proud of, is technically our two high schools obviously reside

in only two cities, the Woods and the Farms, but all six of the municipal chiefs recognize that they’re kind of our collective responsibility. ...

“We’re going to keep having dialogue,” he added, “(and there’s a commitment) to keep our community safe. That involves keeping our kids safe, which happens in schools — and we’re all committed to that.”

The school district intends to continue to meet with the public safety heads, with a second meeting already scheduled for Monday,

Dec. 20. Due to security concerns, these meetings are not held publicly, a stipulation provided for in the Open Meetings Act.

In addition to meeting with the public safety departments, Dean said he would be meeting with a security consultant firm to discuss school safety. The last school safety study was conducted for the district in 2016.

While Dean said it’s not planned yet, the district would commit to conducting another full school safety study if deemed necessary.



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council adopted the following ordinance at its meeting held on Monday, December 6, 2021. The ordinance was adopted in accordance with the City Charter and will become effective December 16, 2021, and is hereby published by title:

An Ordinance to Amend City of Grosse Pointe Woods Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, Officers and Employees, to Add a New Division 5 to Create the Office of Assistant City Administrator

The ordinance is available for public inspection or purchase from the Office of the City Clerk, at the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center, 20025 Mack Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or www.gpwmj.us.

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Doing the right thing

The girlfriend of a suspect in his late 30s contacted an 83-year-old Farms woman Monday, Dec. 6, to inform her that the man had her credit card numbers and stolen jewelry. The suspect is an employee at a landscaping company that has worked at the Farms woman's house and currently is on probation for fraud.

High-speed crash

When an officer attempted to pull a vehicle over on Mack Avenue because of its loud exhaust at 3:09 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, it sped away at 73 mph.

After crashing into a telephone pole near Marseilles Street and East Warren, the 17-year-old Detroit driver was arrested by a City of Grosse Pointe officer for fleeing or eluding police, obstructing a police investigation, reckless driving, driving an uninsured and unregistered vehicle and driving while unlicensed.

Free food

After being recognized as a suspect who had stolen a sandwich the day before from a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue, a 39-year-old Detroit man was seen walking out of the same business with a sandwich he hadn't paid for at 5:01 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7. The man was arrested for retail fraud and a felony arrest warrant.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Found bike

A woman's bike was found on Muir Road Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Just can't win

An 87-year-old Farms man discovered a fraudulent purchase of a protection plan for \$102.98 Wednesday, Dec. 8, that included his credit card information, phone number and full name.

The man received the card 10 days prior to the incident due to his previous card being defrauded as well.

Found phone

A cell phone was found at Mack Avenue and Moross Road Friday, Dec. 10.

Fraudulent charge

Following problems with fraudulent account activity in the past, a 73-year-old Farms man discovered an AT&T DIRECTV account in his name with an outstanding balance of \$1,055 when he applied for a home equity loan Saturday, Dec. 11.

Trespassing

A 39-year-old Detroit man, who was previously advised on trespassing, was cited for trespassing in a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 5:01 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

No crimes to report per dispatch.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Deconstructing Christmas

A resident in the 1100 block of Bishop discovered multiple strands of their Christmas lights were cut, making the lights inoperable.

The destruction of property occurred sometime between noon Friday, Dec. 3, and noon Sunday, Dec. 5.

Handyman in the making

A pickup truck parked in the driveway of a home in the 700 block of Barrington was rummaged through between 3 and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Taken from the bed of the truck was a Dewalt drill and toolbox containing various tools.

Party favor

A resident in the 900 block of Beaconsfield reported having a group

of friends over for the night Tuesday, Dec. 7, and, upon waking up, noticed her 2017 Ford Explorer was missing.

She was notified it was involved in an accident in Southfield and had been driven by a friend from the party.

Suspected is a 47-year-old Southfield man.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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

Grosse Pointe Woods

Designer sunglasses

A 2021 Dodge Ram pick-up truck was parked in a lot in the 19000 block of Mack around 6:40 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6. When its owner returned to the car at 7:30 a.m. the following morning, the rear driver's side window was shattered.

Stolen from the inside the car were two pairs of sunglasses: a Gucci pair, valuing \$475, and a Yves Saint Laurent pair, worth \$450.

Distracted driver

A 21-year-old Redford resident, distracted by his cell phone, rear ended a vehicle at a stop sign at Allard and Chester at 5:29 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7.

With a valid warrant out of Novi, a Novi officer came to pick up the Redford man.

The man was issued citations for driving with license suspended, no insurance, expired plate and failure to stop within assured clear distance.

Repeated Grinch offenses

A resident in the 1500 block of South Renaud reported her Christmas lights have been maliciously manipulated in 2018, 2019 and again this year, as of 7:35 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 12.

The lights were operating Saturday, Dec. 11, but Sunday she discovered one strand on her front bushes was severed.

The woman does not have suspicions as to who is causing the damage.

— Kate Vanderstelt

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Violent disturbance

Following a report of a violent person within a business in the 18000 block of Mack Avenue at 12:10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, officers secured

the suspect at the scene until Detroit officers arrived.

Hospital threats

Officers located and arrested a 39-year-old homeless man on Cadieux Road at 3:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, after he made threats in the waiting room of a local hospital. Upon further investigation, he was referred to a mental health facility for treatment.

Wind damage

Throughout the day Saturday, Dec. 11, officers responded and assisted citizens with many wires and trees down due to the high winds.

Cranky customer

A 40-year-old Woods man was reported to officers at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, for disturbing customers in a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval Avenue and refusing to leave. After a discussion with officers, he left voluntarily.

— Laurel Kraus

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



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Grosse Pointe News

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JODY MCVEIGH: Editor

OUR VIEW

Park council appointments complete team

With the unanimous appointments of Brian Brenner on Monday night and Martin “Marty” McMillan last week to fill vacancies on the Grosse Pointe Park City Council, Mayor Michele Hodges has a strong team in place to get some serious work done in her city.

Mr. Brenner was one of 15 applicants, along with Mr. McMillan, who applied to fill the seat vacated by Ms. Hodges when she won election as mayor last November. Both candidates made the council’s short list of six.

While Mr. McMillan’s appointment last week was led with a motion by Councilman Vikas Relan and unanimously passed by the council, the veteran councilman “was torn” when it came to former councilwoman Aimee Fluitt’s replacement.

Mr. Relan originally supported Jay Bonnell for the appointment. Applicant Michael McCuish was favored by two council members, while Mr. Brenner was favored by Mayor Hodges and two other council members.

The council was at an impasse until Mr. Relan made the diplomatic move on nominating Mr. Brenner, resulting in the unanimous support. Thank you, Mr. Relan, for stepping up. It bodes well for the council going forward.

“I do think (the unanimous vote) is a very important step forward to embrace our new colleague,” Mayor Hodges said, “and I know that this wasn’t an easy decision for all of you, so thank you for that compromise and consensus and for being a team.”

After the meeting, new Councilman Brenner told Grosse Pointe News reporter Kate Vanderstelt, “I’m well aware that I was not the first choice for several of the current council members, but, yes, having the vote of confidence, having all of them vote in support was very meaningful and appreciated.”

A Park native, Mr. Brenner is a chef and owner of his catering business, Chef Abner Brenner Culinary. He said that while he did not make it past the primary last year, he was encouraged by the candidates who made it to the November election and won seats on the council. “I couldn’t think of a better group to be with,” he told the Grosse Pointe News.

Mr. McMillan, retired, holds a business degree from Wayne State University. He will put it to good use as he comes up to speed on the council. He has served on the recreation commission since 2015 and is president of Grosse Pointe Park Little League.

Congratulations to the new councilmembers and to Mayor Hodges and council for moving together in unity.

“We do have good representation on the council,” Mayor Hodges acknowledged, “which therefore means we march forward together as a community. None of us want to go back to the days of division.”

| Wayne County vaccinations* | | |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| As of 12/14 | Initiation** | Completions*** |
| Vaccinations | 705,740 | 639,139 |
| % of residents 5+ | 69.8 | 63.3 |
| % 5-11 years old | 18.2 | 9.4 |
| % 12-15 years old | 51.8 | 46.9 |
| % 16-64 | 72.6 | 66.1 |
| % 65+ | 91.3 | 84.8 |
| *Excluding Detroit **1 of 2 doses *** 2 doses or J&J | | |

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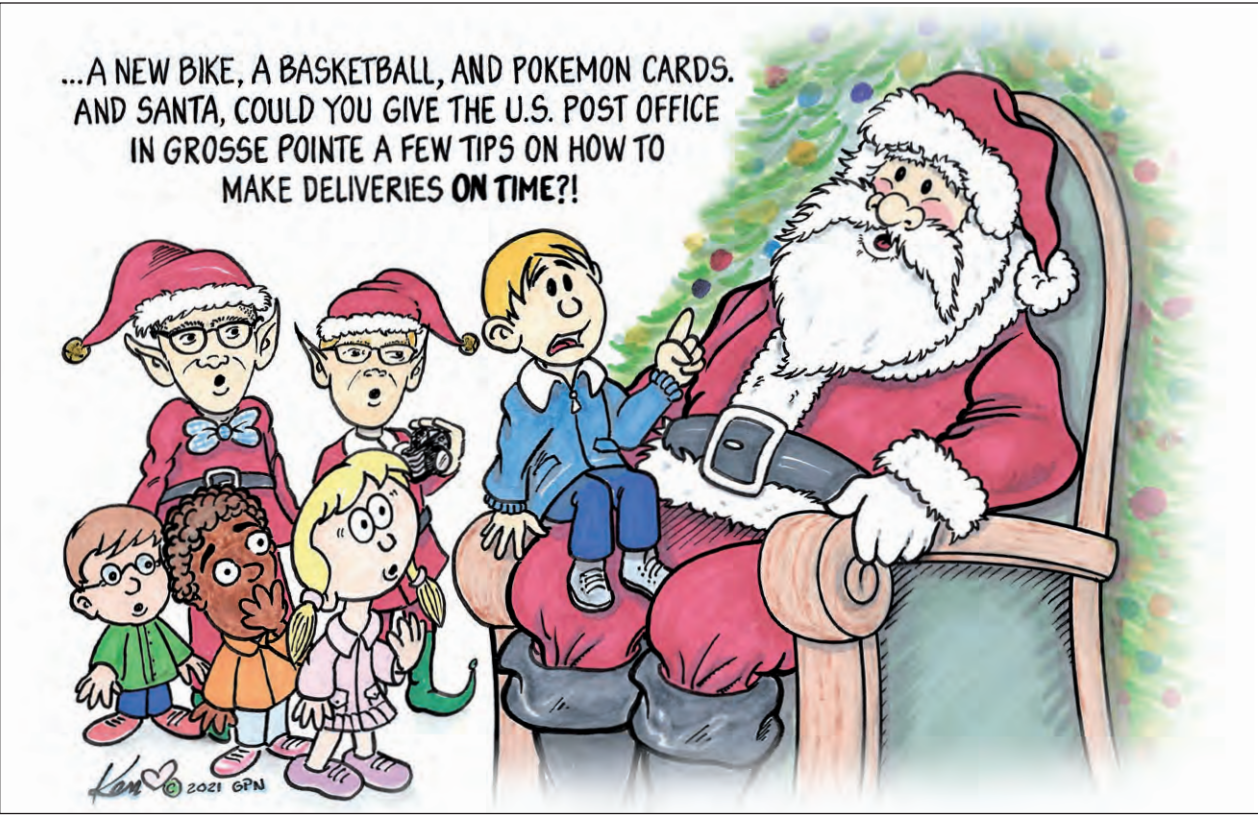


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

OUR VIEW

Enrollment: Drip, drip, drip

That’s the sound of declining enrollment in the Grosse Pointe Public School System and the resulting melting away of the district’s contingency fund.

Deputy Superintendent Amanda Matheson pulled a rabbit out of her hat Monday night when she presented the school board with a budget reflecting “only” a \$4.5 million deficit, largely due to declining enrollment.

We say “only” because we and others knowledgeable of school budgeting expected a shortfall of half again or nearly double that amount.

The district set its 2021-22 budget on an expected enrollment of 7,047. However, actual enrollment this school year came in 416 students less than expected. At \$10,350 state funding per student, that amounts to a \$4.3 million hit to the budget.

Also impacting the school district’s bottom line is the 4 percent pay increase given to unionized

employees this year. Since payroll reflects most of the district’s expenses, a 4 percent increase to a \$100 million budget should be nearly \$4 million.

So we and others expected a \$6-8 million deficit, but we will take better than expected news.

The \$4.5 million takes the district’s fund balance — rainy day fund — down to \$10.35 million, 10.56 percent of the budget. Typically, a 15-20 percent fund balance is a sound budgetary practice.

What is concerning is how long can this go on? The district came off a pandemic year when enrollment was expected to be down and still lost 289 more kids. Enrollment is down 1,000 students since 2018-19.

When a school board member asked Ms. Matheson how the \$4.5 million will be made in next year’s budget, she said she hadn’t worked that out yet.

We’ll see.

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes your letters to the editor. All letters should be typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters longer than 250 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. Include daytime phone number for verification or questions. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters to the editor may be emailed to editor@grossepointenews.com.

GPF parking officer thwarts car theft

To the Editor:

Yesterday, the quick thinking and heroic response by Parking Enforcement Officer Charity thwarted the theft of my 2020 Jeep Trackhawk from the Richard parking lot around lunchtime (11:33 a.m.).

At that time, Officer Charity was checking vehicles at the northern end of the Richard lot when she observed a (stolen) Dodge SUV with a broken-out rear window and three male occupants enter the lot and park next to my Trackhawk. This vehicle and its occupants appeared suspicious to Officer Charity and she kept a watchful eye on both the vehicle and its occupants.

Within a matter of seconds, these three individuals exited their SUV, broke out a rear window in my Jeep and lifted a short, slight in stature man through the broken window to gain entry to my vehicle.

Officer Charity, recognizing that these men were attempting to steal my vehicle, saw my brake lights go on and had the wherewithal to jump into her vehicle and rush to my Jeep with her horn

blaring.

Although she was unarmed and unaware of whether these three men had a gun or other weapon, she immediately stopped her vehicle less than a foot behind mine, thereby preventing them from taking off with my Jeep.

Simultaneously, Officer Charity was in contact with the station advising officers of the situation that was unfolding, providing them with second-by-second updates and a description of the Dodge SUV and its occupants. Two of these men took off in the Dodge SUV and were pursued by GPF police while the individual who was inside my vehicle fled on foot which necessitated the use of a tracking dog in the ensuing search.

Officer Charity showed unwavering bravery and courage and her actions went well beyond the call of duty for an unarmed parking enforcement officer.

I am so very grateful that she was in the Richard lot during this time. Not only would I like to commend her for her heroism, but, in my humble opinion, the city should recognize her selfless actions with an award or commendation.

DAVID GRIEM
Grosse Pointe Farms

A Hollyfest thank-you

To the Editor:

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods is incredibly grateful for the generosity of our Hollyfest sponsors, donors and attendees!

In our 21st year, in the midst of so much uncertainty, we came together in a beautiful celebration of the work The Family Center has accomplished in our community and we raised an unprecedented amount of money to support the mental health needs of children in Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

Very special thanks to our 2021 Hollyfest Chair Christine Alcantara, our master of ceremonies Roger Hull, our special appeal guest speaker Beth Walsh-Sahutske, our auctioneer Marie Boyle Reinman and The Grunyons for their wonderful performance.

Thank you to our sponsors and auction donors for their tremendous support:

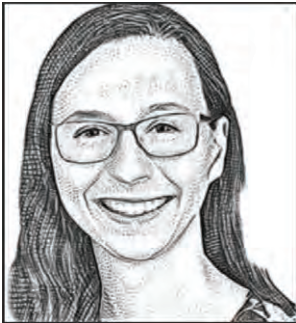
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See LETTERS, page 7A

I SAY By Laurel Kraus

The meaning of Christmas



The idea of Christmas means many things to many people. For some, it means snuggling up on the couch with holiday movies or baking a recipe passed down for generations. For others, it means opening presents

on Christmas Eve, which frankly I will never understand. For me, it means sneaking to fill my mom's stocking because somebody needs to be Santa for "Santa"; passing presents around Christmas morning at my parents house with my siblings coming home just like when we were little; and trudging across the street in snowboots and PJs to have brunch at my sister's mother-in-law's house. My concept of Christmas day, however, is nothing without my understanding and belief that Jesus Christ is the

Son of God, who came to earth as a human, died for our sin on the cross and rose again three days later. Most of us are likely familiar with the Christmas story as told by Linus, featuring his blanket, in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11. While Christmas is the day we celebrate Jesus' birth, its importance extends far beyond that. Ultimately, what we are acknowledging through Christmas is the first step toward his sac-

rifice. He had to be born as a human, so that 33 years later, he could take on the sin of the world and die for us, giving all of us a new kind of access to live forever in heaven, if we choose to accept it. Rather than continuing to require us to offer sacrifices to atone for sin — as the Jews in the Old Testament were required to do — God sent the ultimate sacrifice, his only son, to free us from the consequences of sin once and for all. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,

but have everlasting life." John 3:16. All we have to do to receive this incredible gift is to accept it. It is as simple as acknowledging we're sinners and need to be saved; accepting Jesus Christ as the son of God who died for our sin and rose from the dead; and asking him to come into our hearts. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9-10. One of the most beautiful parts of salvation is

that, once we are saved, it is final. There is no such thing as becoming unsaved or needing to be saved a second time, no matter what happens in a person's life. Fearing death, and what comes after, becomes unnecessary when you are promised a place of happiness and peace beyond comprehension, and where pain, sickness and sorrow does not exist. Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus, just as it is a foretelling of God's love and mercy to come. "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15.

