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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Construction on the Schaap Center continues to move forward, now without the hinderance of a lawsuit to contend with.

Schaap foes lay an egg

On with the show

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A lawsuit that was more of a speed-bump than roadblock to completion of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts has been kicked to the curb.

Court-ordered dismissal of the suit in Wayne County Circuit Court Sept. 10 means construction of the 424-seat facility continues at

the Park-Detroit border on Jefferson Avenue. Wrap-up is expected July 2025.

“The lawsuit with Wayne County (the plaintiff) has been amicably settled,” said Paul Schaap, the project’s main benefactor and a resident of the Park. “During the course of the lawsuit, we worked with the other side in a way that did not stop our proj-

See **SCHAAP**, page 2A

VRBO rental shut down in Farms

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Though prohibited by ordinance, it’s often possible to find short-term rentals operating in the Grosse Pointes via sites such as Airbnb and VRBO.

“We do, on a regular basis, go onto websites — our code enforcement officers — and periodically we do find listings on various websites of homes that are being rented and we notify and we’ve been very successful at nipping those in the bud,” Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said. “But if it does persist, as we believe it has in this case, at this home, we will take action and issue a citation.”

The 68-year-old Farms homeowner in question was charged with a misdemeanor and last week sentenced before Judge Charles Berschback to one year of non-reporting probation for violating the city’s “Prohibition of Certain Short-Term Rentals” ordinance.

The ordinance, in part, states, “A dwelling unit in any R-1, R-1-A, R-1-AA, R-1-AAA or RC one-family residential district shall not be rented or leased, or offered for rent or lease, or otherwise occupied under any written or oral occupancy agreement (other than by the owner and the

See **VRBO**, page 4A

Good news on enrollment numbers

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — After five consecutive years of enrollment decline, the Grosse Pointe Public School System could see that start to reverse.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle presented the news at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Sept. 10.



“These are very preliminary numbers,” she said, “I can’t stress that enough. The audited numbers will be differ-

ent, but these are somewhat encouraging.”

Tuttle explained there is a difference between pure headcount numbers and the audited numbers on which the state bases per-pupil funding. The state uses what is known as a full-time equivalent count, as not all students are in GPPSS all day, every day. That could include homeschooled students who take one or two

electives through the district, or career and technical education students who attend specialized classes in another district for part of the day. Students at Barnes Early Childhood Center up to age 3, Tuttle said, count as 0.4 FTE.

Audited numbers show the district in fall 2019 had 7,449.65 FTE students. That fell to

See **NUMBERS**, page 10A

Concours d’Elegance returns for 17th year

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — The last Sunday in September is set to feature the Grosse Pointe Concours d’Elegance at Pier Park, as it has the last 17 years.

“We started with probably 30 or 40 cars and now we’ll fill that parking lot right to the brim,” said Dan Hughes, event organizer since its inception, whose 1953 MG TD will be a part of this year’s show.

At least 120 cars and 600 to 700 people are expected to attend the free, public car show from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29. A parade down Kercheval first takes place at 11:30 a.m.

“We get a handful of people from out of Grosse Pointe, but mostly it’s 90 percent Grosse Pointe cars and it’s a fun time,” Hughes said. “... It’ll probably be half and half, domestic and foreign. That’s what we usually get. We’ll get some really classy cars and just a lot of fun muscle cars.”

“There’s a lot of cars that are hidden in people’s garages and this is an opportunity for Grosse Pointers to bring out their favorite little set of wheels and display it.”

The National Coney Island food truck will offer free hot dogs, chips and pop, while supplies last.

“In the past five or 10 years, we’ve had a huge influx of families coming



COURTESY PHOTO

Last year’s Grosse Pointe Concours d’Elegance at Pier Park.

out to participate,” Hughes said. “It’s a great opportunity for young kids to come out with their parents and tour around and see all these cars, because in most cases they’ll not really

pay attention to it or see one on the road, but when they start to walk around and see the multitude of designs and colors and styles, it’s kind of a fun

See **CARS**, page 4A

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Pointer of INTEREST



See story, page 4A

Paul Sahadi
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
North coach holds piece of high school football history



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Lead verification starts soon

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Grant money is lowering the financial burden of an unfunded state mandate to replace lead water service lines throughout the city.

Compliance requires jurisdictions to replace on average 5 percent of their lead service lines annually within 20 years.

Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee, said last spring it costs up to \$20,000 to replace a lead service line. Fulfilling the 2018 mandate, promoted by the 2014 Flint water crisis, is expected to involve 800 lead lines at a combined cost of \$16 million.

Yet, some of the expense of finding and tabulating the number of

lead service lines will be paid by a \$600,000 Community Technical Managerial and Financial Support for Lead Line Replacements grant issued by the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Environment, or EGLE.

The Park received the grant this year.

“Eligible activities include physical verification of service lines and

properties where lead is suspected but not confirmed or where service line material is unknown but likely contains lead,” according to the grant program website, accessible through michigan.gov/egle.

Park council members agreed to allocate around 40 percent of the grant for a contractor to begin verification before winter.

“The project includes verification of 351 water service materials in the Park that are being funded by (the grant),” said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Random checks

“Water suppliers are not expected to physically verify every service line, but rather a statistically sound subset,” according to a portion of

the website outlining the Minimum Service Line Material Verification Program. “To effectively evaluate the accuracy of service line records and predict service line material, a representative, uniformly random number of service lines must be physically verified.”

“It’s a random drawing,” Sizeland said. “Our engineering consultant and city worked on a process together. We went through the districts and

SEE LEAD, PAGE 8A

SCHAAP:

Continued from page 1A

ect.”

“As with all discussions between adversarial parties, nothing’s ever 100 percent best-friend smooth, but we did work together with the common goal of trying to ensure the interests of both parties were met,” said Arthur Siegal, an attorney for the defendants: the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, or URIF, a charity formed in 2012 to raise funds for construction of the arts center; PCI/Dailey Industries, construction manager; and CBRE Global Commercial Real Estate Services, listed in foundation documents as the owner’s representative.

An after-hours voice-mail message seeking comment from the plaintiff’s attorneys wasn’t returned.

Work never really stopped on the arts center during five months of wrangling between the foundation and county over how to manage the

site’s rainwater runoff. The goal was to mitigate the odds of flooding during big storms.

“Early in the dialogue there was discussion about allowing work to continue outside of a certain contested area, an area where there was disagreement about whether or not there was a setback or easement requirement,” Siegal said. “The remainder of the dialogue was directed to resolving that disagreement.”

“The development team is currently proposing a system of onsite detention chambers and bioswales to ensure the planned development minimizes environmental impact while maximizing community benefit,” according to a foundation statement. “Based on these stormwater best management practices, URIF has recently received a stormwater permit from Wayne County to conditionally proceed with the planned improvements, including connection to the separated storm water system of Grosse Pointe Park.”

“These are great big tanks under the parking lot on our site,” Schaap said. “When a deluge comes, it can fill these tanks and, as time progresses, it puts that water into the Grosse Pointe Park stormwater system. This stormwater will not end up in the Detroit sewer system. Grosse Pointe Park is on the verge of approving it.”

Park City Manager Nick Sizeland said, “As part of the Park’s effort to separate storm and sanitary sewers in the community, including where some areas are still combined on lower Jefferson, we are looking to partner with the Schaap Center to separate a portion of Jefferson that is a benefit to the Park and the center. We’re working through the details, but we’ll have an agreement between both parties that will come to the city council at a future date.”

The city already budgeted around \$400,000 for the Jefferson separation.

“This isn’t a Grosse Pointe Park project funded entirely by the city,” Sizeland said. “The

URIF and Paul are helping, of which we will be very appreciative. It’s a win for the community, a win for the Schaap Center. Separating sewers is going to help all entities.”

“I am grateful to the parties for implementing workable solutions that protect all interests, especially those of the public, to move the project forward,” Park Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The key to the center moving forward was Judge Sheila Ann Gibson dismissing the suit with prejudice.

A court ruling of that type is the only time someone wants to be pegged with prejudice.

“With prejudice” sounds damning. Yet, in legal terms, it’s liberating to defendants. A case dismissed with prejudice is dismissed forever. It can’t be brought back to court.

A case dismissed with prejudice is the legal fat lady singing. It’s over. No encore. No revival. For the Schaap Center, then, it’s on to Cincinnati unless something else comes up.

“I’d like to get on with finishing our project and get things in there, like the Grosse Pointe Theatre

and all that good stuff,” Schaap said.

The Grosse Pointe Theatre opens its 2025-26 season at the center.

“Grosse Pointe Theatre is excited and so grateful that we will have a permanent performing home at the Schaap Center,” said Theresa Selvaggio, the theater’s director of development. “Paul’s excited for us because the arts are so important in the community and we need a home. He is solving a major problem for us.”

GPT’s performances in recent years have been at various Grosse Pointe Public School System auditoriums.

“We’re grateful to the schools, but it’s not sustainable to be in the schools,” Selvaggio said.

The inaugural show at the Schaap hasn’t been chosen, except that it will be a musical.

“It will be a family musical because we want to welcome all the families in the region,” Selvaggio said. “It’s really important that it’s a broad-appeal musical so everyone can come into Schaap Center and see the spectacular facilities.”

She often drives out of her way to monitor the construction site and lick

her chops.

“What makes it exciting for us are all the bells and whistles Paul Schaap is putting in there for us to use, whether its tunable acoustics, the fly space or wing space,” Selvaggio said. “He attended our performance of ‘Crazy for You’ yesterday (Sunday, Sept. 15, at Grosse Pointe North High School). He came backstage to share a few words with our actors and musicians. It was just as exciting for him to see all our volunteers at work right before curtain on a sold-out matinee.”

“I absolutely loved the show,” Schaap said. “The talent of the cast is just amazing.”

Schaap is a retired chemistry professor at Wayne State University, where he met his wife, Carol, recently deceased.

“She was secretary to the president,” Schaap said. “We always used to go to the Hilberry and Bonstelle theaters. We had a passion for the performing arts. It came naturally to support them here in our community.”

Schaap grew up in Indiana. He turned a boyhood fascination with fireflies into careers in academia and business.

“My area of research was chemiluminescence,” he said.

It’s an easy bet that few people know what Schaap is talking about when he talks about chemiluminescence and the clinical immunodiagnos- tics market. But generations of patrons attending performances and exhibitions at the forthcoming Schaap Center will be grateful he does.

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Grosse Pointe-wide fall tree sale is live

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Following its inaugural sale this past spring, the Grosse Pointe Tree Sale is returning for the fall — the ideal season in which to plant a tree, giving its roots time to grow before it's stressed in the summer.

"We understand there are circumstances where tree removal is necessary due to safety concerns, disease or structural issues," said Suzy Berschback, one of the sale's organizers. "It is crucial to replace the removed trees to maintain the environmental balance and preserve the aesthetic charm of our neighborhoods. Trees provide numerous benefits, including improved air quality, reduced noise pollution and increased property values."

The sale, open to all Pointers and boasting low prices due to the bulk order, offers a variety of trees different to those sold in the spring but just as poised for successful growth in the Grosse Pointe area.

"(They're) very low-cost trees, because we want to encourage residents to add more trees," Berschback said. "We researched the trees that would be good for this area with our arborist ... and those recommendations include offering a diverse tree sampling,

so that if any particular tree is hit by a disease ... it doesn't wipe out a street that has different trees."

Species for sale through a partnership with Willoway Nurseries in Ohio are:

- ◆ eastern redbud, \$75, known for its purple/pink flowers in the spring and well-paired with evergreens to shelter it from intense sunlight;

- ◆ red sunset maple, \$85, delivers on color and known as one of the best red maple cultivators;

- ◆ pin oak, \$40, reasonably fast-growing with a straight main trunk, horizontal branches and bright green leaves that turn dark red in the autumn;

- ◆ red horsechestnut, \$110, suited for use in smaller landscapes with dark green foliage that turns golden yellow in the fall and blooms pink flowers with yellow throats in the spring.

- ◆ kindred spirit oak, \$120, an upright, storm resistant structure with deep green leaves that turn red in autumn and fall from the tree in winter;

- ◆ white pine, \$20, the state tree of Michigan, which grows fast and has a long life span with feathery soft needles and an open canopy.

To take advantage of the sale, orders must be received by Thursday, Oct. 3, using a form found at tinyurl.com/3vu8yw95.

Tree pickup is scheduled at Neff Park from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13.

Newly offered, youth volunteers also will be available to deliver trees for \$10 per household — there is no additional cost for multiple trees — as well as plant the trees for \$30 per tree.

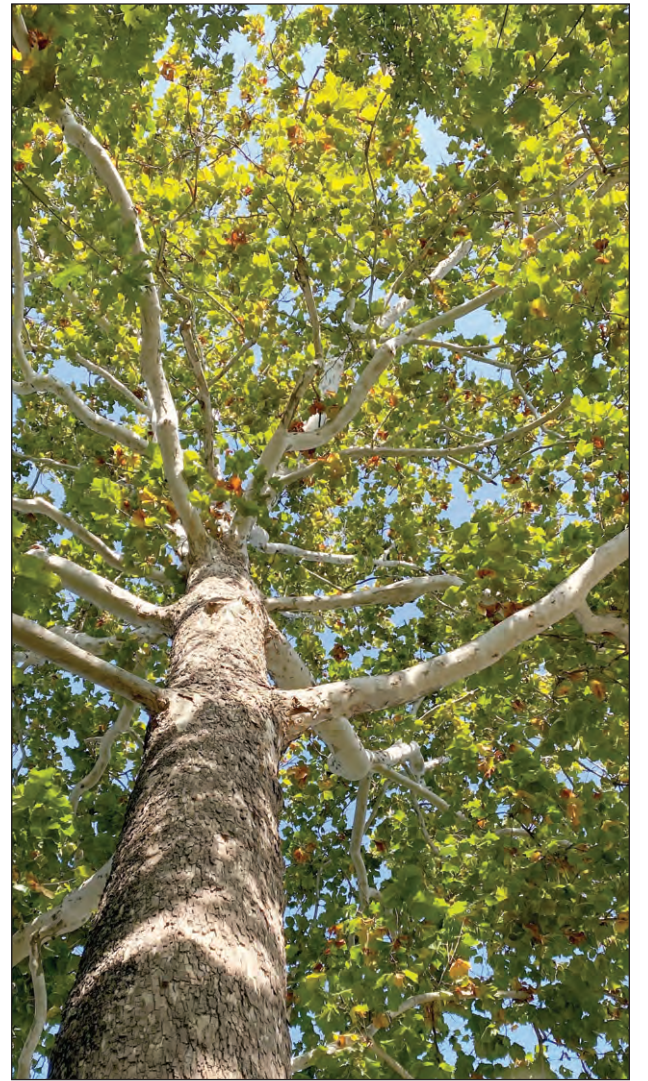
"It's really planting for the future," Berschback said. "These trees take a while to grow and now we have an aging canopy and so we're looking at how do we continue to plan for the future so that if a disease comes, there's a good diversification."

"... It's not a short-term thing. It's a long-term thing that we hope future generations continue."

The Grosse Pointe Tree Sale — intended to recur either annually or biannually — is a multi-Pointe effort led by organizers Berschback, Ed Gotfredson and Councilman Lev Wood in the Farms, as well as City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission President Rick Whitney and council liaison Dr. Seth Krupp.

"We've joined forces helping each other out, because we all have the same mission," Berschback said.

Any questions regarding the sale can be addressed to GPtrees1@gmail.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

A sycamore tree in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Arrest made in 2023 Woods overdose fatalities

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

HARPER WOODS — A suspect was arrested Wednesday, Sept. 11, for selling fentanyl-laced cocaine to three people who died of overdoses in Grosse Pointe Woods 18 months ago.

Aerian Porter-Craig, 32, faces charges of distribution of a controlled substance causing death. The arrest was made around 8 a.m. last Wednesday on Hollywood Street, just a few houses into Harper Woods near the Grosse Pointe Woods city limits, according to a witness who requested anonymity out of concern for their safety. The arrest was carried out by the Woods Public Safety Department and the FBI.

Porter-Craig made her first appearance in federal court in Detroit later that day. She was released on a \$10,000 bond with electronic monitoring and home detention. A preliminary examination is scheduled Oct. 2.

"Three young people lost their lives as fen-



COURTESY PHOTO

An anonymous witness captured this photo of Grosse Pointe Woods public safety officers and FBI agents making an arrest Wednesday, Sept. 11, of the suspect in three fatal overdoses in the Woods 18 months ago.

tal continues to ravage our communities," U.S. Attorney Dawn Ison said in a press release. "Fentanyl is everywhere, which means there is no such thing as safe use of illegal drugs. Along with our agency partners, we will continue to pursue these cases and hold drug dealers accountable for their crimes."

The three victims, including two sisters, were found deceased June 10, 2023, just blocks apart. The sisters were eventually identified in the media by their father as Antoinette

Angelina Calbone, 23.

"I appreciate all of the hard work that went into this investigation," Woods Public Safety Director John Kosanke said. "The collaborative effort between agencies demonstrates our strong

commitment to hold accountable those who plague our communities with these deadly drugs."

According to a criminal complaint filed by the FBI in federal court, one of the sisters and a male victim were found dead at a house on Canterbury Street, while the other sister was found a few blocks away at a house on Edmundton Drive.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner said the two victims on Canterbury died of fentanyl toxicity, while the one found on Edmundton died of fentanyl and xylazine toxicity. Xylazine is an animal tranquilizer.

The FBI examined the cell phones of Porter-Craig and the victims during its investigation.

The complaint says the Friday, June 9, 2023, FBI believes the victims died late the night of *See ARREST, page 14A*

The Week Ahead

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education regular meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Library Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the Woods branch, 20680 Mack.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission's Adopt-a-Garden group gardening event, 9 a.m. to noon at Patterson Park.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe's 18th annual Fall Harvest, 3 p.m. at Neff Park. Cost is \$10 per person.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

North assistant coach holds piece of high school football history

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

Nothing rallies schools and communities better than a historic high school football rivalry. For decades, one of the biggest rivalries in metro Detroit was between De

La Salle Collegiate and Bishop Gallagher high schools.

The two schools faced off 27 times between 1969 and 2001, with a plane propeller on the line as the trophy for the winning team. However, after Bishop Gallagher closed nearly 20 years ago, that propeller trophy found its home in Grosse Pointe Woods with former Lancers player and coach, Paul Sahadi.

“The school closed in May of 2005, and we never played them again,” Sahadi said. “It was in our school and the school closed. The principal, staff and alumni association didn’t know what would happen with all this stuff in the school. They said, ‘We want you to watch this propeller and safely keep it.’ ... Nobody at that point ever wanted the propeller to go to De La Salle. We had won it last, so the propeller belongs to the alumni of Bishop Gallagher.”

Sahadi, who now works on the coaching staff of Grosse Pointe North’s varsity football team, played football for Bishop Gallagher in the 1980s. He also went on to help coach there several

years alongside his father, George Sahadi, who served as the school’s head football coach for nearly 30 years.

According to Sahadi, the propeller was believed to have been given to De La Salle, whose mascot is the Pilots, by staff at a local airport sometime in the 1960s. The teams last played for the propeller trophy in 2001, with Bishop Gallagher winning the game 25-21. With Sahadi watching over the propeller for nearly two decades, he finally will hand it back over to De La Salle, but wants to make sure people know Gallagher was still victorious.

“Some guys were very adamant about never giving the propeller to De La Salle,” he said. “... This is an alumni committee decision and we’re making it. We got together with De La Salle representatives. ... We finally worked it out to have this ceremony on Sept. 20, and to bring the propeller to the game. A lot of people have had reservations about this.”

Sahadi and other Gallagher football alumni will present the propeller

to De La Salle during the Pilots’ game against Toledo Central Catholic Friday, Sept. 20, at Wayne State University’s Tom Adams Field.

While some Gallagher alumni have had reservations about giving the trophy to De La Salle, Sahadi believes keeping the propeller in one of the schools, rather than in his house, will help represent what the spirit of the rivalry was about.

“In my opinion, this ranks up there with anything like the Paul Bunyan Trophy,” he said. “... There have been other trophies, but this was a great one for the Eastside Catholic schools.”

At the end of the day, the former rivals still respect each other. Some, like Sahadi, have even been on both sides, as he served as an assistant football coach at De La Salle in 2004 and 2005.

The presentation of the propeller serves as a reminder for alumni from both schools of what the rivalry meant to them. For Sahadi, giving the propeller to De La Salle embodies the type of respect for a rival his



COURTESY PHOTOS

Current Grosse Pointe North assistant football coach and former Bishop Gallagher player and coach Paul Sahadi has kept watch over the propeller trophy for nearly 20 years.



The propeller was painted blue and white on one side and purple and gold on the other to symbolize the colors of De La Salle and Bishop Gallagher, with the scores of each game also painted on.

CARS:

Continued from page 1A

education for them.

“... There’s a great story with every car and that’s the fun part. I enjoy talking to people and just saying, ‘How long have you had it? Where’d you find it?’ and all that kind of stuff.”

From among the cars showcased, attendees may vote for an audience favorite. A Best in Show also will be chosen by judges.

“It’s not technical,” Hughes explained. “It’s not a point-based system



like some of the concours. It’s just a group of people who I’ve assigned who are car guys (and I) say, ‘Just walk around and tell me what you think is the best car we have here.’”

Last year’s audience favorite was a Ford GT owned by Pete and Sue McClain. The Best in Show was a 1963 Corvette

owned by Bob Schroeder. To register a vehicle for the Concours d’Elegance, visit grossepointefarmsfoundation.org/news/grosse-pointe-concours-delegance/.

The 2024 Grosse Pointe Concours d’Elegance is presented by the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation.

VRBO:

Continued from page 1A

owner’s family), for a duration less than six (6) months.”

The homeowner reportedly had multiple opportunities to cease operation of the short-term rental before the city took her to court.

“Basically, there is a home that has a garden house on the corner and they’ve been impermissibly using it as a VRBO, a short-term rental,” Mayor Louis Theros explained, when the litigation was brought up during last month’s council meeting. “The family that has been running it has been ticketed and had many letters and visits from our city

about what they were doing.

“... For the most part (when approached by the city for a short-term rental ordinance violation) people have said, ‘Oh, I didn’t know.’ This resident knows. (There’s been) more than a few visits from the city.”

While accepting a plea deal Wednesday, Sept. 11, the woman was hesitant to admit having used the home as a short-term rental. She replied, “No,” when asked whether someone paid money to stay there, but eventually agreed to more general phrasing in that “some consideration was put forth to stay at the property.”

In the event there are violations during the one-

year probation, the homeowner would be subject to fines of up to \$500 per violation. If she, however, complies with all terms of the probation agreement, the misdemeanor will come off her record.

“My client certainly understands and appreciates the issues that were raised and is very clear going forward so that this isn’t a problem again,” attorney Richard Lennell said.

The sentencing also requires the woman to pay \$500 in fines and court costs, as well as \$150 for non-reporting probation.

“There’s quite a bit of legislation now that has been proposed in Lansing that would actually take away local authority to limit short-term rentals to some extent and other limitations that local communities could enact, but clearly not have the right to outright forbid short-term rentals,” Reeside said. “But nothing has been passed into law and until that time happens, we’ll vigorously enforce the ordinance.”

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City of Grosse Pointe

Intoxicated

After being stopped at Mack and Rivard for driving too slowly and left of the center line — among other traffic violations — a 32-year-old Park man was pulled over at 11:55 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, and arrested for operating while intoxicated.

— *Laurel Kraus*
Report information about this and other crimes to the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety, (313) 886-3200.

Grosse Pointe Farms

School's out

The head of school at The Grosse Pointe Academy wishes to press charges against a 28-year-old Park man for continuing to trespass on the school grounds despite numerous warnings and trespassing tickets issued in the past.

The most recent incident took place at 6:07 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9.

Big risk, little reward

A young woman used a ratchet to break into a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 1:37 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, to steal three to four vapes, worth \$20 each.

Surveillance footage shows the suspect as a possibly juvenile black female wearing a hooded blue and purple striped sweater, black jeans and black shoes.

Signed, sealed, delivered

A 47-year-old Farms man's name and notary stamp were fraudulently used on a quitclaim deed Tuesday, Sept. 10.

The suspects are a 46-year-old Ypsilanti

man and a 38-year-old Detroit man.

Pried

Between 3 p.m. Monday, Sept. 9, and 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10, door moldings at a Winthrop garage were pried off, but nothing inside was missing.

Light pole struck

A dark-colored SUV ran off the road and struck a light pole at Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Fisher at 10:11 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Border patrol

The United States Border Patrol was called to a routine traffic stop on Kercheval for illegally tinted windows at 1:41 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12, when a 34-year-old passenger admitted he had no documentation to prove he was in the country legally.

Border patrol agents learned he had been in the country approximately six months and entered illegally, for which he was arrested.

They also determined the man has been arrested and deported numerous times.

Wrong way

After driving eastbound in the westbound lanes of Mack at 1:59 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, a 66-year-old Detroit man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol content to be 0.209 percent.

— *Laurel Kraus*
Report information about these and other

crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Unlocked

A newer Cadillac was stolen sometime overnight Monday, Sept. 9, into the following morning before 8 a.m. in the 1800 block of Severn. The vehicle was unlocked and the keys were in a backpack on the back seat.

The owner was able to use OnStar to track the vehicle and recover it himself. It was undamaged.

Not a tourist

A 55-year-old New York man was arrested on fraud charges after trying to withdraw money from someone else's account at a bank on Mack around noon Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Officers found him in possession of several credit cards in other peoples' names. He told them he was persuaded to travel to Michigan to commit fraud in exchange for drugs.

— *Ted O'Neil*
Report information



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

Grosse Pointe Park

Bumper cars

Driving drunk down a residential side street with one side lined with parked cars was too much for a 30-year-old Warren woman two hours before sunup Saturday, Sept. 14.

“(She) struck multiple parked vehicles,” police said.

Officers were dispatched to the scene, on Maryland at St. Paul, at 5:05 a.m.

“The (woman's) vehi-

cle was on the grass,” police said. “Investigation revealed (her) to be intoxicated.” She was arrested for drunken driving.

Lights out

The second drunken driving car wreck of the week happened one day after the first.

At 1:15 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, police responded to a single-vehicle crash on Jefferson at Edgemont Park.

“The vehicle left the roadway and struck a light pole,” an investigator said.

The driver, a 24-year-old woman from Detroit, was uninjured but arrested for drunken

driving.

And a third

The third drunken driving arrest of the week happened the same day as the second, Sunday, Sept. 15.

This time, things began with an officer responding to someone in the 1200 block of Wayburn reportedly calling for help.

“It was discovered that no one in the area needed help,” police said.

“However, an occupied vehicle was located in the area, (engine) running. Follow-up investigation revealed the driver (a 29-year-old Grosse Pointe Woods woman) to be intoxicated.

— *Brad Lindberg*

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— *Ted O'Neil*

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

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Sinking fund millage deserves support

Everyone has heard the saying that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. There also is another sure thing and that is the fact the state of Michigan does not provide money to public school districts to specifically pay for facilities, technology and security.

For that reason, we recommend a “yes” vote on the Grosse Pointe Public School System’s request for a sinking fund millage. The district is asking voters to approve a levy of 3 mills for 10 years. If approved, it would bring in approximately \$11 million a year.

The current sinking fund millage was approved at 1 mill for five years in 2019, and brings in around \$3.5 million annually. Unlike the district’s operating millage, which 72 percent of voters approved in August, this would be a tax increase of 2 mills.

A mill is \$1 in taxes on every \$1,000 on a property’s taxable value. In real-world numbers, the tax implication would work as such: A home with a market value of \$300,000 has a taxable value of \$150,000; that equates to \$150 in taxes per mill, or \$450 per year. At \$500,000 market value, taxes would be \$750 a year and at \$1 million, taxes amount to \$1,500 a year.

Our reader poll (below right) shows 67 percent of respondents plan to vote for the millage. Another 10 percent are going to vote no, while 24 percent said they do not know about the issue.

As we mentioned above, because the state does not provide funding for facilities, technology or security, districts without a sinking fund millage or improvement bond have to spend money from the general fund on such items. That means fewer dollars being directed to classrooms and students. It means less money to pay teachers, update curriculum and run extracurricular activities.

We are glad the board of education chose to ask voters for a sinking fund millage, rather than another improvement bond such as the one that was approved in 2018. Bonds end up costing taxpayers more in the long run because of interest rates, whereas every dollar from a sinking fund millage goes right to the district.

To further explain how sinking fund monies will be used, we’ll borrow an example Superintendent Andrea Tuttle has used numerous times. If you took the roof off a school building and turned it upside down, the district could not spend sinking fund money on anything that falls out. That would include people, students, desks, chairs, books, etc. Only per-pupil state aid and operating millage dollars can be used for such things. Sinking fund dollars can pay for what does not fall out — walls, windows, doors, lockers, etc.

Another reason the sinking fund millage is vital to the district is the fact its 13 buildings average 81 years in age. A study by consultants at Plante Moran two years ago determined the district had \$252 million in maintenance needs over the next decade, including \$150 million that deserved attention within three years.

In driving around the district this summer, you probably saw a number of projects that were paid for with sinking funds. Masonry work, parking lot upgrades and bringing playgrounds into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Other recent work has included roofing, HVAC systems, security upgrades and locker replacement.

If the millage passes, the district plans to spend around \$36 million on technology and security



Pure Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe resident Katie Coyle snapped this scenic photograph Tuesday, Sept. 10, during a day of picture-perfect weather. It won’t be long before the tell-tale colors of fall dot the landscape and temperatures drop to usher in autumn, then winter.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE COYLE

OUR VIEW

Our choices for GPPSS BoE

In what has become a recurring pattern, there is no shortage of candidates for open seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

There are nine candidates running for four open seats. While November seems like a long way off, early voting starts one week from today as clerks begin mailing absentee ballots to those who have requested them. That is why the Grosse Pointe News is running our endorsements and our support for the district’s sinking fund millage (see accompanying Our View) now. We will reprint this information in mid-October for those voters who prefer to visit the polls in person on Election Day.

As noted above, there is no shortage of candidates. This follows the pattern of recent school board elections. For example, 10 people ran two years ago for three seats. In 2020, there were a whopping 15 candidates for four seats, plus three more running to fill the remainder of an unexpired term.

As is the case with our five municipalities, we are blessed to have people interested enough and dedicated enough to run for office. Elected officials put in long hours at little or no pay and have to make tough decisions that often lead to personal attacks and, on occasion, threats of violence. As any athletic referee or umpire will tell you, half of everyone is going to disagree on every call made. The same goes for elected officials.

Candidates this year, in alphabetical order, are: Terry Collins, Clint Derringer, Melissa Fradenburg, Diana Gellci, Kate Hopper, Laura Hull, Tim Klepp, Heath Roberts and Colleen Worden. The Grosse Pointe News editorial board interviewed each of them the last two weeks of August. Transcripts of those interviews can be found beginning on page 17A.

After considering what each candidate can offer the district, our endorsements go to Mr. Collins, Ms. Fradenburg, Ms. Hopper and Mr.

Grosse Pointe News SCHOOL BOARD Candidate Endorsements



Roberts. The decision ultimately came down to the single biggest issue facing the district, that being finances.

All four have extensive, real-life experience in diverse areas of finance, marketing and financial management. Not only is their knowledge of the subject proficient, but they are fiscally responsible, an important attribute that cannot be understated when it comes to spending other people’s money.

Mr. Collins, in particular, has been an invaluable addition to the board. He spent countless hours in 2022 poring over the district’s books, warning at board meetings of the district’s downward trajectory. He was appointed to a vacancy on the board in October 2023 and has served as

See CHOICES, page 7A

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upgrades. Other top priorities include \$12.8 million for roofing, \$12 million on entrances, doors and windows and \$8.2 million on masonry restoration. More information can be found at gpschools.org/millage

Because of Michigan’s new early voting laws, municipal clerks will start sending absentee ballots to voters who have requested them one week from today. As was the case with the August operating millage vote, we believe the district has done a more than adequate job explaining why the sinking fund millage is important to its success.

For those reasons, we recommend a “yes” vote on the matter.

Grosse Pointe News

How will you vote on the school sinking fund millage?

POINTER POLL

67%

Yes! Schools need this!