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1946

75 years ago this week

POINTE DEMANDS SKATING RINKS: The troubles that beset the Park village authorities in trying to provide ice skating rinks for the young people of the village came out into the open again. Edward H. Thomas was present to protest against the location near his home of such a public playground. The village had intended to locate one of the rinks this winter to a vacant lot on the east side of Nottingham, midway between St. Paul and Jefferson.

P R O P O S E ORDINANCE TO COLLECT WHEEL TAX: There are indications that the Lake Shore Coach Lines Inc., will not much longer be permitted to occupy the favored position it has long held of operating its buses in the Pointe free of any local taxes whatever. A few days ago, a group of gentlemen high in the affairs of the Park village were discussing the matter and the suggestion was made by one of them that an ordinance be prepared at an early date which

would levy the same per bus mile tax, commonly called a wheel tax, as that levied by Detroit.

Obituaries: Mrs. Donald Mitchell, Franklin Seaburn

1971

50 years ago this week

DR. JOHN WOLFE IMPROVES X-RAY: A Grosse Pointe physician, Dr. John N. Wolfe, has made a distinctive contribution to medicine by developing a new X-ray system for more accurate and earlier detection of breast cancer and other diseases. According to Dr. Jack Goldman, senior vice president of research at Xerox Corporation, Dr. Wolfe alone stimulated Xerox to produce and market the new xeroradiographic equipment that is now beginning to be manufactured.

HUNT CLUB PRESENTS FIRST 'TENNIS BALL': To celebrate the opening of its new Tennis House and to give members and friends a chance to get acquainted with this new facility, the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club presents its first "Tennis Ball." Highlight of the evening

will be an exhibition in which the undefeated doubles team of Tobey Hansen Jr. and Joe Felice will play George Haggerty and Bob Wood, current doubles champions from the Country Club of Detroit.

Obituaries: Stephanie B. Jozwiak, Dr. Ralph M. Bourke, Philip A. Goad Jr., William S. Ewald, Julie Callahan, Alice W. Lang, Elizabeth A. Ternes, Stana Markovich, James C. Smith Jr., William L. Maccani III

1996

25 years ago this week

SCHOOLS SEEK BEST SOLUTION TO PARCELS POPULATION BOOM: There are no easy answers to the question of how to alleviate crowding at Parcels Middle School. The Grosse Pointe Woods school at Mack and Vernier is bursting at the seams. Current enrollment is 793 students and district administrators project it will increase to 822 students in the next five years.

PATTERSON ICE RINK REQUIRES SUPPORT FACILITY: As

Grosse Pointe Park officials prepare to officially open the new ice rink at Patterson Park, they also realize that something must be done to provide amenities for the many skaters who will be using the rink during the cold winter weather. City Manager Dale Krajniak said there is a storage garage about 50 yards from the ice rink and the most logical solution is to make some improvement to the garage so the public could use its restrooms and put in a warming room where residents can don skates or take a break from the cold.

Obituaries: Matilda Good, Bjarne Heian D.O., Robert Eugene Arthur Sr., Mary Jane Sorge, Jeanne McKiggan Hawkins, Gertrude J.

Meeker, June Sarvis Angott, Emilen Hribar, Edward Seward Wunsch, Gregory Reynolds, Patrick Joseph Scotella Sr.

2001

20 years ago this week

FARMS BOOSTS FUNDS: That holiday jingle at city hall isn't Santa's sleigh bells. It's extra savings in the city's pockets. An audit for fiscal year 2010-11, which ended June 30, revealed Grosse Pointe Farms increased its rainy day fund. The fund is greater than last year's and equals 23 percent of the general fund budget.

SERVICES COULD

MERGE: Earlier this year it was joint public safety dispatch with a sister Grosse Pointe. This month, it's shared fire-fighting services with the whole Pointe family. Next year is a police, fire and emergency medical services partnership between the City and Park. All are goals of the City of Grosse Pointe to save costs and improve efficiency by sharing comparable services. The latest proposal is the biggest: to create a joint public safety authority with Grosse Pointe Park.

Obituaries: John "Jack" William Coe, Corine V. McDonald, Sharon J. Osip, John McLellan, Lenore A. Pasquinelli, Carol A. O'Brien, Thomas G. Phillips, Howard Hall Robinson Jr.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
Friends of The Family Center
Judy Gafa
Dr. Georges and Louana Ghafari
Grosse Pointe Theatre
Page Heenan
Hotel Earl
Julie Huellmantel
Roger and Jeanie Hull
Charles and Angela Kennedy
Kids On The Go
Darci McConnell
John and Terry Minnis,
Grosse Pointe Magazine
Jill Pietrowsky
Elizabeth Puleo-Tague
Susie and Chip Rohde
Rich and Nancy Solak
Sarah Stahl
Susie At Home
Thrifty Florist
Village Food Market
Village Palm
Cathy Walker
Frank Wilberding and Beth Konrad-Wilberding
Mary Wright
Yellow Door Photography & Imaging

Thank you to our

Hollyfest Committee for the gift of their time, talent, and treasure:
Suzanne & Jerry Antonelli
Jennifer Bingaman
Connie Deruiter
MaryJo Harris
Roger Hull
Shane Reeside
Eileen Reickert
Chip Rohde
Cathy Walker
Frank Wilberding

We are excited to put the funds raised back into the Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe communities by providing resources and preventative education that empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges and offering programs on a wide range of topics aimed at building strong families and helping parents raise children who will become competent, caring, and responsible community members.

With gratitude from The Family Center,
JENNIFER BINGAMAN,
Executive Director
MARYJO HARRIS,

Director of Programs & Administration
LYNNE MERRILL
ALDRICH
SUZANNE ANTONELLI, CFP®
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Editor's note: The headline "Road to Oxford" on a letter last week was added by the Grosse Pointe News, not the letter writer. It had no meaning other than to express the writer's thoughts occurred while driving to Oxford.

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VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

The Allor Group: A legacy in the community

By Kate Vanderstelt
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Around 20 years ago, Jeff Allor purchased from his father the Allor Group, a business he now runs with his nephew, Rick Allor. Before the two occupied the space at 19579 Mack, different businesses were owned and operated in it by the Allor family more than 50 years.

The Allor Group’s current space used to serve the Grosse Pointes with painting, carpeting, picture framing and art supplies sales. At the close of 2019, the Allor Group wanted to expand, so the partners closed their family’s Detroit Custom Framing business to build a showroom.

As the showroom is visible to passersby, many Grosse Pointers have tried to come inside to purchase a chair; however, that’s not how the Allor Group operates.

The duo represents interior furnishing manufacturers “from Malibu to Montreal,” Rick Allor



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Jeff Allor, right, purchased the Allor Group from his father around 20 years ago. Now, he operates the business out of a space on Mack in Grosse Pointe Woods with his nephew, Rick Allor, left.

laughed, to get their products in the hands of dealers and sold to groups designing corporate offices, higher education, healthcare and hospitality spaces.

“So we don’t really sell anything,” Jeff Allor said, “we represent the people that manufacture.”

The showroom, then, was a perfect addition for the group to be able to show potential dealers what their space could look like with products from Allor’s partners.

“Our showroom is a perfect mix of how each one of those manufacturers comes to be part of the Allor Group,” Rick Allor said. “And it’s attempted to be displayed as if it was a working, operating office space.”

The Allor Group has its represented furniture in the Grosse Pointe Woods municipal building, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Grosse Pointe South High School and Grosse Pointe North High School, to name a few.

“We get typically brought in to help win, land (and) strategize around larger opportunities,” Rick Allor said.

Though their client base isn’t necessarily Grosse Pointe residents, the partners are proud to have their business maintaining a footprint that’s been in the family for years.

“I don’t think there (are) many businesses operating on Mack Avenue that can say that the fourth (generation is working in the space),” Jeff Allor said. “... (Rick’s) great-grandfa-

ther was walking around here working in this building.”

“I think it’s cool,” Rick Allor said. “Inherently it’s cool to work for a company that bears your name. ... I take a lot of pride in it.”

The business owners also take pride in their community, saying they collaborate with local shops as much as possible.

“Although we’re not open for business in the traditional sense, we’re definitely an open part of the community,” Rick Allor said. “... That’s important to me.”

Jeff Allor was born in the Woods and has lived in the community his whole life, minus a small stint in St. Clair Shores when he first was married. Rick Allor grew up in the Farms and attended Grosse Pointe North High School. Though he lives in Detroit now, he will be moving back to Grosse Pointe with his wife in the foreseeable future.

For more information about the Allor Group, visit allorgroup.com.

Dawood hosts fundraiser for St. Jude’s

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — During the most wonderful time of the year, it can be easy to slip into the stress of holiday shopping; the workload to prepare for vacation time; or preparing for family to come into town. These seasonal stressors may not feel so looming, however, to those who stop for a moment to consider the young parents who will spend Christmas at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital watching their children fight for their lives.

In an effort to support the organization which cares for sick children and houses their families, all free of charge, Dawood Boutique of Grosse Pointe will donate 20 percent of all sales — in store and online — from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, to St. Jude’s.

Check donations made out to “St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital,” also are welcome to be dropped off at the store.

“St. Jude is the patron saint of hopeless and desperate causes,” Dawood owner Toni Dasaro said. “... This is an unbelievable organization where you know that every penny is



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

From 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, 20 percent of all Dawood sales will be donated to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

directed there. Not for corporate. Not for secretaries. ... It goes right to the kids and that’s why we’re so passionate about it.”

The family business, currently run by Dasaro and her daughter, Maria Attar, chooses a charitable effort to participate in each year. Last year the efforts went toward a Catholic church, while the year before featured a coat drive where participants received 10 percent off in the boutique for every coat donated.

“My daughter and I had a vision,” Dasaro said of this year’s fundraiser. “We wanted to do something and we wanted to do something

in the pique season of Christmas, which is our busiest and most profitable time.”

St. Jude Hospital has a special connection to the family. Daraso’s mother, Bettie Dawood, who started the business 65 years ago, was an active philanthropist for the organization and good friends with its founder, Danny Thomas. She would hand him a check each year and approximately 50 years ago, during a notable two years in a row, raised \$500,000 each year.

Strengthening the connection are Dasaro’s own battles with cancer. She achieved remission twice, even while the

first was a stage four cancer with only a 10 percent chance of survival.

“Now, above all times, we realize how important it is and we just felt a special calling,” Attar said, recalling how the pair chose the charity in prayer. “It all really fell into place so perfectly. It was meant to be. We feel really good about it and we’re really excited.”

Dawood is located at 16840 Kercheval in The Village. The boutique’s selection, which features athleisure, lounge wear, jeans, tops, dresses, outerwear, jewelry and handbags, can be browsed at dawoodgp.com.

Allstate agency opens in The Village

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — After running an Allstate agency in Royal Oak from 2010 to 2014, before taking time off to take care of his children, Grosse Pointe resident Chris Waldmeir is returning to the business and bringing his efforts to his hometown.

The Waldmeir Agency, a local Allstate agency, opened in The Village in early November.

“I decided that if I’m going to open an agency from the ground up basically, that I’d want to do it in my own neighborhood,” Waldmeir said, “(and) help out, hopefully, residents in my neighborhood, as well as others throughout the metro Detroit area.”

As an exclusive provider of Allstate insurance, the agency offers personal lines, business lines, life and financial services. These include home, auto, motorcycle, boat, umbrella, business owners and business auto.

“You name it, we’ve got a product that can cover it,” Waldmeir said.

While able to offer a personal touch because of its size and locality, the agency also is a sound insurer because a large

company such as Allstate is behind it.

“Everybody that works here currently, we’re all Grosse Pointers and we were born and raised pretty much,” Waldmeir said, “and so I’m looking forward to helping out in the community and becoming a bigger part of the community.”

Soon, the Waldmeir Agency will be the only Allstate agency in the Grosse Pointes. The agency currently located on Mack in the Woods will be moving to consolidate locations with another outside the Pointes.

“We have a lot of connections to the community, (and have) been here for a long, long time,” Waldmeir said, “and we’re just really excited to be here and want to help as many people as we can. Really, at the end of the day, our main objective and our main goal is just to be here and be helpful (and) make the community a better place for everybody.”

Located at 17029 Kercheval, Suite 2, The Waldmeir Agency operates 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and by appointment evenings and weekends. Customers are welcome to walk in, call, text or email.

Learn more at bit.ly/30efARJ.

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NOTICE
AUCTION OF
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Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on December 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at Woods Towing, located at 22755 Lexington, Eastpointe, MI. The following impounded/abandoned vehicles will be auctioned:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2020 MINI BIKE SCOOTER |LOBPTNMY0L0004058 |
| 2009 FORD FOCUS |1FAHP35N99W177036 |
| 2005 CHEVY COBALT |1G1AK52F057590303 |
| 2003 GMC SONOMA |1GTCS19H638175249 |
| 2005 CHRYSLER 300 |2C3JA43R85H508260 |

The above vehicles can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Woods Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Lt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: December 8, 2021
PUBLISHED: December 16, 2021

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.

Liggett senior selected as QuestBridge Scholar

University Liggett School senior Noah Sanders is among a prestigious group of 1,674 students from a pool of nearly 16,000 to be selected as a QuestBridge National College Match Scholar for 2021. As part of being a QuestBridge Scholar, Sanders is admitted to the University of Chicago on a full four-year scholarship.

“Receiving a QuestBridge Match Scholarship is a recognition of Noah’s hard work and commitment,” said Elizabeth Jamett, director of college guidance.

Match Scholarship recipients are admitted early to QuestBridge college partners with



PHOTO COURTESY OF ULS

Noah Sanders, Class of ‘22

full scholarships, supplies, and travel including tuition, room expenses that are and board, books and funded by participating

colleges and universities.

Jamett noted that QuestBridge allows universities to identify top students early in the application process.

“In addition to financial support, QuestBridge creates a support network for students so that they will be successful as they make the transition to their university,” she added.

While in Upper School at ULS, Sanders participated in cross country, robotics and peer tutoring. Outside of school he was active in Math Corps and Generator Z, and volunteered with Meals on

Wheels. Sanders plans to study pre-medicine and neuroscience at UChicago.

Previous QuestBridge scholars from Liggett have attended Hamilton College, University of Chicago, Tufts, Princeton and Yale.

In addition to UChicago, QuestBridge’s college partners include top liberal arts colleges around the country, such as Amherst, Colby, Hamilton, Pomona, Williams and Yale, as well as exceptional research universities such as Brown, Columbia, Duke and Stanford.

This year’s Match Scholarship recipients

come from 49 states, as well as the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico.

The National College Match is a highly competitive process and this year’s College Matches have impressive achievements, including an average unweighted grade-point average of 3.93. Additionally, 92 percent are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. The majority of these new QuestBridge Scholars — 81 percent — are among the first generation in their families to attend a four-year college in the United States.

GPPSS budget amendment shows loss of \$4.499 million

By Michael Hartt
Staff Intern

At the Dec. 15 Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, Amanda Matheson, deputy superintendent of business services, presented a budget amendment to the board,

providing official insight into how a recent decline in enrollment has affected district finances.

The actual fall count for the 2021-22 school year was 6,631 students, which differs from the state aid estimate of 7,047 students used in the original budget. The

count of 6,631 students represents a decline in enrollment from 6,920 students in the 2020-21 school year and from 7,449 students in the 2019-20 school year

With the Michigan School Aid Fund budget being finalized at \$10,350, the decline in enrollment from the estimate contributed significantly to the operating loss of \$4.499 million shown in the budget amendment.

The loss leaves the district’s estimated ending fund balance as of June 30, 2022, to \$10,347,817, or 10.56 percent of budgeted expenditures.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Hard work pays off

In the 1400 block of Hampton in Grosse Pointe Woods, 9-year-old Connor Eisbrenner and his 7-year-old brother Henry have been raking leaves and doing odd jobs to contribute to getting a new decoration for their front lawn each year for the past four years. They are working again this year because they have their eyes on another character to add next year.

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Richard temporarily locked down as officers searched for suspect in attempted auto theft

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Public safety wasn’t taking any chances when a suspect was

seen running from officers in the area of Richard Elementary School a little after 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 9.

While there ultimately was no threat to students’ safety, a lockdown was put in place as a precautionary measure before the school reopened a half hour later.

The situation began when the city’s parking enforcement officer happened upon two suspects attempting to steal a vehicle from a parking lot at Kercheval and McKinley. Upon confrontation, one suspect immediately fled in a Dodge Durango —

painted black with a blue stripe down the center and sporting a broken window — while the other fled on foot.

Because of the suspect’s proximity to Richard, the school was immediately placed on lockdown.

While City, Farms and Park officers combed the area, a witness later informed officers he believed he saw the suspect get into a car at Fisher and Kerchval, leading investigators to conclude he ran down McKinley and cut through an alley before getting into the vehicle.

“We searched the area completely and then we

opened the school back up,” Farms Director of Public Safety Dan Jensen said. “... It does not appear they went near the school. We don’t take chances with that.”

The suspects are described as two smaller-built black males, one wearing light-colored pants and a dark, hooded sweatshirt.

The attempted theft would have been the third time this particular Jeep was stolen, as its model type is a sought-after car.

“Stay vigilant,” Jensen said. “It’s the holidays (and) these street crimes have a tendency to pick up.”

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM ADVERTISEMENT

The Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System (“Owner” or “School District”) will receive sealed Bid Proposals for:

ABATEMENT PROJECT – SPRING AND SUMMER 2022 WORK PROGRAM – BARNES EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, KERBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MASON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, BROWNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL, PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Bid Proposals will be received by Amanda Matheson, Deputy Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System, at 20601 Morningside Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236, on or before **2:00 p.m.** (local time) on **JANUARY 6, 2022** (“Due Date”). The Board of Education will not consider or accept a Bid Proposal received after the Due Date, the date and time specified for Bid Proposal submission. Bid Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately following the Due Date at the same location. Due to COVID restrictions attendance is not required for the opening and will be restricted to (1) representative from each company.

A **mandatory** Pre-Bid Proposal meeting will be held on the following date:
December 22, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m. at Mason Elementary School, located at 1640 Vernier Rd. Grosse Pointe Woods, 48236. All persons attending the Pre-Bid will be required to meet at the Main Office. This is an active school so face masks will be mandatory and temperature scans may be required in order to enter the building.

Each Bid Proposal must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Board of Education or the Superintendent of the Grosse Pointe Public School System. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized disclosure statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement certifying that the Contractor is not an Iran Linked Business. The Board of Education will not accept a Bid Proposal that does not include this sworn and notarized statement.

Each Bid Proposal must also be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount no less than five percent (5%) of the total bid amount(s).

The Grosse Pointe Public School System’s Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bid Proposals, either in whole or in part, to waive any informalities or irregularities therein, or to award the contract to other than the contractor(s) submitting the best financial Bid Proposal (low bidder), in its sole and absolute discretion.

Bid documents, including scopes of work, Drawing and Specifications will be made available after December 21, 2021, at Nova Environmental, Inc, 5300 Plymouth Rd. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105 and at the **mandatory** Pre-Bid Proposal meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Adam Amin at (734) 930-0995 or email at aamin@nova-env.com.

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Published: GPN, December 16, 2021

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GPT calls for entries

Ten-minute play submissions accepted through midnight Dec. 31

Grosse Pointe Theatre is putting out a call for entries for its 2022 Take Ten, Ten-Minute Play Festival. All interested playwrights should submit their 10-minute play no later than midnight Friday, Dec. 31, for consideration in the 2022 festival.

This marks the eighth year of Grosse Pointe Theatre’s playwright festival. According to creator and Michigan playwright Mary Lou Britton, participants don’t have to be accomplished playwrights to enter; they just need a desire to tell their stories in play form, developing a plot, characters and setting that can engage the audience around this year’s theme, “While You Were Out.”

“Playwriting opens up another dimension to storytelling, connecting each character’s experiences in a believable and entertaining way — in this case, all in 10 minutes,” Britton said. “We look forward to seeing this year’s play entries and showcasing the best 10-minute plays next spring.”

All 10-minute play entries must follow this year’s criteria to be considered:

- ◆ All plays submitted must have the theme, “While You Were Out,” in whatever context the phrase means to the writer. The character(s) must have been affected by something that happened while they or another subject was absent.

- ◆ There is no fee to enter the competition. However, should a play be selected for performance as part of the Take Ten Play Festival, the playwright must become a member of Grosse Pointe Theatre prior to the play performance. Annual membership dues are \$50.

- ◆ Entries will be judged anonymously by a panel of local and out-state judges.

- ◆ Playwrights may

enter plays for consideration by electronically submitting a properly formatted

script by midnight Dec. 31. Email submissions

See PLAYS, page 12A



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GRANTS:

Continued from page 9A

at the GPFPE’s annual spring benefit in 2021, with more than \$90,000 raised specifically for the new program at the event. Students, teachers and parents will be able to apply for grants year-round for programs that support the social and emotional health of students and teachers in the district.

“The response to the SEED program was immediate and generous and we are pleased to announce this first round of wellness grants and will continue to respond to these needs year-round,” said Bob Bury, GPFPE board president. “We are grateful to the Grosse Pointe community for 15 years of outstanding support, which allows us to make such a significant investment back in our classrooms, funding programs and initiatives that support our students, teachers and school system.”

12A | NEWS

PLAYS:

Continued from page 11A

to playfestival@gpt.org.
◆ When submitting a play, the author’s identifying information needs to be removed from the body of the play and on all corresponding play pages. The author’s name, address, email and phone number should be on the

accompanying email cover sheet.
◆ Plays submitted that are not in proper manuscript format, are not a suitable length, nor within the theme, “While You Were Out,” will not be considered.
◆ To maintain the format of 10-minute plays, set construction requirements must be minimal; the action of the play should be continuous

(without scene breaks); there should be only two to four actors; and there should be no special costumes, makeup or special effects required.
The 10-minute plays that follow the above criteria and are selected by the judges to be “best in class” will have the opportunity to be performed at Grosse Pointe Theatre’s Take Ten Play Festival, which takes place Saturday, May 7,


at Christ Church Grosse Pointe in Grosse Pointe Farms.
The exact timing and selection of winning plays will be announced at a future date at gpt.org. Tickets to the Take Ten Play Festival also will be available at gpt.org. Festival tickets cost \$10.
For more information, visit gpt.org or email playfestival@gpt.org.


HUTCHINS:

Continued from page 1A

that I get,” Hutchins recalled. “So long story short, Grosse Pointe Farms offered me a position in September of ’90.”
Throughout the years as an officer, sergeant, lieutenant and deputy director, Hutchins has been integral to numerous projects within the department, including spearheading a new 911 phone system in 2016; overseeing the installation of a digital camera system to city hall and the public safety building to replace the analog version; securing new MSA airpaks for all firefighters, new AEDs and high-tech training mannequins that provide feedback on whether CPR is being performed properly; bringing into the department Narcan, which has been used several times successfully with opioid overdose patients; working with a team to design the new Rosenbauer fire engine; securing a washer and dryer to keep fire gear clean of contaminants; and scheduling cultural diversity training, de-escalation training and mental health first aid.
Since becoming deputy director in 2006, he has been involved in hiring personnel, disciplinary actions, promotional processes, oversight of the budget, approving all expenditures on a daily basis, making policy revisions and working directly with the union.

This past spring, he also attended a three-month FBI program meant to develop executives in law enforcement.
“I have the utmost faith in (Hutchins’ leadership) and I commend your decision as a council to replace myself with John,” Jensen said after the appointment. “... There’s a lot of changes that are going to be coming up and I can think of no one better than John Hutchins to take over this department.”
Stepping into the director position, Hutchins plans to transition the department from eight-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts come January, work toward maintaining the K-9 program, look into pursuing certification through the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program, explore the possibility of acquiring a drone to aid in searching for suspects and with civil disturbances, and keep the department up to date on training.
“I have a genuine love of the department and the people that work for us, from the patrol officers to the command officers to the dispatchers to the animal control and the parking folks to the fire specialists,” he said of his focus on ensuring those in the department are valued within their positions. “... For me that was the most important thing, was to take care of this place that’s served this community so well for so long.”
The 31-year veteran of the department was selected out of eight highly qualified individuals who applied after the position was advertised.





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FEATURES

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

Step out and slow down Park resident teams up with GPPL for 1000 Hours Outside

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

It was around this time last year when Grosse Pointe Park resident Kelly Konieczki discovered 1000 Hours Outside and its Advent calendar. She had no idea, she said, how much a simple internet search that led to a free, printable calendar of activities would have such an impact on her life.

“This was at the height of COVID — isolating and lonely,” Konieczki said, noting the Advent calendar gave her and her daughter, Matilda, “a different activity every day, something different we could do outside.”

“Some were ‘Go on a hike,’ but a lot of them introduced us to new, fun things,” she added. “The biggest thing I realized was it didn’t have to be this grand adventure. Maybe it was just ‘Count the birds’ or ‘Make maple syrup candy.’ It was more about heightening awareness.”

Using the Advent calendar, Konieczki and her daughter, then 10, visited places they hadn’t been to and completed tasks they’d never dreamed of before. It was life changing, she said.

“Once it was over, I started reading about the movement,” she said. “I found out a Michigan mom started it, basically encouraging families to get outside. There’s so much information out there about the benefits of being in nature. So we set a goal aiming for 1,000 hours.”

“I made a big list of places to go visit,” she explained. “... It turned



COURTESY PHOTOS

Kelly and Matilda Konieczki found a beauty on their holiday decorations walk.

into this awesome thing we could look forward to and celebrate.”

In her research, Konieczki learned the average child spends more than 1,000 hours in front of screens each year.

“The idea for this is to match that time,” she said, “how we can match screen time with outdoor time and fall in love with nature again.”

“When we decided to do it, it really helped us focus on slowing down,” she added. “It’s very small changes, but it’s breaking this routine.”

Nature teacher

Konieczki, who teaches sign language to infants and children through her Momcat’s Signing Academy, said when the

pandemic hit, she researched homeschooling and nature schools, ultimately deciding to homeschool her daughter.

“If there ever was a time to try homeschooling, this is it,” she said. “It helped slow the time down. I feel so fortunate to have this time with her — and watching her when she gets excited about something and building on that. There are so many ways kids can learn in nature. Anything you can learn in a classroom, you can learn in nature. It opened my eyes to the possibility of nature as a teacher. I dove headfirst into teaching with nature. ... There’s so much magic in nature. It makes you feel like a kid again. It provides such a rich sensory experience for learning. There are so many great loose parts.”

The challenge not only allowed Konieczki time with her daughter, but also proved life-altering as it inspired her to become a certified nature specialist. She spent her summer as a part-time nature specialist with Green Garden Child Development Center.

“If you told me a year ago I’d be a nature specialist, I’d have said you’re crazy,” she laughed. “How I got here was just going out there with (Matilda) — and that’s how you learn. For parents, you don’t have to know all the answers. That’s the type of thing you’re trying to teach kids — how to be curious,

how to find information.

“Now I’m passionate about helping families reconnect with nature,” she added. “I can’t say enough about how it changed our lives. Of course, getting out is the hardest part — I used to hate winter, but now I’m excited about it. Once you’re out there, it’s magic.”

Spreading the word

To inspire others to take on the challenge, Konieczki documented each day’s adventure — whether making ice ornaments or watching the sunset. She posted photos on Facebook and drew notable attention to the project, including from the Grosse Pointe Public Library.

A partnership between the GPPL and Konieczki, bringing 1000 Hours Outside to the community, kicks off with an open house from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park. Anyone interested in learning more about it is welcome to attend for hot cocoa, starter kits including a time tracker, DIY nature journals and more.

“We’re giving extra encouragement for people to take on the challenge,” Konieczki said, noting monthly meetings will be offered. “By providing these once a month, we’re being a resource for families if they decide to take this challenge.”



The Konieczkis made ice globes during one of their outdoor adventures.

“I really want to help people see it doesn’t have to be complicated,” she added. “It’s about making small changes that are going to make a huge difference in how you feel. ... (A thousand hours) seems like a lofty goal, but once summer comes around, those hours add up.”

All ages are welcome to attend the open house, just as all ages are invited

to participate in the challenge. More information may be found on the library’s website, grossepointelibrary.org, or the 1000 Hours Outside website, 1000hoursoutside.com.

Konieczki said through the challenge, her family — including her husband, Steve — had more outdoor winter bonfires

See OUTSIDE, page 6B



The Konieczkis were tasked with decorating a tree with food for birds and squirrels, left, and were able to watch the benefits of their work pay off when this squirrel had a meal.



Another bubble is filled on the Konieczkis’ time tracker.



A collage of the family’s adventures.

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E. Warren Holiday Nights showcases marketplace

E. Warren Development Corp. presents E. Warren Holiday Nights, a Friday and Saturday marketplace featuring more than 35 local businesses and live entertainment.

Located at 16835 E. Warren in the former Pizza Hut parking lot, Holiday Nights is the perfect opportunity to listen to top-tier artists while shopping local for the holidays. The market runs from 5 to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, until Dec. 18.

After executing successful Spring and Summer Farmers Markets, as well as Fall Night Markets, it only made sense for EWDC to end the year with a Holiday Night Market, with design assistance from Other Work, who designed the new market shed to allow for year-round activity. As the buzz continues to spread, so does the support from the community and throughout metro Detroit.

Nicole DeLano, owner of Hiptique on Mack between Three Mile and Bedford, assisted in the recruitment of top local

artists and shared all the positive happenings on E. Warren.

“I’m just happy I could help my community by doing something I love,” she said, “and help my musician family in the process.”

The first weekend of Holiday Nights, Dec. 10 and 11, featured Ramona Collins and Thornetta Davis. Upcoming acts include Dave Hamilton on Friday, Dec. 17, and The Paxton/Spangler Group on Saturday, Dec. 18.

“We’re so excited to host some of Detroit’s top musicians to spread holiday cheer to our shoppers,” EWDC Executive Director Joe Rashid said. “It’s been an amazing community effort to put this together and this is just the icing on the cake!”

EWDC values local entrepreneurship and developing a safe, festive and fun place to shop all year long. The organization looks forward to hosting more markets in 2022.

For more information, visit the E. Warren Development Corp. Facebook page.

GPPL hires new assistant director

Darlene Hellenberg recently joined the Grosse Pointe Public Library as an assistant director, replacing Peggy Kitchel, who retired the end of October.

Her office is located at the Central branch, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

“Darlene’s commitment to customer service and her dedication to engaging with staff and the community are just two of her strengths,” said Jessica Keyser, library director. “I had the opportunity to work with her when she was a librarian at the Ferndale Public Library.”

A graduate of the Michigan Library Association Leadership Academy, Hellenberg earned her Master of Library and Information Science degree

from Wayne State University. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Central Michigan University.

A resident of Warren, Hellenberg grew up in Ferndale. She started working as a page at the Ferndale library when she was in high school and then got a job at the circulation desk after college.

“That’s when I found out how much you can contribute to your community through the library,” Hellenberg said. “It’s a great way to connect with people.”

Hellenberg said she’s looking forward to finding her niche and getting to know everyone.

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



COURTESY PHOTO

New Grosse Pointe Public Library Assistant Director Darlene Hellenberg.

AREA ACTIVITIES

War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, presents “Voices and Votes: Democracy in America,” the traveling version of a major exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. The exhibition is open to the public 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, until Jan. 8. The exhibit is free, but patrons must register for specific times to visit. Masks are required.

Ford House

The Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores, offers the following programs:

- ◆ Starry Lights, Thursdays through Sundays, through Jan. 9.
- ◆ Holiday House Tours and Grounds Pass, 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, until Jan. 9.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts the following programs:

- ◆ Gingerbread House Take-Home Kit, available 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. Registration is required.
- ◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, via Zoom. The group discusses “Hidden Valley Road,” by Robert Kolker.
- ◆ Writing Group, 4 to 5:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 20, via Zoom, for ages 11 to 13.
- ◆ 1,000 Hours Outside Open House, 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Dec. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Register on grossepointelibrary.org or call (313) 640-4775.

Neighborhood Club

The Neighborhood

Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe, hosts free walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17. Appointments are not needed; vaccines are administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Adult, booster and pediatric doses are available. If getting a second dose or booster, proof of previous vaccination is required. Call (313) 885-4600.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers the following programs:

- ◆ The movie, “The Holiday” is shown 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17. Cost is \$2 for members, \$3 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.
- ◆ Mah Jongg lessons, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Jan. 10, 17 and 24. Cost is \$5 for nonmembers, free for members.
- ◆ Happy Hour, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 12. Cost is \$18 for members, \$22 for nonmembers. The event includes light hors d’oeuvres and wine.

◆ One-on-one

Technology Instruction, noon to 3:30 p.m. the first and third Fridays of each month.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, Recreational Authority of Roseville and Eastpointe, 18185 Sycamore, Roseville.
- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, and Tuesday, Dec. 28, Pointe Fitness, 19556 Harper, Harper Woods.
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30, Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register online at redcrossblood.org.

Mini Picassos

Mini Picassos, 20802 Lennan, Harper Woods, offers the following winter classes and workshops:

- ◆ Toddler Art Mornings, 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Jan. 3 to 31. Cost is \$100.
- ◆ Art Club, 4:15 to 5:15 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 6 to Feb. 3. Cost is \$115.
- ◆ Mini Picassos Saturday Art Club, 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Jan. 8 to Feb. 5. Cost is \$145.
- ◆ Slime Workshop: The Basics, noon to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8. Cost is \$30.
- ◆ American Girl Doll Art Pop-Up, 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Jan. 16. Cost is \$60.
- ◆ MLK Day Art Pop-Up, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 17. Cost is \$75.

To register, visit minipicassosstudio.com or call (313) 283-6710.

Beaumont

Beaumont Center for Mindfulness presents Living With Ease: Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sundays, Jan. 16 to March 13. Orientation takes place 9 to 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 9. Cost is \$350; scholarships are available. Registration is required by Friday, Jan. 7, at surveymonkey.com/r/Mindful2022. For information, email centerformindfulness@beaumont.org.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
Friday, December 24, 2021,
Mass AT 4 P.M.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
Saturday, December 25, 2021
MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12 A.M. ((••))

MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
AT 8:30 A.M. AND AT 11:15 A.M.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Sunday, December 26, 2021,
MASS AT 8:30 A.M. ((••)) AND 11:15 A.M.