24%

I don't know what this is

10%

No, I don't want this to pass

Poll taken via GPN Facebook and Instagram. Follow us to see upcoming polls. We want to hear from you!

LETTERS

The Grosse Pointe News welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be typed and signed with the writer’s full name and local address, as well as a daytime telephone number for verification or questions. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length. All letters may be edited for content. We reserve the right to refuse any letter. The deadline for letters is 3 p.m. Monday. Letters may be submitted via email to editor@grossepointenews.com or by filling out the letters form on our website, grossepointenews.com.

School leadership

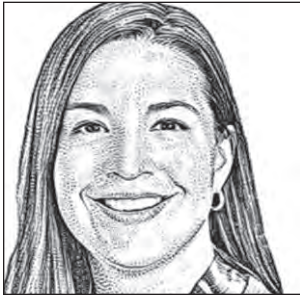
To the Editor:

Every great organization requires visionary leaders who path the way to success. This axiom is true in both the public and private sectors and is evident more so now than ever before.

Our decision to bring our four daughters back to the Grosse Pointe Public School System was based on the current leadership’s vision to return to academic excellence. And they are succeeding in multiple ways. With a renewed focus on academics, GPPSS is positioned to teach our children those skills to be successful in life and in their careers.

See LETTER, page 7A

I SAY By Jody McVeigh



Keeping family traditions alive

Today would have been my dad's 83rd birthday.

Tuesday will mark six years since he died.

My dad's last two birthdays with us stick out most in my mind. He wasn't much for celebrating. Gifts were never requested; he was tough to buy for anyway, which is another story for another time.

A favorite meal, time with family, maybe a card — those were the things that mattered to him.

To mark his 76th birthday, my husband and I met him and my mom for dinner at Buddy's Pizza in Shelby Township. It was tough to get away; the newspaper goes to press on Tuesdays and while it's not always a late night, it's typically a night I don't make plans as there's no telling how long it will take to put the paper to bed.

But we made it to Buddy's — one of Dad's favorite restaurants — and ordered our family favorite meal: a family-sized house salad and an eight-piece Super 6 Mile (at the time it was simply, The Super). A creature of habit, my dad insisted on the same meal every trip to Buddy's. It's the meal

we habitually ordered when he was with us and the same meal we order now when my brothers are in town, in tribute to the obviously empty seat at our table.

It wasn't just the frantic rush of a production day or the celebratory meal that stick out for me about that day. It was the phone call my husband received halfway through dinner: His youngest son was at the hospital; our daughter-in-law was having their first child.

I remember the happiness in my dad's eyes and the wide grin on his face when we told him we couldn't stick around and chat — we had to meet our new granddaughter. He may have been

pleased to end the night early — he wasn't a very social guy — but I think he glowed in the excitement of sharing his birthday with the newest member of our family.

The following year, my husband and I made a point to go back to my parents' house — after another house-salad-and-Super-6-Mile dinner, of course. My dad and my husband smoked cigars on the porch while the four of us chatted. I don't remember the conversation, but I remember the easygoing laughter, the contentedness.

Though he was not one for expressions of emotion, he told my mom after we left he couldn't have had a better birth-

day: pizza, cigars, time with us.

A few days later, he was with family and friends in my backyard, where 50 or 60 guests were celebrating our granddaughter's first birthday. He despised crowds, but adored that baby girl and stayed longer than I would have imagined he'd stay.

It was the last time I saw him on his feet.

Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, he had a hemorrhagic stroke. My mom and I spent the day by his side, praying there was something the doctors could do. By midday, we asked my brothers to come home; it was time to say goodbye.

When this time of year

rolls around, I think of my dad. Hell, every time I look at our granddaughter, Aria, I think of my dad. When I meet my mom for breakfast every Saturday morning — another tradition started by my dad that continues in his absence — I think of my dad. After my husband smokes a cigar, olfactory memory kicks in and I think of my dad.

So in honor of his 83rd birthday, this weekend I will spend time with my now-7-year-old granddaughter, order Dad's favorite breakfast at his favorite breakfast place and spend time with my husband as he smokes a cigar — after, of course, our house salad and Super 6 Mile.

CHOICES:

Continued from page 6A

treasurer since January.

Despite assurances from the previous board and superintendent that the district's finances were healthy, the numbers say otherwise. The district's own budget book notes \$9 million in operating losses during 2021-22 and 2022-23 as seen here (page 3, parameter 10) shorturl.at/aJKL3.

We need to look no further as to why the current board jumped into action than by looking at the district's 2022-23 audit (shorturl.at/krAI3). In particular, look at page 12. The district's fund balance in 2020 topped \$18 million. It now stands at about half that. How did it fall so far, so fast? By using federal COVID relief funds to make up for that \$9 million in overspending.

Think of it this way. You budget to spend \$100 a month eating at McDonald's and eventually get a \$100 a month raise. What the previous board and administration did with COVID relief dollars would be akin to you continuing to spend \$100 a month eating at McDonald's, but instead of saving the raise you also start spending \$100 a month eating at Burger King.

If the current board had not taken swift action in 2023,

GPPSS could have gone down the same path as the Wayne-Westland and Ann Arbor districts, where huge budget deficits have led to layoffs, program cuts and other problems.

The first step in the right direction was in January 2023, when the newly seated board scuttled plans to spend \$1 million in sinking fund dollars to build out a clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School. The hospital that was to staff the clinic would have received grant money to run it, while taxpayers would have been on the hook paying for continued maintenance.

Mr. Collins, Ms. Fradenburg, Ms. Hopper and Mr. Roberts all said they would have opposed the clinic if they had been on the board at the time. In addition to fiscal responsibility, each of them has presented reasonable campaign messaging, including stressing the importance of continued and improved academic excellence, as well as true concern for our GPPSS students. Rather than pointing out problems — real or imagined — without offering solutions, they are focused on helping to continue righting the ship and moving GPPSS forward.

That, coupled with fiscal responsibility that will build the district's fund equity while making any necessary cuts as far away from students as possible are among the reasons they get our support for the four open seats on the board of education.

LETTER:

Continued from page 6A

When we first started the process of returning to GP schools, it was effortless and a very pleasant experience. The teachers were friendly and welcoming, the administrators were knowledgeable and the experience brought back a certain nostalgia.

We couldn't be happier and our girls echo our sentiments.

Take for example our back-to-school night at Ferry Elementary; Principal Jodie Randazzo and our daughters' teachers held an event that reinforced our decision to have our daughters follow in our footsteps. I have never been more optimistic about this current leadership. From budgetary improvements to community buy-in on key projects, I firmly believe our educational institutions are in good hands.

The future is very bright at our schools and we look forward to our continued success. Let's keep up this momentum.

RYAN CASE
Grosse Pointe Shores



Kate ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ HOPPER GP School Board

Communication • Education • Elevation

- As a lifelong Grosse Pointe resident, I represent two generations of GPPSS education. My husband graduated from North in '88, I graduated from South in '90 and our kids graduated from South in '18 & '20.
- I am a candidate who is deeply committed to the next generation of GPPSS students.
- I will apply my expertise from 25+ years as a marketing professional, a mother and a volunteer to elevate our schools' performance and our students' education.

Thank you for your support!

Kate

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Getting with the times

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A 39-year-old municipal purchasing limit dating to the release of “Back to the Future” hamstrings administrative action and has the city manager thinking it’s time for change.

He said an update is needed of the \$5,000 threshold below which the manager is allowed to approve purchases and contracts without waiting in advance for city council approval.

“With the current threshold, it has become very difficult for city departments to efficiently complete purchases, repair city equipment and maintain city buildings and grounds,” City Manager Nick Sizeland told the council Sept. 12.

“I requested this discussion,” Councilman Max Wiener said.

The \$5,000 limit, set in 1985, has the same buying power today as \$1,715.40, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistic’s online consumer price index calculator at data.bls.gov.

Current buying power was too low for Sizeland

to act independently and timelier than otherwise in recent years to resolve numerous projects, including sidewalk repairs at city hall, buying public safety training ammunition, buying financial-tracking software, painting the fence at Windmill Pointe Park and, this month, an \$8,850 contract to fix an internet connection to the Patterson Park gatehouse.

The \$5,000 cap from 1985 has the current value of \$14,919.24 due to nearly four decades of inflation, according to the online calculator.

Sizeland suggested getting with the times by quadrupling the purchasing limit to \$20,000. Doing so would require the council to give prior approval of transactions valued \$20,001 or more.

“This will streamline things,” Wiener said.

Changes require an ordinance amendment, drafts of which require multiple public readings before a final vote can take place.

“Recognizing the need for financial management, the management of our capital items and giving our administration the flexibility needed to

effectively do that, we’re treating this as a first reading,” Mayor Michele Hodges said.

Sizeland distributed a draft of the new policy plus background material to council members one week before the Monday night meeting so they could prepare themselves for meaningful discussion.

In an accompanying memo, he wrote, “Changing the minimum purchasing threshold for council approval from \$5,000 to \$20,001 would adjust for inflation and enable city administration to complete projects ... more efficiently.”

“You said if this was in place today you would have been able to approve this \$237,000 bid [for lead water line verification, discussed earlier in the meeting, see story page 2A] without our approval?” Councilwoman Christine Gallagher asked Sizeland.

“No,” said Sizeland and almost everyone else on the council.

Sizeland sought council comments on his proposal.

“These types of policies are complicated,” Councilman Brent Dreaver said. “While I

want that threshold increased, but (the draft) needs a lot of refinement. I’ve drafted procurement policies. I’d be happy to work on this with you (regarding) the wording. Let’s clean this up a ton.”

“I agree,” Wiener said. Sizeland: “I like the idea Councilman Dreaver mentioned about creating a flow chart so department heads and division managers can clearly understand as well. I’ll be seeking some of your comments (to Dreaver).”

“We look forward to that next draft,” Hodges said. “We have a lot of talent at this table to help support this process.”

“Depending on consensus of council, this will be coming back in the October meeting for council decision and vote,” he said.

His memo included a list of purchasing thresholds and the years they were established in the other Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods:

- ◆ City, \$5,000, 1980;
- ◆ Farms, \$11,000, 2000;
- ◆ Shores, \$10,000, 2008;
- ◆ Woods, \$10,000, 2022; and
- ◆ Harper Woods, \$5,000, 2022.

Fence squeaks by

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A new resident randomly chose the right time to dead-reckon through zoning restrictions and win approval to install a fence where established rules state they aren’t normally supposed to be.

The resident benefited from a technicality while an across-the-board update of the municipal zoning code nears completion.

The resident needed a dimensional zoning variance to erect a 4-foot-tall, black aluminum fence to wrap around his property, minus the driveway opening, at 15800 Jefferson on the corner of Trombley.

Variances require applicants to base their cases on hardships, including a threshold of practical difficulty. Mere desire for a fence isn’t good enough reason.

“With a dimensional variance, there’s a higher threshold which the applicant needs to meet,” Laura Haw, of the city’s planning consultants, OHM Advisors, told members of the city council sitting Sept. 9 as the Zoning Board of Appeals. “Typically, your ordinance would lay out that threshold and criteria to meet.”

But, that criteria isn’t defined clearly in the current code, she said, although it will be soon. Hence wiggle room for approval.

“With the new draft ordinance the city is looking at adopting, those are specified,” Haw said.

Instead of receiving a zoning variance, the resident, William Bowman,

was granted an exception.

“It’s a lower threshold to meet,” Haw said.

She recommended the appeals board relax fence restrictions in Bowman’s case due, in part, to his property not having a backyard, having frontage on two roads, including Jefferson, a major thoroughfare; and the fence’s proposed location not being likely to impede rights-of-way.

During the hearing, next-door neighbor Mary Jo Rabbene supported Bowman, married with two young children and a 98-pound Akita he described as having a “protective nature.”

“The Bowmans are doing a fabulous job of renovating,” Rabbene said.

Opposing the fence was neighborhood resident Louis Meyers: “He knew the defects of this house that had the shortfall of that backyard. It was evident. I’m asking to stay with the ordinance, the theme of the ordinance and not to deviate.”

Bowman said he moved to the Park from Washington.

“We were in Washington when we purchased the house,” he told the board. “I wasn’t aware of any restriction. We’d seen other houses all up and down Jefferson that had fences through the front. I had not researched building permits related to fences.”

“The rules are there for a reason,” Mayor Michele Hodges said. “But the threshold has been met. That’s been well documented, both by the applicant and our professional expertise that helps guide us through this process.”

Family fun awaits at 18th annual Fall Harvest

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — “Food is a big focus at our fall harvest,” City Parks and Recreation Coordinator Becca Jenzen said. “We go out to Franklin Cider Mill and get doughnuts and apples ... and we make caramel apples and we have different breads and apple butter that people can have. We also offer the opportunity for families to come and roast their own hot-dogs over a fire right by the lake.”

The 18th annual Fall Harvest, beginning at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, additionally will feature s’mores sponsored by the

Pointe Boat Club.

This year, activities will include a pumpkin decorating craft for kids, bungee run for all ages — “You are strapped to an inflatable bungee run and you try to get out as far as you can, competing against your buddy, your friends or your siblings,” Jenzen said — strolling magician, petting farm with pony rides and a candy guessing activity.

“We fill up a whole bunch of jars with different candies and then offer our residents the opportunity to see who can guess the closest,”

Jenzen explained, “and you win a giant jar of candy if you are the closest.”

Cost is \$10 per person, which may be paid in advance at tinyurl.com/pnk83vtd. Cash or check payment also will be accepted at the gate on the day of the event.

“I am looking forward to the residents of Grosse Pointe getting a chance to embrace the change in season,” Jensen said. “They had a great summer down here at Neff Park and we want to kick off a great fall.”

— Laurel Kraus

LEAD:

Continued from page 2A

essentially threw darts at a map.”

Tom Jenny, director of Park public works, said he doesn’t know at this time which properties the state will slate for

verification.

“Every homeowner will be given a letter verifying that we need to get into their property,” Jenny said.

According to the website, each service line requiring verification will be checked at three or four points:

- ◆ an interior portion of the service line up to the shutoff valve or 18 inches inside the building,
- ◆ a minimum 18 inches from the curb stop to the building,
- ◆ a minimum 18 inches from the curb stop to the water main and
- ◆ a connection near

the water main.

“Once it is taken care of, everything will be put back to normal,” Jenny said.

Bid accepted

Park council members on Sept. 9 accepted a low-bid offer by Super Construction of Bay City to verify the lines.

Super’s bid of \$237,641 was \$45,306 less than the next lowest bidder. The top bid was \$316,055.

“We’re also submitting questions to EGLE

regarding (if) we could add more verification of lead service lines,” Sizeland said. “It could be 400.”

The city’s engineering consultants, OHM Advisors, checked Super’s references and will oversee its work.

“I spoke with (the engineering firm) who oversaw their project in River Rouge, Hamtramck and Lincoln Park,” Katelyn Driscoll, of OHM, told the council. “They said (Super) was great: on time, clean,

they were good with the residents. I spoke to a representative from Bay City’s engineering department. They said similar things.”

“I do know they’re also trying to get their foot in the door to this area,” Jenny said.

Driscoll said Super’s president anticipates starting work within a few weeks. Verification may be suspended due to the onset of cold weather and resume once temperatures rise, she said.

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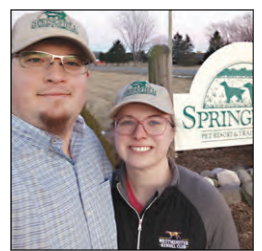
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Notre Dame, St. Clair up for work next year

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — To get a jump on design work so bids can be issued in January before contractors start getting locked down for the year, the City approved its 2025 road construction plan Monday night.

On deck are Notre Dame from Jefferson to St. Paul, as well as St. Clair from St. Paul to Waterloo.

An expected \$1,080,000 generated this fiscal year from the 11th year of the road millage levy will cover the Notre Dame milling and resurfacing work. The City has secured federal funding for 82 percent of the St. Clair project.

The Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Improvement Program has approved \$524,050 toward the \$800,000 needed. Though the City is responsible for an estimated \$275,950, it accounted for \$300,000 of the recently voter-approved stormwater separation and capital improvements bond and millage to go toward the city's match of the St. Clair federal funding.

"We've gone to bi-annual PASER evaluations of your road system and this year was one of those years," City Engineer Steve Pangori said of the pavement condition survey. "Back in August, we did the evaluation. In general, the condition of the



roads didn't change. Didn't really get much worse. Didn't get really much better. None of the roads that are on the radar moved, at least in the next couple of years."

Though a handful of streets in the City are rated "failed," — St. Clair between Waterloo and Kercheval, Washington between Waterloo and Kercheval, Lakeland between Kercheval and St. Paul, Fisher between Maumee and Jefferson and Woodland Place — a number of other factors play into which streets are up next for work.

◆ road reconstruction coordinates with sewer projects, including next year when sewer work is planned for Notre Dame;

◆ failed streets tend to be the most expensive fix, making them more

difficult to plug into the annual budget;

◆ and annual projects intentionally stay along the same corridors or in the same area.

"From a logistics standpoint, it works better for the contractors to all be on one street," Pangori explained. "The residents can see what's going on too. When you split the project up and chase around a block here, a block there, a block there, residents on the block where no work is being done get frustrated because they don't see the contractor, but he's actually a few streets over working on another section. So that seems to have worked out better."

Tentatively up for 2026, will be reconstruction of Woodland Place,

as well as a slew of pavement patching and joint sealing on concrete streets that haven't been addressed in a number of years.

The list is extensive, but includes portions of University Place, Lakeland and Lincoln, as well as Lakeside Court, Elmsleigh Lane,

Stratford Place, Wellington Place, Cameron Place, Alger Place, Roosevelt Place and Dodge Place.

"We don't want to lose those streets," Pangori said. "We want to catch them and patch them where it's a lot less expensive than to do a complete reconstruction.

The PASER road condition survey took place in August, and rated each city street from worst to best condition.

They're not as efficient to replace as an asphalt street, where we can mill off a few inches and put new asphalt on. When the concrete streets go, then it's a total reconstruct and it's probably the most expensive fix."

Road projects tentatively laid out for years following 2025, are subject to change and could be affected by the pending approval of a \$21.6 million Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to construct a stormwater conductor down Lincoln to St. Paul, St. Paul to Washington, Washington to Jefferson and Cameron to the lake.

"If and when we get the funding for the stormwater project, then we will definitely be reevaluating the road program, so we're not in the way of the road program or vice versa," Pangori said. " ... Nobody wants to pull up brand new asphalt." City council unanimously approved the 2025 road improvement plan Monday, Sept. 16.

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10A | SCHOOLS



Bill Mestdagh cuts the ribbon with Amanda York, PTO, to his right, along with the Principal of Mason, Anita Hassan, Art Bryant, mayor of Grosse Pointe Woods, the Mestdagh family, various school board members and anyone in the crowd who wanted to come up for the ribbon cutting.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Bill Mestdagh, former principal at Mason who the PTO named the playground after.

New playground at Mason honors former principal

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Hot dogs, snow cones and a DJ. What could be better for celebrating the first day of the new school year? How about dedicating the new playground to the school's longest-serving principal?

Mason Elementary School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 3, to open the Bill Mestdagh Playground, as well as dedicate the Claire Noel Valente Outdoor Classroom.

Valente was a former Mason student who passed away in 2016 at age 19.

"Claire had nothing but fond memories of her time here and loved being outside," her father, Dean Valente,



Cynthia Sohn, left, president of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education is introduced by Amanda York, a member of the PTO who spearheaded the funding for the new playground.

nect with the Mestdagh family for more help.

"They are the kindest, most loving people on this planet," she said. "Words cannot express our gratitude to them."

Bill Mestdagh spent 33 years with the Grosse Pointe Public School System, including 25 as principal at Mason. He was 29 when he got the promotion after eight years teaching at Maire Elementary School.

"I thought that was maybe something that would happen by the time I was 40," he said. "I loved every second of it."

He is the youngest principal in the history of the district. Fitting that he was at Mason, named for Stevens T. Mason, not only the youngest governor in the history of Michigan, but in the history of the entire country. Mestdagh became known for greeting students every morning at the entrance.

"I didn't just sit in my office all day," he said. "I liked to get out and see everything that was going on."

told the crowd of a few hundred.

The accessible playground was spearheaded by the school's PTO.

"From day one we knew we wanted to make it accessible, but we knew we couldn't do

it alone," said Amanda York, who helped with fundraising. "Our old playground was missing parts and some of it was even boarded up."

York said the group ended up raising about \$285,000.

"When we first started, we set a goal of \$250,000, but we didn't know what it would take," York said. "We eventually increased that to \$300,000, but we were still able to get everything we needed."

York said Mason families pitched in, donating items for clothing drives and selling flowers to raise money. She also thanked the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education and the GP Foundation for

STEAM Support for their donations.

Cynthia Sohn of the GPFPE said the playground is "a perfect example of our mission in motion." Jennifer Kendall from the STEAM (science, technology, athletics, art and math) foundation said the playground will be "where everything we support comes to life."

York added that as the money was being raised, the PTO was able to con-

NUMBERS:

Continued from page 1A

6,423.77 FTE by spring 2024. A pure headcount in spring 2024, Tuttle said, showed a total enrollment of 6,480. A pure headcount on the first day of school two weeks ago showed a headcount of 6,493.

"This is just a draft," Tuttle told the board while going through a PowerPoint presentation. "Students are still coming, students are still leaving. We're still registering students. We enrolled three new students today and two of them could leave tomorrow."

GPPSS receives \$11,303 in state aid for each FTE student.

"We budgeted thinking we were going to be down 100 students," Tuttle said. "So for the 100 that we didn't lose, that's \$1,136,793 differential to the good for our budget for next year.

That's a really positive thing and it's a trend I hope continues."

The district also is able to tell what school or district new students come from, other than if they previously were homeschooled. That occurs through a form known as a CA-60, or a student's cumulative record folder. Administrators also can use that information to see which students left the district and returned.

"When a student leaves, I ask that building administrator to call the family and try to find out why," Tuttle said. "Sometimes it's because they physically moved, or it could be a family circumstance where they're now living with a different parent."

"We don't like for students to leave because I think we provide the best education," she continued. "If they physically still live here and choose a different school, that's concerning to me and we need to figure out why and adjust to meet their needs."

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Above, the City of Grosse Pointe parked its Engine 21 truck with a flag that read, "Grosse Pointe Remembers. September 11, 2001." Right, Grosse Pointe Farms parked both fire trucks outside of the bay with a sign over the door that read, "In Memory of our Fallen Heroes. September 11, 2001."



Grosse Pointe Park had its Tower 1 truck in the driveway by city hall with its ladder extended holding an American flag over Jefferson Avenue.

Never forget

On the 23rd anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, flags were lowered, honoring the lives lost in the terrorist attacks. In honor of first responders who ran into danger, local fire stations pulled trucks out of fire bays and hung American flags from ladders or trucks in memory of the 343 firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers, eight paramedics and 55 military personnel who lost their lives that day. A total of 2,997 people died in the attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.



Grosse Pointe Woods had its Ladder 5 truck in the driveway near the station with a large flag hanging over Mack Avenue.



Grosse Pointe Shores parked its Engine 4 truck along Lakeshore with a large American flag draped along its side.

PHOTOS BY RENE LANDUYT

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HEATH ROBERTS FOR SCHOOL BOARD



Heath is a family man. He and his wife Lindsay, along with their three kids, have called Grosse Pointe Park home for the last five years. Like their Dad before them, the Roberts' kids go to public schools.

Heath and his family moved to Grosse Pointe for the great schools, the walkable neighborhoods, and the close-knit communities. Heath wants to preserve those great qualities, and he believes they are worth fighting for.

Heath's career is all about kids. He's helped run some of the top children's hospitals in the Midwest. Right now, he's leading as Chief Administrative Officer for Population Health Services at Henry Ford Health. With dual degrees in management and finance and an MBA on top of that, Heath will be an outstanding steward of our tax dollars. He also knows about selflessness, being a proud Army veteran, who served honorably in the 101st Airborne Division.

Heath is ready to bring his commitment and experience to the Grosse Pointe Public School System. His approach is straightforward:

- 1) Academic excellence
- 2) Budget accountability
- 3) Clear policy guidance

Heath knows how to lead, how to balance large budgets, and how to effectively run large entities dedicated to children's wellbeing.



**YOUR VOTE COUNTS
NOVEMBER 5TH**

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**COLLINS
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GP SCHOOL BOARD**

Business license ordinances passes

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A campaign to demossify alleyways extended this month to cleaning up the city code.

Council members amended four portions of the code. One change set standards for trash bins and solid waste containers. Action augmented a commitment earlier this summer to increase enforcement of existing maintenance codes in alleys, including rules about trimming overgrown vegetation.

“It’s finely detailing standards of care for trash receptacles,”

Warren Rothe, assistant city manager, said during the draft’s first reading in August. “We’re specifically calling out that a trash container must be without holes, cracks or other conditions that would allow insects to penetrate.”

Containers also must be positioned to prevent tipping over and spilling contents, which attracts rodents.

“If there’s garbage in the can, it has to be covered,” Rothe said.

Terms amend Chapter 34, Article II of the code. The proposal was among four getting second public readings and passage during the Sept. 9 council meeting.

Business licenses

Another amendment decriminalized failure to obtain a business license. Violations become civil infractions, not criminal. Violators are fined between \$9 and \$500.

Terms are codified in Chapter 22, Section 2 of the city code.

Between the first reading of the proposed changes Aug. 12, and passage last week, the draft was clarified to specify that business license fines will be assessed for each day of the infraction: “Each and every day the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.”

“If there is a violation where there isn’t a busi-

ness license, whether commercial business or landlord business license, the city has the ability to prosecute it for each day the violation occurred,” Rothe said.

All amendments were suggested by members of the public safety or other departments, according to Rothe.

Cyberbullying

They include introducing the misdemeanor offense of cyberbullying in Chapter 28, Article III. A violation is punishable by up to 90 days in jail, plus a maximum fine of \$500.

“We have on our books now a section called malicious use of telecom-

munication equipment,” Rothe said. “It needed an update. The state has a cyberbullying law. This is, in a way, a new local law, but we’re just taking state law that our public safety officers had to issue tickets for, but it allows us to do it in our court versus sending it to Wayne County.”

Rothe said prosecuting offenders in-house increases efficiency.

Traffic

The fourth amendment, found in Chapter 40, Article I of traffic and vehicle regulations, aligns city provisions with the Michigan Insurance Code requirements regarding auto

insurance. “It is adopting Section 3102 of the Michigan Insurance Code, which deals with out-of-state residents and in-state residents if they do not have insurance,” Rothe said. “Now, you can write this as a misdemeanor or similar infraction. Officers have discretion with how they want to write it. But, when they choose to write it as a misdemeanor, the penalty is outside of our jurisdiction.”

Cases must be sent to Wayne County Circuit Court.

“This (amendment) allows us to prosecute it locally,” Rothe said.

Molly Valade had a vision to bring a breath of fresh air to the space at 74 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms, formerly known as Capricious. The name Pearl came about as “pearl” is the meaning of “Gretchen” — and is fitting as Valade’s mother-in-law, Gretchen Valade, opened Capricious in 2012. Additionally, her daughter also is named Gretchen, so the name and space are full of meaning for the family. Pictured from left are Chamber Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull, Pearl staff Barb Wagner and Kelly Thomas, Pearl manager Gigi Badalamenti, owner Molly Valade, staff Erica Panagopoulos, Michelle Rees and Mary Pompeo, and Chamber President Jenny Boettcher.



Chamber ribbon cuttings



Racing For Kids hosted a special kickoff with Kid & Play’s ribbon-cutting event Aug. 31. Owner Joyce Wagner created Kid & Play out of passion for her own children’s creative minds and the importance of thinking outside the box when it comes to party planning. Located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Wagner provides anything from full-service planning to making sure there are enough balloons for a special day. She was joined by her husband, Jeff, and their children, along with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce team, Membership & Events Coordinator Abigail Turnbull, President Jenny Boettcher and Billing Director Lisa Frasier.



Savvy Advertising Solutions Inc., recently celebrated its 25th anniversary in conjunction with the grand opening of its new office in The Nott in Grosse Pointe Park. Owner Tabitha Mendez, center, was joined at the Aug. 16 ribbon-cutting event by Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges, her staff, many clients and the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce to celebrate her accomplishments.

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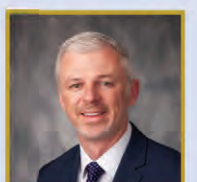
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Two eateries vie for last Woods liquor license

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Two proposed restaurants on Mack both are seeking a liquor license, but city

council only has one left to give.

Both made their appeals during public hearings at council's meeting Monday, Sept. 9.

One is at 20710 Mack,

which currently houses Big Boy Restaurant. The other is at 20195 Mack, formerly Boston Market. Dan Curis Sr. has owned Big Boy since 1978. He also owns Champs Rotisserie and

Seafood on Mack and three Detroit Wing Co. franchises. In paperwork submitted to the city, he indicated the current Big Boy franchise agreement expires in April 2025 and "the location will not

continue as a Big Boy under any circumstances."

Curis and his partners are looking to open a Daily Jam franchise, a restaurant that originated in Arizona offering

breakfast, brunch and lunch. It would be open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

Partners would include the Ansara Restaurant Group, which owns a restaurant that originated in Arizona offering

See LICENSE, page 15A



Pearl premieres

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIEL RIBAR

Above, an invite-only grand-opening party for Pearl took place Thursday, Sept. 5. The store, a rebranding of Capricious, opened to the public the next day. Above right, the interior transformation included replacing busy carpeting with hardwood floors and clean, white walls. "The idea behind it is to appeal to the masses," store manager Gigi Badalamenti said. "Our demographic prior was a little bit older. Now we're going to have brands that are going to appeal to (those) even younger."



New brands include Weekend Max Mara, Margaret O'Leary, Hutch and Lauren Manogian shoes and apparel. Returning brands include AGL shoes, Hammitt Handbags, Generation Love, Fifteen Twenty, Spanx athleisure, jewelry lines Julie Vos and Dean Davidson, and cashmere lines Kenross and White + Warren.

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The Wonk. The Numbers Guy. Every great Board needs one—Grosse Pointe has Terry.

Terry played a pivotal role in steering our District toward financial stability. In 2023, he officially became Trustee Collins and took on the critical role of Treasurer. His partnership with Board leadership and the Administration was essential in guiding the District to a balanced budget.

Without Terry's strong dose of financial reality, our District was on a path toward major cuts to both our dedicated staff and cherished student programs. We can thank Terry for avoiding that outcome.

In his day job, it's no surprise that Terry is a financial supervisor, overseeing teams that ensure every dollar is spent wisely. Accountability is his cornerstone, and he's committed to making sure our District's funds go where they matter most.

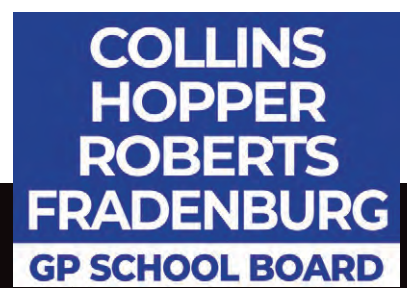
Terry isn't just about numbers. He's also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. Two of his grandchildren are proud Ferry Falcons! To Terry, and his wife Jessie, kids always come first.

Terry has called Grosse Pointe home for 23 years, and his dedication to this community runs deep. Let's keep Terry Collins on the Board—his numbers don't lie!



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Park hands out latest appointments

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The newest appointee to the Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission won't treat it like a no-show job. Mike Kozak, a municipal engineering consultant, was appointed to a three-year term on the commission effective Sept. 9, through Sept 20, 2027.

He sought the appointment from Mayor Michele Hodges despite knowing what he was getting himself into.

"I want to impart the practical knowledge I've gained from attending countless planning commission meetings in other communities," he wrote in an application. "I've seen some of the best and arguably worst meetings and members during this time. Because of that, I understand the time and dedication necessary to sit on an important body like a municipal planning commission."

Kozak is a partner at Giffels Webster engineering firm. He heads the company's Macomb office, according to the company website.

"I hope you all had the opportunity to review the credentials of Mr. Kozak," Hodges told council members Sept. 9. "We are fortunate to have someone of

that level of talent willing to join our crew. Thank you, Mr. Kozak, for coming to the call for duty."