NEW YEAR’S EVE
Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Friday, December 31, 2021 AT 4 P.M. ((••))

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Saturday, January 1, 2022, MASS AT 4 P.M.
Sunday, January 2, 2022,
MASS AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

** ((••)) - Service will be livestreamed online

St. Ambrose Catholic Church is located at 15020 Hampton Road between Wayburn and Maryland, one block north of Jefferson, just west of the Grosse Pointe Park City Hall.
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Mood Lifters aims to boost mental health

Beaumont offers virtual wellness program

Jody McVeigh
Editor

Beginning next month, Beaumont Health will offer the mental health program, Mood Lifters, free of charge to the community.

Three 15-week sessions are scheduled, each kicking off at 7 p.m. the following dates:

- ◆ Tuesday, Jan. 11
- ◆ Wednesday, Jan. 19
- ◆ Thursday, Jan. 27

“We recognize that emotional health is as important to well-being as physical health,” said Suzy Berschback, health communities manager with Beaumont Health. “For that reason, we are inviting our Beaumont communities to participate in a mental wellness program, developed at the University of Michigan, that has been shown to reduce anxiety, depression and stress, and increase happiness and joy.”

Mood Lifters, she continued, is a rapidly scalable, affordable, science-based, mental wellness program that was created, “because the mental health care system is overwhelmed, expensive and often ineffective,” Berschback said. “What is unique about the program is that, unlike traditional therapy, it is run by people who have found the program to be helpful to them and is designed to give you the skills so you can help yourself.”

The peer-led group program “addresses the complex biological, psychological and social causes and consequences of mental health challenges that we all go through at one time or another in our lives,” Berschback said. “The peer leaders create a comfortable and safe environment that helps participants stay accountable via a points program to achieve their personalized mental wellness



COURTESY PHOTO

Suzy Berschback, health communities manager with Beaumont Health, was instrumental in bringing Mood Lifters to Beaumont and the community.

goals.”

Mood Lifters is delivered via Zoom and is open to anyone age 18 or older who would like to improve their coping skills, learn new health habits, connect with others and get motivated to make life changes. “Let’s face it,” Berschback said, “the last few years have been hard. I think we could all use a lift.”

“Mood Lifters will show you how improving your emotional well-being will improve your overall physical health and vice versa.”

To bring the program to Beaumont, Berschback went through it herself so she could experience its benefits firsthand.

“It really helped me focus on areas that needed improvement and work towards those goals over the course of our meeting time,” she said. “So it is very individualized and can help everyone.”

Beaumont Health has underwritten 10 Mood

Lifters groups for 2022, and hopes to add more. While the Zoom option likely will continue moving forward, Berschback said she hopes to offer in-person options in the future as well.

“Unfortunately, we were in a mental health crisis prior to COVID,” Berschback said. “Social distancing and decreased interaction has only made matters worse. In a time of so much online connection, we are also seeing an epidemic of loneliness. In a time of social media, so many feel isolated. This program can help you have a stronger relationship with your significant other, children and work associates. We need to do something different than we have done in the past: This is different.”

To learn more or sign up free with a Beaumont-sponsored group, visit moodlifters.com/calendar-of-meetings/ and select one of the Beaumont Health options.



Fundraiser goes virtual

The Ugly Holiday Sweater 5K and Kids Run, which raises funds for the Ted Swarthout Memorial Skatepark Project in Harbor Springs, takes place in Harbor Springs beginning at 4:45 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 18, for those in the area.

However, organizers have added a virtual component so now anyone, anywhere can participate.

“Grosse Pointers are invited to participate live if they will be in town for the weekend or to participate virtually anytime between Saturday and Christmas Day,” said Sunny Swarthout Wagner, Ted Swarthout’s sister who is helping raise funds for the skatepark in her brother’s name. “They just have to bundle up in an ugly sweater as the holiday lights are coming on and enjoy the evening. Perhaps they will participate in honor of Ted. Perhaps they will participate to support the skatepark project. Or perhaps they will just join in the holiday fun.

“All are welcome, especially if they post festive selfies with #HarborSprings #UglySweater and other appropriate hashtags,”

she added.

Swarthout was a resident of Grosse Pointe Park who had planned to relocate to Harbor Springs and raise funds to update the community’s aging skatepark. He passed away unexpectedly this summer, leaving behind two young children. His family and friends decided to carry through with his plans and have since started fundraising for the Ted Swarthout Memorial Skatepark, which will be built by his high school

friend, Catherine Coulon, owner of Evergreen Skateparks.

So far, fundraising efforts have surpassed \$6,600. The goal is \$600,000.

“We are excited to announce that an anonymous donor has pledged \$100,000 in matching funds once the skatepark project raises its first \$100,000,” Wagner added.

To sign up or donate, visit runsignup.com/uglysweatersh.

— Jody McVeigh

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OBITUARIES

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

Linda Ann Carstens

Linda Ann Carstens, 84, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021, in Oxford. She was born Dec. 2, 1937, in Westfield, N.J., to Robert and Sarah Nitschke. Linda moved to Burlington, Vt., where she graduated from high school and attended the University of Vermont, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Upon graduation from UVM, she joined the United States Army Nurse Corps, earning a promotion to first lieutenant while serving overseas in Germany. While in the Army, she met Norman Carstens, an officer in the Army Dental Corps, in Heidelberg, Germany. They were married in January 1962, in Basil, Switzerland. Linda and Norman raised two children, Andrea Carstens and Matthew Carstens (Melissa). She was the beloved grandmother to Daniel and William Carstens. She was predeceased by her husband, Norman. As an avid and accomplished horsewoman, Linda was a member of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club and Waterloo Hunt Club in Grass Lake, where she earned her hunt colors. She also enjoyed gardening, bird watching and reading. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America, alzfdn.org; or Christ Church Grosse Pointe, christchurchgp.org.

Arthur James “AJ” Vaughn

Arthur James “AJ” Vaughn, 63, of the City of Grosse Pointe, passed away peacefully at home Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. AJ was born March 19, 1958, in Grosse Pointe Woods, to Vicky and Arthur Vaughn. He graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1976, and earned a bachelor’s degree in business, with a major in marketing, from Western Michigan University. After college, AJ embarked upon what would become a 25-year career with UPS. During his tenure, he worked in various capacities, including driver, human resources and industrial engineer. He was highly respected and fair throughout his career, from which he retired in 2004. AJ married Laura Macleod in 1992, after a six-month courtship. They moved to Arkansas, where their daughter, Megan, was born. They lived there 15 years. A happy childhood, fond memories and many lifelong friends led AJ and his family back to Grosse Pointe after retirement. As a boy, AJ loved playing baseball at

Ghesquiere Park with all of his neighborhood friends. Throughout his life, he loved all sports, especially football, both college and professional. He also adored animals and cared for many pets during his lifetime; his family and friends often referred to him as an animal whisperer. AJ was a kind man with a gentle heart and a beautiful smile. He was quick-witted, had a fantastic sense of humor and was gifted with numbers; he remembered dates, addresses and phone numbers for years with ease. AJ is survived by his wife, Laura Macleod Vaughn; daughter, Megan Vaughn; mother, Vicky Vaughn; sister, Helen Clay (Bill); niece, Gillian Moss (John); nephew, Graham Rabbitt; and goddaughter, Charlene Sell (Josh). He was predeceased by his father, Arthur John Vaughn; and brother-in-law, B. Chris Rabbitt. A memorial Mass takes place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 8, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 22410 Overlake, St. Clair Shores, followed by a celebration of AJ’s life from 1 to 4 p.m. at Assumption Cultural Center, 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores. All who loved AJ and would like to celebrate his life are welcome to attend. Donations in AJ’s memory may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org; or Detroit Dog Rescue, detroitdogrescue.com.



Linda Ann Carstens



Arthur James Vaughn



Allene Turpin Carlile

Allene Turpin Carlile

Allene Turpin Carlile, 78, of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 6, 2021. Lena was born June 27, 1943, in Richmond, Va., to William G. Turpin and the late Lucille Andrews Turpin. Many years after graduating from Marriott High School in Virginia, Lena raised two fine young men with her former husband, Robert Carlile. A few years later, she earned her Master of Education degree from the University of Toledo. At age 60, she reinvented herself and earned a Master of Science degree in finance from Walsh College in Troy. She was the consummate student and conveyed the importance of such to her children and grandchildren. She took great pride in knowing she successfully met her goal in preparing for all her grandchildren’s higher education requirements. Lena, aka “Neenee,” had a creative mind and dabbled in landscape design, interior design, architectural design, woodworking and jewelry design. She had a tank full of relentless drive and creativity that constantly overflowed. She began her professional career as an art teacher in Toledo at the junior high level. A few years later she became the curator at the Toledo Museum of Art and later a curator for the Detroit Institute of Arts. A person of many talents, Lena also was a financial planner for Axa Advisors and Securian Financial during her later years. She loved a good challenge, yet she possessed a softness and grace that drew in others. Lena was a member of the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, Rotary Club and the Walloon Lake Country Club to name a few. She loved to give back to the community and touched many lives along the way. She also enjoyed gardening, dancing, entertaining her friends with a luncheon on her patio and a good nap. She did everything 100 percent, including napping. Neenee loved to travel and experience new things. She lived in several places, including six states and Seoul, Korea. She visited most of the United States, as well as Spain, Italy, Russia, Germany, England, Mexico and Canada. Leapin’ Lena is survived by her sons, Hunter (Tara) and Foster (Jennifer); and grandchildren, Tucker, Carter, Macy, Everett and William. A memorial gathering took place Dec. 14. Celebrations of life — aka “Leapin’ Lena Palooza” — will continue well into 2022, with stops in Newtown, Va., in late spring, and Walloon Lake likely on June 27, what would have been her 79th birthday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Walloon



Thomas M. Campau Sr.



Lilian Rogers

Lake Association, 4060 N. M-75, Ste. 102, Walloon Lake, MI 48796; or the Detroit Institute of Arts, dia.org/support/donate. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Thomas Mason Campau Sr.

Thomas Mason Campau Sr., of Grosse Pointe Farms and Marco Island, Fla., passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, at age 83, surrounded by his family. Tom was born Jan. 31, 1938, in Grosse Pointe, to Loyola and Richard Campau. He will be remembered as a man of devout faith and humility and one who prioritized family above all else. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother and dear friend to many. He is survived by the love of his life and beloved wife of almost 60 years, Carol Ann, as well as his children, Thomas Campau Jr., Lisa Miller (Dave) and Tricia Schaden (Matthew). He was predeceased by his son, Stephen, with whom he is joyously reunited in heaven. Tom adored his 10 grandchildren and shared a unique and beautiful relationship — and many bowls of Haagen Dazs — with each one: William Conway, Samantha Wild (Trevor), Stephen Campau, Alexandra Conway, Mason Campau, Thomas Campau III, Andrew Schaden, Kathryn Schaden, Rylee Miller and Julia Schaden. Tom also is survived by his sister, Mary Paschke (Richard), and was predeceased by his brothers, Daniel Campau (Ann) and Richard Campau (Sally). He attended St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School and graduated from the University of Detroit before going on to own several businesses in the material handling industry. His career spanned 50 years and he leaves a legacy of integrity and entrepreneurial spirit in his companies that continue to thrive. Anyone who knew Tom would call him an excellent captain, a gifted pianist, the key lime pie master, a successful business owner, a serious ice cream aficionado, a generous philanthropist and a humble servant of God. His family knew him as their rock, doling out wise words when requested, but more often teaching through his quiet, steadfast example of a life lived fully and cherished to the last moment.

A funeral Mass will be held Thursday, Dec. 16, at Servants of Jesus of The Divine Mercy, 33826 Beaconsfield, Clinton Township. Visitation begins at 10 a.m., and the funeral Mass begins at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Servants of Jesus of The Divine Mercy, sjdivinemercy.org/support/.

Lilian Rogers

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Lilian Rogers, 94, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2021. Lilian was born Lilia Isopi in Frosinone Province, outside of Rome, Italy, in May 1927. At the age of 9, she sailed with her mother and brother to America, to join her father in Detroit, where he worked for the water department. After graduating from Eastern High School, she worked as a railroad clerk. In 1951, she married William Rogers, with whom she had six children. For the next 35 years, following her children’s activities also dictated her activities. Over those years, Lilian was involved in ballet, Girl Scouts, high school theater and choir, along with Little League and many other youth sports. Lilian also was very involved in church activities and was a founding member of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in St. Clair Shores, where she was active in the Altar Sodality. After the family moved to Grosse Pointe Woods, they joined Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish where Lilian remained active, most notably as co-president of the Rosary Altar Society. Once Lilian’s children were grown, she returned to work part time for the city of Grosse Pointe Woods, first for the court clerk and later for the Department of Public Works. She was in her 80s before finally retiring. Lilian is survived by her children, Mary Schenk (Edward), Kathryn Rogers (John Howes), Michael (Mercy), William (Joan Cummins) and Kelley Neal (Gary). She was predeceased by her husband, William, and son, Robert. She also is survived by seven grandchildren and their spouses and children. She will be buried out of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church on Thursday, Dec. 16.

Geraldine Loretta Mazzei

In loving memory of Geraldine Loretta Mazzei (Geri) born October 21, 1935 who passed peacefully at home on November 30, 2021. Geri embodied the meaning of living life to its fullest. She was energetic and always on the go. Geraldine Loretta Molski met Albert Frank Mazzei and married in 1957. Their family grew quickly giving birth to 5 children in 6 years. For 30 years, they raised their family at 22 Webber Place, Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan. Their home was the hub for family and friends who were always welcome and everlasting memories were formed. After her husband’s unexpected death in 1985, Geri continued to operate his pharmaceutical business in Detroit for over 10 years. After selling the business, she moved to Chicago to be close to her children. At age 69, she attained her Illinois Real Estate License and began a successful career with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. Upon her retirement from Real Estate at age 81, she moved to St. John, Indiana. She once again connected with a great group of people who became dear friends. Geri always lit up the room and was known for never missing an activity. Out of all her accomplishments, her family was her greatest achievement and joy. Geri showed up for everyone and everything



and if you weren’t there, she reminded you “you’re missing it”. She gifted us with her many talents as seen in all her creations. Her free spirit and love of life will most certainly have an everlasting effect on all that were lucky to know her. The legacy of an incredible woman lives on through her 5 children, Michelle Fillinger (Michael), Cheryl Mazzei, Dr Susan Mazzei, Teresa Shivers-Mazzei (Linda Abbott), Michael Mazzei (Ann), 10 grandchildren, Dr. Jacqueline Uffner (Dr. Neil), Jessica Leontarakis (Giannis), Michael Fillinger (Kristen), Adeline Shivers-Mazzei, Michael Mazzei, Jr. (Amanda), Agnes Mazzei d, Joyce Ann Musitelli (Nino), Susan Sudomier (Michael), Joseph Mazzei, Ava Mazzei, 14 great grandchildren: Julia, Albert, Parker Uffner, George Leontarakis, Jackson, Alexa, Madelyn Fillinger, Asher Mazzei, Layla, Rosie, Lilliana, Nino Jr. Musitelli, Michael, Virginia, Theodore Sudomier. Geraldine was the

daughter of the late Helen and Joseph Molski and daughter in-law of the late Adeline and Eugene Mazzei. She is survived by her brother Roger Molski (Marcia) and sister Joanne Ryder (Thomas), Sister in-laws Helen Irving (Glen d.) and Theresa Luxmore, Brother in-laws Alfred Mazzei (Donna), John Mazzei (Despothea), Dr. Richard Mazzei, Eugene Mazzei and nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. A memorial service will be held in spring 2022 at St Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe to celebrate her life. Date to be determined. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Macular Degeneration Research Fund at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, 420 E Superior, Rubloff Bldg., 9th Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or https://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/ophthalmology/about/giving.html.” For gifts made online, designate the gift in the “other box,” typing in Macular Degeneration Research Fund. In order to note that the gift is made in memory of Geraldine L. Mazzei, please also make sure to click the drop down for “honor/memorialize a loved one or your doctor” when completing their online form for the gift. You can make this note in the comment box.

OBITS:

Continued from page 4B

Mary Ellen Carrig French

Former Grosse Pointe Farms resident Mary Ellen Carrig French, 98, of St. Louis, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021.

Mary Ellen was born Feb. 17, 1923, in Buffalo, N.Y., to Beulah and Frank Carrig. She attended Bennett High School in Buffalo and then went to Salem College in North Carolina. There she met her lifelong partner and great love, Jim French, a recent Princeton graduate and Army officer. She waited for him while he served several years during World War II.

Graduating in 1944, Mary Ellen returned to Buffalo to work as a secretary until Jim returned, whereupon they immediately married in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo and moved to Grosse Pointe Farms. They raised all of their children in Grosse Pointe, living there until they retired to Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Mary Ellen was an avid member of the Junior League of Detroit and Daughters of the American Revolution, Grosse Pointe chapter, as well as the Grosse Pointe Bridge Club. She also was a member and often president of the garden clubs and bridge clubs in Hilton Head and Vero Beach, Fla. She was an avid designer, seamstress and bridge player.

Mary Ellen is survived by her daughters, Mary “Peetie” Van Etten, Rebecca “Becky”



Mary Ellen French

Redwood and Catherine “Kiki” Jordan; son, James “Jim” Mott French Jr.; grandchildren, Molly Levit, Clarissa Orris, Ellen Ethington, Emile Redwood, Clara Redwood, Peter Jordan and Margaret Chastain; and great-grandchildren, James and Jack Orris, Emma and Max Levit, Duke and Ford Ethington, Oliver Chastain and Jackson Jordan.