"Thank you for stepping up," Councilman Marty McMillan told Kozak. "There is a ton of work. It is very important. Everybody on the planning commission works hard. You are joining a good team."

Current business before the commission includes wrapping up a rewrite of the planning code and preparing for multi-million-dollar streetscape improvements to the Charlevoix and Kercheval commercial districts.

"Grosse Pointe Park is at an interesting point in its evolution," Kozak wrote in his application. "As a built-out, primarily residential community, the role of the planning commissions is now to guide the strengthening and redevelopment of our commercial districts and protect and promote the variety of our residential districts."

Kozak replaced Matthew Evans, whose term expired.

Hodges reappointed to the commission Devan Stachecki. He was first appointed in November 2022. His new term is three years.

DDA

Hodges also reappointed four members

to the Downtown Development Authority: Roseanne Horne, Guiliano Mancini, Laura Ochab and Benjamin Wixson, current chairman.

All DDA appointments are four-year terms ending Sept. 23, 2028.

Hodges, a member of both the planning commission and DDA, recently summarized the authority's recent business:

"The Downtown Development Authority continues to implement the findings of a Jima Campus plan, which is a vision for the future," she said.

The Jima plan, so-called because city representatives created it last year with the professional guidance of urban planners at Jima Studio, is for an enhanced civic campus, including greenspace, an outdoor congregating area and increased parking.

"We're also continuing the façade improvement program," Hodges said, "which is important to the ongoing stability of the district, and looking at the Schaap Center and how it is integrated into the district, managing that impact and welcoming its impact; and also installing green infrastructure wherever possible to manifest our commitment to sustainability measures."



Grosse Pointe News circulation manager Ellie Carter gets hugs from Penny, while City of Grosse Pointe resident Doug Koppin looks on.

PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Special visitor

On Tuesday, Sept. 10, the Grosse Pointe News office had a special visitor: Penny, a spunky 5-year-old golden retriever, owned by Doug Koppin of the City of Grosse Pointe. Coworker and fellow dog-lover, Brad, invited her and her owner in, and I was so happy he did. Penny's playful energy was exactly what we needed to get through a busy day in the office. As someone who's always had a soft spot for animals (I even dreamed of being a farmer when I was younger), seeing Penny today was a real treat. My husband and I have two Bernese mountain dogs, Benson, who's 3; and Moo, who's almost 1. We have seen Penny being walked around our neighborhood before, but have never had the chance to formally meet. I'm looking forward to seeing Penny and Doug around town more often. She's definitely a welcome visitor in my office anytime!

— Ellie Carter

City renews insurance, keeps basement backup protection

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Because its current insurance carrier offers \$10 million in basement backup coverage, City of Grosse Pointe City Council unanimously voted to renew its annual contract with Nickel & Saph Monday night.

For the coverage period of Oct. 1, through Sept. 30, of next year, the total premium is \$333,311, which is an increase of about \$29,000 more than the current period.

"We did review all the coverages from the carrier to see if there were ways we could save some money," City Manager Joe Valentine said. "We did end up reducing it a little bit based on some minor coverages. At the end of the day, costs are costs, inflationary and such."

The insurance policy covers all city-owned property, including vehicles, contractor equipment, electronic data

processing equipment, buildings, parks and the marina. Liability coverage includes protection from lawsuits against city officials, as well as crime, employment, personal injury, police and fire professional liability and cyber-liability coverage.

The City made four claims this fiscal year.

"We take care of four out of the Grosse Pointes," said John Johnson with Nickel & Saph. "You guys are on the lower side of an annual increase. They were at 12 percent, 14 percent due to variances that come into play."

"Claims would be one of those. You guys are on par in terms of the amount of claims that a municipality your size would have, but the value seems to be a little bit lower than the other municipalities. So that puts you at a good foot going forward."

— Laurel Kraus

Matouk family member arraigned for billboard truck accident

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — A 36-year-old man was arraigned in municipal court Friday, Sept. 13, for allegedly crashing a van into a billboard truck.

The billboard truck was advertising a podcast focused on the disappearance of JoAnn Matouk Romain in 2010.

A press release from the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office said William Michael-Louis Matouk II faces charges of malicious destruction of property, assault with a dangerous weapon and failure to stop after a collision. The driver of the billboard truck sustained non-life-threatening injuries.

A spokesperson for Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido said the defendant is the nephew of Matouk Romain. Witnesses told investigators a white van rammed a billboard truck at least twice June 30, 2024.

Matouk Romain disappeared the night of Jan. 12, 2010, after she attended a prayer service at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church.

Her body was found more than two months later in the Detroit River by Canadian fishermen. Authorities in Canada and Michigan ruled the 55-year-old woman's death a suicide.

Matouk Romain's chil-

dren and some members of her family believe foul play was involved. An independent forensic pathologist they hired said Matouk Romain did not have water in her lungs when her body was found, which they say proves she did not commit suicide by drowning.

Investigative reports in the years since revealed Matouk Romain and some of her siblings and extended family were at odds over inheritance money after the death of their parents.

The suspect is scheduled for a probable cause hearing at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, in Wayne County District Court.

ARREST:

Continued from page 3A

after ingesting the drugs.

"Text message conversations show that AV-1, AV-2, AV-3, and another friend had planned to go out to a music show that night at a venue in Detroit, Michigan, but never made it. Outgoing communications on each of the victims' phones abruptly stopped some-


time after 11:00 p.m. on June 9, 2023, shortly after PORTER-CRAIG had been to each residence," according to the complaint.

The FBI also alleges conversations showed one of the sisters had purchased drugs from the suspect almost two dozen times between June 2022 and June 2023 and paid \$1,405 for them via Venmo prior to the night of the overdoses.

The FBI said Porter-Craig texted the male victim and the sister found on Edmundton in the early morning hours of June 10, 2023, asking if they were OK.

The complaint said that occurred after another customer contacted Porter-Craig at 12:30 a.m. that day, saying he used a test strip on cocaine she sold him that showed the presence of fentanyl.

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LICENSE:

Continued from page 13A

Daily Jam in Farmington Hills and 22 Red Robin locations in Michigan and Ohio. Curis' father and Victor Ansara's father were partners in several Big Boy locations starting in the 1950s.

"This is a unique coalition of heavyweights in the hospitality industry," Mark Burzych, an attorney representing Daily Jam, told council during the public hearing. "This will be a neighborhood staple, not a bar, and would not be a strain on city resources. The only time police officers would have to visit is if they wanted to eat there."

Its menu features items such as omelets and salads, along with hot and cold sandwiches. Drink selections include Bloody Marys, mimosas and martinis.

Burzych said the chain's history shows a 92 percent to 8 percent split between food and alcohol sales.

Branden McRill, a native Pointer who recently moved back to the Woods, wants to open Lola's Taco Bar in the former Boston Market. McRill previously owned Michelin-rated restaurants in New York City and currently owns three restaurants in Philadelphia.

"I've been in the restaurant business 26 years and have wanted to open one here for 10 years," he told council. "It was important to find a piece of property close to home and this would be just blocks away."

It would be open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily and

offer tacos, tortas, appetizers and desserts, along with beer and mixed drinks such as margaritas.

McRill said he expects the eatery to have a 60 percent to 40 percent split between food and alcohol sales.

Council encouraged both parties to continue obtaining documents that the planning commission will review while

the city pursues options to obtain another liquor license. Municipalities currently are granted one license per 1,500 res-

idents.

Both parties said they would not pursue their respective projects without a license.

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**MELISSA FRADENBURG
FOR SCHOOL BOARD**

Smart. Independent. Driven.

Melissa has been part of the fabric of Grosse Pointe for the past 17 years. She and her husband Jay are proud parents of two South students.

Melissa has devoted her career to financial management and in particular helping women after divorce. She also started a women's networking group to empower women who own their own businesses.

Melissa's diverse clientele has equipped her well for listening to and understanding different opinions and perspectives. She knows how to build bridges and reach consensus on tough issues.

Melissa already serves the Board as a productive member of two committees. This has given her invaluable insights into how our district's funding works and will allow her to hit the ground running as a trustee. Her financial acumen will be a great asset to the Board.

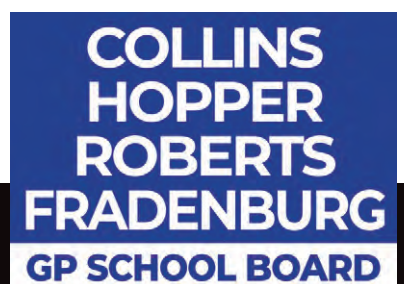
But for Melissa, it's not just about balancing a budget; it's about making sure our kids have every opportunity to succeed. She will work tirelessly to ensure we achieve that goal through mutual respect and collaboration.

Melissa's platform is clear and straightforward: Fiscal Responsibility, Academic Excellence, and Collaboration



**YOUR VOTE COUNTS
NOVEMBER 5TH**

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TUESDAY NOV. 5TH VOTE YES! FOR THE GPPSS SINKING FUND

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The 2024 Sinking Fund is critical to preserving GPPSS's beautiful, historic buildings while also enhancing safety, security, and infrastructure across the district for our students and staff. This fund ensures our schools remain safe, functional, and up to date for at least the next decade.

KEY USES OF THE SINKING FUND:

- ✔ *Safety & Security: Modernize security systems, including secure entry access, updated cameras, and improved IT infrastructure.*
- ✔ *Technology: Keep our classrooms equipped with the latest technology, ensuring our students have the tools they need to succeed.*
- ✔ *Building & Site Improvements: Maintain and repair our school buildings, including roofing, HVAC, parking lots, and fire alarm systems—essential for the longevity of our schools.*

PRESERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S CHARACTER:

The Sinking Fund helps preserve Grosse Pointe's walkable neighborhoods, where schools are within reach and buses aren't necessary. Without these critical funds buildings may need to be shuttered threatening what makes Grosse Pointe unique. That would have a detrimental impact on our schools and our entire community including home values. Help us keep Grosse Pointe as one of Michigan's most desirable places to live.

ENDORSED BY YOUR COMMUNITY LEADERS:

There is broad support for the Sinking Fund's passage among the GPPSS stakeholders. Including all four School Board candidates endorsed by PFAE: **MELISSA FRADENBURG, HEATH ROBERTS, KATE HOPPER AND TRUSTEE COLLINS.** They understand how important it is to keep our school buildings open, operational, safe and secure!

A VOTE FOR STABILITY

By voting YES, you're not just maintaining buildings; you're investing in the future of Grosse Pointe. This sinking fund is essential for keeping our schools operational and ensuring they continue to be places where students thrive.

THE FINANCIAL FACTS:

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VOTE YES – NOV. 5TH FOR THE GPPSS SINKING FUND

ELECTION



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Nine candidates vie for four open seats on Grosse Pointe Public School System BoE

The Grosse Pointe News editorial board interviewed all nine candidates running for four open seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in late August.

Each candidate was asked the same

10 questions during their one-hour interviews. The interviews were recorded, then transcribed. The answers that appear below have been edited for syntax, grammar and clarity for the benefit of readers, but were not

edited in a way that would change any of the candidates' messaging.

This information is being disseminated today ahead of early voting, which starts in one week. This will be reprinted in mid-October for the benefit

of those who prefer to vote in person on Election Day.

Candidate interviews appear in alphabetical order.

See page 6A to read who the Grosse Pointe News endorses.



Terry Collins

Terry Collins, incumbent

Age: 59

Residence: Grosse Pointe Park

Campaign website: tcforgpschools.com

Campaign social media accounts: [facebook.com/TCforGPSchools](https://www.facebook.com/TCforGPSchools)

Education highlights: 1983 Lake Shore High School, 1987 University of Detroit.

Years in Grosse Pointe: 24

Current occupation: General Motors supervisor/senior financial analyst

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: Running this time is the same reason I ran the last time. I was concerned about the district's finances. I got involved in watching the board. As I think I said last time, prior to 2020 I was on autopilot. I thought the district was kind of on autopilot. I didn't have a concern when the reconfiguration happened. My daughter was going from elementary to Pierce, which wasn't going to be affected. So I really didn't have any skin in the game when there were discussions about that.

I got more interested in paying more attention to the financials of the district and really the leadership of the district at that time. And my thought is if you can't lead through crisis, you can't lead anytime and I don't think we led very well through crisis in 2020 and 2021. And as I started paying more attention to the financials of the district I just started not believing what they were presenting every week and I started trying to gather more information. So that was really my motivation then. I thought that we needed better control. You can't deliver anything to the students of your district, you can't talk about paying your teachers, you can't talk about any of that if your district is in a financial crisis and I believed we were in a financial crisis certainly in 2022.

I'm running now because I think that now that we've had a change in board leadership in 2023, that's really taken or started the right steps and processes to be in place to have control of our finances which again allows us to do all those other things.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I was on the strategic planning committee in the fall of 2021. And again I was kind of shocked. It was 55 people who were part of the strategic planning committee. I think that you know there's been mentions of others in the community that they're very handpicked. I felt that way. But I felt like I was on an island of misfit toys or something in terms of the other people in the room. The final report came out in December. I remember this because the report came out six days after the shooting in Oxford. And I was shocked by some of the things that we had in our strategic plan because if you looked at some of the things that were already in the

See COLLINS, page A19



Clint Derringer

Clint Derringer

Age: 40

Residence: City of Grosse Pointe

Campaign website: clintderringer-forgpschools.com

Campaign social media accounts: Facebook (Clint Derringer for GP Schools) & Instagram (@cdforgpschools)

Education highlights: Master's Degree in program & project management (U-M Dearborn); BA in sport management & communications (U-M Ann Arbor)

Years in Grosse Pointe: 8

Current occupation: Not provided

Endorsements: Grosse Pointe Education Association, Alliance for Grosse Pointe Public Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: So the motivation to run comes from the long-term investment in the community and the public schools for my family. My oldest son is going into fifth grade at Pierce. My daughter is going into second grade at Maire and my second son is going into third grade at Maire. So we have a long road ahead of us in the Grosse Pointe schools and that's a big benefit to us. That's why we moved into Grosse Pointe eight years ago. So it's that long-term commitment to the public schools especially that I think it's important to have people that are really vested in the relationship between the public schools and the community that are leading it. And capable and willing to listen to a lot of different viewpoints and be up front and honest about how they lead.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: An active parent, first and foremost. When we first moved in my wife was hired as a teacher at Ferry. She's a categorical special education teacher. So we're obviously personally invested in the district there. In 2021, I also volunteered to be on the strategic planning committee, which was a series of five meetings that really got to learn who was responsible for a lot of the operations and different leadership positions in the district and met other current board members at the time. And that's when it really started to ramp up in terms of involvement from at the school level as an involved parent to kind of thinking as district and community involvement as a whole.

(Editor's note: In a separate question not asked of other candidates, Derringer said if elected he would abstain from voting on anything having to do with the teachers union contract.)

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: So the most critical issue facing the district right now is the enrollment trend because that's directly tied to the budget. So fiscal responsibility and increasing revenue from the state is directly tied to how many kids are in class on count day in the fall and in the spring. So stemming the

See DERRINGER, page A20



Melissa Fradenburg

Melissa Fradenburg

Age: 44

Residence: Grosse Pointe Farms

Campaign website: melissaforgpschools.com

Campaign social media accounts: [facebook.com/melissaforgpschools](https://www.facebook.com/melissaforgpschools), [instagram.com/melissaforgpschools](https://www.instagram.com/melissaforgpschools)

Education highlights: B.A. in economics from Gettysburg College

Years in Grosse Pointe: 17

Current occupation: Financial planner at Antonelli Wealth Advisors

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: We were in the Grosse Pointe schools and there were some problems. We weren't happy. Class size was a problem. Discipline was a problem. We ended up leaving to go to St. Paul.

The class sizes were smaller. I felt like they got a good education for elementary school, but there were problems in middle school. Being in such a small school was also an issue. And I sort of longed for them to have more like a larger class size and in a public school experience. I really wanted that for them. And I was tired of paying tuition.

So we returned to the public schools and I do want to clarify we left before COVID. I said I'm going to send them to our schools. We have good schools, but I'm also going to get more involved. I'm not going to just sit back and complain about it. I'm going to try and make a difference.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I was on the Policy and Contracts Committee and then when Terry Collins moved to fill the board position for David Brumbaugh, I moved to the Facilities and Finance Committee. So that was really eye-opening and that's what pushed me to absolutely run. I thought both were interesting. And I think both are important for someone that serves on the school board to have an understanding of how our policy is created.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: So again, finance being my background, what I would hope to address is the declining enrollment, which is a direct effect on our financial health. Because the school is funded by per-pupil funding, the biggest issue is how do we keep all the great amenities that we love here in Grosse Pointe, maintain all of our beautiful old buildings and not operate in deficit.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: So a lot of it has already started with the current board. I think they really have made some difficult decisions, but also in looking at the projections of things that we need to pay for, again, a lot of it being buildings.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: No. I mean, I have not been involved in it. I have not attended any

See FRADENBURG, page A19



Diana Gellci

Diana Gellci

Age: 62

Residence: Grosse Pointe

Campaign website: dianagellci.com

Campaign social media accounts: Facebook account: Diana Gellci for GP School Board; LinkedIn: Diana Gellci, Ph.D.

Education highlights: Ph.D. in organizational and business anthropology with a concentration in education and technology from Wayne State University in 2014; graduate certificate in online teaching from Wayne State's College of Education; Master of Arts in cultural anthropology; Bachelor of Science in economics from the University of Tirana, Albania

Years in Grosse Pointe: 28 years

Current occupation: Discipline lead for the social sciences department and anthropology professor at Wayne County Community College District

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: My husband, myself and our two kids came to Grosse Pointe 28 years ago. Didn't speak any English during that time. I was a very young mother. Kids were 6 years old and 7 months old. And I didn't know what to expect. I didn't know what was in here for us. But basically, we decided to be here because of public schools. We had nothing to give to our children. So that was our thing. We wanted to give them a good education. My children are both engineers. And I think this is the right time for us to give back to our community. The community that embraced us and made us who we are today.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I'm going to be honest with you. So I started, as I said, learning English and having a job, and then another job, and then another job. So my involvement during that time was just, let me go and find out how can I help my own kids? But because of my limitations, like linguistic barriers, it was a little bit embarrassing to sit down and not to understand everything that was going on. The first time when we came here, I mean the first Christmas, it was really something that we never celebrated before. And so a couple of days before that Christmas, two big cars stopped by. We used to live on Wayburn during that time. And those were Grosse Pointe South High School students. And they came with a lot of gifts, toys and clothes and even food, like salt and pepper. And the Christmas tree. And so for both kids, that was amazing. That was an amazing Christmas.

But recently, since I decided seriously to do this, I've been listening to the board meetings. And last night I was there attending in person. And I'll continue to do that regardless of the election results.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: Grosse Pointe is part of our economical, political, educational system. And so whatever we are facing as a country, you can see it in Grosse Pointe. But there is something very special about Grosse Pointe schools, which

See GELLCI, page A21

18A | ELECTION



Kate Hopper

Kate Hopper

Age: 52
Residence: Grosse Pointe Farms
Campaign website: hopper4schoolboard.org

Campaign social media accounts: @hopper4schoolboard on Facebook and Instagram

Education highlights: Maire Elementary School, Pierce Middle School, Grosse Pointe South High School, B.A. in English from Hillsdale College

Years in Grosse Pointe: 52
Current occupation: Principal partner, Hopper Communications
Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: I was born and raised in Grosse Pointe and have a heart for this community. It's my deep connection to the community and commitment that makes me passionate about pursuing this role so that I can help GPPSS be what we need for our students, families, teachers and stakeholders.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I am a product of the school system. I went to Maire, then went to Pierce and then went to South and then married my husband, who went to Barnes and Parcels and North. So we've been both very, very involved our whole lives and we chose Grosse Pointe to raise our kids. They graduated from South.

I was on the Community Engagement Committee. I believe that committee has done some good work, but it's just really scratching the surface. There's so much that we can do to really get our community more engaged, more educated on the what and why of what we're providing in the public school system.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: I think we have an issue with balancing our finances and getting our fund equity back to a solid grounding. I understand that there are many complexities in school budgeting and fund equity really is the gauge in the health of the finances. I know that in 2020 we were over 18 percent and as of 2023 we were at 8.8 percent and that is a big challenge. I think our current board has done very solid work in reversing that trajectory and I would like to see that continue to climb upwards.

Being fiscally conservative, I'd like to see 12 percent plus. I think that would be a challenge that we need to address right away. I also understand that enrollment plays a very significant part in our ability to have a healthy financial picture for our district. As a board member, I would do all that I can with my skill set to attract as many students to choose our Grosse Pointe Public School System as possible so that we have a thriving student community, thriving finances.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve the finances?

A: I would use my communications skills to strengthen not only our internal communications so families feel engaged, but also our external communications. That's a big part of attracting people to our community. Sharing our triumphs with them, sharing our stories of student success, really engaging with external relationships that I formed over the years to help tell our story about why Grosse Pointe public schools are an education destination.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: No, I would not. I will do all I can to understand that school finances are complex, right? But working to the best of our ability with a board who is intent on keeping our schools within the Grosse Pointe Public School System, keeping them open to the best of our ability, keeping them maintained to the best of our ability, whether we have to look at particular uses for particular buildings and be creative with that. I would really be engaged in those con-

See HOPPER, page A22



Laura Hull

Laura Hull

Age: 49
Residence: City of Grosse Pointe
Campaign social media: Laura Hull for GP School Board on Facebook
Campaign website: laurahullforgp schools.com

Education highlights: B.S. in chemistry from Alma College and an M.A. in education with secondary certification from the University of Michigan

Years in Grosse Pointe: 20
Current occupation: Math and chemistry teacher at Lakeview Public Schools

Endorsements: Grosse Pointe Education Association, Alliance for GP Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: I am a public school teacher. I've been a public school teacher since 2001. I'm the daughter of a public school teacher and my children obviously have attended public schools their entire lives. So as a teacher, I think it's very important that teachers have a voice at the table. I think where decisions are being made, whether it's in committees or whether it's on the board, I think it's important to include our educators and people who are experts in the field.

I have two young daughters in the district, so having their future in my mind, I think it's important to stand up and participate for them.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: My husband and I have lived in the district since 2001. I was a Girl Scout leader, helped coach my daughters' soccer teams and things like that. I did volunteer in the classroom whenever I had a chance to. I was off for five years while my daughters were young, so that allowed me to be a stay-at-home mom and still participate in some of their things as they were younger. So that's been my involvement as a parent and then professionally I was a teacher for three years at North teaching math and chemistry.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: I think we have to make sure that we retain and attract great talent. So keeping our teachers here, who I think the world of. I know that budgetary issues are things that are facing districts all across the state, so we have to get creative with those and make sure that we can fund the programs that we have here and continue to offer the opportunities that we have for our students that are unique and wonderful.

Q: What specifically would you do to address finances?

A: I think collectively that is not just a one-person decision, but I think we have to get creative with those things. We have to prioritize the things that cost money that are directly involving our students and try to make cuts as far away from students as we can. I think we need to definitely prioritize our staff and make sure that they are well respected and that we continue to make sure we put them in the forefront as well.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: I think we would have to see what the capabilities of that building are. I know it's an old building and have to make sure that it's feasible to do something with. I know as a district we need to make sure that we provide opportunities for early childhood education because there just is not enough of that. I don't know that Trombly is the place for that because it's a two-story building. So I think it's good real estate and I think that we have to make sure that we're providing opportunities for early childhood in any way that we can. I don't know as much about how feasible it is to reuse the building. I think it would be beyond just one person, but investigating and having somebody make sure that we know what we can do with the resources that we have. I would absolutely oppose a

See HULL, page A21



Tim Klepp

Tim Klepp

Age: 56
Residence: Grosse Pointe Park
Campaign website: kleppgp schools.com

Campaign social media accounts: facebook.com/TimKleppforGPSchools; Instagram @kleppgp schools

Education highlights: Michigan State University (BA); Indiana University (MBA)

Years in Grosse Pointe: 21
Current occupation: Partner at IBM Consulting

Endorsements: Grosse Pointe Education Association, Alliance for GP Public Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: Similar motivations as last time. I think that public schools are one of the greatest goods that we have in this country. And I think it's important that we care for them and do our best to make sure that they continue to be a line of opportunity for people to improve their lives. For me personally, I look at myself as a level-headed, moderate person. I think people of that disposition in nature need to be willing to participate in the political process and be involved to provide an environment that's not so subject to extremes. It's as simple as that. I did not grow up in this community, but I think it's a really special place. And I want to try and make it better.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: I haven't had any particular role. I volunteered for some of the committees that the new board established, but was not selected for that. Apart from that, it boils down to volunteer opportunities, largely with the kids' sports teams. And I guess running three kids through our school district.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: I would point to three primary concerns for myself. First is we continue to not be fiscally stable, financially stable. We're going from a budget cycle, to an annual budget cycle every year. We're looking at another loss for the next cycle, a fund balance that continues to erode. So that becomes a real key priority to try and get us to a point where we are sound and stable financially, not just on a one-year basis, but we can look out to a three- and five-year plan and feel like we've got things stabilized and where we can deliver the way that we want them to deliver.

Tied to that obviously is our enrollment. We've seen our enrollment degrade year on year for the past several years. And most of that is demographics. It was supercharged with COVID. So we need to continue to work on our enrollment. And I think we'll be aided as we exit this COVID shadow and we have kids that are starting to return, optimistic that we'll see some better numbers this fall. I was talking to an individual from Harper Woods and they referenced that there are 40 kids in Harper Woods who are eligible for the Grosse Pointe schools, but choose to go to other public schools. We need to be a welcoming district as people are evaluating places to come so that they can see a place for their kid in the school district. So enrollment would be the second point. And the third point I'd say is the level of transparency that we have in terms of how meetings are conducted, the volume of meetings, how materials are made available, how public comments are encouraged and welcomed at meetings. I think that's a key for us to be a balanced district where all voices are heard and incorporated.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: We have to look at both sides, both the revenue side and cost side. So I understand that other districts are more creative and more aggressive at looking at ways to fund things

See KLEPP, page A20



Heath Roberts

Heath Roberts

Age: 43
Residence: Grosse Pointe Park
Campaign website: roberts4gpschools.com

Campaign social media accounts: facebook.com/people/Roberts-for-GP-Schools/61563779642225/, instagram.com/roberts_gpschools/

Education highlights: Masters in Business Administration, Doniphan Leadership Institute Fellow

Years in Grosse Pointe: 5 years
Current occupation: Henry Ford Health, chief administrative officer, population health services

Endorsements: Pointers for Academic Excellence

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: What motivated me to run is I've always had a passion for kids' well-being. I have a long history of background in pediatric healthcare, so my career has been focused on the well-being of children and their families. To have an opportunity now in a community that we love to support one of our most valuable resources and assets and institutions, I think it's the right time for me to run and provide that historical expertise.

I have a strong business acumen, I have a strong community presence and with three kids in the district I feel like this is what is important for me to be giving back to.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: Right now I have an 11th grader at Grosse Pointe South and I have an eighth grader and a fifth grader in middle school. My involvement in the district is being an active parent and I was appointed to the Finance and Facilities Committee of the board of education last year. I've been committed to bringing my background in business and finance and people onto that committee and giving back and contributing there.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: I think the critical issues facing our district are a couple of different things. Student retention. We have to have strong numbers. Folks that live in our community and move to our community, we need to share how important it is that we have a strong public education system here. So to be able to retain the students that we have living in our community as public school students is important.

You do that through strong teachers. You do that through strong confidence in our public education infrastructure and leaders, both at the district office and at the local individual schools with the leadership there, the principals and then ultimately the staff that are spending time with our kids. I think another challenge is as we look at families that are making homes in southeast Michigan, we want them to choose Grosse Pointe. We want them to choose Harper Woods and so how do we get the message out of our school district in a way that continues to be a part of those choices? I think another challenge is just generally rising costs. Our bills are higher than they used to be. We have to put gas in our vehicles. We have to buy groceries. We pay our electricity bill. These things are higher than they used to be. So what that means is the cost to run a school district, to run a major institution in this community, is also higher. So we need to have strong financial acumen, not just at the board of education level, but also with our folks leading the district, with our folks leading the schools, our principals and directors within our school system have to have that acumen and knowledge as well because things are more expensive.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: Well, first, we as a board of education have that responsibility or a piece of that responsibility. So we can't do anything by ourselves. We need unity. We need discussion. We won't always agree as a board of education, the seven people that are responsible for that. But

See ROBERTS, page A21



Colleen Worden

Colleen Worden, incumbent

Age: 56

Residence: Grosse Pointe Woods

Campaign website: colleenwordengpschoolboard.com

Campaign social media accounts: facebook.com/colleenworden4gpschools/
Instagram colleenworden4gpschools

Education highlights: Law Degree, University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law, 1997. Bachelor of Arts, Miami University, 1990

Years in Grosse Pointe: 29

Current occupation: Deputy chief assistant prosecutor, special victims unit, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office

Endorsements: Grosse Pointe Education Association, Police Officers Association of Michigan, Alliance for GP Public Schools, Grosse Pointe Democratic Club

Q: What motivated you to run for school board?

A: Public education is at the forefront of a great community. And I think that's one of the reasons why people come here is public education. We have top-notch schools here and I think that's what motivated me to run, to make sure that we stay a top-tier district, that we have rigorous academics and excellent curriculum.

Q: What is your prior involvement with the district?

A: Prior to being on the board, I was on the Monteith PTO, the executive committee. I was an officer for I think all five years I was there. And I was a room mom. I was a basketball coach. I mean, I think I volunteered for every single thing you could do. I organized all of the school dances, any of the fundraisers we did from Monteith. And then I stayed involved with Parcels' PTO.

I was on the board for part of that time, but I still did volunteer work for the bazaar and all of the different events they had. And as far as involvement with the community, I think just any school event I can go to. And my husband and I are both basketball coaches for the Neighborhood Club.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: I think the finances are No 1. We've got to get back to a point where we have financial stability. We've got to get back to a point where our fund equity balance is about 10 percent. It'd be great if it was close to 15 percent. That's the foremost thing that we have to address. We have to get to a point where we are communicating with our families that we are a top-notch school.

We offer a robust curriculum. Our academics are at the forefront of this community. And we have to broadcast that out loud.

I still think that we have to come up with some creative ways that make our district attractive to other people. I know it's been tossed around, the early childhood education center, and I think that's something we need to consider.

I think one of the things that's really important is we have to get to a point where we're paying our teachers a competitive wage. We have to make them want to stay. I think our teachers are one of our greatest assets. We have great kids, we have great parents, but we want to make sure that our teachers are happy and we have to make sure that they're paid a competitive wage.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: I think we have to get to a point where we're spending money in the right places. So prioritizing our financial stability means we have to make sure that we look at our finances with a fine-tooth comb. And I think that we have to be more careful with what we spend our money on. I think we should stop spending so much money on lawyers. I think that we have to get to a point where we look more carefully.

There's been some overages in the budget with the food service contracts. I don't think it was very prudent that we were paying three superintendents in one year. And the bottom line is the cuts have to be the furthest away from the classroom. The only way we're going to do that is we have to do a strategic review of what we're spending our money on.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: No. Absolutely not. I would not support a charter school. I'm 100 percent against that. And the reason why is because our funding is based upon a per-pupil allocation from the state. Every time we lose a child to another school, whether it be a charter school or a private school, we lose that funding.

If we give that money to a charter school, they set up shop there, that's hundreds of students we're going to lose within our borders. And that's taking money away from our academics. It's taking money away from our robust and amazing curriculum. And it's taking money out of the classroom where our wonderful teachers teach. So no, I could not support that.

Q: Would you support the clinic at Grosse Pointe North High School if that issue came up again?

A: I supported it the first time because the administration supported it. And because I thought that it

COLLINS:

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news from the various lawsuits that were being proposed for Oxford, they talked about restorative practices. They talked about all of these things that were kind of front and center in the strategic plan that we just initiated. And so we've created a strategic plan without any measurable goals and I just thought it was kind of a pointless document. It didn't address the issues that were happening in the district in my opinion. I made the decision over the spring and summer of 2022 that I was going to run and people were encouraging me to run. I never ran for office before.

Q: What are the most critical issues facing the district and how would you address them?

A: For me the financial issue is probably one of the most critical. It's the sustainability of really every school district in Michigan based on the dollars that come. I think the second thing that's most troubling right now is the national teacher shortage. It's not unique to Grosse Pointe or the state of Michigan. I think we need to move back toward a system that really is focused on meritocracy. It's more equality of opportunity not equity of outcome. We need to offer every kid that comes into our buildings an equal opportunity to succeed and that success may look different for each one of those kids and the amount of work or the amount of resources or the amount of help that we give each kid may differ as well, but the expectation is excellence for every kid that comes into our buildings.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: I think a lot of that has happened this year already. It's understanding that we need to have a zero-based budget year over year. We made the decision this year to kind of dip into our fund equity a little bit because we knew that we had a contract year coming up with teachers and we knew that we didn't want to pull any of the resources out that allowed us to keep all of our academics and our extracurriculars. I hope that we could drive some fund equity increase to get somewhere around 10 or 12 percent over the next number of years.

I think that the approach that happened this year by (Superintendent) Dr. (Andrea) Tuttle was excellent. She went and talked to every building administrator and said this is what I think should happen in your building, but I'm open to suggestions, but we've got to arrive on this number and so how do you think we should do this?

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: No. I think charter schools do great things for the kids in the communities that charter schools are in. I've never said that I believe that Grosse Pointe needed a charter school. If they want to

have a charter school and it's anywhere in Grosse Pointe, it's going to draw kids away from Grosse Pointe schools because our parents are going to make the decision. Certainly those that are on that side of Jefferson are hurting. They were promised these things for Trombly with the bond and then the rug was pulled out for many when they decided to close Trombly.

I would love to see Trombly reopened as an elementary school to serve those students who are south of Jefferson. I will work however hard I need to work with the people of that side of Jefferson to find a way to make that happen.

Q: Would you have supported the clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: No. If it comes up again, no. I'm shocked that other districts have done it. I understand the original reasoning behind it but there are so many clinics, so many opportunities like we're not hurting for clinics along Mack. There's probably four or five or six of them. I don't think that a school district should be in the healthcare business at all. We have other responsibilities as a school district and that's not one. The dollars associated with it is what really shocked me. At the beginning you're taking an area that's about 200-square-foot and you're going to remodel that area for what started at like \$600,000, then went to \$700,000. Then we ended up at \$1 million. We're a district that's going to fight to get a sinking fund approved this year at a higher millage rate and we were going to spend a million dollars on a room that's 20-by-10 that the majority of our school students aren't going to use?

Q: Should candidates for non-partisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: I understand it's legal. I guess I don't think it's moral. I don't think it's ethical. But again it's the state and federal government that says that you can accept endorsements and campaign finance contributions. In the last election three of the candidates took dollars from either the MEA or the GPEA. Either way it came through, the GPEA bought them signs as an in-kind contribution, but you're accepting dollars from someone who potentially you could vote to approve their contract in the future. We've seen instances where we've had board members who've had conflicts of interest who said I'm not going to vote to approve or not approve that because there's a clear conflict there. I think they should recognize that and if they do take it, I think that they should at least indicate that anytime a contract comes up that's associated with the endorsement say I won't vote on that contract.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: The quality of education year over year. I understand that the teachers are the people who come in contact with their kids

more than anybody. I get that, but I think that because of the commitment of the parents Grosse Pointe has been able to offer kids not only a quality education but a great educational experience. Whether you're an athlete or you're a musician or you're in the choir or you're an artist, every weekend there's something going on at our school system.

There are so many opportunities for our kids outside of the classroom that this community is able to generate because of the dollars that we commit to our school system, not only through our taxes but also in the hold harmless dollars that we've committed. We've got some great facilities and great historic buildings and great teachers and committed parents. One of the things that a lot of teachers talk about in our district is the fact that we have so much parent involvement. The foundations that we have that support our education are just incredible and the dollars that they committed to the district are great.

Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?

A: The divide in this community. The us and them. It's troubling. I think we all want our kids to be able to succeed. From a dollar standpoint I think in the past we've been burdened with not managing our budgets properly. I think that's improving and it's on the right track going forward so that'll help improve some of that, not having to worry about laying off teachers.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: First of all, I think that there are a lot of people who decided that their kids weren't going to come to Grosse Pointe in 2020 when the schools closed. A couple board members and a couple other people were sitting at dinner one night and we saw somebody who we knew who had kids who were school age, but they were either going to The (Grosse Pointe) Academy or (University) Liggett (School). We asked why and they said there's just things about our district that happened during COVID that I don't want my kids in the district. They said there are things they'd need to see changed before coming back.

Obviously getting our house in order in terms of budget and we've been able to prove to the community that we've got a handle on our finances.

I think one of the key ways in which we do it is in early childhood education because the south end of our city has no early childhood education. Maybe the first thing for Trombly is reopening it as an early childhood education center, allowing those parents to get their foot in the door. Once we get them at Young 5's or kindergarten we can keep them. We can demonstrate to those parents that this is the place they belong and why spend your hard-earned dollars on a private school when we can offer the same or better education as those schools?

FRADENBURG:

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meetings. One of the things that I would like to explore to sort of counteract that is to give people in the community more choice. One of the things that would have kept us in this district and I think other families that went through this similar situation would be more mobility between schools in our district.

Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: No. The cost, just the structural cost of putting the health clinic there was really not a good use of school funds in my opinion. I do think mental health is an issue. So if we were going to spend that amount of money, I would rather see additional counselors, people, rather than a health clinic. I also believe that we have plenty of health clinic options, walkable even from North, all along Mack there.

Q: Should candidates for non-partisan office accept endorse-

ments from partisan groups?

A: That's interesting. I'm willing to accept donations from anybody that wants to help support my campaign. I really struggled with this. Probably the main reason I didn't run the last election cycle is because even though the school board is considered a non-partisan position, they really force you, I feel like oftentimes, to commit one way or the other. And I really like being politically neutral.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: There's so much school pride and just pride in the fact that they went to school here. I'm excited for my kids to feel that way as well. There's healthy rivalry in sports, but seeing them kind of partake in some of the same traditions that have been around for years, even though we're not from Grosse Pointe originally. I love that for them. I want that for them.

Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?

A: Since I came back and checked back in, it seems like

there was a shift away from the focus of rigorous academics, AP courses, that those things aren't as important as I think they are. So that is why one of my pillars is academic excellence.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: So there's a small amount that I think we could get back that we lost during the pandemic. I think there is a group of people like myself who left, whether it was for large class sizes or pandemic closures. I think if we can die down some of the political rhetoric on the school board, that would help. There's a lot of negative talk for such fabulous schools. So getting the message out that we have the amenities and the teachers and just fabulous schools that we have, I think would help. There's been chatter in the community of specialized schools, maybe a STEM focus at a certain school that could attract and bring back not just people from private schools, but offer something in our district that may entice people to move here as well.

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DERRINGER:

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tide there in terms of enrollment is the most critical.

Kind of tangentially or on a secondary basis, I would say stability. I think it's a bad sign for a district when there's lots of huge changes that all come, especially as they start to come like in a series or a sequence of events. It unsettles parents, it unsettles the teachers that work here and it unsettles anybody that might be considering coming to the district as a new family or might be considered coming to the district as a teacher or administrator.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: To improve the enrollment trends, I think it's going to start with pre-K with young families who are looking to move into a really beautiful neighborhood here in the Pointes, Harper Woods. There are so many other strengths that our communities offer. The public schools have always been one of the main reasons people move into town. I think that is a particular market of people or population of people that if we want to increase the numbers of kids in the schools, then we need to get those new families who are looking to relocate, we need to get them into our district. I also think there's an opportunity there as the state increases the level of financial support for universal pre-K programs and additional early education opportunities. I think we want to have that infrastructure in place to then leverage what we're already doing and then bring it up to scale with some of those state programs.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a

charter school?

A: I personally am a staunch supporter of traditional public schools, not charter schools. Now, I want to be careful. I don't want to vilify charter schools as a concept. There are charter schools that do fine work and are the best option for their communities. But I don't think adding one to our community would be beneficial. It certainly would hurt the traditional public schools. So I would not support bringing one into Trombly.

I think in general, school choice and any program that kind of uses that language of competitive markets and letting those choices kind of drive educational decisions, I think is a mistake. I think that kind of erodes the bonds between a community and the public schools in that community. I think geography matters. I think a neighborhood kind of builds around the public schools and when there are problems, don't run from them, but find ways to fix those problems together and invest together and solve those problems. So in general, I would say that I don't support charter schools, but specifically for our community at Trombly I think it would be a terrible idea.

Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: I did support the clinic when it came up before. I thought that the grant program that the administration at North and the counselors and the community, the parents and the students were all advocating for was very strong. And I think it was a great opportunity to try to help provide a need that was clearly on the front of mind for those students, those parents, those families and the

administration. So I did support the clinic in 2022.

Going forward, I think we've missed that opportunity. There's a new administrative team at North. I think the previous team's support for the clinic is part of the reason they were forced out and that's a problem. I don't expect to see the new administration follow the same footsteps that got the previous team removed. So I think we've missed the opportunity, at least in the short term. That doesn't mean that the need isn't there anymore. So if there's an opportunity there, I think we should look at it and certainly bring it back to the forefront and have those conversations.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: I think how groups or partisan organizations make their decisions or show their support is really up to those organizations. I don't think that it's up to a candidate, somebody that's sitting in my seat, to refuse support from somebody, whether it's a person, a group of people or some organization. So that seems kind of backwards to me to say I refuse the support of X, Y or Z. So on its face, that's what I would say. But specifically to our race, it's certainly kind of unique, of course. I mean, there's a super PAC that is endorsing a slate of four candidates, and that super PAC is funded by the current board president. So that same person owns the newspaper that we're sitting here in the building. So when everything is so tied together like that, I don't know how you don't accept support from the organizations that support you. So I don't have a particular issue with organizations supporting who they support.

I certainly don't think it's on a candidate to pretend that they aren't going to accept support. But, you know, it's starting to spiral a little bit out of control, I would say, with a political action committee set up specifically to influence the board of education race. It's unique to our community, and it's not something that I would say is a positive trend.

Q: What do you think makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: From a very high level, it's the number of opportunities, especially extracurricular opportunities that we offer in the district. At the lower level in elementary, there are any number of opportunities that you can get your kids involved in, whether it's sports or the arts or STEM or using the makerspaces and Lego clubs that turn into robotics teams. It's amazing the opportunities that you have when your kids are in our district. And it's every persuasion under the sun. And I think that that's really the strength of why kids should come to the district. On the micro level, I would say it's very, very strong building administrators, really, really good leaders at the head of each one of our schools and a world-class faculty, world-class educators, teachers, in the classroom that are second to none.

Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?

A: I think instability is right now what holds us back. I think when people look at our district from a multitude of lenses, multiple stakeholders, they see question marks that they don't really know how this is going to break one way or the other. And I think that instability and doubt would be the main thing that holds us back.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: I think starting with young families, increasing the enrollment right now. We have a pretty good number of young families in our different neighborhoods. And we don't have the opportunities within the district for those pre-K seats. Many of our parents that have pre-K kids are driving to private institutions in all directions, going up to St. Clair Shores, going downtown Detroit, in some of the neighboring churches and other organizations that run these pre-K schools. A majority of our families within the district's footprint are taking their pre-K kids somewhere else. If we were to capture a larger number of those families at a young age, then I think we keep them through kindergarten and elementary age and keep them in middle school.

You have to look at all of the transition grades when you're changing schools. Right now, elementary school ends at fourth grade and middle school starts at fifth grade, then we should be trying to attract fifth graders and their parents somehow. When eighth grade transitions to ninth grade and the school changes, those are the target audiences that we need to focus on, because those are the entry points to our district. I think there's too much focus right now by the current board and even previous boards on the people who have left. I think there is some value in understanding that, but that is not the core answer that will help us fix the problem. We need to build on the strengths that we have and market those strengths to those target audiences for the entry points to our district at those transition grades.

KLEPP:

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through grants or that can be one-time sources, but ways to improve the top line. And then certainly our core is enrollment. So making sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to make sure that we have high standards in the schools and our welcoming community that improves our top line. From a cost standpoint, I guess I have to take a zero-based budget approach where the technique is to really look at everything, strip everything out and only add back what you absolutely need to add back. That's a core business technique.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: I don't, I don't. Michigan is not generous with how we in general fund public education. The thought of encouraging competition that would draw funds away from our core school district, I don't think is a wise idea. I understand and can appreciate the

business notion that competition is good and would potentially help the school district. But I think that in this type of example, it's quite glib to have that approach.

Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: Healthcare is certainly a priority. And I think everyone in this community needs to understand that we are not a homogenous group of people. Everybody's family looks different and families can look very different from your own. So they may have different needs than you have. And so I say that just to say that healthcare is a priority and some of our kids are underserved in that regard. But in terms of supporting a clinic, it would really depend on what the exact proposal was. I think there were some legitimate concerns around the security of introducing people from outside the district into a school.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: Well, an endorsement, I

think the question should really be asked to the groups themselves. Should Dems endorse? Should Republicans endorse? As an individual candidate, I will talk to anyone, including yourselves, who have a serious concern about the issues. And that's for me the whole point of open dialogue. I made the same point to the Pointers for Academic Excellence group that is endorsing a slate of candidates. It's that dialogue is important. We've got to talk to each other. So I'll talk to anybody who's willing to endorse it.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: We start with incredibly good raw material, I think, in terms of our parents and the importance that they pretty universally place on education and how they prepare their kids to walk into those classrooms. It's great raw material. And as I said, I'm not a native of Grosse Pointe, but I do think that this place is pretty special. And a lot of that comes from the walkability of our school district and the close relationships

that people develop with their schools, with their administrators at those schools, with the teachers in those schools.

Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?

A: I would point to two or three things. The relationship that we have between the board, the administration and our teaching community, to my eyes, seems quite fractured and not really productive in terms of people who see common goals working towards the same path. So that's one. I think that's an inhibitor that we need to have a better relationship amongst that entire group. Secondly, I don't think we necessarily portray ourselves particularly well to the outside world with lawsuits and investigations going on and social media I don't think it's particularly flattering for this community. So for that, in that respect, I would like to do what I do at work, which is bring a sense of teamwork to the board, bring a sense of common purpose and being able to work with each other

and have open dialogue.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: Well, at work we have a saying, which is delivery sells. So I have a responsibility for both delivering work and selling new work. And delivery sells means that if you do good work for your clients, that is worth a lot more than all the sales presentations in the world and all the sales people in the world. And I think that applies very much to this community and this school district. If you are a new parent, you certainly are looking at the district rank and what are the standardized test scores and all the rest of that. That's certainly a part of the math that you're doing. I don't want to over index on standardized test scores, but we do need to make sure that it is a priority because those are things that people consider. And then I would go back to how we present ourselves as a community, making sure that we are doing things programmatically that care for all students, all types of students.

WORDEN:

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would provide low-cost health care to students. I am in support of providing programs that provide mental health to students. But I know that that was a very expensive project. There was funding for it. We had grant money for it. I could support it if there was grant money to fund it. And there was support from the community to do that.

I know that I have reached out on multiple occasions to try to find ways to find grant money for mental health funding. And I don't know

that that's been addressed. Because I know that when there was a vote to close it, there were a lot of board members that promised to look into alternatives. But to my knowledge, there's been no alternatives. And that really bothers me because if you're not going to allow the clinic, then there should have been some sort of alternative funding option.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: I think that it's very important that we remain nonpartisan, but I also think it's important for each candidate

to talk to anybody who wants to talk to them to seek their endorsement. Anybody that's asked me to talk to them, I would absolutely talk to them. I think if you're a part of the community and you want to talk to me, I'm happy to talk to you about my issues on any issue you ask me about.

Q: What makes GPPSS such a great place to send your kids?

A: I think we're a top-tier district. Our academics are just top-notch. We have an excellent, rigorous and robust curriculum and that's what makes our schools one of the reasons why we've come here. It's the academics, it's the amazing

teachers and it's the parental involvement.

Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?

A: I think we've got to get our finances in order. We do not want to cut programs. We want to make sure our curriculum stays top notch, but all that takes money. We have to get back to a point where we have a fund equity balance that's above 10 percent, closer to 15 percent. That way we can pay our teachers. That way we can give them a competitive wage. We don't want to cut any programs.

We want to make sure that we're still offering

all of the same sports programs. I mean, our kids love our sports. The robotics program is so fantastic. Every time they come to the board meeting it gives you this great feeling that we just have so many programs that are available to so many different groups of people.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: When we get our finances back in order, I think that's when we can start to sort of go back to what we were doing to market the district. We went from a point where we had three people, three very experienced people, doing marketing

for the district. We should be shouting from the rooftop how awesome our amazing district is.

I also think that we have to start being a little bit more creative in doing what we can to keep the students we have. Like I said, the early childhood education center I think would be a really good thing to market people to come here. When people and families see that our teachers are happy, I think they're more likely to come to Grosse Pointe public schools. It gives you goosebumps sometimes just that these teachers are so dedicated.

HULL:

Continued from page A18

charter there.

Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: I think that's something that's in the past, but at the time I was teaching at North. I think it would have been a fantastic resource for our community. I know as a teacher addressing the needs of our students in terms of their health and their well-being and their safety are utmost important before I can do anything about teaching them. And so I think that that would have been a

fabulous resource for all students within our district and our community as well, so I fully supported it.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: Obviously I think that's OK. I'm a teacher and I'm part of the teachers union and I've been supported by the union. I think candidates are going to be supported by people who believe the same things that they believe. And so if what I say that I'm running on, which is putting kids first and supporting our teachers is the most important thing and other groups believe

that, then that is their decision to support us. I accepted those endorsements, so sure.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: Well, I sent my kids here, so I fully believe that. We have very dedicated staff who are knowledgeable and have great education and provide opportunities for our kids to take many foreign languages and all of the things that we provide. I think it's a great place. But also uniquely, our community is situated where we live very close to all of the people that we interact with at school and in sports and so I think that helps us to

build a community where we're supported and we look out for each other and we are collectively part of a whole. I think that's a unique thing and I want to continue to foster that for all of our students.

Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?

A: I think there's some divide in terms of beliefs in which direction we should be going. I want to make sure we're putting our students first and we're putting our resources and our time and our energy into making sure that we do things that are best for our students. I think

some of those roadblocks might be when we don't address issues that need to be resolved within our community and making sure that we allocate resources equitably between all of our buildings and I think we have to come together and address some of the issues to make sure that we can all move forward together.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: I think that's something that's happening nationally, specifically in Michigan and of course in our community and I mentioned earlier having opportunities for early childhood, having oppor-

tunities for families to come here and have day care and nursery schools and preschools. Once you're in the district, I think you see the opportunities and the things that are available and people will stay. So providing that is going to be kind of a springboard into keeping families to stay within the district. We aren't a growing community in terms of real estate. We can't build many more houses and attract people that way. I think we just have to continue to do what we do well and earn respect and continue to bring people in as the community changes from old to young.

GELLCI:

Continued from page A17

really makes me proud. They say we strive for academic excellence and they do. My children are a good example. And I give full credit to our schools. However, last night when I attended the meeting, I realized a lot of tension between board members and people who are sitting in the audience. And I thought to myself, why? We are all here for the same reason. Why that kind of tension? So for me, that is an issue that we need to address. I am an anthropologist and the key word in my field is culture. So I believe we should start building a culture that shows inclusiveness and it promotes dialogue instead of polarization. We do not want that. Regardless of what you think in terms of politics or religion or sexuality, one thing is for all of us. We want very good schools because it is not just for the benefits of the current students, but it is for the benefits of our community.

I believe No. 1 leadership must have a vision, which I realize that they have a good strong vision, which I agree with. Second, transparency and accountability are really two strong points.

Q: What specifically would you do to improve finances?

A: Based on what I realized yesterday, Grosse Pointe schools get a good budget. Now, the question is how do you administer that kind of budget? What are the priorities? And of course, priorities go to our own kids. But what does it mean? Well, No. 1, teachers, salary and benefits. Not only teachers, but administration as well. Can we ask

around to get more money? Yes, we can. But the only issue with that is that we should have strong rules and policies on how that money is going to be used. And what comes with that money? No strings that we cannot see because we want to support what we call public education. And I'm a strong believer in public education and public service.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: I have a conflict of interest because I used to work for a charter school for 15 years. And I don't think there is anything right or wrong with this side or that side. I truly believe that we need to listen to our community, how they feel about it. And if I compare charter schools with public schools, then 100 percent I'm going to support public schools. But then again, it is about how our community feels.

Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: Those are very sensitive issues. And any kind of decision that we make needs to be transparent. But at the very end, if you do not have the means to keep that open, are you going to get the money away from what? Like teacher salaries and benefits from technology and all that kind of stuff. So sometimes you have to make decisions that can hurt a little bit, but you just want to make sure that you are making the right decision. And so if you close down something, I don't think that it is necessarily forever. Tomorrow, we can go back and say, let me fix this. Why? Because how do we measure intelligence? We measure it based on the level of adaptation in regard to the changes.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan political groups?

A: That's a very good question and I'm glad that you are asking that. So this is not a political office running for a school board. I am a little bit surprised at the way that this election is going. Why? Because I see sides like, OK, four people running together and then four people. I guess I'm the only one running by myself. So I disagree with this. This is not against the law. I am aware of that. But I don't think it is ethical. And I read that some of those supporters say that we interviewed everybody and then we made the decision. No, they did not. I never got any word from some of those groups and some other groups that interviewed me. Honestly, they were interviewing me, but basically I was interviewing them as well. And I realized that they already made their own decisions before. So that interview was just, let's do it because we are going to say that we interviewed somebody and some people did not do their homework. If you make your decision before interviewing somebody, then you can justify the way you do. But if you are honest and transparent, then you can say we believe that we are endorsing the best candidates that are expressing our own ideas or values or all that kind of stuff.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: We see results. I am a college professor. I used to teach for Wayne State University for almost 15 years. It was almost obvious when somebody came from Grosse Pointe schools. They had very good academic

skills. My kids went to school and they got hired right away. And again, I told you they were not the best students in their school, in their classes, but hard working. So for me, it shows that we have a good understanding as a community about the benefits of education. And it is not just education in terms of mathematics and technology and biology and become a doctor and become an engineer. We want good citizens. I want our kids to have a meaningful life. If you are happy, it doesn't matter if you are a college professor or if you make shoes. It's the same. You are happy. It is not necessarily, oh, my kids did very well. No, because you want your neighbor's kids to also do very well. And then the neighbors next door and then everybody else. Why? Because that is the only way that you can have a happy life in your own community.

Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?

A: I believe that we are facing what is going around the entire country. I wish I never saw that in regards to public education, because if you are running for a political office, then good luck. I mean, you are open. You are here for that. But we are talking about public education. It's a public domain. We pay for that. And we want to be the best. So I think if we start from ourselves, from people who want to be board members, and be straight and say, listen, this is what it is, let's be transparent. If you really want good schools, let's have a conversation. Let's have a dialogue. Because I believe that is the main issue of where we should start from. Not that there are no other issues. I mean, budget and many other

things. But issues are part of the process. We do not progress if there are no issues, because what are you going to solve? But we really, really need to get together and clear up our minds and do the best for our own children and for the sake of our own community.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: It is not very clear to me why we do not have as many kids as we used to. But there are a few things that can clarify that. It can be a trend, because Grosse Pointe is a city with a community that it's a very interesting community. And I love it in the sense that once people come here, they want to stay here. So when we moved here, we were a family of five. My husband, my kids, my father, we lived together. And now it's just Tom and myself. But you cannot make me leave the city because I don't have any kids. So I believe that there are trends. All cities can go through this.

Now it's a different story if we are saying that, oh, there are 10,000 school kids in Grosse Pointe, but 4,000 of them decided not to attend Grosse Pointe public schools. Then we need to get together and find out exactly why those kids are not attending. Why are those students no longer here? Is it because the price of our houses that families, like young families with young children, are not moving to Grosse Pointe anymore? Is it because we are getting old as a community? We need further evidence, probably some kind of detailed information. Because if a parent gets upset and says, OK, I'm going to take my child out, let's find out what's going on.

ROBERTS:

Continued from page A18

at the end of the day decisions have to be made. And the more unity we can have in those decisions, the more the board is unified in those decisions, which means there's compromise. There's discussion and then there's decisions. And so as that happens, then our district leaders have confidence in our board, the public, and the folks of Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods have confidence in our board. And that's how we begin to create a sustainable model. Now, what would I do? I bring a long background of financial management, managing large budgets with large numbers of staff. One of the reasons I was put on the Finance and Facilities Committee was for that background. So I would bring a level of expertise and a level of discipline to help us as a board guide the decisions we need to make when it comes to financial management.

Q: Do you now or have you ever supported Trombly as a charter school?

A: I don't think charter schools are the right answer right now in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. But ultimately, I'm not a single decision maker in that factor. I think the board of education needs to look at all options that are best for our district, that are best for our students and that are best for our community and ultimately have discussions, have experts look at not only the strategic plans and the business plans associated with the decision like that, but also have guided feedback so a decision can be made. So asking me today, would I support that? The answer would be no, but do I think that if the community and the district has plans that are presented and a board looks at those plans and decisions, again, we do that, we make those decisions as a board.

Q: Would you have supported the clinic at

Grosse Pointe North?

A: I don't even think I was living here at the time when some of these decisions were made. Here's what I can tell you. I think our public school system should be focused on educating our kids. Delivering healthcare is hard. Delivering mental healthcare is hard. That's my background. That's what I've spent my career doing. I think a lot of times it's better for institutions that are experts in these services with locations that are built for these types of services to deliver that. So the short answer is no, I would not have supported a clinic inside of our schools run by an outside institution.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: I think all candidates should look at any endorsements that may be offered to them and make those decisions based on what their beliefs are and what they think is appropriate. What we know is the public school system

board of education is a nonpartisan election and a nonpartisan position. And I think that should be what's most important.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: We have amazing teachers that educate our kids every day that help us in the journey of these kids growing up to be active and productive adults. These are amazing institutions that have been around this community educating children of this community for, you know, decades. And having that resource here, having that resource supported by our community, a lot of people are very passionate in this community about our public schools. And that's important. That shows people care. When others move into this district, similar to Lindsay and I, and we look at the public schools, the walkable communities, the support folks have, it makes us love that we call this place home.

But ultimately, you

know, this is a great resource. We have great educators. We have great community support. We have a strong tradition and legacy of providing education to our community. And that's what makes it great.

Q: What do you think is holding the district back from being even better?

A: Every district has its challenges, but this district continues to make steps in challenging times to be the best. We know that finances play a key role in making sure we have a stable district. But, you know, we have to continue to make decisions, strategic decisions around the direction of our district to prepare us to continue to excel. I think, really, there's not a lot holding us back with strong leaders, strong educators, strong principals. Building teams that can educate our kids is what makes the difference. I'm excited that this district and our schools here have that commitment, have that commitment from Dr. Tuttle,

have that commitment from the staff and the leaders she's putting in place and I'm excited about the direction.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: We have to continue to make this a community that folks, when they move to southeast Michigan, choose this district because of our public school system. The ability to walk to school, the ability to have folks that are your friends walk to school with you. These are things that this community has offered for a century-plus to folks here.

We've got to retain students that live in our community that have maybe moved away from the public school system. And there's a variety of options that exist. It's not just private schools. And so I think understanding where those students are, where those families are and making sure they know what services our public school offers and what's available to them is going to be important.

22A | ELECTION

HOPPER:

Continued from page A18

versations.

As for the charter school discussions, I feel during COVID there were many discussions around how to simply best keep our students in a continuous pattern of learning while limiting interruptions as best as parents could. In-person learning was important and parental support also played an integral role in student success. Charter schools were discussed as options by many during that time. I remain steadfast in my belief in and commitment to our Grosse Pointe Public School System and our ability through our local governance to set and attain outstanding academic excellence and provide the best in athletic and extracurricular opportunities to our public school students.

Q: Would you have supported the health clinic at Grosse Pointe North?

A: I believe our schools should remain the place where academics are the focus, along with athletics and extracurriculars. I believe we have a robust health system in this community. I don't think it's wise to mix them at this point.

I do believe in the value of our school's counseling departments. And I

look to really work with our in school counselors to provide the best support to our students.

Q: Should candidates for nonpartisan office accept endorsements from partisan groups?

A: As far as accepting endorsements, I don't know. I haven't accepted an endorsement from any party. Sometimes they will offer an endorsement. I could be endorsed by the Democratic Party or the Republican Party and that would be their endorsement to make. But I haven't accepted any officially.

Q: What makes GPPSS the best place to send kids?

A: Our community. We have such a wonderful, tight-knit community. We are working for the best of each of our kids. We all want the best for our children. I see generations of people who've worked together to do this.

The community is made up of parents, students, teachers, administrators, vested community members. It's all of us working together.

Q: What is holding the district back from being even better?

A: I go back to our fund equity. We just need to get that back to a healthy level. When we do that, we'll be able to really give our teachers exactly what they need to be the

best in the business. We are attracting amazing teachers right now and when we attract families, we'll attract teachers. When we attract teachers, we'll attract families. A rising tide lifts all boats.

Q: How can GPPSS reverse its enrollment decline?

A: I think among many ways we can work very hard on our overall messaging. There's so many nuances to a really strong communications plan and outreach plan, external communications. As a board member I will bring 30 years of high-level thought and planning into that, to really get our story widely known and understood and build enthusiasm for our schools.

I will be very eager to work as a productive contributor to a team effort, or in a team effort. I believe in setting standards, communicating goals and expectations and working for results. I'm not supportive of plans that don't clearly state achievable goals and lack substantial plans for action. I want to elevate our teachers so they can thrive and grow and so our students can thrive and grow alongside them. Careful budgetary planning will enable us to become a more competitive district in terms of teacher pay.



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KATE HOPPER

FOR SCHOOL BOARD

Kate is a pillar of Grosse Pointe. A lifelong resident, well known across the area, she is a proud South grad. Her husband Pat is a proud Norseman, and their two kids also graduated from our public schools.

Kate earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Hillsdale College. That was followed by a 25-year, award-winning career in communications-proof that she knows how to deliver results.

On top of a busy career and raising a family, Kate always finds time to give back. She's held prominent roles with multiple local charities, including the Sigma Gamma Association.

Always striving to make a positive impact, Kate already serves our schools as an active member of the Community Engagement Ad Hoc Committee. Further proof she'll be ready to hit the ground running as a Board Trustee.

Kate is committed to:

- 1) Academic Excellence
- 2) Fiscal responsibility
- 3) Community Engagement

She understands that in order to keep our community safe, strong and vibrant, our schools must thrive. Her dedication to Grosse Pointe is unwavering.



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Woods author publishes debut horror novel

Book launch party is Sept. 24, at Flyleaf

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

As a child, Monique Asher wanted to be the female Stephen King. As an adult, she's making that dream come true. Her debut horror novel, "Don't Eat the Pie," hits bookstores Tuesday, Sept. 24.

"I was always a huge fan of 'Rosemary's Baby,'" Asher said. "I found myself wanting to know her, know her history, her background, her family, how she ended up in a vulnerable place."

While not a "Rosemary's Baby" followup, "Don't Eat the Pie" will chill readers to the bone with its mix of intergenerational trauma and gothic horror themes.

"I wanted to write about the mother-daughter relationship, something juicy, something witchy, something that would give the reader a feeling that you know something is wrong, something bad is coming and you want to tell her to walk away, but you can't," Asher said.

The novel follows a newlywed, Sam, and her daughter, Emma, as they



COURTESY PHOTO

Grosse Pointe Woods resident Monique Asher's first novel, "Don't Eat the Pie," hits bookstores Sept. 24.

navigate the complexities of forming a new family while confronting the haunted past of their new home. When Sam is asked to care for her ailing mother-in-law on picturesque Camillia Island, she brings Emma along.

"Pretty soon it becomes clear it's not easy to leave the island," Asher said. "And the people there are obsessed with a pie competition they have every year. And there's some spooky stuff going on next door. The teenage

daughter wants to heed the warnings, but the mom dismisses them."

The novel weaves elements of suspense and mystery with the exploring of familial bonds tested by supernatural forces.