She was predeceased by her husband, James “Jim” Mott French; and siblings, Beulah Canfield, Catherine “Faffy” Watts and Frank Carrig Jr.

An internment service will take place at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, at 6 Oaks Cemetery, 175 Greenwood, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928.

Melissa Jodzio

Melissa “Missy” Jodzio, 70, of Stuart, Fla., passed away Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021, at Treasure Coast Hospice.

Melissa was born March 14, 1951, to Elizabeth (nee White) Moorman and Achilles Moorman. She grew up in Grosse Pointe with four sisters and two brothers. She often told fun stories



Melissa Jodzio

of her childhood and the joys of growing up in such a large family.

Melissa graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and moved to Jensen Beach, Fla., with her twin sister, Katherine “Katie” Moorman to attend St. Joseph’s College. “The Twins” became well known for their humor.

Melissa married Tom Jodzio and moved to Arizona where she had one child, John Jodzio. When her son went to college, Melissa moved back to Florida to live with Katie.

Melissa stayed active in Stuart playing golf and tennis on leagues, boating with friends and fishing on the beach. She found comfort in attending Sunday Mass at St Joseph’s Church and taking quiet walks on the beach collecting shells. She loved life, her family and her friends.

Melissa dearly loved her grandchildren, niece and nephew. She loved spoiling the children with movies, games, candy, sugary cereals and visits to the beach.

Melissa is survived by son, John Jodzio (Roxanne); stepson, Tom Jodzio (Cindy); step-



Robert Keith Roach

daughter, Kathleen Costello (Paul); grandchildren, Morgan and Jude Jodzio; nephew, Lee Dawson; and niece, Liz Morath (Grant). She also is survived by her siblings, Priscilla Moorman and Mary Lagerfeldt of Frankfort, Katherine Moorman (Steve) of Stuart, Fla., and Patricia Berridge (Bill) of Frankfort.

Melissa was predeceased by her parents and brother, Dan Moorman of Stuart, Fla.

Melissa will be laid to rest in Frankfort. Arrangements were provided by Jowett Family Funeral Home.

Robert Keith Roach

Robert Keith Roach passed away March 19, 2021.

He was born Oct. 12, 1951, to Keith and Joan Roach, both now deceased. He graduated from Austin Prep in Detroit and lived his faith with a kind and giving heart. Bob entered the military, working with Army Intelligence before the sudden death of his father, Keith, brought him back home to offer strength to

his mother, Joan; brother, David; and sisters, Marilyn (Richard Cortellini) and Ann (Jeff Bourgeois). Along the way, uncles, aunts, nieces and cherished cousins formed a family circle. Bob was the essence of his family.

Bob also is survived by his wife of nearly 40 years, Sandra Shiner Roach.

A man of letters, Bob attended the University of Detroit, earning his undergraduate and two Master of Arts degrees, specializing in criminal law and justice. This knowledge served him well in his much respected vocation as an officer of the law with the Grosse Pointe Park Police Department, later named Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety. Principled and noble in his beliefs, Bob followed the motto and lived his life as “A man for others.” His humility kept his accomplishments at his alma mater quiet. He extolled the accolades of others and wore his own achievements close to his vest. Bob extended his commitment as a guardian of safety and protection following his retirement from the police force, when he joined the in-house security team of Cottage Hospital/Bon Secours/Beaumont Hospital in the City of Grosse Pointe.

In addition to being a past commander of AMVETS Post 121 in St. Clair Shores, a member of the Gaelic League of Detroit—Irish American Club, Fraternal Order of Eagles and Knights of Columbus, Bob was an avid golfer, voracious reader and adventurous traveler. He was the best of neighbors, chatting

over the fence, helping with gardens, tree-trimming, shoveling snow and offering dog-care tips. Bob enjoyed surprising his wife, Sandie, with their favorite terriers.

Bob was a trusted confidante to many. He wore a badge of honor, integrity, character; he was a man of substance. Bob never stopped being present for those in need, not even after an accident seven years ago that left him physically limited, but never quelled his vivid imagination, his zest for joy, his ability to make everyone around him feel special and loved. Bob will be remembered as a tall, strong, caring, personable community leader with a great sense of humor. Always altruistic, Bob’s legacy lives on in the treasure of sight he bestowed upon another with his Irish eyes, still smiling.

Due to current COVID restrictions, a service for Bob will take place at a later date in the chapel at A. H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. A celebration of life, a tribute to Bob, with his friends, will be held at a date not yet determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bob’s name may be made to one of the following: Capuchins and/or Solanus Casey Center, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207; Fraternal Order of Police Grosse Pointe Lodge 102, Box 361398, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; or Michigan Veterans Foundation Homeless Shelter, 4626 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208.

See OBITS, page 6B

The Helm offers ‘Strategies for Caregivers’

Caring for a loved one can be a daunting task and filled with anxiety-inducing concerns.

From 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, The Helm at the Boll Life Center presents

“Strategies for Caregivers” to provide instruction on how to become a more confident caregiver. The program is free, but registration is required.

According to the Michigan Department

of Health and Human Services, Michigan is home to nearly one million family caregivers caring for a loved one or friend. During “Strategies for Caregivers,” participants learn strategies

for physical, emotional and verbal interaction while practicing patience and relaxation. This, in turn, imbues confidence in the caregiver, improving overall caregiving.

While the program

focuses on differentiating between different types of dementia, the tips and strategies apply to all caregivers. Participants also learn where to turn for additional help and resources, as well as begin to build a support system with other caregivers.

There will be time for questions during and after the presentation.

Kathy Housey, AFAA-certified group fitness and certified yoga instructor, facilitates the program, which is sponsored by Oasis Senior Advisors.

Register online at helmlife.org.

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Sunday, Dec. 19 - 10:00 am

Friday, Dec. 24 - 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve - 7:00 pm
Services - 10:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 26 - 10:00 am
Sunday, Jan. 2 - 10:00 am

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Rev. Sean Motley, Senior Pastor
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OBITS:

Continued from page 5B

Anthony Howard Hall

Anthony Howard Hall passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 6, 2021.

He was born Dec. 19, 1954, in Detroit, the third of three children of Lacey Hall and Joan Burnett-Hall. Anthony was raised in Detroit, where he, along with his sister and brother, embraced his mother’s passion for living with creativity, authenticity and joy. For the first six years of school, Anthony attended Thirkell Elementary and St. Agnes Catholic schools, after which he attended Hutchins Junior High School and Cass Technical High School.

Upon graduating from high school, Anthony joined the U.S. Army, where he was trained as an operating room technician. He went on to earn an honorable discharge and moved to California, where he lived 10 years. In 1974, he married Joyce Bond and their union produced two children, Anthony Vidal Hall and



Anthony Howard Hall

Jermaine Sean Hall.

Anthony earned two bachelor’s degrees from Wayne State University — in psychology and philosophy. For more than 25 years, he worked at Henry Ford—Cottage Hospital as an operating room technician. Anthony was especially fond of his time working at Cottage Hospital, as well as the colleagues with whom he worked.

Anthony was interested in many subjects, but what stood out was music. He loved singing, dancing and playing the piano. His favorite artists were Donny Hathaway, Pat Metheny, Stevie Wonder and James Brown. What he enjoyed most was singing with family dur-

ing family gatherings. He also enjoyed cooking and made up recipes on the spot, which always tasted good.

Anthony was a loving and generous person who was fun to be around and served as the family sage. He was very astute and gave brilliant, brutally honest advice. He was always supportive and caring toward those who needed him.

Anthony was predeceased by his parents, Lacey and Joan Hall. He leaves to cherish his memory his sons, Anthony Vidal Hall and Jermaine Sean Hall; grandchildren, Jermaine Hall and Jamar Hall; sister, Charmaine Paulson; twin brother, Christopher Hall; nieces, Maya Usher and Christina Usher; and a host of many other family and friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

A celebration of Anthony’s life takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Services are from 1 to 3 p.m.



Matilda Konieczki leaps with joy at hitting the 1,000-hour mark.

COURTESY PHOTOS

OUTSIDE:

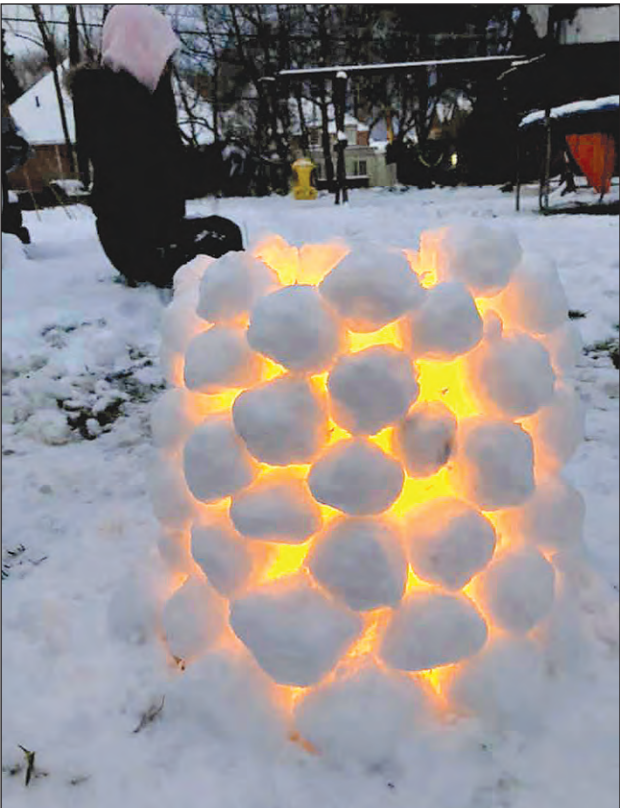
Continued from page 1B

than nights by the fireplace. She also didn’t realize how much she would enjoy making bird seed ornaments or going on hot cocoa hikes. Some of her favorite moments of the challenge — which she and Matilda completed mid-October — included neighborhood walks, playing in the mud and exploring a creek.

“You start and then come up with more ideas,” she said, “and then your favorites become these new traditions with each season, which is wonderful.”

She encouraged others to give it a try, even if just starting small.

“Get outside; you won’t regret it.”



The pair created this snowball lantern.

Donors needed to address historically low blood supply

Nearly two years into the pandemic, everyone has earned a holiday break with their family and friends. But as the nation gathers again for celebrations this season, the American Red Cross, which provides 40 percent of the country’s blood, is facing historically low blood supply levels.

Busy holiday schedules, breaks from school and winter weather all contribute to a drop in blood and platelet donations this time of year. Those factors, combined with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, make it vital for donors to make an appointment to give as soon as

possible. If more donors don’t come forward to give blood, some patients requiring a transfusion may potentially face delays in care.

Donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcross-blood.org or calling (800) 733-2767. To encourage donors to help address the historically low blood supply this holiday season, all who come to give between Friday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Jan. 2, will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Register online at redcross.org.



Join Grosse Pointe Memorial Church this holiday season as we fling our hearts wide open and welcome Jesus our Savior!

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

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LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

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Artist sends his biggest Christmas card yet

Over the decades, Grosse Pointe Park artist Jack Frakes has developed a loyal following for his silk-screened Christmas cards featuring whimsical animals and pithy sayings. So many people on his mail list wanted to share his work with their family and friends that a few years ago he published a book illustrated with his cards. “Carol of the Animals” was a sellout.

Now the popular card maker has a holiday message he hopes reaches beyond his personal mail list. During the spring and summer, he worked on an 8-by-4-foot mosaic. Bridget Clark, a Grosse Pointe South High School alumna now at Marquette University in Milwaukee, helped him make and glaze the 400 tiles.

In the fall, Neal Gross, Mike Heenan and Frakes’s son, Eric, helped with mortaring and grouting. Jerome Patryjak, a retired exhibition designer, added his expertise. A couple of weeks ago, Ilya Snyder, with a crew of three others, moved the mosaic from Frakes’s backyard studio to the side of Snyder’s building at the southeast corner of the Alter-Kercheval intersection. It joins other murals in a public art project the Grosse Pointe Artists Association calls AlterCrossing.

“Public art can be much more than a way to beautify a place,” said Amira Hanafi, an artist on a University of Michigan team researching the effects of projects like AlterCrossing. “It can start conversations.”

“Having previously served with Jack on the board of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association, it is heartwarming to see his work positively impact so many in a public space, in our wonderfully diverse town of Grosse Pointe Park,” said Vikas Relan, Grosse Pointe Park councilman and chairman of the ad-hoc Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

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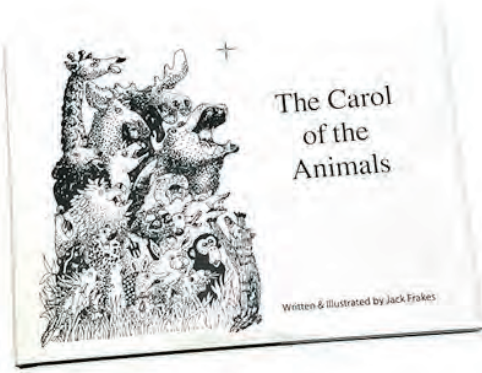
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Jack Frakes and Bridget Clark worked together on the mural.



Frakes’s “The Carol of the Animals.”



The installed mural at Kercheval and Alter.

ASK JEFF AND DEBRA

Give guests options with nonalcoholic punch

Q: Our daughter and her fiancé are flying home from California to spend Christmas and New Year’s with us. We’re planning a special Christmas Eve party for them. When sharing our plans, our daughter advised us she and her fiancé are “sober curious.” I had no idea what she meant. She explained that they’ve decided not to mindlessly follow the drinking culture. They find it preferable to live sober.

A: We support offering creative and festive non-alcoholic drinks as an alternative for all your

guests. When it comes to alcohol, many people have made the decision to drink lightly or not at all.

Here is our favorite recipe for this year’s holiday celebrations. We love the idea of bringing back the punch bowl for entertaining.

Punch Bowl Christmas Delight

2 packages cherry or strawberry jello (3 oz.)
6 cups boiling water
1 ½ cup sugar
46 oz. can of pineapple juice
1 qt. orange juice (not from concentrated)
2/3 cup fresh squeezed lemon juice
2 (2 liter) bottles of Vernor’s ginger soda
fresh mint (optional)

Mix jello and sugar in boiling water, stirring until completely dis-

solved.

Add the three juices and stir.

Freeze the mixture overnight, halved in two containers.

When ready to make the punch, empty one container of frozen mixture in the punch bowl.

Add a 2-liter bottle of Vernor’s ginger soda and stir until the mixture turns to slush.

Garnish with fresh sprigs of mint (optional)

To refill the bowl, use the second container of frozen mixture and bottle of Vernor’s.

Jeff and Debra Jay have been helping families overcome addiction more than 30 years. Their best-selling book, “Love First,” is a standard in the recovery field. The Jays live in Grosse Pointe Farms and their website is lovefirst.net.

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

Well, it's that time of year again. Time to break out the ugly Christmas sweaters! Unfortunately for me, my ugly Christmas sweaters are not just the lit-up novelty type. I have acquired a pile of former favorites that got all pilled and unwearable over time. I just couldn't bear to part with them — I've been waiting for a miracle I guess. So when I saw a Facebook ad for the

"Portable Lint Remover," as the saying goes, I had to try it.



First of all, it took about a month to arrive. I

actually nearly forgot I ordered it and when it arrived, I had to scroll back in my PayPal transactions to remember what the heck I bought. I left it in the package for a few weeks at my house, uninspired at the prospect of de-linting and de-pilling. However, the influx of invitations to office parties and friend lunches left me wishing I could revive some old favorite clothing items. Once I got started, I

couldn't stop! Dog hair? This works. Cheap sweater jacket? Yep, it works. Sherpa fleece blanket your kids dragged outside through a leaf pile in the height of fall? It works! Sweatpants that pilled where the legs swish together? Works for that too! It's such a simple tool that I'm embarrassed I spent too much — \$20. They are available on Amazon for about \$10. It takes some work on the really intensely pilled items. And if you really want to bring back a special

item of clothing, a dry cleaner can do a fabulous job, as well as clean it, and it comes back in that fancy and satisfying bag pressed and hung perfectly. But If you just have a bunch of items sitting around waiting for a second chance, this is it! We give it 4.5 alligators.



The Science Advice Goddess

by Amy Alkon

Head over heels

I'm a 29-year-old guy with a "keep it casual" relationship history, but I can't stop thinking about this new girl at work. Beyond not wanting her to date anyone else, I don't want someone to hurt her or make her sad. No other woman has ever made me feel this way. How do I know whether this is lust or the beginnings of falling in love?
— Confused

It's easy to believe you're "in love" when you're really just in lust. To be fair, lust is a form of love...if you broaden the field to stuff like "I love, love, LOVE your body in that inappropriately tight sweater."

In other words, lust is animal attraction, so the "inner beauty" that's elemental to loving somebody is immaterial.

Complicating the detangling of "love or lust?" is another important question: "Love or infatuation?" Falling in love is not love. It's infatuation -- an intense,

usually lust-fueled obsession with our *idea* of who a person is: a projection of our hopes and romantic fantasies that often has little relationship to who they really are.

That said, the sheer strength and intoxicating nature of infatuation -- like being blind drunk on romantic possibility instead of Jim Beam -- often leads to premature feelings of "We're perfect for each other!"

People tend to *believe* the more they learn about a new person they're into, the more into them they'll be -- a la "to know them is to love them." However, psychologist Michael I. Norton finds that when we have the hots for someone we barely know, we're prone to read ambiguity -- foggy, partial information about them -- as signs the person is like us. These (perceived!) similarities amp up our "liking" for them -- at first.