Asher began pursuing writing a novel professionally in 2020, drawing inspiration from her personal experiences with trauma and her professional background as a therapist. She injects a unique sense of realism

and depth into her storytelling.

"This book reflects my love for gothic horror and the importance of trusting your instincts," she said. "It's about not giving up, even when faced with the most terrifying circumstances."

"Don't Eat the Pie" took nine months to write. It took five rounds of revisions before Asher connected with publisher, Rising Action Publishing.

"It's an independent



"though they are not allowed to read it."

"I am working on something in the Young Adult category now," she added.

Apart from Stephen King, Asher said her biggest author inspiration is Josh Malerman, whose "Bird Box" made her feel like she could write, too.

"His style is so unique," she said. "It linked into my unconscious brain. It's something I wanted to recreate."

Her "twisty, thriller influence" is Ruth Ware.

In addition to writing, Asher co-hosts a podcast, "Stay the Night," with her sister, Katrina.

And while "Don't Eat the Pie" is her debut novel, her short story, "Capsule Home," was released on the "No Sleep" podcast a few months ago.

"It's a short story about families and what coming home can mean when you don't come from a typical home," she said.

Readers who get a taste of "Don't Eat the Pie" won't have to wait long for Asher's next horror novel. "The Red Knot" is due out August 2025.

"It's centered on a character with dissociative identity disorder," she explained. "My

See NOVEL, page 2B

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Tau Beta Fall Market returns Sept. 27-28

Preview show is Sept. 26

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Jessica Huebner's first Tau Beta market was more than a decade ago, but the then-springtime event sticks with her due to the energy and excitement she felt.

"I remember I was new to the community; I had been living in New York," she recalled. "I was feeling such a different vibe in Grosse Pointe. I was just excited for a fun night out and having people around. I felt that energy you have walking around New York. It was an energizing experience. And it was fun to meet people and be out in a social way that's still a great cause."

Kelley Muzingo, who also lived in New York prior to moving to Grosse Pointe, said of her first Tau Beta market she was impressed with the whole event.

"The community comes together with such force," she said. "... Coming from New York, it was nice seeing how our community comes together and how important this event is to support. It's come to be known as a traditional event."

Huebner and Muzingo are co-chairs of this year's Tau Beta Fall Market, which promises an air of excitement among a mix of new and longtime vendors. The market takes place 9:30



COURTESY PHOTO

Co-chairs Jessica Huebner, left, and Kelley Muzingo.

a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, and 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at The Grosse Pointe Club, 6 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Farms.

A preview party, offering first looks at what's in store, takes place 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26. The evening event features cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, as well as a silent auction and raffle.

The silent auction, Huebner said, is the result of the raffle com-

mittee's commitment to procuring a bigger-than-usual number of donations.

"The raffle committee was really gung-ho and everybody was very generous, so we have many items," she said. "One of our senior committee members said we've had an auction before when we've had extra items, so we have seven silent auction items — more special ones, like a weekend on Harsens (Island), a weekend in

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Charlevoix, a stay at Hotel Iroquois.

"... Our raffle committee is really plugged," she added. "They've got great contacts who were super generous to contribute."

An additional nine items — from a Roberto Coin bracelet donated by edmund t. AHEE Jewelers to a gift certificate donated by Cosmetic Surgeons of Michigan — are part of the preview party raffle.

Tickets to the preview party are \$75. Raffle tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100.

The fun continues Friday and Saturday with full days of shopping amidst a diverse selection of vendors whose wares vary from home accents and jewelry to men's and women's clothing, children's accessories and small gifts.

"We have new vendors and I love our price points," Muzingo said. "Things are affordable. ... It's a thoughtful assortment. It's great for gift giving or if you want to treat yourself. It's also a great time to shop right before the holidays."

Added Huebner, "I'm most excited about our vendor selection. There's something for everyone. We'll have things you don't see everywhere or you wouldn't know about them online. It's a treat to shop in person these days."

Among nine new vendors is Quix Chocolate, a Ferndale chocolatier

Preview Party Silent Auction Items

- ◆ Harsens Island weekend, donated by Julie and Joe Kaiser
- ◆ Hotel Iroquois Stay donated by Jon Cotton
- ◆ Hotel Earl of Charlevoix and Blu Dot Farm & Vineyard donated by Jennie and Paul Silva
- ◆ Flyleaf Night donated by Lindsay Cotton
- ◆ Vintage furniture donated by Alison Arkison
- ◆ TRNTY DESIGNS donated by Trin Lucchese
- ◆ Raffle Chairs' Favorite Things donated by Alexis Elley, Chin Rivard and Hillary Rivard

Preview Party Raffle Prizes

- ◆ Sydney Evan bracelet donated by Girlie Girl Salon, Michelle Grates
- ◆ Nesting ruby necklace and earrings donated by Octavia Elizabeth Fine Jewelry
- ◆ Roberto Coin bracelet donated by AHEE Jewelers
- ◆ Oil painting donated by Christine Wardwell
- ◆ Blooming Baskets donated by Annie Stevens
- ◆ Corner Active & Leisure Boutique donated by Nancy Cotton
- ◆ Village Palm and Newport Items donated by Village Palm
- ◆ Cosmetic Surgeons of Michigan, PC donated by George T. Goffas
- ◆ Microblading by Celia donated by Celia Wade

New vendors

- ◆ Becco Bags features custom bags to design again and again
- ◆ Brackish features handcrafted feather accessories
- ◆ Buru features small batch women's apparel
- ◆ Netherfield Collection features unique charm necklaces and vintage inspired jewels
- ◆ Quix Chocolate features Belgian Boutique Chocolatier features luxurious chocolate gifts and confections
- ◆ Slippery Elm features premium home fragrance and personal care products
- ◆ Susan's Jewelry Collection features designer jewelry, handbags and shawls
- ◆ Tisch New York features contemporary tabletop accessories
- ◆ Wendy Nelson Jewelry features elegant jewelry for the fashion-forward female

Returning vendors

- ◆ Angela Alvarez features handcrafted luxury handbags and accessories
- ◆ Carrie Dunham features a sophisticated twist on the classic Bermuda bag
- ◆ DCLW Designs features unique accessories and stylish home furnishings
- ◆ Elizabeth Chilla showcases individuality through custom pieces
- ◆ Glamourpuss features uniquely designed apparel and accessories
- ◆ Jack and Jill features handmade plates and gifts
- ◆ KP Designs features personalized gifts
- ◆ Little Cottage Designs features vintage and new couture handbags, handmade ornaments, scarves and more
- ◆ Pearly Vine features classic women's clothing with a POP of color
- ◆ Soxforss features fun socks in a modern style with superb craftsmanship
- ◆ The Grove features goodies for a colorful life
- ◆ The WW Collection features beautiful things to dress you and your home

owned by a Grosse Pointe; Buru, a Los Angeles-based clothing designer that features small-batch women's apparel; Brackish, from Charleston, S.C., which features handcrafted feather accessories; and Netherfield Collection, a

See MARKET, page 4B



TAU BETA ASSOCIATION

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NOVEL:

Continued from page 1B

expertise in the area gives me access to knowledge the average person doesn't have. I do incor-

porate weird family stories into the lore in my books. And also paranormal experiences. I do mild paranormal investigations."

She's also working on "The Mystic," based on the ghost town in Fayette State Park, located in the Upper Peninsula.

"Don't Eat the Pie" can be preordered anywhere books are sold, as well as online. Asher will celebrate its official launch with a party from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Flyleaf, 92 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

During the event, Asher will be in conversation with local horror author Mathilda Zeller, who wrote the opening story in the best-selling indigenous horror anthology, "Never Whistle at Night." Zeller's other works include "The Revenge of Bridget Cleary," "The Bee King" and "The Incident at Veniaminov."

An audience Q&A session and book signing will follow.

For more information, visit moniqueasher.com.

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Sept. 25 lecture takes a look at ironwork in Detroit

Historical Society hosts exhibition, seeks photos from residents

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Local architectural historian and metalsmith Gabriel Craig will present the lecture, "The Ironwork in Detroit, 1900-1935," at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's History Center, 375 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In 2020, Craig set out to identify and document Detroit's historic metalwork. He will narrate his exploits in rediscovering the city's historic architecture and ironwork, with particular attention to the works of master blacksmith Samuel Yellin.

"Gabriel came here to do research because he had been in touch with a Beverly Road resident," said Gina Tecos, archivist for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. "The gate at Beverly and Lakeshore is crumbling. It's a beautiful gate, but pieces have fallen off. One of the residents has been collecting pieces of metal as they fall off.

"... A lot of times you see work around here attributed to Albert



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Kahn," she continued, "and he's done a lot of work on that street and in the area, but that gate was fabricated by Samuel Yellin."

Other works created by Yellin may be found locally at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Public Library and Cranbrook, as well as nationally at Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, Art Institute of Chicago and "all of the Ivies," Tecos said.

"His business became pretty big for the time," she added. "The reason Gabriel came here was the John S. Newberry Jr.

house, which was demolished in the '50s. It was at 99 Lakeshore. There was a lot of Yellin work in the house. It turns out there are at least 12 houses that have Yellin's work. ... He did fireplace grills, railings, window details, gates.

"... Gabriel will talk about Detroit as a region in general and he may bring up other metalsmiths, but his main focus is Yellin's work."

A reception follows the lecture, during which guests may browse a corresponding exhibition featuring photographs and ephemera from the

historical society's archives.

"I'm doing panels about the different homes," Tecos said. "I decided to expand it so people can know who the homeowners were, too."

A couple of the homes that feature Yellin ironwork include 273 Ridge and 30 Lee Gate Lane in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The exhibition also will include a one-of-a-kind display.

"A Beverly Road resident has loaned us remnants of the Beverly Road gate," Tecos said.

The lecture is free for Historical Society mem-



PHOTO BY JODY MCVEIGH

Left, the Beverly Road gate was created in 1914. Above, Gina Tecos sorts through chunks of the Beverly Road gate that have fallen off.

bers and \$12 for the public.

For information or to buy tickets, scan the QR code, visit gphistorical.org or call (313) 884-7010.

Photos sought

Hoping to expand its ironwork archives, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is asking homeowners to share the ironwork details of their homes.

"Those who are interested can drop off photos that we can scan or they can send digital photos to us," Tecos said. "It's to build our collection of

ironwork. It doesn't have to be related to Yellin. Any type of ornamental ironwork is welcome."

Tecos said if enough interest is generated, the society will display the collection online.

Photos may be emailed to archivist@gphistorical.org.



AREA ACTIVITIES

Lions

The Grosse Pointe Lions Club hosts its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Guests are welcome.

Ford House

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

◆ Artist-in-Residence Reception with Cody Norman, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19.

◆ Autumn Landscape Guided Tour, 11 a.m. Tuesdays through

Sundays, Sept. 24 to Oct. 29; and 10 a.m. Nov. 5 and 10. Admission costs vary.

◆ Nooks & Crannies Behind-the-Scenes Guided Tour, Tuesdays through Sundays, Sept. 25 to Nov. 10. Tour times and costs vary.

◆ Ford House History: The Staff, 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ Storytime: The Camping Trip, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 1 to 29.

◆ Trivia Night at Ford House, 6 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 3, and Nov. 7. Cost is \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.

◆ Harvest Day, noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5. The day includes cider and doughnuts, a fall market, petting zoo, horse and pony rides, face painting, lawn games and more. Admission prices vary.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, St.

Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, Redeemer United Methodist Church, 20571 Vernier, Harper Woods.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 30, Bethel Baptist Church, 24600 Little Mack, St. Clair

Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, First English Lutheran Church, 800 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Reunion

The Grosse Pointe North High School Class of 1974 seeks classmates for its 50th reunion, which takes place Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, 788 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Tickets are \$100 and include food stations, a photo booth, commemorative gift and cash bar. A casual gathering takes place Friday, Sept. 20, at Watermark Bar and Grille, 24420 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores. Payment may be made via Venmo: [@gpn74reunion](https://www.venmo.com/gpn74reunion) or by mailing checks to Gary Lannen, GPN 74 Reunion, 7124 Chapel View Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346. Further information can be found online at grossepointenorth1974.com

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4B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Sidonie Dossin Brown

Sidonie Dossin Brown, 76, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, at The Rivers Grosse Pointe.

Sidonie was born Dec. 11, 1947, in Detroit, to Ernest J. Dossin and Jane Dickson, both now deceased. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University. She then worked as a counselor at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Grosse Pointe Woods. She also enjoyed kayaking, scuba diving, photography, golf and singing with Sweet Adelines International.

Sidonie is survived by her son, Joshua Dossin Brown; and brothers, Douglas Dossin and Daniel Dossin. She was predeceased by her brother, Ernie Dossin.

Visitation takes place from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Verheyden Funeral Home, 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. A funeral service takes place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot,

Detroit. Her family will receive guests starting at 9 a.m. Sidonie will be interred at White Chapel Memorial Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, 100 The Strand, Detroit, MI 48207, detroithistorical.org/ways-give/donate-now.

Joan Peters Pugliesi

Joan Peters (nee Castonguay) Pugliesi, 92, passed away Friday, Sept. 13, 2024, surrounded by the warm embrace of her loving children. Her affection, hospitality and love of celebrations will forever be her legacy.

Joan was the beloved wife of the late Angelo Pugliesi, M.D., who passed away in August 2024. She also was the loving mother of Karen Fairfield (Andy), Andrea Rodriguez, Kristin Scott (Mike), Jim Peters (Mira), Jeff Peters and Ben Pugliesi (Amy); proud and loving Grandma Joanie of 15 grandchildren; and GG

of seven great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by three brothers and three sisters.

The family will receive guests at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 20, until 10 a.m. Mass at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, bit.ly/3XuSSi0.

Share memories with the family at wujekcalca.terra.com.

Elizabeth Jane Winkler-Piester

Elizabeth "Betty" Jane Winkler-Piester, 71, passed away Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, at Regency of Troy.

Betty was born July 12, 1953, in Grosse Pointe, to Herbert and Betty Winkler, both now deceased. She attended Grosse Pointe South High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Wayne State University in 1979.

In retirement, she



Sidonie Dossin Brown



Joan Peters Pugliesi



Elizabeth Winkler-Piester

found her calling in caring for God's most vulnerable: children and wildlife. She taught and was a crossing guard at Burton Elementary School, where she was beloved by the children and parents and esteemed by the staff. She taught Sunday school at her church and was a devoted parishioner. Betty taught herself to crochet and crafted warm nests and comfort items for rescued wildlife. She also volunteered at the Michigan Humane Society.

She is survived by her husband, David Piester; sister, Mary Paine; and brother, Charles Winkler.

Visitation takes place at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19, at Huntington Woods Lutheran Church, 12935 W. 11 Mile, Huntington Woods, with a service to follow at 7 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Michigan Humane Society, bit.ly/4eawr8P,

or a humane society of the donor's choice.

Kyle Foresman

Kyle Foresman, 49, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024.

Born July 30, 1975, in Grosse Pointe, he attended Miami University in Ohio and became a financial advisor. He will be remembered for his wit, charm, intellect and passion for life.

Kyle loved hard and lived life to the fullest. He adored his son and was a die-hard University of Michigan Wolverines fan. He was a decent golfer and guitarist and an even better friend. His group was large.

Visitation took place Sept. 18, in Chicago. Interment and a celebration of life are planned for a future date.

Kyle is survived by his beloved son, Campbell; wife, Rebecca; parents,



Kyle Foresman

Jim and Nancy; sisters, Stephanie Negro and Stacey Zupko (Rob); niece, Natalie; and nephews, Dominic, John and Mikey. He also is survived by a large and loving group of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, his family asks that contributions be made to an educational fund for the benefit of Campbell. Checks may be made out to Campbell Foresman and mailed to Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home, 6150 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, IL 60646.



Far left, Becco Bags allows customers to create custom bags again and again with its assortment of patches. Left, Brackish incorporates feathers into its products, which range from earrings to bowties and every accessory in between.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Above left, Glamourpuss, featuring uniquely designed apparel and accessories, is a returning market favorite. Above and right, an assortment of chocolates will be offered by Quix Chocolate, including, clockwise from top left, Autumn in a Box, a two-pound chocolate turkey, a pumpkin with caramel and pumpkin ganache and a Forest Medley box.

MARKET:

Continued from page 2B

California-based business offering unique charm necklaces and vintage-inspired jewels.

Among 11 returning vendors are Glamourpuss, Jack and Jill, Little Cottage Designs and The Grove.

"Most of them applied, but some we sought out," Huebner said. "We were fortunate because a lot of things have just fallen into place. Like one of our jewelry vendors fell through, then out of nowhere, Susan's Jewelry Collection applied. They offer super unique items with a nice price point, fine and costume pieces. We were very fortunate with committees and vendors."

Muzingo and Huebner credited their committee members for doing the heavy lifting while the pair managed the project — which is a tall order year after year.

"This is the biggest event Tau Beta puts on," Huebner said.

Added Muzingo, "We don't want to let anyone down."

Proceeds from the market benefit The Children's

Center, as well as Tau Beta's Recognition Grant Program, an initiative introduced three years ago that already has awarded 54 grants to other charitable organizations.

"We want to find organizations in southeast Michigan and support them," Huebner said. "Maybe they don't have a big voice or presence and we want to help. Our members can write grant proposals and apply for grants on behalf of those organizations, then the committee reviews them and votes. It's a new way to get our members invested and involved."

Admission to the market is \$5. Fall Market-tinis are available Friday after 4 p.m. and a buffet lunch is available for purchase Saturday. For more information, visit taubeta.org.

"There's one constant that keeps coming up: how thankful and grateful we are," Muzingo said. "Everyone is working to support this event. It's a well-oiled machine, from corporate sponsors to our patrons to our sister club, Sigma Gamma. This is a fun, celebratory event for our organization."



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COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, Honorary Chair Lisbeth Jeffries, Co-Chair Jessica Huebner, Patron Chairs Jenny Fruehauf and Maureen Follis, Co-Chair Kelley Muzingo and Honorary Chair Laura Huebner.

Kids on the Go seeks new home

Gala takes place Nov. 9

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Kids on the Go soon will mirror its own name by uprooting from the Nonprofit Center at Pare, where it has been headquartered since 2018, and moving to a to-be-determined location.

The nonprofit, which provides physical, occupational, speech and recreational therapies throughout the year to children and teens with special needs, is in search of a new home.

“We are one of six nonprofits being displaced,” said Kristy Schena, Kids on the Go founder and executive director. “We were given the unfortunate news in late June that the (South Lake) school district sold the building. ... So we’re looking to relocate so we can continue to provide the services we’ve been providing for 26 years.

“We’re looking forward to the future and to whatever our future permanent home might look like.”

Other affected nonprofits include Big Family of Michigan, Gilda’s Club’s Lake House Location, Ribbons of Hope, Shorewood Kiwanis Club and the We Are Here Foundation.

The Pare location provided stability to Kids on the Go, which was a pop-up operation before leasing space in the former elementary school.

“Since we moved into this building in 2018,

since having a permanent space, we’ve expanded from summer-only programming to year-round programming,” Schena said, “and we’ve expanded the number of programs we offer.”

The number of youngsters it has served also has grown. Since its inception, Kids on the Go has granted more than 5,000 scholarships to children and teens with special needs to attend its programs free of charge. This summer alone, nearly 500 scholarships were awarded.

“We want to continue to serve the next generation,” Schena said. “We’re committed to the future. ... And so we are in the process of searching for our new forever home.”

While she’s met with a commercial Realtor, Schena said, the search for a new location continues. Because the program uses classroom space, she said a vacant school or church building would be ideal, but such buildings have been hard to find. Especially since she plans to keep the organization in the community.

“We want to keep our Eastside presence,” she said, noting most participants hail from the Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores, but some come from further communities as well. “We aim to serve the same area. We’re serving families in the tri-county area. ... For me to move anywhere else wouldn’t make sense.”

She said she ideally



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRISTY SCHENA

Top, from left, KOTG Cheer coach and Michigan State University student Juliana Varanelli with KOTG Friendship Cheer Team members, Oliva Grabuck and Louisa Pietrowsky. Above left, from left, 2024 Grosse Pointe North graduate and KOTG volunteer Rocco Cardinale, KOTG All-Star Flag Football player Michael Banaszewski and KOTG All-Star Flag Football coach and Grosse Pointe North Assistant Principal Kevin Shubnell. Above right, All-Star Hoops players Caleb Hoenicke and Vinny V.

would like to find a building close to I-94 between Eight Mile and 11 Mile roads.

As Kids on the Go heads

into its fall session, Schena said despite there being many unknowns, she’s been told the organization has until next summer to move.

“Kids on the Go is looking to be relocated by fall 2025, if not sooner,” she said.

Perhaps more important than finding a new home, Schena said is reassuring the community Kids on the Go isn’t ceasing to exist.

“I’ve assured our families that Kids on the Go will keep going on,” she said, “despite the unanticipated move.”

To contact Schena with potential property leads, call (586) 899-1825.

KOTG Gala is Nov. 9

Part of what has allowed Kids on the Go to continue to grow is the support it has received from the community. The nonprofit is just a few months away from its biggest fundraising gala,

which takes place 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Sound Board Theater at MotorCity Casino.

The theme is “Forever Young: An ’80s Tribute Gala,” and includes silent and live auctions, a seated dinner and live ’80s music.

A “Gnarly Raffle” also is planned. First prize is the winner’s choice:

- ◆ \$2,500 cash,
- ◆ Top Gun Fighter Pilot Experience for two days and three nights in Mesa, Ariz., or
- ◆ Space Balls: Kennedy Space Center Experience with four guests for three nights and four days.

Second prize is 10 \$100 gift certificates for metro Detroit dining.

Tickets for the gala are \$150 each and may be purchased online at tinyurl.com/3mj8wkya

Sponsorship opportunities still are available as well.

Proceeds from the gala allow Kids on the Go to offer, completely free of charge, a variety of programming to children and teens, ages 3 to 17, who have special needs.

Programs like Better Letters, Better Readers, Summer Sounds and Teens to Work provide growth and development opportunities, while Going Social, KLUB 16+ and Social Skills Groups help develop social and family skills. A variety of recreation and wellness programs are offered, ranging from Adaptive Bowling, All-Star Flag Football and All-Star Hoops to Friendship Cheer, KOTG Golf Academy and Little Sluggers.

Additionally STEAM programs such as Bucket Drumming, Buildup Robotics, Multisensory Art Class and Music Therapy also are available.

“The setting of Kids on the Go is far different than a therapy place and the staff embeds therapy into fun activities,” said Regan Wright, a KOTG parent and member of its board of directors. “Special needs kids often know or sense they are different. Kids on the Go allows them to be accepted, to laugh, make friends and build confidence.”

For more information, visit kidsonthegocamp.com.



Celebrating Women in Sports, joined by KOTG mascot SOAR, from left are Grosse Pointe North graduate and Wayne State University women’s basketball player Annabel Ayrault, KOTG Hoops player Kendyl Bronersky, former Wayne State University basketball player Kim Ayrault and KOTG Hoops player Brooklyn Mull.

Worship Service

<p>Saint Ambrose Catholic Church 15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230-1302</p> <p>Masses Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. (☪) Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. Thursday — 7:00 p.m. Friday — Noon</p> <p><small>(313) 822-2814 • stambrosechurch.net • facebook.com/stambroseparish ☪ Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page</small></p>	<p>St. Michael's Episcopal Church <i>sharing the Light of Christ</i></p> <p>September 22 ~ The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Carry each other's burdens</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Worship at 10 am <i>followed by Coffee Hour in the parish hall</i></p> <p>20475 Sunningdale Park Grosse Pointe Woods</p> <p style="text-align: right;">313.884.4820 stmichaelsgpw.org</p>	<p>Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090 www.christthekinggp.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service Sunday School - During Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WEDNESDAY 10 a.m. - Bible Study 6:30 p.m. - Worship Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Solomon Spangler, Pastor <i>Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grosse Pointe Congregational Church <small>(United Church of Christ)</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship Sunday at 10:00 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver <i>An Open & Affirming Church</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms 313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY</p>
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6B | FEATURES

GPT's play-writing workshop series starts Sept. 28

Registration is open; space is limited

Those who have wondered how a story transitions into a play and those who want to sharpen their writing skills to share a story as a 10-minute play are encouraged to register for Grosse Pointe Theatre's Ten-Minute Play Workshop Series.

Offered over three workshops, the series teaches key elements to help playwrights develop a story into a 10-minute play. The first session explores the basics of playwriting — action, character, story development and more — and focuses on starting the writing process. In session two, practice continues with emphasis on

pace, flow and momentum. At the last session, participants will see and hear their completed plays performed by experienced actors, which will help writers put the finishing touches on their scripts.

Participants will have homework assignments to complete between sessions and will be invited and encouraged to submit their final script for consideration in Grosse Pointe Theatre's 2025 Ten-Minute Play Festival. To be considered in the upcoming festival, playwrights must adhere to this year's theme, "Rockin' through Life," by incorporating a rocking chair set piece as

part of their story. All 10-minute play submissions are due by midnight Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024.

Grosse Pointe Theatre's Ten-Minute Play Workshop Series takes place 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 23, at 315 Fisher, City of Grosse Pointe. All are welcome to attend this educational opportunity. Sessions are free for current Grosse Pointe Theatre members. The cost for non-members is \$25 for the series. Space is limited.

To reserve a spot, register at ci.ovationtix.com/35435/production/1212021. Questions may be emailed to playfestival@gpt.org. For more information about 10-minute play criteria, visit gpt.org/take-ten/.

About the festival

Now in its 12th year, Grosse Pointe Theatre's Ten-Minute Play Workshop and Festival are the brainchild of GPT member Mary Lou Britton, who said those interested don't have to be accomplished playwrights to get involved; they just need a desire to tell a story in 10-minute play form, developing a plot, characters and setting that engage the audience.

This educational opportunity helps expand one's understanding of live theater, connecting to the audience, actors and technical teams while telling a compelling and believ-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICIA ELLIS

One of the 10-minute plays performed at Grosse Pointe Theatre's Take Ten: Ten-Minute Play Festival in June was "Romeo and Juliet, 50 Years Later," starring Jo LeVan and Sal Rubino. The take on Shakespeare's classic was written by Dan Borengasser of Arkansas and directed by Janie Burkey of Grosse Pointe Woods.

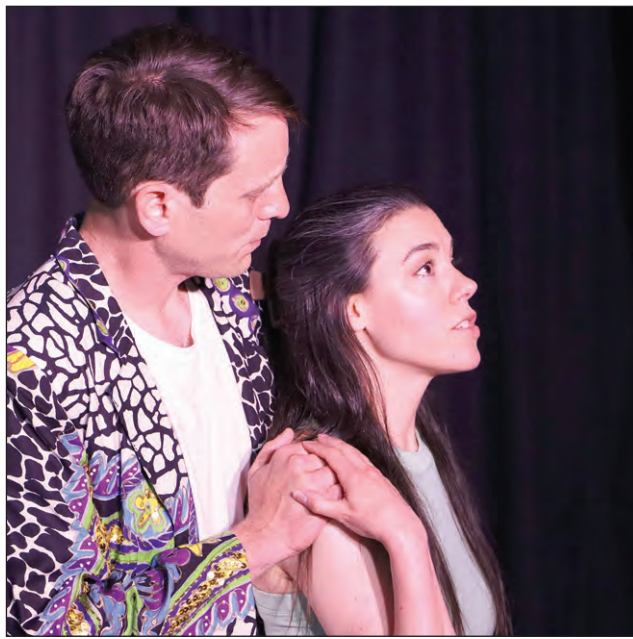


The play "Answer the Door," written by St. Clair Shores playwright Pete DiSante and directed by Erin Ann DiSante, also of St. Clair Shores, was one of the top 10 adjudicated plays performed at Grosse Pointe Theatre's 2024 Ten-Minute Play Festival in June. It starred Diane Jones Kirby and Jerry Depoorter.

able story, all in a 10-minute play.

Thanks to Britton and

her committee, this festival has attracted hundreds of participants, including local writers and others from across the nation and globe, directors, actors, technical staff and audiences who witness the top adjudicated original 10-minute plays performed at the annual festival.



Jeffrey DeMaria and Amanda Nummy performed in the 10-minute play, "He, She, Us," at Grosse Pointe Theatre's 2024 Take Ten Play Festival in June. The play was written by Susan Kelejian of California and directed by Arlene Pollock of Clawson.

This program continues to provide opportunities for up-and-coming as well as experienced writers, directors, actors and those who wish to learn the technical side of theater, to continue Grosse Pointe Theatre's mission to connect, create and inspire communities through theater.

Follow gpt.org for information on the festival, as well as year-round production opportunities, membership and other ways to get involved.

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High Holidays to be observed

The Grosse Pointe Jewish Council will hold High Holidays services to observe Rosh Hashanah on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4 and 5. Yom Kippur services take place Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11 and 12. Special children's services will be con-

ducted for both holidays. Rabbi Joe Klein will officiate with cantorial soloist Bryant Frank. The GPJC offers religious services, social activities and educational events. The GPJC "strives to promote the heritage and traditions of the Jewish religion

and culture for the benefit of its membership and the community of metropolitan Detroit's Eastside." For more information about the High Holidays services or GPJC membership, call (313) 882-6700 or email thegpjc@comcast.net.

Worn US flags being collected

Flag retirement ceremony is Oct 7 at Pier Park

The John Paul Jones Society, Children of the American Revolution; the Louisa St. Clair Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; and Grosse Pointe Boy Scout Troop No. 96 are collecting worn United States flags at the Grosse Pointe Farms municipal

office, 90 Kerby, during business hours, or at the Pier Park gatehouse during the month of September. Those flags will be part of the flag retirement ceremony at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, at Pier Park. All are welcome to attend.

The ceremony includes an explanation about the symbolism of the flag, when to fly the flag and other important flag facts.

To inquire about the flag retirement ceremony, contact Louisa St. Clair member Patti Theros at therospr@gmail.com or call Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 885-6600.

Open house showcases resources and activities offered at The Helm

The Helm, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, welcomes members of the community to its open house, 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23.

Guests will learn firsthand about the multitude of resources and activities available to older adults in the community. The open house

includes informational tours, and staff and instructors will be on hand to answer questions.

"It's been five years since we last had an open house and it's time," The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. "We encourage people to

stop by whenever we're open for a tour, but sometimes it's not convenient, especially if you're working. By being here until 7 p.m., we're hoping people will take advantage to stop by and learn about everything we offer the

See HELM, page 7B

Gold medal master

Longtime rower crosses off bucket list event

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

When Mike Thibault began rowing at Wayne State University in 1972, he had no idea what he was getting into.

"I was pumping gas at Sears at Macomb Mall," Thibault recalled. "I had just graduated from Lakeview (High School) and was going to Wayne State. My friend Dennis (Wojdyla) said, 'It looks like you're in pretty good shape, Thibault. Want to try rowing?'"

He did and it clicked. "A few years later I started rowing summers," he said. "I was asked to start summers at the Detroit Boat Club for St. Catherine's. I rowed through until I was 30, then I came back in '94 as a master."

As his passion for the sport grew, so did his desire to race the Henley Masters Regatta on the Thames River in England.

The Henley is knockout, side-by-side racing, with the winner moving on to the next level, Thibault explained, until one winner remains.

In July, he not only raced the Henley, but earned a gold medal doing it.

"We managed to draw last year's champion in the semifinals and beat them in a beautiful come-



Front and back sides of the medal.

from-behind win," he said. "We had four men from the Detroit Boat Club and four men from other parts of the country racing in separate events, and we joined together to race the eight. We beat the crew who won last year by a length and a half."

The Henley Royal Regatta is the most prestigious regatta in the world and includes six days of 2,000 meter racing. Following the Royal is the Henley Masters Regatta, which covers two days of 1,000 meter racing.

"The Henley Royal Regatta has been going on since 1839," Thibault said. "Thirty years ago, they decided to open it to masters. It's been on my bucket list since I started rowing at Wayne State."

As masters rowers, Thibault and his rowing

mates had a chance to enter last year, but injuries prevented them from going. The group averages 70 years old; Thibault recently reached the milestone himself.

"When you average 70-year-old guys rowing 32, 34, 36 strokes per minute for 3 1/2 minutes, you're gassed," he said. "But we decided to try again this year and it was absolutely amazing to be there."