However, as time goes by,

we can't help but notice all the dissimilarities poking up, which leads us to like them less and less -- a la "To know them is to loathe them." In other words, rushing into a relationship of any permanence is the stuff dreams are made of -- if you've always dreamed of being financially and emotionally incinerated in a grotesquely ugly divorce.

"Buyer beware" in love is best exercised in two ways: The first is "buyer be seriously slow." Consider putting the person you're dating on secret probation for a year (or more). This will give you time to not just see the best in them but give it much-needed company: glimpses of the worst.

Second, explore whether your compatibility with a person is surface -- "I love sushi! She loves sushi!" -- or sustainably deep. The ideal tool for assessing this is the best definition of love I've ever read, and by "best," I mean the most practically useful. It's by



Ayn Rand. (And no, I'm not one of the glassy-eyed worshippers of everything she ever said or wrote, but she nailed it on this.)

"Love is a response to values," writes Rand. "It is with a person's sense of life that one falls in love -- with that essential sum, that fundamental stand or way of facing existence, which is the essence of a personality. One falls in love with the embodiment of the values that formed a person's character, which are reflected in his widest goals or smallest gestures. ... It is one's own sense of life that acts as the selector," identi-

fying one's own core values in the other person.

Using this "values model" to determine compatibility requires some preliminary work: figuring out your own values, meaning the principles you care most about -- the guiding standards for the sort of person you want to be. If you're in the "gotta get started on that" stage, recognizing what *isn't* love -- those love fakers, lust and infatuation -- should help you avoid sliding into the committed relationship nightmare zone.

Ultimately, love is nautical: It's both the ship that launched a thousand

sappy cliches and, more vitally, a lifeboat.

In lifeboat form, it gets romantic partners through the worst of times, major and, um, somewhat less major -- like when your bae spends your entire date night searching Hulu for a movie to watch.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com. @amyalkon on Twitter. Weekly podcast: blogtalkradio.com/amyalkon. (c)2021, Amy Alkon, all rights reserved.

Sisters' quarrel puts mother in a tough spot

DEAR ABBY: My two daughters are not speaking to each other. "Amy," the older, claims her sister started it.

"Lisa," the younger, claims Amy took Lisa's son out to dinner and never told her. (This happened while he was living with me -- another long story.)

Amy has had us at her house for Christmas for the past seven years. Lisa wants to have Christmas at her home this year. She told her aunt that if I don't go

there for Christmas, she will never speak to me again. I have tried hard to get Amy to make up with Lisa. I think Lisa wants things to go back to the way they were. (Amy doesn't know what her sister said to their aunt.)

It feels to me like Lisa is asking me to pick which daughter I love more. How can I handle this without losing a daughter? -- IN THE MIDDLE IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR IN THE MIDDLE: Handle this by telling Amy that because you have celebrated Christmas at her home for the last seven years, you will be spending this one with Lisa.

And if she gives you an argument, tell her that from now on you will be alternating celebrations with her sister because you do not want to be forced into the position of having to choose one daughter over the other.

DEAR ABBY: I am a

68-year-old man, married for 45 years. I have cheated on my wife for most of them. Am I sorry about it? No.

My wife shut me out of her life 25 years ago. She has her bedroom, and I have mine. Why did I stay with her? We had adopted two babies 30 years ago, and I wanted to give them an education and a good start in life, which is what we did. How do I treat her? I



Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

treat her well, I think. I help her with the housework, keep our home in good condition inside and out, and she has her own car. I take her out for dinner once a week and we go dancing every Saturday night at the club.

I'm a moderate drinker and non-smoker. I bathe four or five times a week. So, tell me, Abby. What's **WRONG** with me? If you decide to print my letter, perhaps I'll have an answer. Thanks, Abby. I enjoy your column very much.

P.S. Would I cheat on my wife if the opportunity presented itself in the future? Darned right I would! -- **NO REGRETS**

D E A R N O REGRETS: If you are asking me what's

wrong with you for staying in your marriage, my answer would be that you did it for three decades for the sake of your children. I would add that since they are now all adults, it may be that you eventually adjusted to the lack of intimacy with your wife, so you substituted women who were available.

However, if you are asking me why your wife shut you out of her life 25 years ago, the only person who can answer that question is her. It may not be too late to ask.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



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Orphan varieties

One reason Italians developed dozens of types of pasta was an appreciation for diversity. Americans, by and large, love spaghetti and little else, but visit Italy and you'll find many different kinds of pasta because there are different kinds of sauces that seem to go best with each one.

Real wine lovers also love diversity, which is one reason we are beginning to hear of Glera, Bastardo, Favorita, Lagrein, and Blaufrankisch and dozens more. Each makes a different kind of wine, and although many are relatively obscure, they do have their supporters.

If you are getting a lit-

tle tired of the same old wine aromas and flavors, these obscure varieties are worth seeking out if only because they offer fascinating new experiences that simply cannot be found in today's chardonnays or cabernets.

Those who branch out and seek obscure grape varieties generally are people trying to avoid the commonplace. They're willing to diverge from traditional flavors.

I began discovering these wines about 40 years ago. Shortly after, I wrote a column in which I described them as "orphan wines."

Before discovering them, I had been smitten by non-

mainstream wines such as dry rose, dry riesling, chenin blanc, pinot blanc, Gewurztraminer and semillon. Today, alternatives are popping up everywhere.

Lagrein grapes, from Italy, make dark red wine with unusual spice elements. Pinotage, a grape native to South Africa, is rarely seen in the U.S., but it's growing. Tannat, a dark, tannic red wine from central France, also is made here in tiny amounts. St. Laurent is a light, elegant, blueberry-scented red made by fewer than five wineries in California.

What captivates me about these wines, and many others, is their distinctiveness. And orphan wines need to be adopted. But that calls for adopters willing to seek them out, which calls for shopping primarily in fine wine stores. Quests to find orphan wines in traditional supermarkets are likely to be futile.

Once you've crossed off your list the approximately 20 common-



place varieties, there are a huge number of orphans out there, but they reside mainly in fine wine stores.

Take semillon, a lower-alcohol dry white wine, that frequently smells a little bit like lanolin.

Or try dry riesling. In California, the best each year are from Trefethen, Stony Hill, Navarro and Smith-Madrone.

Pinot blanc, a sort of cousin to chardonnay, can be superb, especially from Mendocino County, California, and Oregon.

Vermentino, a respected Italian white wine grape variety, also is planted in small amounts in California. A handful of domestic wineries produce excellent versions.

An entire book could be written about the emerging orphan wine grapes that we're begin-

ning to see throughout the country. Included are such East Coast and Midwest favorites as Norton, Brianna, Noiret, Chardonel, Petit Manseng, Zweigelt, Vignoles, Seyval and Pecorino (not the cheese).

Many of today's younger wine consumers tell researchers they're adventuresome, willing to try different aromas and flavors in their beverages. They're the ones who are fueling the interest in alternative beverages of all sorts.

And they are also the ones most likely to appreciate wines that, decades ago, were seen as outliers. Today, risk-taking wine lovers might benefit from trying some of these orphan varieties. They might be surprised at how fascinating they can be!

Wine of the Week:

2020 Pine Ridge Chenin Blanc - V i o g n i e r, California (\$16) -- These two less-than-common grape varieties have combined for several years to make this delightful light, elegant, fruit-laden white wine an absolute treat.

The former grape (80%) provides lemon-grass, fresh figs and a trace of melon; the latter grape adds in floral aromatics and a richness in the mid-palate. A delightful patio sipper or accompaniment to appetizers, or serve it with slightly sweet seafood dishes. Often found discounted.

To find out more about Dan Berger and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate webpage at www.creators.com.



Christmas breakfast strata

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Christmas morning always needs a breakfast casserole. This one is made the night before, set in the fridge and cooked once you wake and begin to start opening presents.

The little work you have to do is roast roma tomatoes until they are caramelized and brown the night before.

A quick saute of the prosciutto and spinach finishes your work and is all thrown together in a pan overnight.

The flavor of the tomatoes make it a festive breakfast that you

were waiting for all year long. Salty prosciutto, spinach and creamy fontina give you that perfect Christmas morning comfort food that I know you deserve. Take a chance on this decadent start to your day.

Breakfast Strata

5 roma tomatoes quartered

2 sprigs of fresh thyme

8 cups torn or cut rus-

tic Italian bread loaf

10 eggs

2 cups whole milk

8 slices prosciutto

4 cups of tightly packed fresh spinach

8 oz grated fontina

1 tsp each of salt and pepper

3 tbsp olive oil, divided

Preheat your oven to

350. Add the quartered tomatoes, sprigs of thyme, 2 tbsp olive oil and salt and pepper to a sheet pan and cook until roasted for 45 minutes. Meanwhile, cut the prosciutto into small bits and saute in a pan with 1 tbsp olive oil. Cook for about 2 minutes, or until crispy and then add the spinach. Cook for about another minute or until the spinach is slightly wilted. Set aside and let cool. Once the tomatoes are out of the oven, start working on the bread custard. In a



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY MUCHERIE

large bowl add eggs and milk. Then mix well. Next add the bread. Pour into a greased 9x13 baking dish. I used the beautiful Toulouse rectangular baker from Pillivuyt. I found it at Atelier in the Village.

Gently mix in the fontina, tomatoes, spinach and prosciutto.

Let sit in your fridge overnight covered with aluminum foil.

The next morning, preheat the oven to 350 degrees and cook covered for 30 minutes. Uncover and cook for another 30 minutes until puffed and bubbling. The end result is festive and decadent. Happy holidays!

Classic Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: Here's a comment on your Gem of the Day, "People who live in glass houses may as well answer the doorbell. Callers know you're there."

My parents, who were Dutch, owned a summer cottage on the seashore. The Dutch are very family oriented, especially when one of them owns a cottage on the seashore, and my parents were tired of uninvited drop-ins.

One Sunday, when they saw a carload of people arriving, they ducked behind the sofa and didn't answer the door. The visitors, thinking no one was home, decided to have a picnic on the lawn. Since the cottage had many windows, my parents spent the entire day crouched behind the sofa. -- Arlington, Va.

Dear Arlington: Serves 'em right. People who don't have the guts to protect their privacy deserve what they get. They should have said, "Sorry, we have plans for today. Next time you want to visit, phone, and we'll make a date."

Dear Ann Landers: Two years ago, I hired an attorney to represent me in a legal matter. He told me it would cost \$3,000. I gave him \$1,000, and we agreed that I would make monthly payments of \$100 until it was all paid off.

Imagine my surprise when, after my case was over, I received a bill for

\$6,795. When I called the attorney and asked about the statement, all he said was, "Well, that is what it costs." According to him, I still owe him \$3,500.

I realize it was stupid of me not to have a signed contract specifying what the bill would be. Is there anything I can do, or must I pay the entire fee? What should I do? -- Legally Entangled

Dear Entangled: If this attorney agreed to charge you \$3,000 and did not incur any extraordinary expenses during the proceedings, you may have a

case. Contact the state bar association or the state disciplinary commission, and ask them to look into this matter for you. It will cost you nothing to report it. Good luck -- and next time, be sure to get agreements in writing, even when you are dealing with attorneys.

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Festive entertaining: From heirloom china to whimsical paper plates, there's no wrong way to holiday!

For many Grosse Pointers, half the fun of entertaining is enjoying themed tableware and decor. Lucky for us, there are plenty of local shops just brimming with everything needed to throw a splendid dinner party that captures all the joy of the season. As far as style goes, anything goes! Traditional looks are always in fashion, like the setting above from Atelier. Beautiful Bernardaud Constance china is a great choice for any holiday. Here we've added a plaid tablecloth and ornaments to give it Christmas charm.

The League Shop has fun and festive hostess gifts available to pick up and keep on hand. The nonbreakable wine glasses, napkins and spreaders shown (at left) are just a few of many treasures to be found. Bonus: They will gift wrap your selections free of charge! Peruse our ideas for more inspiration on table settings, drinks, decor and games from The League Shop and other local gems.



Below, Caspari napkins and plates from The League Shop set the tone for a lovely soiree, with no need to wash dishes! These high-quality paper goods come in so many pretty styles and colors, the hardest part will be choosing which ones to pick.



Small Favors has so many amazing things that would make a great hostess gift. Try an adorable ornament (above left) that will remind them of you for years to come. Or one of their delicious cocktail mixers with a bottle of their favorite spirits (above center) is sure to please. Taylor Reese has beautiful aromatic candles (above right) in holiday themed shapes with delicious scents like warm country pear or cinnamon and clove. A gift card to Taylor Reese's spa and boutique would make your hostess happy — and ensure you'll be invited back next time!

PHOTOS BY ANNE GRYZENIA AND JILL CAVANAUGH



WHAT TO DO:

Small Favors has fun games for young and old. And they are as adorable as they are fun! Check out the Snowman Beanbag Toss (A), Snowman Bowling (B) and Frosty Fling (C) to keep the family engaged throughout the day. Nothing brings a group together like a fun and easy-to-play game



WHAT TO SET:

Setting a table really sets the tone for your gathering. Whether you choose fancy or fun, classic or modern, there are no rules and this is where you can let your personality shine. From left, all of these adorable Caspari paper plates and napkins in the first two photos are from The League Shop. They have so many different patterns that you can mix and match with items you already own to make a beautiful table — whether it’s for the kiddie table or for the grown ups!



Above, gold Herend china from The League Shop gets coordinated with placemats and napkins (at left) from The League Shop. This is heirloom quality that will be cherished for generations to come. Consider giving a meaningful gift that will last, by gifting a beautiful place setting each year. Above right, dress up your favorite china with a few key items from The League Shop that take it to a whole new level. Try pretty napkin holders or a holiday tea towel. It’s amazing how a few new things can bring new life to your old favorites.



WHAT TO DRINK:

Delicious wine (above left) and spirits from Village Wine Shop make the party go ‘round. They’ll offer expert advice on what to serve your crowd. Ask about their wine club for an amazing opportunity to get six bottles of wine a month to try, as well as 10% off other purchases in store. JHouse Juice provides healthy cold-pressed juice cocktail mixers for next level cocktails. Mixed with your favorite spirit, sparkling wine, or seltzer and you’ve just created a signature drink! Juices can be purchased in 12 oz bottles (\$9) or 32 oz (\$24) quart jars. Check out some of the festive cocktail possibilities...



Apple Spice Cocktail

What could be better than apple and cinnamon? Cold-pressed apple, ginger, and lemon juices combine with a sprinkle of cinnamon in the Apple Spice juice for a winter warmer that is sure to make spirits bright. Mix with rum or whiskey and garnish with apple slices and cinnamon sticks for a warm and fuzzy cocktail.

Skinny Jeans Margarita

Freshly pressed pineapple, cucumber, and jalapeno juices mingle for a spicy sweet taste in the Skinny Jeans juice blend. Try with tequila for the funkiest margarita you’ve ever had.

Ginger & Mary Ann Spritzer

Made with grapefruit, pineapple, and ginger juice, the Ginger & Mary Ann juice is bittersweet with a zesty ginger finish. Delicious with champagne or prosecco for a delightful spritzer.

Or you can try with vodka for a festive twist on a Moscow Mule.

WHAT TO ARRANGE:

Flowers always make the decor even more beautiful. Have fun selecting seasonal cut flowers from your fave florist, bundle in several cute vases from your own collection, and tie with ribbon to match your party theme. Or save time and treat yourself to a lovely centerpiece creation from a local Grosse Pointe flower shop like Conner Park Florist. You’re worth it!



WHERE TO SHOP:

- Atelier**
17133 Kercheval in The Village
ateliergp.com • 313-264-1996
Instagram: @ateliergp
- JHouse Juice**
375 Fisher Rd near South
jhousejuice.com • 313-571-3423
Instagram: @jhousejuice
- The League Shop**
72 Kercheval on The Hill
theleagueshop.com • 313-882-6880
Instagram: @theleagueshopgp
- Taylor Reese**
84 Kercheval on The Hill
taylorreeseshop.com • 313-571-3323
Instagram: @taylorreeseshop
- Small Favors**
17112 Kercheval Ave in The Village
shopsmallfavors.com • 313-887-1774
Instagram: @smallfavorsgp

By Anne Gryzenia and Donna Zetterlund
Styling by Anne Gryzenia

Holiday wear that shines day or night

Festive looks to take you from dance floor to slumber party

Oh what fun it is to dress for the holidays! With so many parties, work celebrations, nights out with friends, or just hanging with family by the fireplace, one holiday outfit just doesn't cut it. Check out these options that also make sweet gift ideas for mom, sis, daughter or BFF.

Glitter & Scotch, one of Grosse Pointe's newer additions, offers some wonderful options. They strive to bring unique fashion to the community with an ever-changing inventory of fashionable finds.

Among the pretty possibilities for this year's holiday dressing are green and red sequined tops that go with everything. These beautiful tops could just as easily be

worn with jeans as they could with a more formal pair of black pants or a skirt. Comfortable and definitely glam, these tops are the #1 'must-have' for your party wardrobe.

For more casual outings or running around town for last-minute party supplies, the shop has a sweet gold bow design sweatshirt/sweatpants set from Wildfox. It's the ultimate in holiday lounge wear — and an ideal gift. Change it up to wear the top with a pair of jeans or leggings for more versatility.

Glitter & Scotch has nighttime covered too with ultra cozy leopard print slippers. They're a luxurious treat after wearing heels all day. For sleep, they've got super soft Toss PJs with a fun champagne theme. Perfect for when the party's over or for a NYE pajama party with the girls.