After his win on the Thames, Thibault and teammate Dennis Wojdyla, with whom he's been rowing since 1973, went on a historical tour of Europe, visiting Normandy, Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, Pointe Du Hoc and Dunkirk.

"The regatta was wonderful, but that (tour) was awe-inspiring for me," he said.

Back in the States

Not one to rest on his laurels, Thibault has races scheduled every weekend in October: Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Welland, Ontario, Canada; Boston and Philadelphia.

"I'll do three to four head races in the fall, then in sprint season I'll do four to six races," he said.

Sprint races are 1,000 meters that run April through September. Head races begin in September.

"Those are 5,000 meters on a river and they involve turns," he said. "They take 17 to 18 minutes. I did a four man in the Head of the Charles (Regatta) and won it in 2010 and 2023."

Thibault's wife, Patricia, shows her support in the form of packing lunches and giving full-body rubdowns to ease her husband's aching muscles. She does not, however, attend his

competitions.

"When he goes to Boston, I'll be at the finish line," she said. "I told him I'll be in a separate hotel, you stay with boys, get the race done, then we'll go do things. I pack lunches and give massages, but I don't go. It's his thing."

"Patricia has been so supportive," Thibault said. "Rowing has been such an important part of my identity for so long, even before we met."

Thibault practices year round, getting up at 4:30 a.m. to row 60 to 90 minutes from late March into



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE THIBAULT

Thibault receives his gold medal after the regatta.

October or November. During colder months, off-water training includes running, weight lifting and indoor rowing.

"He's rowing in the dark, backward on the river, with freighters and fishing boats going by," Patricia Thibault said of her husband's warm-weather training. "There are no lifejackets, so if

you go overboard, you just have a whistle. It's five or six days a week of that."

"Some days I hate it, but I got to do it if I'm going to be competitive," Thibault said. "The real satisfaction is when you cross the finish line with the people you've trained with. It's the stupidest sport: You try to make other teams hurt worse than you."

"But you've got other people who are just as competitive as you," he added. "There's camaraderie, friendships between people of like minds."

"... I was so honored to be invited to that boat. For my peers to think enough of me to invite me to race (the Henley) is such an honor. It's one thing to be on that course, but to be on the podium ..."



From left, Bill Byrd, Dennis Wojdyla, Mike Gasper, Paul Sandlii, coxswain Christopher Boit, Mike Thibault, Dennis Sitek, Rick Sitek and Mark Stormberg.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mike Thibault, back home in Grosse Pointe with his medal.

HELM:

Continued from page 6B

community."

As long as weather permits, attendees can play bocce or other lawn games, wander the grounds and take in the beautiful gardens or sit and relax on the many benches and chairs surrounding the building. There will be light snacks and beverages.

"With a senior services millage on the November ballot, we want to be sure our community knows and understands what we do — the importance of our resources and activities on the health and wellness of our older generation," Siddall said. "We aren't that place for old people. We're the place for everything aging related."

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Father, son team up for 'Hitting the Curve'

Dinner theater performances are Sept. 27-28

By Jody McVeigh
 Editor

It's been more than three years since Jerry Nehr, inspired by working more than 25 years in the mental health field and his love for theater, began writing his first play.

The City of Grosse Pointe resident was struck with the idea to write a play about someone with mental illness.

"I'd work on a couple pages, then close it and put it away for two months," he said.

Around three years ago, during a trip to Sedona, Ariz., he packed the script and asked his son, Quinn, to review it.

"Quinn's been acting since he was 7, with Grosse Pointe Theatre," said Jerry Nehr, a GPT veteran himself. "Over coffee one morning, he took a look and made suggestions — and then I didn't touch it for another six months."

Now, after additional work and revisions, Jerry and Quinn Nehr are presenting their joint production of "Hitting the Curve," a dinner theater performance, Friday, Sept. 27, and Saturday, Sept. 28, at Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms. The play was produced by the Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver.

"It already was such a polished script," said Quinn Nehr, from his home in Brooklyn, N.Y. "It was clear from the first pass how clear the idea was in his head. The important part of writing is getting outside feedback. You know the story



Actors Elizabeth McQuillen and Charlie McQuillen are given directions by Jerry Nehr, who wrote and is directing the play.

so well that you think the audience will pick up on things that are not as obvious as you think."

"Hitting the Curve" takes the audience through four stages of a man's life. Viewers will see Johnny as a young teen, young man, middle-aged man and senior citizen. Scenes cut back and forth through his lifetime — as a married man, a father, a young baseball player and the son of an alcoholic father.

The two-act play includes the lead character's challenges with mental illness, on which the playwrights hope to shine a light.

"I worked in mental health 25 years," Jerry Nehr said. "Hopefully the message from this is there are people like this who exist in our world who suffer greatly. We who are mentally well don't always have the patience for them. They are outside of the margin of life. If we look hard enough, there are people in our lives who have additions, who have abusive relationships or maybe it's even happened to us. There are people who are compromised mentally, emotionally, socially."

Added Quinn Nehr, "People have a tendency to focus on what's going on with you and your circle. Sitting there, in a theater, as opposed to a movie theater, you see the actors onstage; you have to acknowledge there are people out there living completely different lives than you. You're exposed to that — that not everyone has the same experiences. This play does a good job of pulling the curtain open and showing that."

Quinn Nehr is no stranger to the stage.

"I've been acting since a young age," he said. "I was that kid in school always telling jokes, always talking. They kept having to move my desk away from others so I was eventually in the hallway. My mom and dad said 'Maybe he needs an outlet.'"

From age 7 to 13, he participated in Grosse Pointe Theatre's Youth on Stage program, but the momentum strengthened as a student of Phil Moss at University Liggett School.

"Things started clicking when I met Doc," he said. "That was one of the first times I saw acting performance as more than just a fun hobby. I saw it could be a fun and fulfilling career."

Quinn Nehr attended the Chicago College of Performing Arts for eight months before the pandemic hit. Rather than pursue a degree, he pursued opportunities in the industry and moved to New York last October. Within a few weeks, he landed his first role. His credits include film, television and theater performances.

His father, on the other hand, enjoys being the director.

"I'm so excited to have Quinn be a part of this," Jerry Nehr said. "Throughout my career, to see people struggle and have a hard time ... maybe this will get people to think about how we're all different and the same in so many ways. ... Whether it's a big Broadway show or something like this, however well-written or directed or performed, there's always a message."

"It's such an important story," Quinn Nehr said. "And supporting the arts is so important. ... It's something that brings people together, like sporting events, except there are no opposing teams."

Added Jerry Nehr, "It's an opportunity to take a couple hours out of your evening. Maybe there's a conversation you can have on the drive home when you think about what the message was."

Doors open at 6 p.m. for dinner. The performance begins at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$30 for students and ages 65 and older, and \$40 at the door. Tickets include the show and din-

ner.

"It's got baseball, heartbreak, a few funny moments," Jerry Nehr said. "Tickets are selling, so get yours quick."



Above, Lynnie Heinemann and Cece Reuter Lesner during rehearsal. Left, Carl Ghafari and Abi Pongratz share the stage as Young John and Young Janice.

PHOTOS BY
 RENEE LANDUYT



From left, Meghan von Schwarz, Charlie McQuillen and Katherine Baetz rehearse a scene.



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- Cece Reuter Lesner as Elderly Janice
- Katherine Baetz as Middle-Age Janice
- Abi Pongratz as Young Janice/ Teen Janice
- Joe Herbertson as Anthony
- Vanessa Ferriole as Theresa
- Meghan von Schwarz as Annie
- Mack Kohler as Mark
- Gunnar Deem as Mickey
- Lynnie Heinemann as Dr. Ecker
- Elizabeth McQuillen as Dr. Cohen
- Mary Jo Gunter as Nancy

Behind the scenes

Jerry Nehr: Playwright/Director
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Managing time while assisting worthy causes

Dear Gabby: How can I better manage the endless stream of volunteering and fundraising requests without feeling overwhelmed, guilty or broke?

— Guilty in the Woods

thing onto your plate. Choose the causes that really fill your heart and remember, sometimes the necessary answer is a very simple and polite, “Not this time.”

Dear Guilty,

Perhaps you could think of this like an all-you-can-eat buffet. Just because it’s there, doesn’t mean you have to pile every-

— Gabby

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



How can I be included in my son’s new family

DEAR ANNIE: My son is married to a wonderful young woman, and they’ve recently started a family. She comes from a very large family; she’s the youngest of nine. Our family is much smaller, consisting only of myself, my son and my daughter. We don’t have any extended relatives like grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins. It’s just the three of us.

My daughter-in-law frequently hosts her family and friends for vacations, family gatherings and trips. Unfortunately, neither my daughter nor I are ever invited to these events.

Since I live three hours away, I have to ask her permission to visit, and most of the time, they have plans with her own family or friends.

I often feel jealous and hurt, especially for my daughter, as she has only my son and me in terms of family. When I try to discuss this with my son, he tells me that I’m overreacting, exaggerating and being jealous.

He implies that if I want to be involved in my grandchild’s life, I have to accept whatever time they offer. With baby number two due in

November, I’m finding it increasingly difficult to stay quiet.

Please advise me on how I can approach this situation or what I might say to improve the situation. — Green-Eyed Nana



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

DEAR GREEN-EYED NANA: It’s completely understandable to feel left out and jealous when you see others enjoying family gatherings while you’re excluded. FOMO, or “fear of missing out,” is real. Open communication with your son is key. Express to him how much you would like to be more involved in family activities. While it might not increase your one-on-one time, you might find yourself included in more events that involve her family.

Since you’ve already noted that your daughter-in-law is wonderful, she might not realize how much you’d appreciate being included. It might help to let her know that you’d love to join more family gatherings.

Additionally, with the arrival of baby number two, there may be opportunities for you to help. Make sure to communicate your willingness to assist, emphasizing your desire to be supportive rather than focusing on feeling left out.

Best of luck, and I hope things improve for you and your family.

DEAR ANNIE: I have a friend I’ve known for over 20 years. As young marrieds, we lived around the corner from each other when our kids were growing up. Life put us in different states, but we continued to stay in touch by phone. However, I’ve noticed that when I call her, she continuously talks and talks about EVERYTHING — why her husband painted their garage floor this color instead of that color, every detail of her sons’ lives, conversations her grandkids have with others, etc.

It goes on and on for over two hours. After a while, my hand falls asleep. I don’t get a word in edgewise. I must admit, when I see her phone number pop up on my caller ID, I hesitate to answer

because I know I will have to hear every detail of whatever is going on in her life.

What should I do? — Chatty Friend

DEAR CHATTY: Sounds like she’s lonely, or maybe she sees you as a good person to vent to. Whatever the reason, learn to take control of the conversation. Give her a call with a conversation topic already in mind and say, “I really wanted to talk to you about X.” See where it goes. If she diverts to the same old self-indulgent small talk, you might have to be more assertive — or less available.

DEAR ANNIE: I enjoy your column, and I appreciate your perspective. I have a family member whom I have loved dearly and shared family tragedies with.

Over the years, he has become a severe alcoholic. I have had to create boundaries, namely not answering rambling phone conversations. I respond to long voice messages with texts. I express my love and give encouragement, but I do not want to be stuck on the phone; it goes nowhere and is forgotten.

He doesn’t live nearby, and we have not visited each other often. The last visit was five years ago; he came to our home, and because he needed a drink at breakfast, he left early.

I have recently found out he is very ill with cancer. I am torn about opening up a phone dialogue that might return to the past patterns of many drunken calls.

I have loving memories of our younger years and our closeness, and how we got through tough times in those days.

I know I am letting them down. I plan to write a letter, but I feel guilty keeping my boundary regarding phone conversations. Any thoughts or suggestions? I do not want any regrets. — No Regrets

DEAR NO REGRETS: Unfortunately, addiction can turn our loved ones into people we don’t recognize. Remember that the boundary you set was not an abandonment. Quite the opposite — it is what allowed you to keep this family member in your life for good, by protecting you from the sick, destructive version of him.

Definitely write a letter, and make it a good one. Share all of the loving memories you allude to in your letter to me. And tell him to give you a call — so long as he is sober.

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

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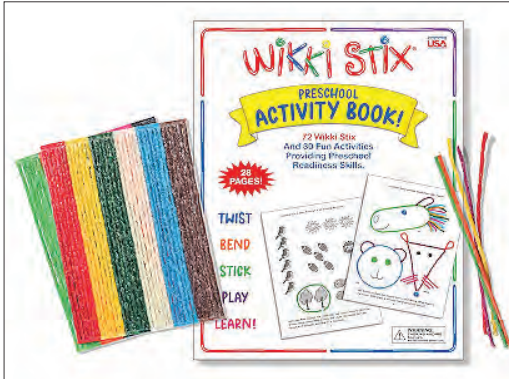
by Anna Lizer



Before a recent eight-hour flight, I found myself on Amazon, frantically searching for non-digital activities to keep my 9-year-old occupied. I'm not anti-iPad, but I knew we'd need something more than screen time to get through such a long trip.

Enter the Wikki Stix Preschool Activity Book, which comes with 72 reusable Wikki Stix. I wasn't sure what to

expect, but I'm seriously so glad I bought it for \$22 on Amazon.



For those who may not be familiar, Wikki Stix are bendable, colorful sticks made

from yarn and coated with a wax formula that allows them to stick to surfaces without being sticky, which is a win for parents everywhere. They're mess-free, reusable and easy to clean up.

The activity book itself is filled with pages of cute and funny drawings kids can decorate with Wikki Stix. Kids are able to design, mold and personalize them however they want.

One of the best parts of

this book is how it appeals to a range of ages. While it's technically geared toward preschoolers, my 9-year-old daughter had an absolute blast with it.

We spent over an hour during the flight molding Wikki Stix into fun shapes, decorating the book's pages and even creating our own little figures and designs.

The bright colors and flexible nature of the Wikki Stix make them really fun for kids of all ages to play with. Plus, they're completely portable, which made them perfect for our long flight and all the drives and travel days we

had during our trip.

Younger kids will love how easy they are to manipulate and how mess-free they are. You don't have to worry about markers or crayons rolling under the seat.

Older kids are able to challenge themselves by creating more intricate designs. Since Wikki Stix are reusable, the fun doesn't end after one session. They can be peeled off and used over and over again.

All in all, this was such a great purchase and I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a creative, mess-free and portable

activity for their kids. I am rating this purchase 5 out of 5 alligators and I highly recommend this activity for all kids.

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



5 Out Of 5

Flavor explosion Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

My oldest daughter came into the kitchen about a month ago saying she wanted to try this cucumber salad recipe that was all over social media. I'm embarrassed to say I saw it online, too. The mini or "Persian" cucumbers are sliced in a fun spiral shape using chopsticks. I had written about a smashed cucumber salad a while back and this salad is inspired by the smashed method.

The idea is to create lots of surface area for the cucumber to absorb the flavors of the dressing. Plus the spiral cut is fun to eat with chopsticks and looks fancy on the plate.

I asked my daughter to describe the taste in one sentence and she said, "It's a super surprising flavor explosion." She's not far

off. It's crunchy, salty, slightly sweet and spicy.

The cucumbers are rubbed with salt to draw out their moisture so they stay crunchy and have more room to absorb the dressing. You can make this as spicy as you want by increasing the amount of chili garlic paste which is one of my new favorite ingredients. You can find it in most grocery stores. Just be aware of its heat level. Start small and add more to your taste.

The salad is a bit nutty from toasted sesame seeds and scallions are added for a subtle onion flavor.

Our family is a testament to how good this is. All of the kids love it and my fridge is always stocked with mini cucumbers.

Cheers, Mombeau

Asian Sesame Cucumber Salad

- 8 mini cucumbers
- ¼ cup kosher salt
- 3 diced scallions
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- ⅓ cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1-2 tsp chili garlic paste
- 2 tbsp sesame seeds
- 2 tbsp sesame oil

On a cutting board, lay the washed cucumbers down flat in between two chopsticks. Thinly slice the cucumber on a diagonal. The cuts won't go all the way through because your knife will hit the

chopsticks.

Turn the cucumber over and slice thinly straight down. Add the cucumbers to a bowl with the kosher salt. Gently massage the salt into the cuts of the cucumber, being careful not to tear them. Let sit for 15 minutes. While they sit with the salt, heat a small pan over medium heat with the sesame seeds. Toast the seeds for about two minutes being careful not to burn them. Set aside. Drain the liquid and gently wash off the salt thoroughly. Dry



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

the cucumbers well. Next, add the remaining ingredients including the toasted sesame seeds to a salad bowl and whisk together. Add in the cucumber to the dressing and combine

together. Clean hands make the best and gentlest utensils.

Let the salad marinate for at least 15 minutes before serving. Best eaten with chopsticks!



Harvest 2024

And now the craziness begins.

The 2024 harvest in the northern hemisphere commences about the time you are reading this — and it is a time for people who love wine to steer clear of any winery.

For the last two months, U.S., Mexican and Canadian wineries have been operating in high gear, preparing for the arrival of grapes. Wineries have been transferring last year's wine from tanks into bottles, cleaning equipment that's used just once a

year, making arrangements with truckers and harvest crews and dealing with a dozen other chores.

The hard work includes winemakers who do the critical job of walking through vineyards to see which vines are approaching flavor maturity — and this includes vineyards that are so large it is virtually impossible to see more than a random sample.

Vineyard walk-throughs by winemakers start early in the day and can last hours, often

under a broiling sun. Winemakers are looking for flavors that they can assess by chewing on grapes. They also gain clues from how the grapes look, how the leaves look and even the color of the seeds inside random grapes.

Unless a winery is extremely small, at which one or two people can attend to various tasks, a large crew of people often is employed to acquire yeast, buy bottles, arrange for labels to be printed, get the proper quantity of corks and at least 20 other seemingly mundane tasks.

When the winemaker, often in coordination with a grape grower, determines the harvest date, a crew is hired. On picking day, early in the morning at most wineries, the harvest begins. Ideally, lug boxes are loaded onto trucks while the grapes are still cool and taken directly to a winery for processing.

The different techniques used to make white, pink and red wines are normally fairly smooth with whites coming in first, reds last. The work is furious. Inevitably, unexpected problems arise.

There's an old saying in the wine business: It takes a lot of beer to make good wine. Winery workers are notorious for keeping cool with a brew. Most know that they usually have to say goodbye to family for several days at a time. Work is often

around the clock. Eating is on the run.

All three of my sons had brief teenage experiences at wineries during harvest times. All cherished the experiences. I believe it's essential to work at a winery for at least a day during harvest to understand how crazy it is to make wine.

And it may not be too late this year to experience this. If you live near a winery, regardless of where you reside, and you desire a little first-hand experience, a good idea is to call a local winery and offer to work as a "cellar rat."

If the harvest hasn't begun where you are, you may be surprised to learn you are welcome! Wineries are always looking for people eager to learn about the nuts and bolts.

Among the best places to volunteer near major population centers are wineries in Oregon (Willamette Valley), Ohio, New York (Long Island), Virginia and Missouri. Wine country areas in these states are farther from major population centers: southeastern Washington (Tri-Cities), Minnesota, Michigan (Upper Peninsula), New York (Finger Lakes), Colorado, Texas, southern Oregon and New Mexico.

And since wine is produced in every state, hunt around. You may find a winery you didn't know existed!

Even though I have spent just a few days

working harvests over the decades, I can honestly say it was some of the most wine-educational work I ever imagined.

As for visiting a winery as a tourist at this time of year, I don't recommend it. Far too much is going on and, in many cases, nerves are frayed — even among office workers and tasting room personnel.

Wine of the Week: 2021 St. Francis Merlot, Sonoma County (\$22) — A faint trace of green tea adds fascination to the deep plum and cassis

elements of the primary aroma. The wine improves in the glass with swirling. It is plush and easy to like on first sip, but I'd suggest serving it at no more than 60 F. The structure is better that way than at room temperature.s.

Dan Berger lives in Sonoma County, California, where he publishes "Vintage Experiences," a weekly wine newsletter. Write to him at winenut@gmail.com.

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FILE PHOTO

Grape harvesting period happens between August and November in the northern hemisphere, while in the southern hemisphere it is between February and April, approximately.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROYAL PICTURES, UNCOOPERATIVE PICTURES AND VERITAS PRODUCTIONS
Left, Matt O'Leary as Finn, Danielle Panabaker as Callie and George Finn as Jasper in the 2014 movie "Time Lapse," written by Bradley King and BP Cooper and directed by Bradley King.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Time Lapse"
 2014 - Not Rated
 1 hr 44 min
 ★★★★★

I'm a big fan of time travel movies and this excellent little indie film delivered in spades. If you enjoyed movies like "Primer," "Source Code," "Safety Not Guaranteed," and "Looper," I think you'll find it thoroughly engaging and will keep you guessing right until the end. The film is loosely based on an episode of "The Twilight Zone" called "A Most Unusual Camera" from 1960. Here it's fleshed out to the full hour and a half the story deserved. "Time Lapse" is the directorial debut of Bradley King who shares writing credit with BP Cooper.

Finn (Matt O'Leary), Callie (Danielle Panabaker), and Jasper (George Finn) are a trio

of 20-somethings who live together in a seedy apartment complex somewhere in Los Angeles. Finn is an aspiring artist, his girlfriend Callie is a writer, and Jasper is a bartender with a bit of a gambling problem. They all seem to get along fairly well, although you sense there's some underlying tension between them.

Finn is the handyman at the complex and one day it's brought to his attention that a neighbor Mr. Bezzerides, has fallen behind on his rent and he's tasked to look into the matter. He notices that newspapers and mail are piling up on his front porch so he and Jasper investigate further. They discover the apartment empty and subsequently find the rotting corpse in a storage room in the basement. They also find an unusual contraption in Mr. Bezzerides' apart-

ment.

They quickly figure out the machine is a huge camera aimed at their living room window. Apparently it takes a Polaroid photo of them every evening at 8 o'clock. But it's not just any photograph—it's a picture of the future.

And one entire wall of the apartment is filled with the photos. Somehow they deduce that they can predict the future, but are required to stage exactly what they see in the photograph, or else they could die. (Here is where you have to suspend logic and just go with it.)

The trio believes it's important not to mess with time or it could prove fatal. That's exactly what they surmise happened to Mr. Bezzerides. So they begin to use the machine to their advantage. Finn has what you could call "painter's block" and is struggling to start a new piece of work. By looking into the future, he sees a painting on display in the window, and thus, he copies exactly what is predicted.

Jasper, a devoted gambler, decides to use the

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



prophetic machine to aid in his bets. He simply copies down the winners in various dog races he's displayed from one day in the future. Naturally he wins every race he bets on and begins to accumulate a huge pile of money. As you'd expect, things can't go on perfectly for long. One of the problems that arises is the photographs begin to take a sinister turn. The scenes they're forced to imitate become increasingly unsettling.

The second occurrence is the result of Jasper's success at the track. His 100 percent winning streak soon comes to the attention of his bookie Ivan (Jason Spisak). One day Ivan arrives with his enforcer and uncovers the secret to Jasper's predictions. He now wants in on the action and unless he's privy to the predictions, someone's going to get "hurt." It's at this point where the story begins to unwind and you can only guess at the direction it'll take.

I really enjoyed "Time Lapse." For a small budget film, I found it totally captivating. The entire movie was filmed at the apartment complex, yet it never felt stifling or claustrophobic. The writing and acting were involving and the soundtrack added just the right touch of mystery to keep you on

your toes. One thing that has me puzzled is the lack of new movies from this promising director. A quick check on IMDb indicated that he hasn't done anything since "Time Lapse" and that's a shame. Hopefully we'll see some more movies from him in the near future. Maybe I need a time machine to see what's next?!

Note to parents: The movie is listed as "Not Rated" but I'd probably give it a PG-13 for mild swearing and gun violence.

Currently streaming for free on Kanopy and Hoopla with your library card, and Tubi. Also on Apple TV, The Roku Channel, Plex, Pluto TV, and other services.

My rating system:

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

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

★★★ Pretty good. In

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

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

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

About this column:

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

They include both mainstream and indie films streaming on services like Netflix, Hoopla, and Kanopy. I'll also review noteworthy new theatrical releases as well.

For movie trailers, visit youtube.com.

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Finn (Matt O'Leary).



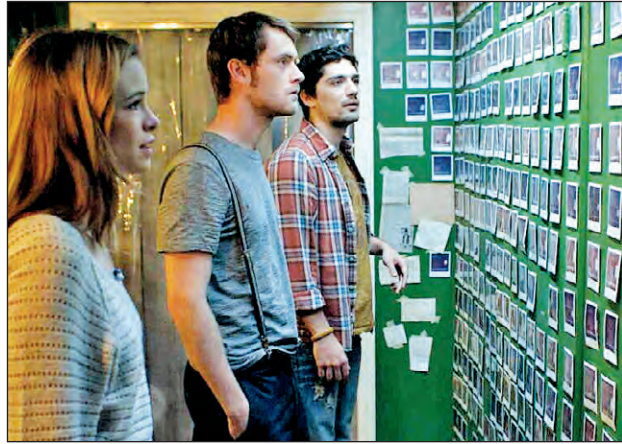
Jasper (George Finn).



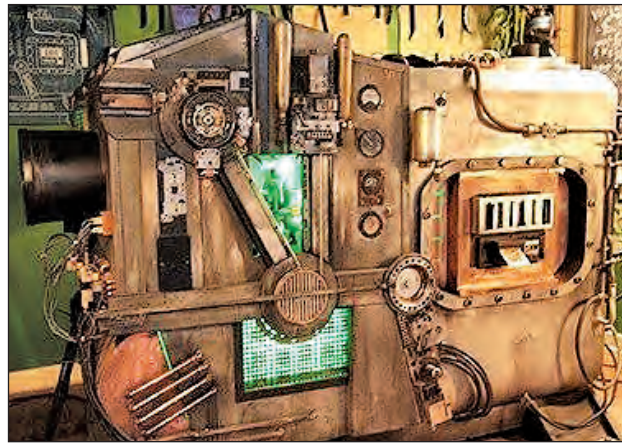
Big Joe (Amin Joseph).



Callie (Danielle Panabaker).



Examining the wall of photos.



The Time Camera.



Jasper (Finn) and his winnings.



Bookie Ivan (Jason Spisak) finds the evidence.



Getting ready to pose for the photo



One of the Polaroids.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Aries.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, September 19, 2024:

You like to create a good impression on others. You are unique and enjoy having style and flair. This is the final year of a nine-year cycle for you, which means it's time to let go of people, places and things in the past that have held you back.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

You have innovative, original ideas at work today, which is why you will look clever in the eyes of others. However, you also might have to deal with new equipment, and it's possible that there are interruptions, especially to computers and technology. Grrr. (It could go either way.) Tonight: Patience.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Surprise invitations to socialize might come your way today. Or perhaps sports events and activities with children will have some detours. An unexpected flirtation also might make your heart go pitter patter. Parents should be extra vigilant today, because this could be an accident-prone day for your kids. Tonight: Privacy.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is a great day to schmooze with friends and groups. You feel upbeat and optimistic! Meanwhile, something unexpected will change your home routine today. You might spontaneously entertain or have to deal with home repairs. Plan ahead and stock the fridge. Tonight: Be understanding.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

People notice you today, and most likely you will create a positive impression on them. Meanwhile, expect some changes to your daily routine. Unexpected short trips, new faces, new places and new ideas that are original and innovative could be exciting. Tonight: Be courteous.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Today you're hungry for change and stimulation! It's a great day to travel or do anything to expand your horizons. Meanwhile, keep an eye on your money and possessions, because something unexpected could impact them. On the upside, you will have clever, moneymaking ideas! Tonight: Discovery.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today will be full of new discoveries, because you're open to new ideas and exploring new avenues and opportunities. This also includes opportunities to learn new things about yourself. You might be very frank about sharing personal details about your life. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

This might be a restless day for you. Admittedly, you are ambitious right now, plus you find it easy to be charming and diplomatic with everyone. Having said that, you might have to go more than halfway when dealing with partners or someone close to you. (A little compromise is not a big deal.) Tonight: Tolerance.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

A friend might surprise you today. Or perhaps you will meet someone new who is different and stimulating. Or you might encounter or join a group or a new organization,

especially a nonprofit or cause-oriented group. If so, these connections could make you feel more "with it." Tonight: Get organized.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today might do something that is unexpected in the eyes of others. You might encounter a boss, parent or someone in a position of authority who likewise catches you off guard. ("Busted!") Your desire for freedom is strong today, which is why you want to call the shots. Tonight: Relax.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Unexpected chances to travel might fall in your lap today. If so, this window of opportunity will be brief, so you have to act fast. Meanwhile, this is a great day to study new things, meet people from different backgrounds or explore new aspects of religion, politics or philosophy. Tonight: Be friendly.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Make friends with your bank account, because something unexpected could impact your assets, taxes, debt, insurance or anything to do with shared property and what you hold jointly with someone else. Be in the know so that you're not caught off guard. Tonight: Listen.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Your relations with partners and close friends will be interesting today. They might do something you least expect. Hopefully, it's a fun surprise. Possibly, they will introduce you to someone new and unusual. Tonight: Check your belongings.

BORN TODAY

TV host Jimmy Fallon (1974), singer, chef, author Trisha Yearwood (1964), actor Jeremy Irons (1948).

Contract Bridge

A CRITICAL DIFFERENCE

West dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 8 3 2
♥ A Q 9 7
♦ Q 6
♣ K 5 3

WEST

♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ K J 8 5
♦ 7 3
♣ A 9 7

EAST

♠ 5
♥ 10 2
♦ A J 10 9 8 2
♣ J 10 8 6

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 7
♥ 6 4 3
♦ K 5 4
♣ Q 4 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♥	3♦	3NT
Opening lead — seven of diamonds.			

In many deals, declarer must make assumptions about the location of certain key cards because if they are located otherwise, there is no hope for the contract.

Today's deal occurred in an IMP Pairs event at a national tournament some years ago. North-South did well to reach three notrump rather than four spades, a contract that had virtually no chance as the cards lay.

West led the seven of diamonds to dummy's queen and East's ace, and South won the diamond continuation with the king. At this point, declarer had only six winners — four spades, a heart and the diamond already taken.

To have any hope of making the contract, he needed to score three additional tricks in clubs and hearts without allowing East — who was marked by his pre-emptive bid with the rest of the diamonds — to gain the lead. South therefore had to assume that East did not hold either the ace of clubs or king of hearts.

Acting on this assumption, declarer cashed the A-K-Q of spades and then led a club toward the king. West had no choice but to follow low. After the king held, South crossed to the jack of spades in order to lead a heart to the queen.

When the heart finesse succeeded, declarer cashed the ace of hearts and played a third heart. West took the jack and king but was then forced to lead a club from the A-9, handing South the game-going trick with the queen.

Once declarer made the necessary assumptions and proceeded accordingly, there was no way the defenders could escape.

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by Steve Becker

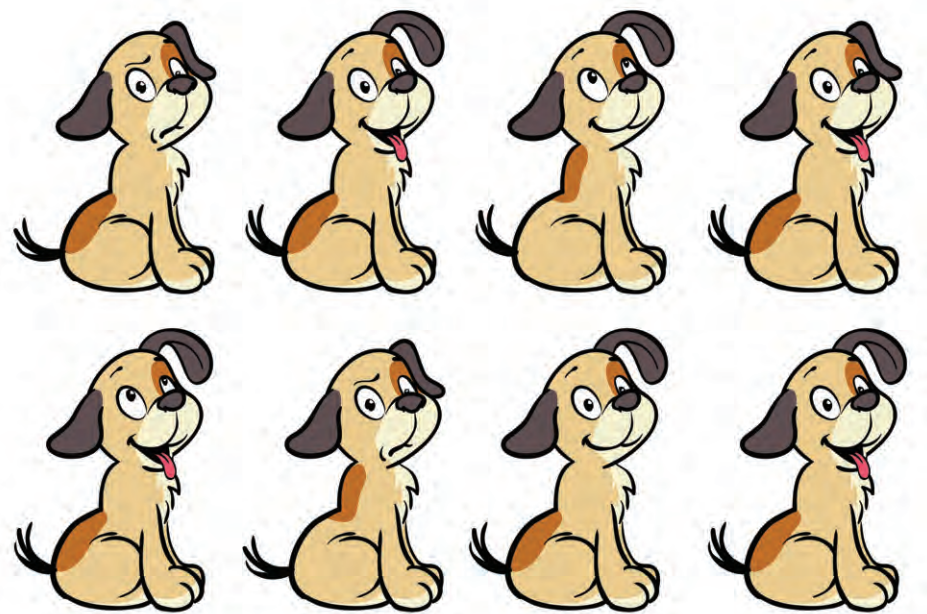
FIND THE CORRECT SHADOW



How Many Dogs Do You See?



FIND 2 SAME PICTURES



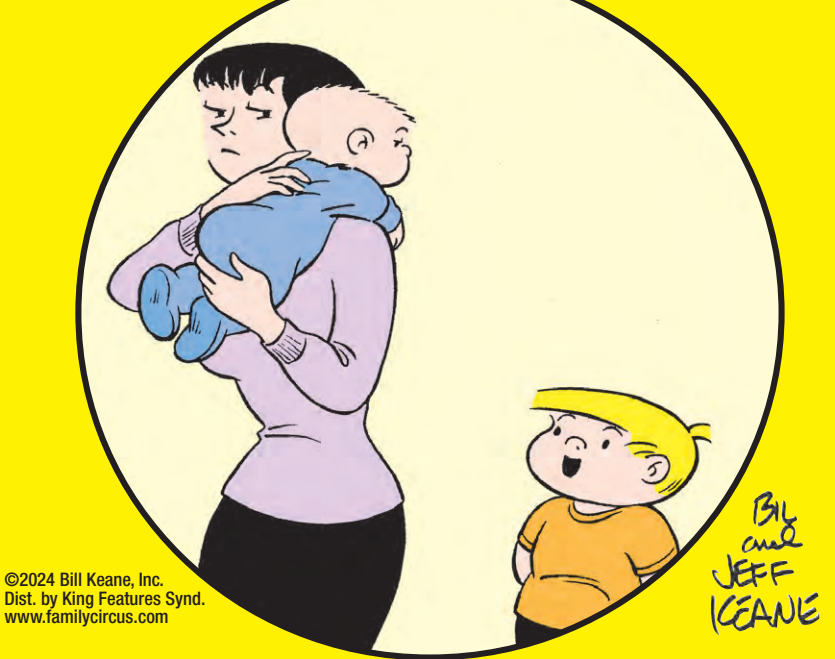
FIND THE CORRECT SHADOW



Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"You call THAT a burp? Listen to THIS!...."

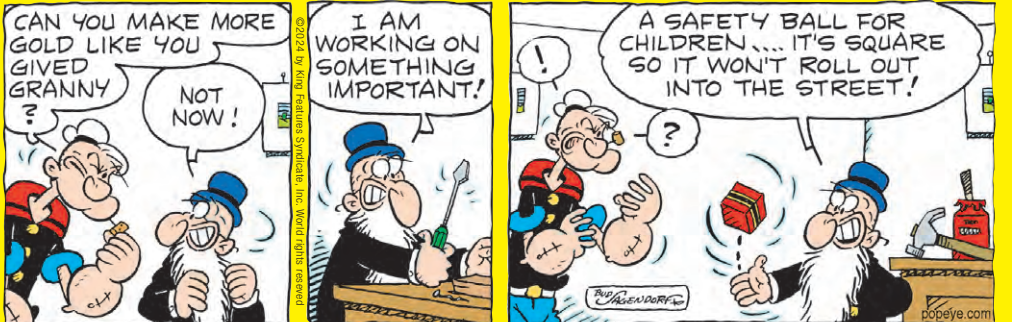
Garfield

Jim Davis



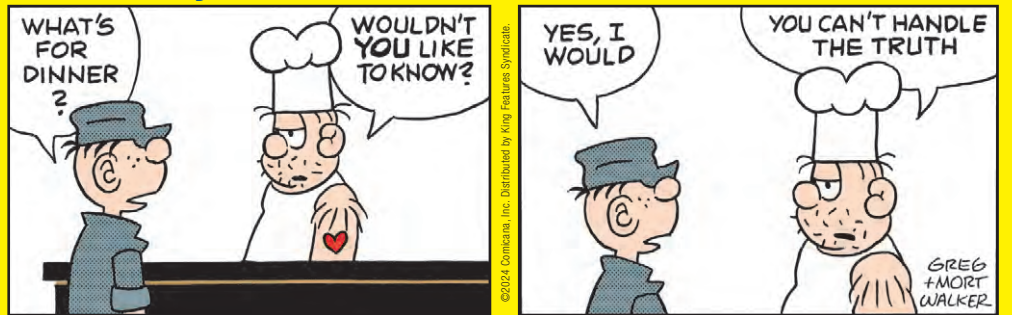
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



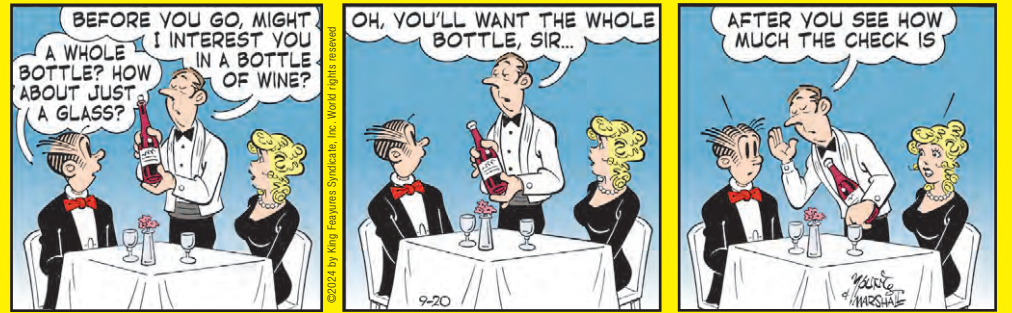
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



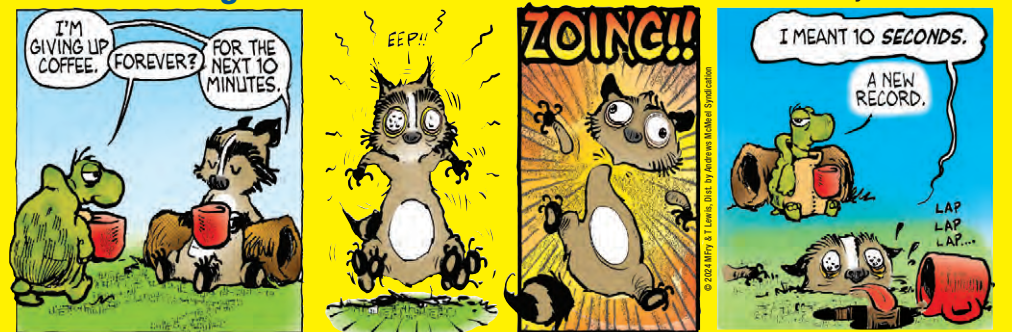
Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



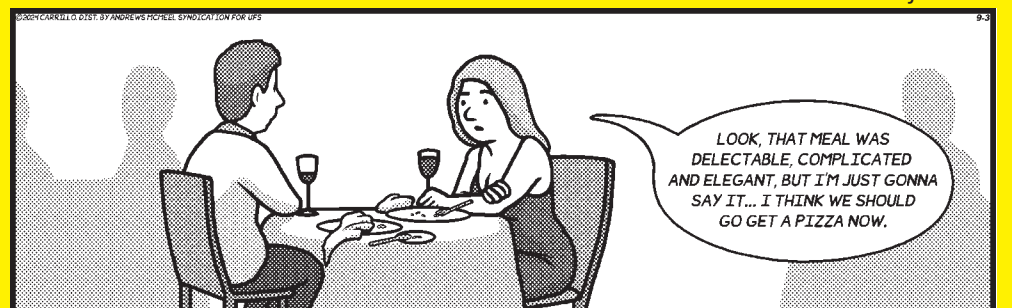
Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo



Ziggy

Tom Wilson



Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

9/19

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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9/12 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg September 19, 2024

ACROSS

- 1 Face (skin care product)
- 6 Word before "cry" or "out"
- 9 Great (dog breed)
- 13 Opposite of obtuse
- 14 Strong wind
- 15 Black-and-white whale in Kwakwaka'wakw lore
- 16 "Choir teacher's handout"
- 18 Backside
- 19 Roll in a yard?
- 20 Trot, e.g.
- 21 Jedi Kenobi who stated, "Only a Sith deals in absolutes"
- 23 Referee's decision
- 24 Swanky hotel option
- 25 "Where you might find a concert flyer or 'help wanted' ad"
- 29 Spanish small plates
- 30 Overnight (popular breakfast)
- 31 British bathroom
- 32 "Guys, and nonbinary pals" (rhyming address)
- 33 "Cash dispenser"
- 34 Elegant and luxurious
- 35 100%

- 36 "The Son of Man" painter
- 38 Yoga pose
- 40 "Fragrance company giveaway"
- 43 Macaroni shape
- 44 Slasher film centers
- 45 Anni Albers or Claude Monet
- 47 Draped in dress
- 48 Time span
- 51 Like lemons
- 52 "Here's my feedback" ... and what the answers to the starred clues could say?
- 55 Like lemons
- 56 Off-Broadway award
- 57 ___ panda (raccoon, humorously)
- 58 Road trip stops
- 59 Wordless assent
- 60 Like a margarita glass rim

- 10 "Is it just us?"
- 11 Org. for the Golden Bears or Golden Gophers
- 12 Bring in
- 14 Deceitful cunning
- 17 Shopping centers
- 22 Babies' mealtime garments
- 23 Four in a quart
- 24 Thailand, formerly
- 25 Bowling alley device
- 26 "Def!"
- 27 Civil rights activist
- 28 "Silly me!"
- 29 "Tall" story
- 32 Space between teeth
- 33 Freshly
- 34 Like some pastel colors

- 36 Barbecue spice mixes
- 37 Anxiety in "Inside Out 2," e.g.
- 38 Italian for "love"
- 39 Runs like a cheetah
- 41 Texts "heyyy," maybe
- 42 Tequila source
- 45 Italian wine region
- 46 "Feminomenon" singer
- 47 Stated
- 48 And others: Abbr.
- 49 "The ___ is history!"
- 50 Like a used firepit
- 53 "Succession" airer
- 54 60 minuti

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

9/12 Solution

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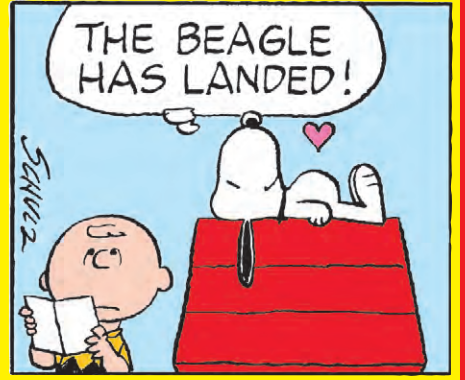
My Two Cents by Amie Walker and Geoffrey Schorkopf

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14					15				
16					17					18				
19				20				21	22					
			23					24						
			25					26			27	28		
		29						30				31		
32								33				34		
35								36	37			38	39	
40								41				42		43
								44						
45	46							47				48	49	50
51								52	53					54
55								56						57
58								59						60

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



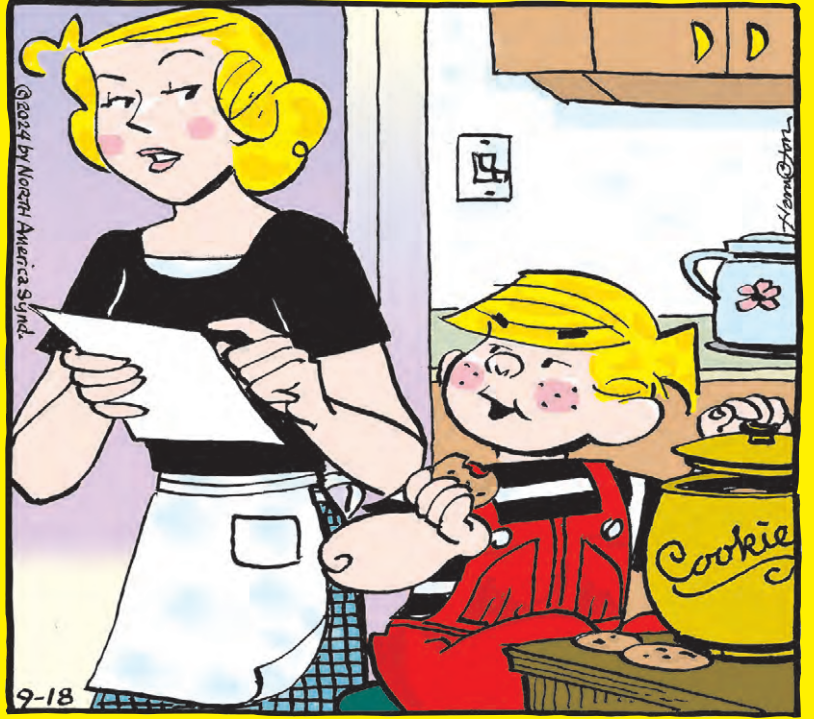
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



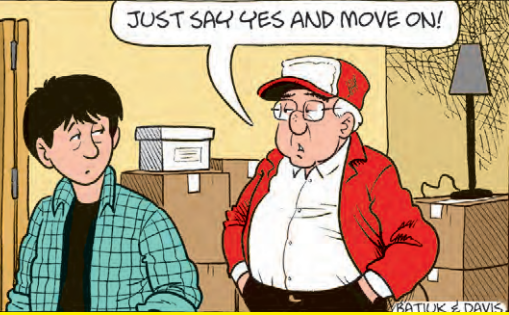
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



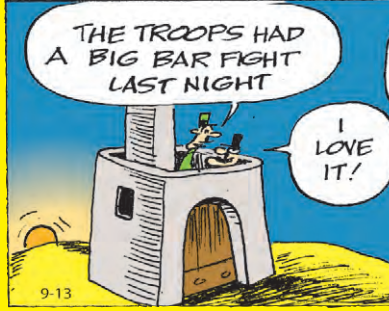
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



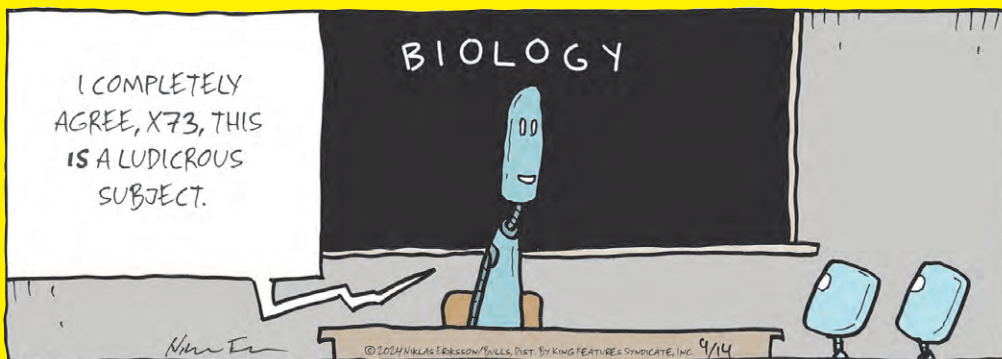
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



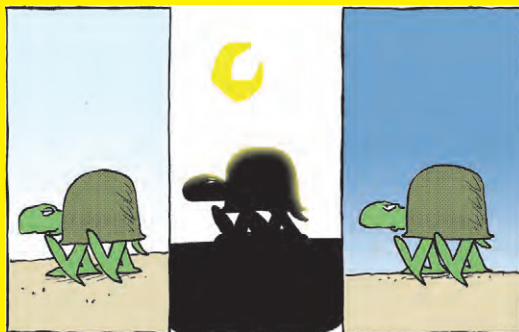
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



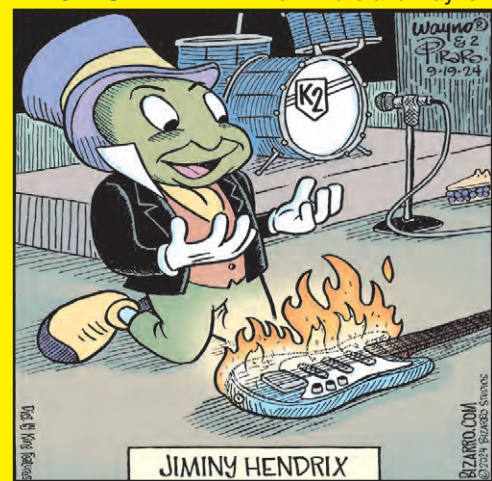
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Close To Home

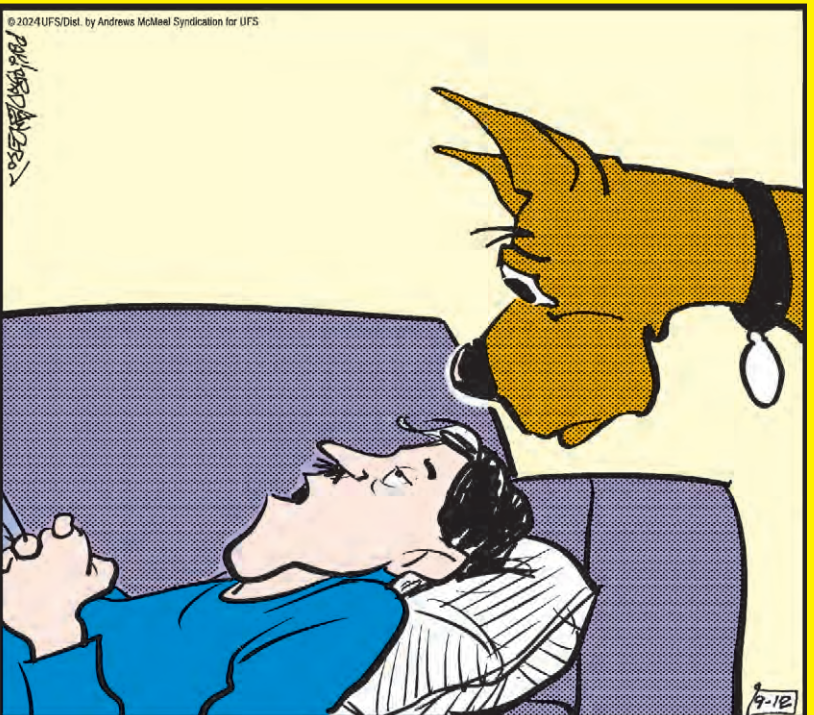
John McPherson



"I KNOW that dinosaurs and humans never co-existed. I just want to mess with the archaeologists who will see this in 100,000 years!"

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"You aren't the only one allowed to take naps."

Kid Scoop

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Kid Scoop Together

Make a Cereal Box Puzzle

Can a Cereal Box Save the World?



With the projects on this page, you can find new uses for empty cereal boxes. That will help reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills, and make fun and useful gifts for family and friends at the same time! Will it save the world? Well, it's a start!

How many differences can you spot between these two boxes of cereal?

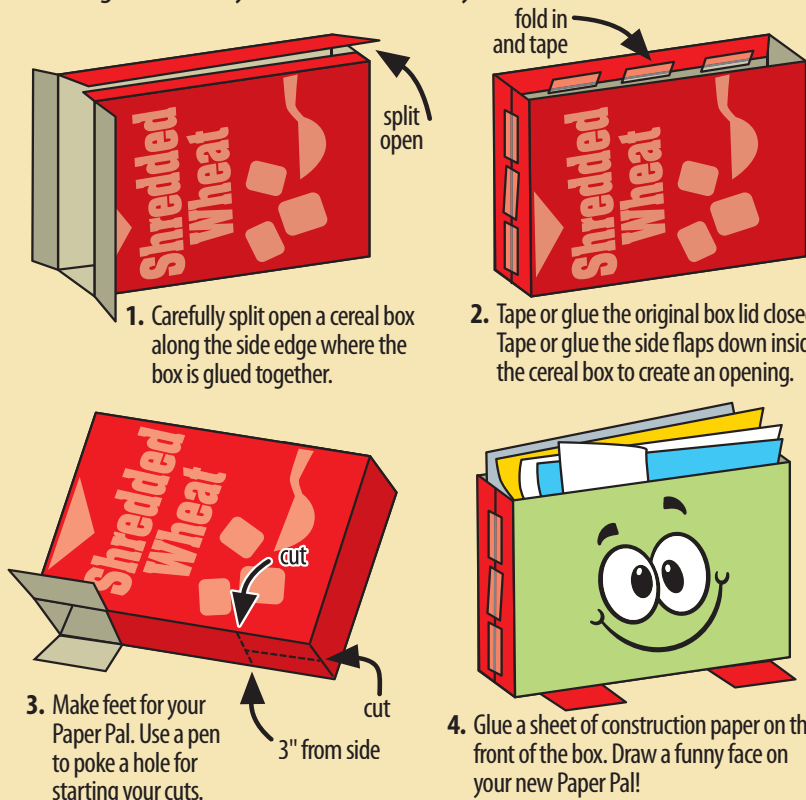


Make a Paper Pal

Follow the directions to make a simple holder that helps people collect school and office paper for recycling. You can make one or more Paper Pals and give them to your friends and family.

Stuff You'll Need:

- cereal box
- scissors
- tape or glue stick
- construction paper
- pen



Can You Guess?

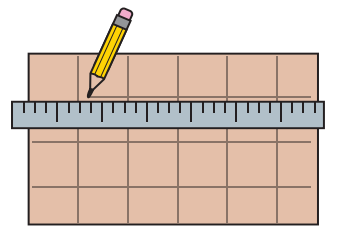
How many sheets of paper will your Paper Pal hold? Write your guess, or estimate here:

Once your Paper Pal is full, count the number of sheets of paper it holds. How close was your guess?

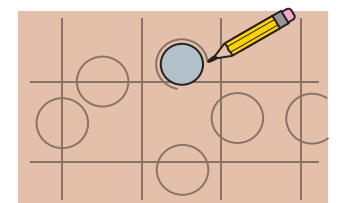
Standards Link: Follow written instructions.

Stuff You'll Need:

- cereal box
- adult helper
- scissors
- pencil
- ruler
- coin



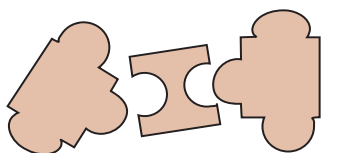
1. Cut the front panel off the box. Use the ruler to draw a grid on the back of the cardboard.



2. Use the coin to draw puzzle piece shapes as shown.



3. Carefully cut out the puzzle shapes and see if a family member can put it together in under two minutes.



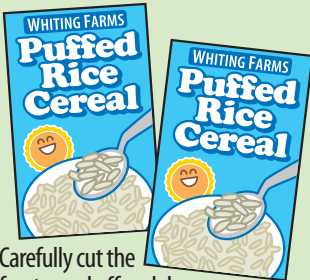
4. If the puzzle is too easy, have them try assembling it with the blank cardboard side up!

Cereal Box Matching Game

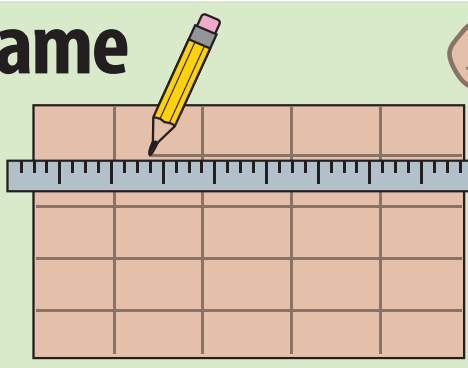
Create a game that's fun and challenging for all ages.

Stuff You'll Need:

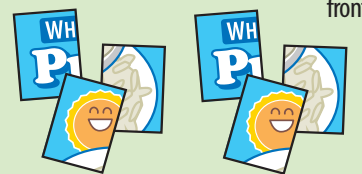
- two identical cereal boxes
- scissors
- ruler
- pencil
- adult helper



1. Carefully cut the front panel off each box.



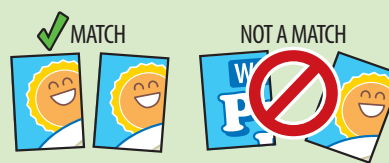
2. Have an adult help you measure 2" x 4" rectangles* on the blank side of the cardboard. Repeat for the second box.



3. Carefully cut out the rectangles from both boxes to create the game cards. Be sure each card has an exact duplicate.



4. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in rows. Take turns turning over two cards at a time to create pairs.



5. If you make a match, keep those two cards. The person with the most cards wins.

*NOTE: Cards can be cut to any size as long as you end up with TWO identical matching sets. For a bigger challenge, use the back panels of each box, too!

Recycle It!

Look through the newspaper to find:

- Something that can be recycled.
- Something that can be used in more than one way.
- Something you could use to make a gift.

Standards Link: Follow simple written directions.

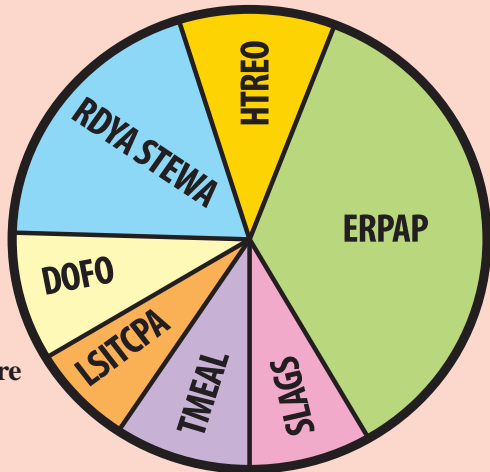
Kid Scoop Puzzler

Nearly everything we throw away ends up in a landfill. And landfills are filling up. By recycling, you can send less trash to the landfill. Unscramble the words on the pie chart to answer these questions:

What do we toss the most?

How many different kinds of trash are in landfills?

Do landfills have more yard waste or glass?



Standards Link: Math: Interpret information using graphs.

Double Double Word Search

- BLANK
- BOXES
- CEREAL
- COUNT
- CUT
- DRAW
- ESTIMATE
- FACE
- HOLES
- PAPER
- RECYCLE
- REDUCE
- RULER
- TAPE
- WASTE

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.



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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **ESTIMATE**

The verb **estimate** means to make a careful guess about the amount of something.

We made an **estimate** that there were 50 pieces of paper litter on the playground.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

New and Better?

Find three items in today's newspaper that you think were NOT around 15 years ago. What advantages does each offer? What disadvantages? Are there more advantages or disadvantages?

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.

What kind of cereal is the smartest of all?

ANSWER: Raisin Bran!

Write On!

Reuse It!

Can you think of some creative ways to reuse plastic containers or cardboard boxes? Write your ideas and include instructions.



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North soccer wins big, honors legendary coach

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe North varsity boys soccer knew it needed to make a strong impression in its game against Warren Mott Monday, Sept. 16. The Norsemen hosted the Marauders with several program alumni in attendance who came to honor legendary North coach Guido Regelbrugge. In the end, the team did not disappoint, making a statement against Mott with a 9-1 victory.

Monday marked the second annual Guido Regelbrugge Cancer Awareness Match. Regelbrugge is considered the “godfather” of North soccer, founding the program as a club team known as the Grosse Pointe Cougars. He then helped establish the varsity boys soccer program for the Norsemen in 1980, and the varsity girls program in 1984, coaching both

until his retirement in 1995. Regelbrugge passed away in 2006 from cancer.

“He was larger than life,” said David Dwaihy, current University Liggett School boys and girls varsity soccer coach and former North soccer player who played under Regelbrugge, in a statement to the crowd before the game. “I didn’t have the privilege of learning from him in the classroom, but I learned many lessons from him on the field. ... His reach is very wide.”

With alumni in attendance, the Norsemen came out attacking early and often. Senior captain Matthew Robert got the scoring started in the 11th minute. He ended up scoring twice more after that in the 16th and 29th minutes for a natural hat-trick, giving North a 3-0 lead.

The scoring frenzy in the first half didn’t end with Robert’s efforts. Vincenzo Bonasso made

it 4-0 Norsemen for the first of three goals North scored in the final three minutes before the break. Joshua Triplett found the net shortly after and Brisco Rainbolt put the punctuation mark on the first half right at the buzzer with another goal to put North ahead 6-0.

Mott scored its lone goal early in the second half, but it seemed too little and too late. Goals by Jack Odell, Jean-Paul Shemmai and Triplett again finished off the game for a dominant Norsemen victory.

The win helped improve North’s record this season to 4-5-2 and served as the team’s second win in MAC Blue Division play. The Norsemen visited Lakeview Wednesday, Sept. 18, after press time. They are back in action Monday, Sept. 23, hosting L’Anse Creuse North. That game is scheduled to kick off at 7 p.m.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Current players and coaches from North’s varsity boys soccer team greet alumni who played under former coach Guido Regelbrugge ahead of the team’s game against Warren Mott on Monday, Sept. 16.



North senior captain Matthew Robert poses for his teammates after scoring his second of three goals in the Norsemen’s 9-1 win.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Vachon proving to be South football’s dynamic playmaker

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

There is no shortage of great athletes in the Pointes and one of the most dynamic right now has to be Grosse Pointe South senior Vince Vachon. Not only will he be the starting point guard of the Blue Devils varsity boys basketball team in the winter, but he currently is spending the fall season as one of the top playmakers on South’s varsity football team at wide receiver.

“I was always playing sports and always competitive,” Vachon said. “... As I got older, I fell in love with basketball and playing basketball in middle school. I really didn’t plan on playing football at all until freshman year when a friend convinced me to play. From the first game, I just fell in love with it instantly. Everything about the team aspect of the game is awesome. I’ve always



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Vachon celebrates a trip to the end zone in the Blue Devils’ Week 2 win over Romeo.

been competitive, so any sport I play I give it my all.”

When he first started playing football his freshman year, Vachon began as quarterback but later was moved to receiver. It proved to be the right move for South as he is on pace for a career year his senior season.

Vachon leads the Blue Devils with 12 catches for 239 yards and four touchdowns through three games so far in 2024. Two of those touchdown catches came in South’s most recent victory, a 28-17 win over Utica Sept. 13. “His speed is what sets him apart,” South varsity football head

coach Chad Hepner said about Vachon. “He’s that guy who can take the top off the defense. The other thing that he’s improved on is the precision of his route-running and his fundamentals...He’s really worked hard to improve and is the guy that teams have to game plan against us to stop,

and has come along as a leader with the whole wide receiver group.”

Behind every great receiver is a strong connection with his quarterback and that is exactly what Vachon and South signal-caller Jack Lupo have. The two broke out as a duo their junior seasons in 2023, and are looking like the senior stars they were expected to be so far in 2024.

“Last year was our first year together and we played really well,” Vachon said about his chemistry with Lupo. “I think we both knew that

See ATHLETE, page 2D

Grosse Pointe News



Vince Vachon

School: Grosse Pointe South
 Sport: Football

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Victorious Vince

- Leads South varsity football with 239 rec. yards and 4 TDs through 3 games
- Had 4 catches for 77 yards and 2 TDs against Utica on Sept. 13
- Varsity starter for South in both football and basketball



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2D | SPORTS

Norsemen fight hard but fall in overtime to Lamphere

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity football team entered its first game of MAC Gold Division play against Lamphere Friday, Sept. 13, searching for its first win of the season and a positive start to its quest of winning another division title. After a six-point loss to Cousino the week before, the Norsemen found themselves in another close battle with the Rams, but came up just short again in a 27-24 loss in overtime.

“We have a young team and hopefully they learn from it,” North football head coach Joe Drouin said. “We’re improving from week to week. Our biggest problem still is the turnovers. We had two fumbles in the red zone and an interception, so we’re still struggling with ball security. If you can’t handle the ball, you can’t win a game. ... That’s things we can improve on. It’s just mental

mistakes. I’ll take a mistake of effort any day with these kids.”

North got on the board first with a short touchdown pass from Jacob Sahadi to Leo Perettie to go up 7-0. Lamphere answered before the opening quarter ended, tying the score at 7-7. The second quarter ended up being a stalemate, with the 7-7 tie holding into halftime.

The Norsemen struck first in the second half to take the lead again. It took a couple of tries for North to muscle the ball into the end zone from a couple of yards out, but senior running back Caleb Rivera was able to break through and put North ahead 13-7.