Glitter & Scotch is located in the Village.



Wrap it up!
Above, a gold ribbon design wraps around this soft ivory sweatshirt lounge set.



'Feline' cozy
At left, fuzzy leopard print slippers.

Champagne dreams
Above, soft and comfortable, this pajama set sports a cute champagne bottle print and hot pink piping.



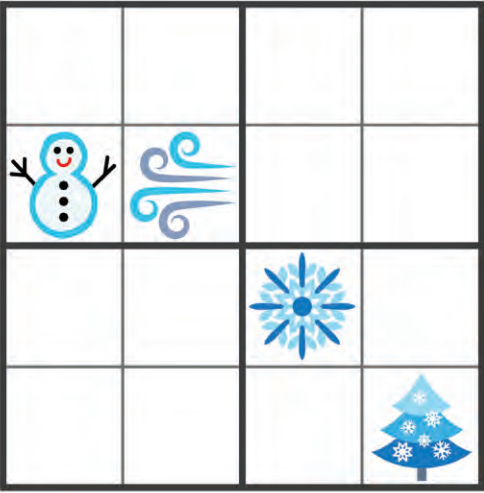
Emerald ruffles



Yule jewel

Glitter & Scotch has party-ready looks like these sweet jewel-tone sequined tops for dancing the night away. At left, a deep green tiered, short-sleeved top with ruffled edges is a feminine but sparkly look for celebrating the season. Above, this ruby red cami can be worn alone or under a jacket for a pop of Christmas color.

Where to buy: Glitter & Scotch • 16906 Kercheval Ave. in the Village
shopglitterandscotch.com • 313-571-3607
Instagram: @shopglitterandscotch



Sudoku for kids



Find 10 Differences



Cookies with Santa

The Ford House hosted its first day of Cookies with Santa on Dec. 4. When families checked in, they were invited to write a list or letter to Santa and color an ornament. Mrs. Claus joined Santa this year spending time with each child, asking them about their lists, taking photos with them and handing out cookies and candy canes.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Emilia Forkin colors in an ornament that says “Merry Christmas” in different colors.



Lucas Schipper wrote his list for Santa and put things on it like the Millennium Falcon and a LEGO set, but what really impressed Santa was that Schipper also included a wish: health for his family. Santa said he loves it when kids think of other people and show kindness.



Mrs. Claus and Santa couldn’t believe how little this newest elf was: 4-month-old Callan Florek.



Sara Runk holds up her letter to Santa and her sister, Anna Runk, holds up the stocking ornament she colored.



Brady and Blake Matouk get a cookie from Santa while their sister, Dylan, sits quietly watching on Santa’s lap.

Solutions for puzzles from page 6

E V E N T S

Things to do in and around Grosse Pointe this week

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| THURSDAY DECEMBER 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Gingerbread House Take-Home Kit 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Central Library, Grosse Pointe.» Grosse Pointe Theatre presents It's a Wonderful Life - The Radio Show 2 p.m. Charles A. Parcels Middle School Auditorium, 20600 Mack Ave., At Vernier Rd, Grosse Pointe Woods.» Hot Mulligan 6 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.» Impractical Jokers - The Scoopski Potatoes Tour 7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» Jeff Canady at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe 6-8:30 p.m. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.» Jersey Boys 8 p.m. Music Hall Center, 350 Madison, Detroit.» Micheal Feinberg 7:30-11 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.» Nonfiction Book Club 7-8 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. grossepointelibrary.org» Starry Lights 5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.» truTV Impractical Jokers 7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit. | FRIDAY DECEMBER 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 97.9 WJLB Big Holiday Show 7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» 'Champagne Trip' Tour Feat. Champagne Drip 10:30 p.m. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit.» Darcy Moran 7 p.m. DIME, 1265 Griswold St, Detroit.» Digital Marketing Strategies For Small Businesses 10 a.m.-2 p.m. MotorCity Casino Hotel, 9009 SE Adams St #1911, Detroit.» The Isley Brothers and Gladys Knight 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit.» Linda Lee St. Jude Warrior Benefit Concert featuring Frankie Ballard 7 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.» Parks & Pints Happy Hour at Winter at Valade 5-7 p.m. Robert C. Valade Park 2670 Atwater Street Detroit, MI 48207» Smith & Myers 7 p.m. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave, Detroit.» WJLB Big Holiday Show 7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» Starry Lights 5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. | SATURDAY DECEMBER 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Detroit Pistons vs. Houston Rockets 12 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» Detroit Red Wings vs. New Jersey Devils 7 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» The House Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.» Indoor Snowball Fights and Indoor Prize Fishing 12 p.m. Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater St, Detroit.» Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis 8 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit.» Our Lady Peace - Stop Making Stupid People Famous Tour 7 p.m. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.» Samara Joy 7:30-11:30 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.» Santa's Workshop in The Village Grosse Pointe 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Santa's Workshop - Kercheval & St. Clair, 17101 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe.» Starry Lights 5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. | SUNDAY DECEMBER 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 105.1 The Bounce Holiday Heat I 7:30 p.m. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit.» Detroit Lions vs. Arizona Cardinals 1 p.m. Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit.» Detroit Pistons vs. Miami Heat 6 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» The Juliana Theory / Mae - 'Emotion Is The Everglow' Tour 7 p.m. The Shelter, 431 E Congress St, Detroit.» Pack Walk w/ Canine to Five 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Detroit.» Sky Covington at Woodbridge Pub 7:30-11 p.m. 5169 Trumbull, 1970 Yemans, Detroit.» The Tenors - Santa's Wish Tour 8 p.m. Colosseum at Caesars Windsor, 377 Riverside Dr. East, Windsor.» VIP Petcare 10-11:30 a.m. Pet Supplies Plus, 23700 Greater Mack Ave, Saint Clair Shores.» Starry Lights 5-9 p.m. Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. MONDAY DECEMBER 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» AAW's 20th Anniversary Winter Showcase 7-10 p.m. Detroit Music Hall for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Detroit, MI 48226, Detroit. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Detroit Red Wings vs. Colorado Avalanche 7:30 p.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» Writing Group 4-5:15 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. grossepointelibrary.org TUESDAY DECEMBER 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 5th & 6th Grade Book Group 7-8 p.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. grossepointelibrary.org» Grosse Pointe Badminton Association 6:30-8 p.m. 20600 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods.» Oakland University v Michigan State Spartans 9 a.m. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward, Detroit.» Read, Rhyme & Play on Zoom 10:30-11 a.m. Offsite, Grosse Pointe. grossepointelibrary.org WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none">» DeSean Jones 7:30-11:30 p.m. Cliff Bell's, 2030 Park Ave, Detroit.» Holiday Vibe with Al Lindsey 7-10 p.m. Aretha's Jazz Cafe at Music Hall, 4535 Cadieux #17, Detroit.» Mike Zaporski at Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe, 97 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe. |
|--|---|--|--|---|

Check out the online calendar on our website for more details & registration links

8C | LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT



Movie Junkie Mark
by Mark Domin

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Power of the Dog”
2021 - 2hr 6min

This film loosely falls under the category “Western” although if you’re looking for a shoot-’em-up, action-packed cowboy flick, you’ll be sorely disappointed. It’s by Jane Campion, the brilliant director who’s famous for her award-winning film “The Piano”. If you’ve seen that quiet and moody movie, you’ll know what to expect.



Benedict Cumberbatch as Phil Burbank.

“The Power of the Dog” was written and directed by Ms. Campion and is based on the novel by

say the least. While Phil is a brooding, mean-spirited cowboy, George is a sensitive, quiet gentleman. The two tolerate one another out of necessity.

There are references in the film to Phil being learned and having a degree from Princeton University. He’s quite charismatic and acts like one of the guys. But there’s a deeply hidden side of him too. As you’d expect, there’s a palpable tension whenever the two of them are in the same room.

Early in the film, Phil encounters Rose Gordon (Kirsten Dunst), the proprietress of the local rooming house. He treats her with indifference, yet when his brother ends up marrying her, he has to come to terms with her.

Throughout the rest of the film, he taunts her by spying on her, and quietly whistling a tune she’s been practicing on the piano. This adds to the mystery of his complex



ranch hands.

Unexpectedly, Phil decides to take him under his wing and make a man out of him. He begins by teaching Peter to ride a horse, and then takes him out into the country on camping trips. Again, you wonder what is motivating Phil’s actions?

It’s at this point in a review where I’m prone to saying that I won’t give more of the plot away. But in this case, I really don’t need to make this comment. This film is more of a character study than a plot-driven movie.

I was quite impressed with Cumberbatch’s American accent. What is it about English actors? They seem to have a much easier time speaking like us than we do faking an English accent.

Overall, I quite enjoyed “The Power of the Dog” and can safely say it’s going to be nominated for numerous Oscars. The film is beautifully shot, and the scenery could very easily be in Montana.

The quiet, subtle piano music adds to the overall melancholic atmosphere. And the acting, as you’d expect, is nothing short of brilliant. Kodi Smith-McPhee’s performance was noteworthy. I think we’ll be seeing more from him in the future.

Currently in theatres and streaming on Netflix.
★★★★☆

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 and Kanopy, as well as theatrical releases.

For movie trailers, visit youtube.com. If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: domin-mark@yahoo.com. Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.

Royal Stars
Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST today (8 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Taurus into Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021:

You are charming, honest and trustworthy. You have a refined, spiritual quality about you that others can sense. You are adventurous and have a deep understanding of others. This is a year of service to others, which means you have to take care of yourself. Some relationships might end because it was time.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Until mid-January next year, you’ll have lots of energy and will be willing to work! This is the influence of your ruler Mars in your fellow Fire sign. Mars will make you want to travel and explore your world! Tonight: Errands and talks.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

For the next six weeks, you might encounter disagreements with others about jointly held resources or how to spend a limited amount of money. Be careful of this so you can avoid conflict. Tonight: Focus on money.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

For the next six weeks, Mars will be opposite your sign, which happens only once every two years. This can trigger conflict with partners and close friends because it’s easy to feel annoyed with them. (This is why patience will be your best friend.) Tonight: You win!

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

You will accomplish much more than usual in the next six weeks because you will work hard and take pride in what you do. Plus, you will find it easy to defer tomorrow’s pleasure for today’s work. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Because fiery Mars is in your fellow Fire sign for the next six weeks, you will benefit. It will be a favorable time for all kinds of activities, especially physical activities, because you will be energized. You will also be more effective and more competent than usual in whatever you do. Tonight: Conversations with loved ones.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You’ll be tempted to behave compulsively and act inappropriately in the next six weeks while fiery Mars is at the bottom of your chart. This might trigger conflict with family. Your only recourse is to be loving, kind and patient with others. (It’s gone by Jan 23.) Tonight: Impress someone.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

In the next six weeks, your physical vitality will be stronger than usual, which will give you a chance to work hard and accomplish a lot. Your health will feel vigorous! New opportunities might present themselves to you. You will be convincing! Tonight: Explore!

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Be careful, because in the next six weeks, you are tempted to spend a lot of money. If you’ve got it, great. If you don’t have it, don’t go into debt. Fortunately, you also will be

resourceful at seeing ways to use your possessions to get things done. Tonight: Check your bills.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Fiery Mars will be in your sign for the next six weeks, which means all aspects of activity in your life will increase. You will work hard to further your own interests. You will easily assert yourself among others. You’ll be a fighter for your own rights more than usual. Tonight: Be cooperative.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Do be careful in the next six weeks, because someone out there might be working against you, or perhaps they don’t have your best interests at heart. If you suspect this and you think something fishy is going on, it is. Forewarned is forearmed. Tonight: Respect your health.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

For the next six weeks, you will be more physically active with groups and organizations. You will easily formulate goals and decide to pursue them. Although you might come on strong, use this increased energy to coordinate with others. Look for a win-win solution. Tonight: Play!

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Mars will be at the top of your chart for the next six weeks, which will arouse your ambition and make you want to work hard to get something done. However, this could put you at conflict with others, especially supervisors and parents. Remember your objective. Avoid unnecessary arguments. Tonight: Cocoon.

BORN TODAY
Actor Park Seo-joon (1988), actress Krysten Ritter (1981), actor Benjamin Bratt (1963).

Contract Bridge

FAMOUS HAND

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 4
♥ 8 5 3 2
♦ Q 8 6
♣ A J 7 3

WEST

♠ 2
♥ 7 6 4
♦ J 10 7 5
♣ 10 9 8 6 2

EAST

♠ 10 8 6 3
♥ J 10 9
♦ K 9
♣ K Q 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 9 7 5
♥ A K Q
♦ A 4 3 2
♣ —

The bidding:

| North | East | South | West |
|------------------------------|------|-------|------|
| Pass | Pass | 2 ♦ | Pass |
| 3 ♣ | Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass |
| 5 ♠ | Pass | 5 NT | Pass |
| 6 ♦ | Pass | 6 ♥ | Pass |
| Pass(!) | Pass | | |
| Opening lead — ten of clubs. | | | |

This extraordinary deal occurred in a match between Argentina and Italy in the 1963 world team championship. It was played on Bridge-O-Rama before a huge and enthusiastic audience.

Marcos Santamarina and Luis Attaguile were North-South for Argentina when the sequence shown took place. North’s pass of six hearts, an obvious cuebid, was astounding, to say the least. Spades had previously been agreed upon as trump, and

South’s diamond and heart bids merely showed first-round control of those suits. The heart cuebid might have been based on A-x, or even a void!

Perhaps North was so deeply engrossed in trying to decide whether or not to bid seven spades that he did not realize, when he passed, that South’s last bid had been six hearts, not six spades.

Whatever the reason, Santamarina’s pass was surely one of the most serendipitous bids ever made in a world championship event. And when the missing trumps divided 3-3, Attaguile had no difficulty scoring 12 tricks, collecting four hearts, six spades and the two side aces. Six spades almost surely would have failed with normal play, as evidenced by what happened when Italy later played the hand in that contract.

Against six spades, the Argentine West also led a club. Declarer took the ace, discarding a diamond, drew trump, cashed the A-K-Q of hearts, then played the ace and a low diamond.

South could have made the slam by playing the diamond eight from dummy, but there was no way he could know that East had the king and that it was now singleton. After playing the queen and losing it to the king, declarer later lost another diamond trick to go down one, giving Argentina a 1,030-point pickup.

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by Steve Becker

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Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz

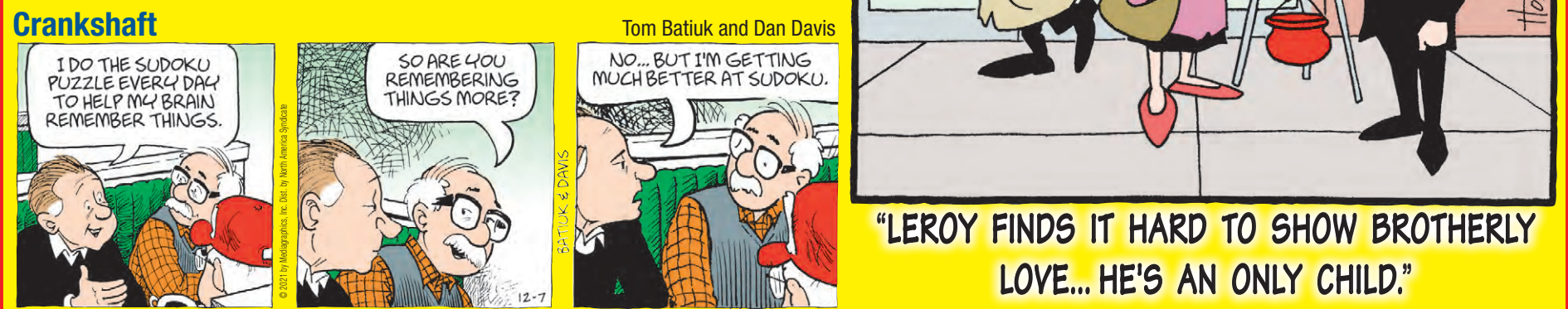
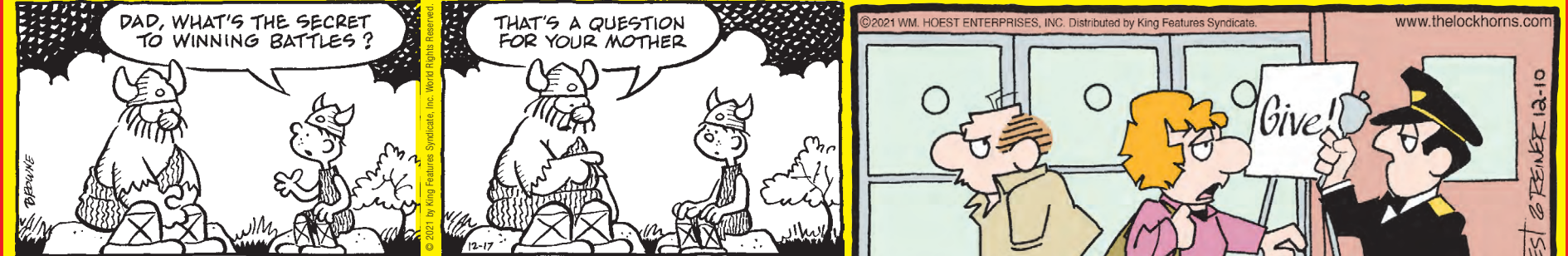


Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker

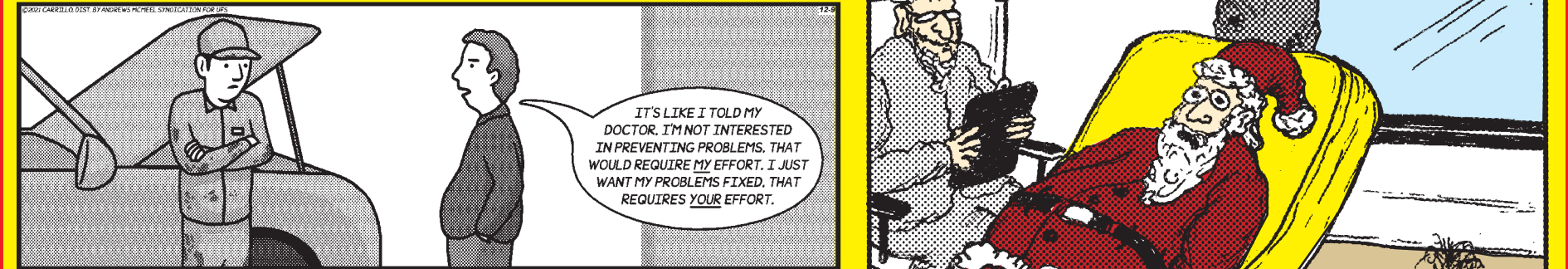
Close To Home

John McPherson



F Minus

Tony Carrillo



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Reality Check

Dave Whamond

Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



SPORTS



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PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH FOOTBALL

Grosse Pointe South High School head football coach Tim Brandon announced his resignation last week after 15 years with the program.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Brandon coached the Blue Devils to a 6-5 record and made it to the second round of the playoffs this season.

Brandon retires as Blue Devils football head coach

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After 15 years at the helm of the Grosse Pointe South High School varsity football team, Blue Devils head coach Tim Brandon has announced his retirement. “This has been a very difficult decision for me as I love South football more than almost anything in the world,” Brandon said in a letter posted on the team’s Facebook page Thursday. “It has been a major part of my life for a decade and a half. I truly believe though, that as a leader, it is important to know when it is time to step aside and let a new leader with new ideas, energy, and vision take over.” Brandon took over as head coach of the Blue Devils in 2006. During

his tenure, they reached the playoffs 12 times and advanced as far as the state semifinals in 2010. South won eight league championships as well as two district titles and one regional title with Brandon as head coach. Brandon feels that he achieved everything he wanted to and more during his time with the Blue Devils. “My No. 1 goal when I took the job as head football coach at South was to build this once storied program back to its former glory,” said Brandon. “I believe that we have achieved this goal and beyond. South football is again one of the most respected football programs in the state.” The Blue Devils finished the 2021 season with a 6-5 record overall after a 5-4 regular

season finish. The team also finished 1-4 in the MAC Red division. South defeated Lakeview in the opening round of this year’s playoffs before being eliminated by eventual state champions De La Salle Collegiate. As his time with South comes to an end, Brandon wrote in his letter that what he will miss most about being coach of the Blue Devils goes far beyond the Friday night lights. “I will also miss the day-to-day interactions at practice, in the weight room, and film room,” he said. “I will forever cherish the relationships with the players that I have had the honor of forming. Sharing with them the wins and losses, joys and sorrows, and ups and downs of high school football will be in my heart forever.”

Athlete of the Week

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Anybody who is involved in the game of basketball around the Pointes likely knows the name Ayrault pretty well. With great coaches and players throughout the family, Grosse Pointe North junior Annabel Ayrault is continuing the tradition of basketball in her family by being one of the pieces for the Norsemen this season. Ayrault’s dad, Andy, is the head coach of North’s varsity boys basketball team. Her brother, Adam, plays for their dad on the boys team and her older sister, Julia, is a North basketball alumna currently playing in college at Michigan State. With plenty of basketball knowledge and skill to go around at home,

Ayrault’s family is always helping her become the best athlete she can be. “I grew up watching my siblings play in the backyard and going to their games every weekend so it was easy just to pick up,” Ayrault said.

Grosse Pointe News

Annabel Ayrault

School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Joe Ricci Automotive

“It’s motivational because they’re constantly making me better and playing with me at home, always giving me advice after games and helping me become a better player.”

As a junior, Ayrault already has experience at the varsity level for the Norsemen. The makeup of this year’s roster for North makes her role as an experienced junior a bit more interesting. North’s varsity girls basketball team this year includes just one senior on the roster, meaning juniors like Ayrault are the majority of those being looked to for veteran leadership. Being looked to as a leader for some of the younger players on the team this season is still something Ayrault is getting used to. “It’s a bit different because I’m used to having people around me who are in the same position,” she said. “It’s a learning curve when people are looking up to you. It’s harder, but I’m still learning.”

Even while settling into a leadership role, the team chemistry among her and her teammates is something Ayrault is really proud of this year. Having a mix of new and familiar faces on the team has not stopped Ayrault and the rest of the Norsemen from constantly working to become better individually and as a unit. “We all work hard in practice and show up every day to be there for each other,” Ayrault said. “We’re a small team and a young team, so all of us just working hard together helps make each other better.” Ayrault and the Norsemen are off to a strong start for the new season. As of now, North is 2-1 with the only loss coming in a tight showdown with Mercy in the CHSL vs. MAC Challenge, where Ayrault led her team with 17 points in the losing effort. There is still a long road ahead for North as the girls basketball season started less than a month ago. With plenty more basketball to be played, Ayrault knows what she wants to get out of her junior year with the Norsemen. “I want to get stronger,” she said. “And



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Annabel Ayrault

improve my overall game by getting stronger and becoming more confident is really it.” To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, visit grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week.

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2D | SPORTS



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

The University Liggett Knights boys’ basketball team fell to 0-2 to start the season after losing to Southfield Christian on Friday night.

Liggett suffers second loss in home opener

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Taking the court in front of a home crowd for the first time this season, the University Liggett Knights boys basketball team wanted to pick up its first victory in just its second contest of the new campaign. After a 74-33 loss on the road to Walled Lake Northern last Wednesday, the Knights played host to Southfield Christian Friday night. In a game that was tightly contested through three quarters, the Eagles outlasted Liggett as the Knights fell to 0-2 with a 65-42 defeat. Liggett and Southfield Christian traded shots in an opening quarter that was very evenly matched. After the opening eight

minutes, the Knights were behind by a slim one-point margin as the Eagles led 15-14. The second quarter continued the back-and-forth flow of the game. A little over halfway through the second frame, the two teams were even at 19-19. Liggett eventually pulled out to a narrow lead of 23-22. Both sides were tied at 25 with just seconds to go before the halftime break, but a buzzer-beater three-point shot by Southfield Christian put the Eagles ahead 28-25 going into the locker room. Perhaps the momentum from the final shot of the first half carried over into the third quarter for the Eagles. Southfield Christian began to pull

away early in the second half and managed to lead by double digits at 45-33 going into the fourth and final quarter. The last eight minutes of the game saw the Eagles continue to dominate. Liggett failed to mount any sort of comeback as Southfield Christian marched on to a 23-point win. Josh Pierce led the Knights in scoring during Friday’s loss with 13 points. Preston Barr added eight to the stat sheet. The Knights hosted Detroit East English on Wednesday night for their final game before an extended holiday break. Liggett gets back in action after the new year, taking on South Lake Jan. 5.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South’s Kamryn Richards scored 15 points on Thursday in the Blue Devils’ loss to Lakeview.

Blue Devils lose physical battle with Lakeview

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Coming off of a loss on a neutral floor against Marian in the CHSL vs. MAC Challenge last weekend, the Grosse Pointe South girls basketball team returned home Thursday looking for its first win of the new season. The Blue Devils hosted St. Clair Shores Lakeview in what was a tough, gritty matchup that favored the Huskies in the end as South was handed another loss, this time 47-37. The game was a battle from the start, with Lakeview turning up the pressure on defense early, causing the Blue Devils to make some mistakes. Kamryn Richards led the charge for South to help keep

things close with seven points in the first quarter. However, the scoreboard favored the Huskies 15-11 at the end of the first eight minutes. South began to turn the tide a bit throughout the second quarter. The Blue Devils took their first lead of the game 19-16 nearly halfway through the period. Before the first half was over, Lakeview was able to reclaim the lead and take a 31-25 advantage into the locker room. Coming out of half-time, the third quarter was more defensive and less high-scoring than the first two had been. The two sides combined to score just 16 points in the quarter as the Huskies remained in front by eight going into the final eight minutes of Thursday night.

Despite a late push and bringing the game to within four points, the Blue Devils were unable to catch up to Lakeview. Missed opportunities for South and late free throws down the stretch for the Huskies helped them secure the 10-point victory. Richards led the Blue Devils on the score sheet in Thursday’s loss with 15 points. Freshman Madison Benard had nine, while Olivia Bachert scored five. After a difficult stretch to open the season, the Blue Devils have chances in the coming weeks to get back on track. South takes on Byron Center on the road Saturday, then gets a break for the holidays before taking on Ann Arbor Skyline in the Motor City Round Ball Classic Dec. 27.



South freshman Madison Benard makes a move against a Lakeview defender.

Grosse Pointe News

High School

SPORTS

HOME GAMES

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Thursday, December 16

4 pm Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. Grosse Pointe South @North Gym

5:30 pm Boys JV Basketball vs. Grosse Pointe South @North Gym

5:30 pm Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Grosse Pointe South @North Gym

7 pm Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Grosse Pointe South @North Gym

Friday, December 17

5:30 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Grosse Pointe South @Liggett Arena

Monday, December 20

6:30 pm Girls Varsity Gymnastics vs. Bloomfield Hills @North Gym

Tuesday, December 21

5:30 pm Girls JV Basketball vs. Regina @North Gym

7 pm Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Regina @North Gym

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Thursday, December 16

5:30 pm Girls Ice Hockey ULS Tournament vs. Grosse Pointe North @Liggett Arena

5:30 pm Boys JV Basketball vs. Grosse Pointe North @North Gym

7 pm Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Grosse Pointe North @North Gym

Friday, December 17

5:30 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey ULS Tournament vs. Grosse Pointe North @Liggett Arena

Monday, December 20

5:30 pm Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. Cass Tech @South Main Gym

6:30 pm Girls Varsity Gymnastics vs. Bloomfield Hills @Grosse Pointe North

7 pm Boys JV Basketball vs. Cass Tech @South Main Gym

6 pm Boys Varsity Swim & Dive vs. Romeo @Boll Athletic Center

7 pm Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Waterford Mott @Main Gym

Tuesday, December 21

4 pm Boys Freshmen Basketball vs. Lincoln @South Main Gym

5:30 pm Boys JV Basketball vs. Lincoln @South Main Gym

7 pm Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Lincoln @South Main Gym

UNIVERSITY LIGGETT SCHOOL

Thursday, December 16

7 pm Girls Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Regina @Liggett Arena

Friday, December 17

7:30 pm Boys Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Berkley @Liggett Arena

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

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Grosse Pointe News

Ayrault, Phillips help North dominate

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

After capturing its first victory of the season against Lakeview on Friday, the Grosse Pointe North boys basketball team took the court at home Monday night looking to pick up another for the win column. The Norsemen hosted the Bulldogs of Detroit East English Village Prep and looked to be doing everything right on their way to a dominant 77-54 win.

The first quarter of Monday night's showdown saw both sides going back and forth. North jumped out to an early lead before the teams began trading baskets. The Norsemen led by as much as six at one point in the opening eight minutes, but ended up trailing 19-18 at the end of the first.

Things continued to look evenly matched going into the second

quarter. The teams exchanged narrow leads, but North began to prove the old saying that basketball is a game of runs. An 8-0 run for the Norsemen in the second helped firmly establish the momentum on their side. Heading into the halftime locker room, North had the advantage on the scoreboard 36-28.

North continued to keep a stronghold on the momentum going into the second half. East English Village Prep scored the first basket of the third quarter, but the Norsemen managed another 8-0 run that lengthened their lead even more.

From partway through the third quarter until into the fourth, the Norsemen managed to hold the Bulldogs off the scoreboard and go on a 23-0 scoring run. By the time East English

was able to manage another basket, North was already in front by 35 points.

The Bulldogs managed to pick up their scoring a bit in the final quarter, but it was too little too late. North's dominance in the third quarter was too much to overcome as the Norsemen emerged with the victory by 23.

The Norsemen had two scorers break the 20-point mark on the stat sheet in the win. Adam Ayrault led the team with 21, while sophomore James Phillips was close behind with 20. North junior Zach Cody added 12 points.

North will look to make it three straight wins when they host crosstown rivals Grosse Pointe South Thursday night. After that, the Norsemen get a short break for the holidays before taking on L'Anse Creuse North Dec. 27.

Norsemen fall to Churchill in hockey showcase

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Heading into this weekend's KLAA vs. MIHL Showcase in Livonia, the Grosse Pointe North boys hockey team was still in search of its first win of the season. After taking the ice for a matchup with Livonia Churchill Saturday morning, the Norsemen will have to wait a bit longer to get that first notch in the "W" column as North fell to the Chargers 4-1.

The Chargers jumped out to an early lead, lighting up the scoreboard inside the game's first minute. Churchill senior Dom Krupinski put one past North goalie R.J. Cassar just 20 seconds into the opening period to give the Chargers a

one-goal advantage.

Just over 10 minutes later, the Norsemen were able to pull things back to even on what would end up being their only goal of the day. North's Brandon Gillery found the back of the net to even things at 1-1, which would stand as the score at the end of the first period.

Despite North being able to tie the game before the end of the opening period, the second period and beyond were largely controlled by the Chargers. Five minutes into the second, Churchill's Devin Genzel scored to put the Chargers back in front 2-1.

With less than five minutes to go in the middle period, fellow Churchill senior Nicholas Liebau

expanded the Chargers' lead with his first goal of the day. Heading into the final 17 minutes, the scoreboard favored Churchill 3-1.

The final period saw the Chargers continue to build their lead with an early goal. Libeau netted his second of the day to make it 4-1 Churchill, and though the Norsemen had a few chances in the final period to pull closer, nothing on the scoreboard changed from then on as the Chargers locked up a three-goal victory.

Next up for the Norsemen is another rivalry showdown against Grosse Pointe South on Friday. North looks for revenge after being defeated by the Blue Devils 5-0 in November.

South trounced by St. Mary's Prep

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South boys basketball team is not shying away from tough tests during the early part of its season. After an 81-66 loss to Detroit Loyola on Thursday, during which junior Anthony Benard scored 36 points for the Blue Devils, South entered Calihan Hall Sunday with another

strong opponent on tap. In the closing game of Sunday's CHSL vs. MAC Challenge, the Blue Devils faced an uphill battle against a talented squad from Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep. South struggled to keep up with the Eaglets for much of Sunday evening as St. Mary's cruised to a 72-48 win.

The opening minutes of Sunday's game showed a bit of promise

for South. An early three-pointer by Benard got the Blue Devils' crowd on its feet, but the energy and momentum did not seem to last long. St. Mary's was able to pull in front and stay ahead down the stretch of the opening quarter. After the first eight minutes of Sunday night's contest, the Eaglets managed a double-digit lead at 23-12.

Already trailing by

double digits after the first quarter, South was left playing catch-up for the rest of the evening. It would take the Blue Devils the entire second quarter to reach the 23-point mark the Eaglets scored in the first eight minutes and by then, St. Mary's found itself up by nearly 20 with a 41-23 lead going into halftime.

The second half was much of the same, with

the Eaglets firmly in the driver's seat on their way to a victory. St. Mary's held a 58-32 lead at the end of the third and continued dominating in the final quarter until the clock reached zero with the scoreboard in favor of the Eaglets 72-46.

Benard once again led the Blue Devils in scoring in Sunday night's losing effort. The junior guard tallied 25 points

and nine rebounds to follow his 36-point performance from a few days before. Karter Richards scored seven points and Alex English had six.

The Blue Devils head across town Thursday night for a rivalry matchup with Grosse Pointe North. After that, South hosts Warren Lincoln in an exhibition game Tuesday before taking a holiday break.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South guard Anthony Benard scored 25 points against St. Mary's on Sunday just days after scoring 36 against Detroit Loyola.



Karter Richards had seven points for the Blue Devils on Sunday night.

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WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 6, 2021

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present.
MOTIONS PASSED
1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held November 15, 2021.
2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:37 p.m.
RESOLUTION PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 123279 through 123545 in the amount of \$427,502.48 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing.
(2) to approve payment to RKA Petroleum Companies in the amount of \$24,714.36 for the purchase of 10,000 gallons of regular and diesel fuel.
(3) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$5,514.91 for the contractual assessing services performed during the month of December 2021.
(4) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$38,011.96 for professional services during the month of October 2021 for the following projects: 2021 Concrete Pavement Repair, #180-204; 2020 Pavement Joint Seal, #180-226; Storm Sewer Repair, #180-256; Sanitary Sewer Clean, #180-259; Water Svc Material Invest, #180-265; GLWA, #180-275; Eastland Center Redevelopment, #180-244; Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-231 and 253; Kelly Rd Pedestrian Crossing, #180-208; Everstream Fiber, #180-274 and Everstream Metro Act, #180-275.
(5) approve payment in the amount of \$18,450.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with backflow preventer installation in the library basement, water main repairs, repair of a service line and a fire hydrant
2) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC, in the amount of \$20,493.64 for Progress Payment No. 3 on the 2021 Storm Sewer Repair Project, #180-256..

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, December 16, 2021

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