However, after taking the lead, Lamphere answered again. The Rams were able to reach the end zone before the third quarter ended and a successful two-point conversion made it 15-13 in favor of Lamphere entering the final frame.

Lamphere extended its

lead in the fourth quarter by finding the end zone once again, making the score 21-13. With just 1:23 remaining in the game, the Norsemen needed a big play and Perettie was the one to step up. Sahadi and Perettie connected for an 81-yard touchdown and a successful two-point conversion, tying the game at 21-21. North’s defense held strong in the final minute of regulation to help force overtime.

North had the ball first in overtime but had to settle for a field goal, taking the lead 24-21. Lamphere still had a chance to answer and was able to get the game-winning touchdown to win 27-24.

The loss drops North to 0-3 overall so far this season and 0-1 in MAC Gold Division play. The Norsemen get another division opponent in Week 4, hosting Sterling Heights for homecoming night Friday, Sept. 20.

The Stallions, who forfeited their game against

North in 2023, after canceling their season, also enter the game 0-3 and have not scored a point so far this season. While the Norsemen do not want to underestimate any opponent, the team sees its matchup against Sterling Heights as one that will hopefully bring a needed confidence boost.

“It’s going to be a game where we can work on a lot of things,” Drouin said. “We can’t play down to their level. We have to play up to our level.”

North hosts the Stallions Friday, Sept. 20, with kickoff at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH
North junior QB Jacob Sahadi, pictured in a Week 2 game against Cousino, had 2 passing TDs in the Norsemen’s loss to Lamphere on Friday, Sept. 13.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Vachon had four catches, including two touchdowns, and 77 yards in the Blue Devils’ 28-7 win against Utica on Friday, Sept. 13, helping the team improve to 3-0 in 2024.

ATHLETE: Continued from page 1D

if we could take it even a step further it could be a real game changer. Any day in the offseason when it wasn’t snowing or when it got to spring, we were out on the football field and just running routes and talking about things we could do on the field with each other that could change the game and how we approach teams.”

When Vachon was not working with his QB, he was busy on the basketball court with the Blue Devils. He also credits some of his improvement so far this season to his work throughout the year in the weight room, especially when it comes to gaining back weight he lost while playing basketball.

Adding weight and muscle is what Vachon wanted to help him improve the aspect of his game he thinks still needs the most work. Speed is the name of the game for him as a receiver when he gets the ball, but he knows he still needs size and strength to help his team on plays where his number is not being called.

“I think my blocking needs a little

work,” Vachon said. “Receivers always think they just have to make the big play and score touchdowns. I care about helping my running back and helping on those QB draws. I want to make it easier for the linemen and do my job when the ball isn’t being thrown my way.”

That mindset is a testament to Vachon’s selfless attitude and work ethic. While he enjoys getting to the end zone and catching as many balls as he can, Vachon knows the No. 1 priority is always the team.

He credits his coaches at South for giving him that mentality and knows no matter where life takes him after his senior football season, there are lessons he learned as a Blue Devil that will stick with him forever.

“They’re not just coaches of football. I think they’re teachers of life,” Vachon said. “They give such great guidance in life. Even starting my freshman year, the freshman coaches were so welcoming and taught me things that I’ll hold onto forever. My varsity coaches, they know what they’re doing and they trust every guy and love each and every one of us, which is huge for a team coming together and winning games.”

‘I care about helping my running back and helping on those QB draws. I want to make it easier for the linemen and do my job when the ball isn’t being thrown my way’

VINCE VACHON, GP SOUTH SENIOR FOOTBALL WIDE RECEIVER

Grosse Pointe News




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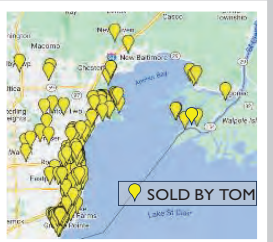
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Blue Devils football triumphs over Utica, improves to 3-0



Senior QB Jack Lupo threw for 139 yards and 2 touchdowns in South's 28-7 win over Utica, Sept. 13.

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

There is no place better to be than 3-0 through three weeks of the high school football season. That is exactly where the Grosse Pointe South varsity football team is after another victory last week, going on the road to face Utica Friday, Sept. 13, and coming away with a 28-7 win.

"You hear the adage that you have to take things one at a time and we do," South football head coach Chad Hepner said. "We take a lot of pride in winning the MAC White like we've done the past two seasons and that's absolutely one of our goals. The real story of the game is how banged up we were and we were struggling to put

together efficient practices because guys were banged up or sick. ... We had to overcome a lot of adversity just to pull together and play on Friday, so I'm really proud of how those guys were able to come together on the field."

Both teams traded punts for the first few opening possessions of last Friday's game. It was South that got on the board first, with what ended up being the only points of the opening quarter, when senior Lex Wilson muscled his way into the end zone from seven yards out for a rushing touchdown that put the Blue Devils up 6-0.

South got the ball back early in the second quarter and was looking to add to its lead. A 20-yard catch by sophomore

Trey Grabowski helped set the Blue Devils up right on the goal line, with a QB sneak by Jack Lupo pushing South into the end zone and ahead on the scoreboard 14-0 after a successful two-point conversion.

Utica was able to answer on its ensuing possession, with Mahti Gwilly finding the end zone on the ground to cut South's lead to 14-7. However, the Blue Devils widened the gap once again just before halftime. With a minute to go before the break, Lupo and senior receiver Vince Vachon connected on a 29-yard touchdown pass that put South in front 21-7 going into halftime.

After some strong offensive possessions in the first half, neither team was able to do

much in the second half. South's defense played stout and shut the Chieftains out the entire second half.

The only points of the half came in the final seconds of the third quarter. Lupo and Vachon combined for another touchdown pass and catch, this time from 24 yards out, that proved to be the final punctuation mark on South's win.

Lupo finished the game completing 10 of his 13 passing attempts for 139 yards and two touchdowns. Vachon had four catches total, including his two touchdowns, and 77 yards.

Along with a rushing touchdown on offense, Wilson led South's defense with 14 total tackles. Josh Lemanski and Charlie Bedsworth each finished with 10 tackles as well.

"They're definitely liv-

ing up to expectations," Hepner said about South's defense. "We had a lot of guys we knew we could depend on who have been even better versions of themselves. The young guys have really shown some growth over the last couple of weeks. They know we have a high standard and one of the foundations of our programs is going to be playing great defense."

While improving to 3-0 with the win over Utica, it also marked the first MAC White Division win of the season for the Blue Devils. South continues division play in Week 4 with another game on the road. The Blue Devils visit L'Anse Creuse Friday, Sept. 20, with kickoff at 7 p.m.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

South receiver Trey Grabowski breaks through Utica tacklers during a 20-yard catch that would set the Blue Devils up on the goal line and eventually lead to a touchdown.

South girls best North in swim rivalry

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With so many deep traditions surrounding the sport of swimming in the Pointes, there is always a special feel when crosstown rivals face off head to head in the pool. Tuesday, Sept. 10, Grosse Pointe North's varsity girls swim and dive team hosted rival Grosse Pointe South and the Blue Devils ended up earning bragging rights with a 136-39 victory.

Some of the top performers in the win for South included Mischa Eng and Whitney Handwork, who both earned a few first-place finishes. Eng took first in the 100 fly and 100 backstroke and also earned a top finish in the 200

medley relay with teammates Quinn Ryan, Caroline Bryan and Hannah DiDio.

Eng and Handwork were teammates in the victorious 400 free relay squad along with Ryan and Bryan once again. Handwork won the 200 free and 500 free. She also was on the first-place 200 free relay team with DiDio, Lorelei Carr and Nicole McEnroe.

Both Bryan and Ryan also had highlights for South outside of relays. Ryan was victorious in the 50 free and took second in the 100 backstroke. Bryan added to her relay wins with a victory in the 200 IM and a second-place finish in the 100 fly.

One of the top performers for the Norsemen was freshman

Hadley Beal. Beal earned top-three finishes in three of four events, including taking first in the 100 breaststroke. She also took second in the 200 free relay with teammates Mia Melhelm, Lauren Loper and Addie Wakefield. Junior Cailey Hard also had some top-three finishes for North, including getting second in the 200 IM and third in the 100 fly.

North visited Farmington Tuesday, Sept. 17, after press time, for its next meet. The Norsemen swim again at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 24, at Dakota.

The Blue Devils hosted Dakota after press time Tuesday, Sept. 17. They are back home Tuesday, Sept. 24, to host Eisenhower for a meet starting at 6 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

South and North girls swimmers get ready on the blocks as the teams went head-to-head on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

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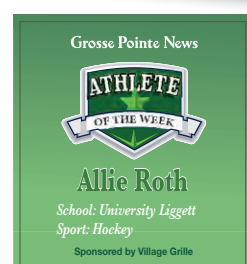
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4D | SPORTS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett football bounces back with big win over Hamtramck

After suffering its first loss of the season in Week 2, the University Liggett School varsity football team rallied to make a statement win in Week 3, beating Hamtramck 47-0 on the road Friday, Sept. 13. The Knights were led by junior quarterback Nikkos Davis, who threw for 250 yards and had three total touchdowns, two passing and one rushing. Senior Santino Cicarella, pictured above right, had 133 receiving yards and two touchdown catches while also intercepting the Cosmos twice on defense. Junior running back Pierre Walker, pictured above left, also tallied 163 yards on the ground. The Knights improve to 2-1 so far this season and return home Friday, Sept. 20, to face Cranbrook, kicking off at 4 p.m.

South coach prepares for challenge to honor late swimmer

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When Grosse Pointe South boys and girls varsity swim and dive head coach John Fodell heard about the passing of former South swimmer Flynn MacKrell, he knew

almost immediately there had to be a way to preserve MacKrell's legacy within the program. "He was such a big part of our team," Fodell said. "Flynn was just a joy and just had real good energy and was real positive. ... We were

actually at the girls state meet when we found out about it. Throughout the whole thing, we were thinking about what we can do to honor him and remember him and what would be a good legacy for him and for the team that he was such a part of

and he loved." MacKrell, who graduated from South in the class of 2023 and was a four-year varsity swimmer, passed away in November last year due to injuries sustained in a car accident. His legacy led to the creation of the

Flynn MacKrell Memorial Scholarship and now Fodell is looking to bring even more attention to the scholarship and MacKrell's memory by completing a 10-mile swim in the Tennessee River.

no ground to touch. I thought it would be a good way to have something behind the scholarship to bring attention to it and keep posting that we're thinking about Flynn."

On Oct. 5, Fodell will travel to Chattanooga, Tenn., to take part in the "Swim the Suck" challenge, a 10-mile down-river swim. Fodell has done the race before and is ready to take on the challenge once again to honor MacKrell's memory and help the scholarship remain part of South swimming's tradition.

The Flynn MacKrell Memorial Scholarship was awarded for the first time at the end of South's varsity boys swimming season in the winter, with Ben Bryan being the recipient. Fodell and South also hope to make the scholarship part of the girls varsity team's tradition as well, and want it to be awarded each year to swimmers who best embody the characteristics MacKrell displayed during his years with the team.

"It was one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life," he said. "They say swimming ten miles is like running about 60. There's no stopping and

See SWIM, page 8D

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys and girls swim and dive coach John Fodell will attempt a 10-mile swim in the Tennessee River on Saturday, Oct. 5, to raise money and awareness for the Flynn MacKrell Memorial Scholarship.

North, Liggett volleyball teams look for early wins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Volleyball season is cruising along in the Pointes and so far teams are experiencing some ups and downs this season. For Grosse Pointe North, the varsity volleyball team bounced back from a tough league loss by getting some wins at a tournament over the weekend. University Liggett School's varsity team also played in a weekend tournament and ended up taking home the trophy.

North hosted Henry Ford II Thursday, Sept. 12, in a MAC White Division matchup. The Norsemen ended up on the losing side by a score of 3-1. North took the first set of the match in a close 28-26 battle. However, Ford II rallied after that, taking the second set 25-12. The third set also went to the Falcons 25-19, and the victory was finished off in the fourth set with a 25-17 win for Ford II.

The Norsemen went into the week-

end looking to bounce back from the loss and did so by collecting a few wins at Lakeview

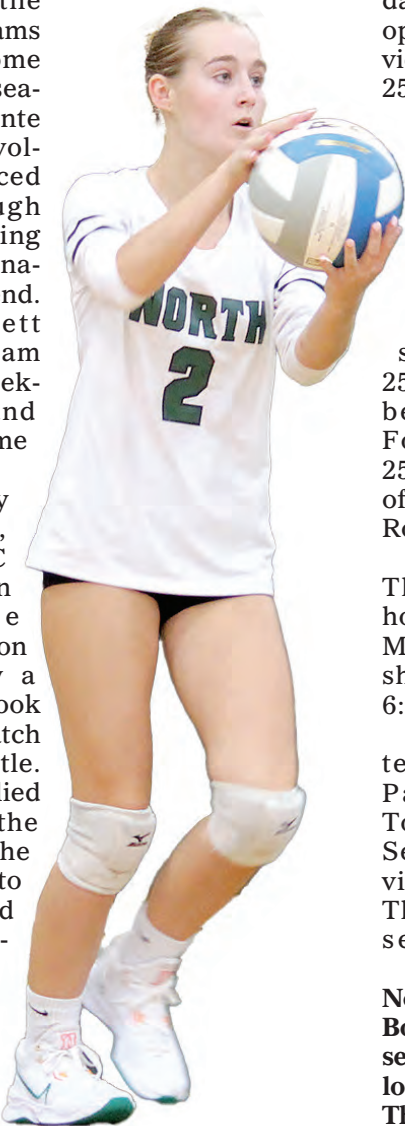


PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

High School's Dog Pound Invitational. North won four of its five matches during the day Saturday, Sept. 14, opening with a two-set victory over Hazel Park 25-4 and 25-12.

North went on to beat hosts Lakeview 2-0, taking both sets with scores of 25-21 and 25-18. The Norsemen also beat Warren Cousino 2-0 with scores of 25-22 and 25-10. They also got the better of Dearborn Fordson 25-17 and 25-21. North's only loss of the day came against Rochester in three sets.

North is back home Thursday, Sept. 19, hosting Stevenson in a MAC White Division showdown starting at 6:30 p.m.

University Liggett's team played in the Parkway Christian Tournament Saturday, Sept. 14, and reigned victorious in the end. The Knights won the semifinals against

North senior Isabella Boedeker prepares to serve in the Norsemen's loss to Ford II last Thursday, Sept. 12.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SULLIVAN

Liggett senior captains Claire Juip, Lydia Fedewa-Widick and Shade Patrick hold the Parkway Christian Tournament trophy after the Knights took first place on Saturday, Sept. 14.

Cardinal Mooney, coming from behind late to win both sets 26-24. Liggett then beat Merritt Academy in the finals in three sets, improving

the team's record to 6-1-1 so far this season. The Knights hosted Cardinal Mooney in the CHSL matchup Tuesday, Sept. 17, after

press time. Liggett goes on the road for its next match, visiting Everest Collegiate Thursday, Sept. 19, starting at 6:30 p.m.

South, North cross-country teams continue September success

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Both boys and girls cross-country runners from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North have been putting together a host of strong per-

formances this season. During the last week, those positive results continued with both the Norsemen and Blue Devils ranking high at invitationals, with South also picking up an encouraging league victory.

That league victory came Tuesday, Sept. 10, when South's boys and girls varsity teams ran in the MAC White Jamboree at Stoney Creek Metropark. Both teams ended at the top of the standings out of eight

teams. Sarah Koval, Adelina Parikh and Savannah Spangler were the top three runners for the girls team, making up the top three in the final results. Freshman Paige Garbo also made it into the top 10, while sophomore Calisse Budek was just outside the top 10 in 11th place.

South also had the top finisher on the boys side, with Jack Martin earning first place overall. Fellow senior Tethyan McKenzie took fourth place and Joshua Sonnenberg was ninth while Edmund Shall finished 11th.

Following the strong showing at



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE ZARANEK

From left: Calisse Budek, Sarah Koval and Adelina Parikh show off their medals earned for South varsity girls cross country at the New Boston Huron Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 14.

the MAC White Jamboree during the week, South's boys and girls teams moved on to the weekend when they raced in the New Boston Huron Invitational Saturday, Sept. 14. The boys team finished sixth out of 15 teams, with Martin once again leading the way by crossing the finish line ninth overall. McKenzie also was in the top 10 once again, earning 10th place just behind his teammate.

The girls also competed in a field of 15 at Willow Metropark, ending in fifth place in the final standings. Koval was the team's highest finisher, getting into the top 10 by finishing eighth. Parikh finished 16th while Budek also got into the top 30 at 25th. Both the boys and girls teams from North also were in action Saturday, Sept. 14, racing in Stoney Creek's Autumn Classic. The boys team finished in the

top 10 of a stacked field of 28 teams, taking sixth place overall. The Norsemen boys had four runners make it into the top 50 for the day. Caleb Kosel was 12th, Paul Stephens took 18th place, Neil Orlovski finished 20th, while Dylan Phillips crossed the finish line 49th. The girls team for North also finished in the top half of the standings, ending in eighth place. Three

See XC, page 8D



PHOTO BY MELISSA SPAIN

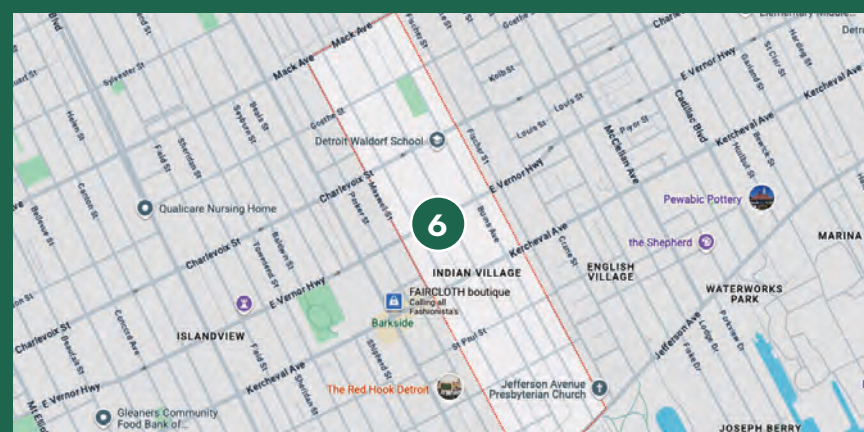
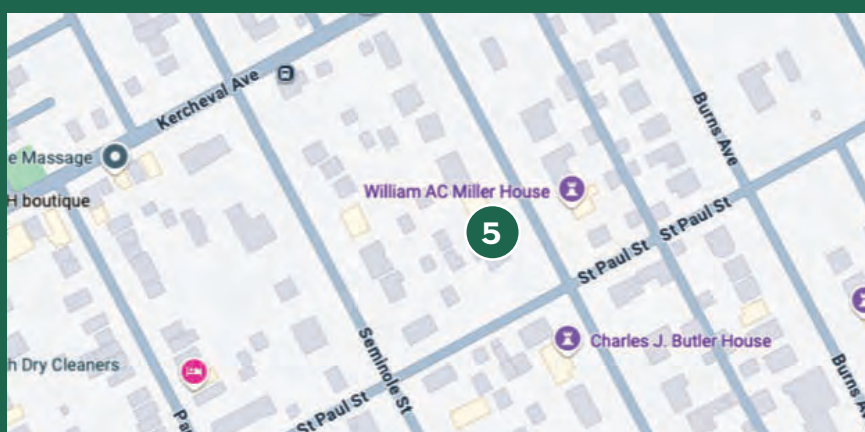
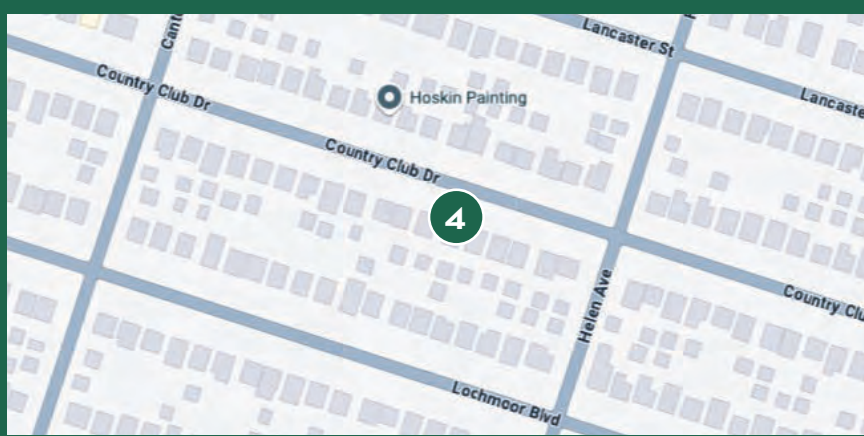
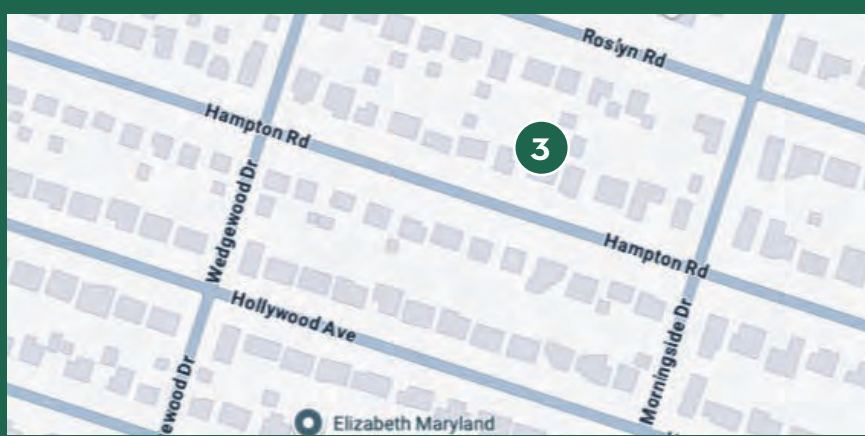
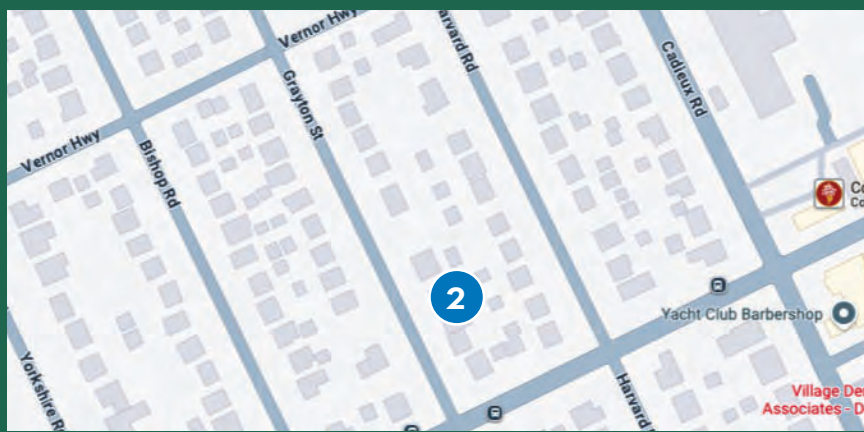
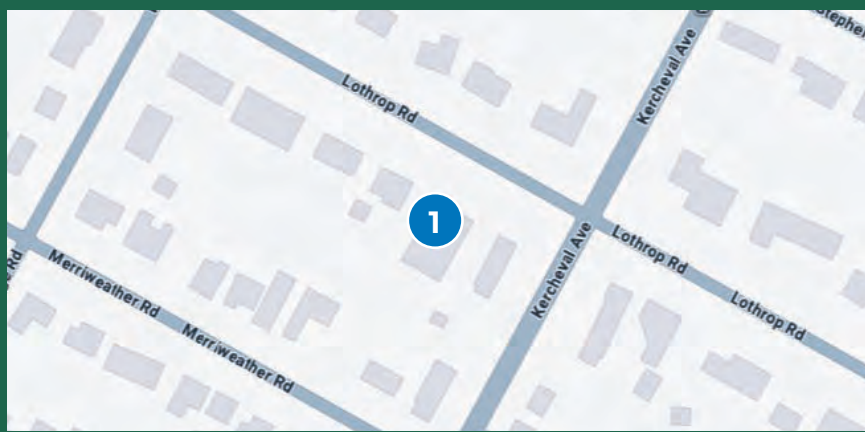
North's Caleb Kosel finished in 12th place overall at the Autumn Classic at Stoney Creek Metropark on Saturday, Sept. 14.

DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

Some classifications are not required by law to be licensed. Please check with the proper state agency to verify license.

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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

1. 161 Lothrop, GPF
2. 1214 Grayton, GPP
3. 734 Hampton, GPW

4. 21200 Country Club Dr., HW
5. 1723 Iroquois Ave., Det
6. Historic Indian Village, Det

○ = YARD SALE ● = ESTATE SALE
See Classifieds for more details

8D | SPORTS

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

The Grosse Pointe News sports staff has the week's biggest sports stories covered, along with bringing you additional hits and highlights from the exciting week that was. Here's a look:

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

8-year-old Breanne Bokano from Mason Elementary was crowned champion of her age group in the skills competition at the Detroit Tigers softball camp hosted by University Liggett School this summer. Bokano will be at Comerica Park on Friday, Sept. 20, to compete in the championship finals.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN VANALST

NORTH BOYS TENNIS NORSEMEN SECURE MAC RED SUPREMACY

The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys tennis team earned sole possession of the MAC Red Division title on Monday, Sept. 16, with a 4-4 tie against rival Grosse Pointe South. North won three of the four doubles matches and also got a win in No. 2 singles with Troy Lipscomb defeating South's Brendan Stafford. In No. 1 singles, Matthew Holowinski from South beat North's Xavier Sarnaik in three sets, with the final set being decided 7-5.

SWIM:

Continued from page 4D

Those characteristics include enthusiasm for the sport and the tradition and history of South swimming, as well as leadership.

"Someone that is truly part of the team and the heart of the team," Fodell said. "... Flynn and his friends, they lived for South swimming. It was one of the big things of their high school career and that's what we're kind of looking for. We kind of say that you bleed blue and the Blue Devil tradition is so deep and so generational. ... (It's) the true belief in the program and that you'll always be a Blue Devil swimmer."

To support the Flynn MacKrell Memorial Scholarship fund, donations may be made at tinyurl.com/yckaa42x



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK SONNENBERG

Grosse Pointe South varsity boys cross country runners and coaches celebrate after a 7-0 win at the season's first MAC White Jamboree on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held August 12, 2024, and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Library Board meeting held on June 20, 2024, the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting held on July 8, 2024 and the Planning Commission meeting held on August 28, 2024.
- 2) open the Public Hearing on the request for the vacation of a portion of Lennon Street.
- 3) to Close the Public Hearing.
- 4) to approve the 2025 Budget Meeting Schedule with workshops to be held at regular meetings on October 7 and October 21 and, only if necessary, to hold special meetings on October 14 and October 28 and further to hold a public hearing on the 2025 Budget on November 4, 2024.
- 5) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 130676 through 130781 in the amount of \$1,501,778.50 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment in the amount of \$71,292.86 to Grosse Pointe Woods for the City's pro-rata portion of the operating and maintenance of the Torrey Road Pump Station for the period January 1 through June 30, 2024. (3) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,384.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of September 2024. (4) approve payment to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$5,394.00 for contractual lawn cutting and weed maintenance in various areas of the City, including City Hall, the annexes, Library and the Parks. (5) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$6,754.82 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of July and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of patch cables. (6) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$32,533.39 for professional services during the month of August for the following projects: Temp. water operator, #180-303; Pavement striping, #180-342; Misc. Concrete Repairs, #180-338; Miss Digs, #180-255; Environ Justice Grant, #180-356; Joint/Crack Seal, #180-341; Sidewalk Pgm, #180-349; CDBG Sidewalk pgm, #180-350; Harper/VanAntwerp development, #180-313; Marijuana Applicant, 180-336; Storm Sewer Repair, #180-337; San. Sewer Cleaning, #180-340; DWRP Lead Svc Repl. #180-331; San. Sewer FCIPP, #180-339; Signal Mod M102/Beaconsfield, #180-355 and the Vernier Water Main, #180-308. (7) approve payment to Honigman LLP in the amount of \$15,510.00 for professional services in conjunction with the redevelopment of Poupart school. (8) approve payment in the amount of \$9,350.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with repairing the drain line that collapsed near the fire department and the emergency roof drain line repair. (9) appoint Ms. Kayla Camper to the Beautification Commission for an unexpired term ending January 2026, Ms. Makenna Holman to the Library Board of Trustees for an unexpired term ending January 2026, and Gregory Bowens for a term expiring June 2028.
- 2) that the request from the Aktive Minds Foundation, seeking recognition as a non profit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses, be approved.
- 3) to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Harper Woods Command Officers Association of Michigan (COAM) for the contract term of five (5) years through December 31, 2026, and further to authorize the Mayor and acting City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Harper Woods.
- 4) to approve payment to Duke's Root Control in the amount of \$13,086.29 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2024 Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and CCTV Investigation, #180-340. 5) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions LLC in the amount of \$9,099.74 for Progress Payment No. 2 on the 2024 Storm Sewer Open Cut Repairs, #180-337.
- 6) to accept the grant from the Institute for Responsive Government in the amount of \$18,000.00, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- 7) to approve payment to Wayne County in the amount of \$179,028.12 for the City's proportionate share of the interest on the two SRF Projects, 5446-01 and 5446-02.
- 8) to approve the contract between the City of Harper Woods and SMART for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 and further to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- 9) to approve the annual renewal of the agreement between the City of Harper Woods and CitizenLab in the amount of \$8,500.00, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreement.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Published: GPN, September 19, 2024

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

XC:

Continued from page 5D

runners finished in the top 50, including Katie Madigan with the best finish at 24th. Maylin Parish was 29th and Jolie Lotta took 49th.

North's boys and girls teams are in action again Wednesday, Sept. 25,

racing in the MAC Red Division Meet hosted by Dakota High School starting at 5:15 p.m.

For the Blue Devils, both the boys and girls teams are set to race Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Monroe Jefferson Invitational at Sterling State Park beginning at 9:30 a.m.

City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND ENACTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE PARK BY ADDING MUNICIPAL CIVIL INFRACTION VIOLATION AND PENALTIES FOR BUSINESS REGULATIONS; ADDING SOLID WASTE CONTAINER CONDITION REQUIREMENTS; ADDING THE OFFENSE OF CYBERBULLYING; AND ADOPTING A SECTION OF THE MICHIGAN INSURANCE CODE.

On September 9, 2024, the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe Park enacted an Ordinance to Amend the City Code; to become effective September 19, 2024, which Ordinance provides for amendments to the City Code. Said amendments include, but are not limited to, modifying the penalties for violations of the City's Business Regulations in Chapter 22 so as to be municipal civil infractions; adding certain requirements for the storage and condition of solid waste containers in Chapter 34; adding the offense of Cyberbullying to Chapter 28, mirroring MCL 750.411 and 750.411s, a misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500.00 fine and/or 90 days in jail; and adopting Section 3102 of the Michigan Insurance Code in Chapter 40, creating misdemeanor for not having insurance while operating a motor vehicle, punishable by a fine of not less than \$200.00, but not more than \$500.00 and/or 90 days in jail.

This Summary of the Ordinance is published pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws Section 117.3(k). True copies of the full text of the Ordinance and any law, regulations, code, or other material adopted in reference in such Ordinance are available for inspection or photocopy at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Grosse Pointe Park, 15115 East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230.

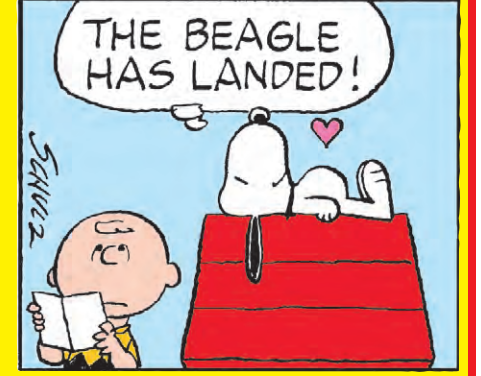
Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

GPN: 09-19-24

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



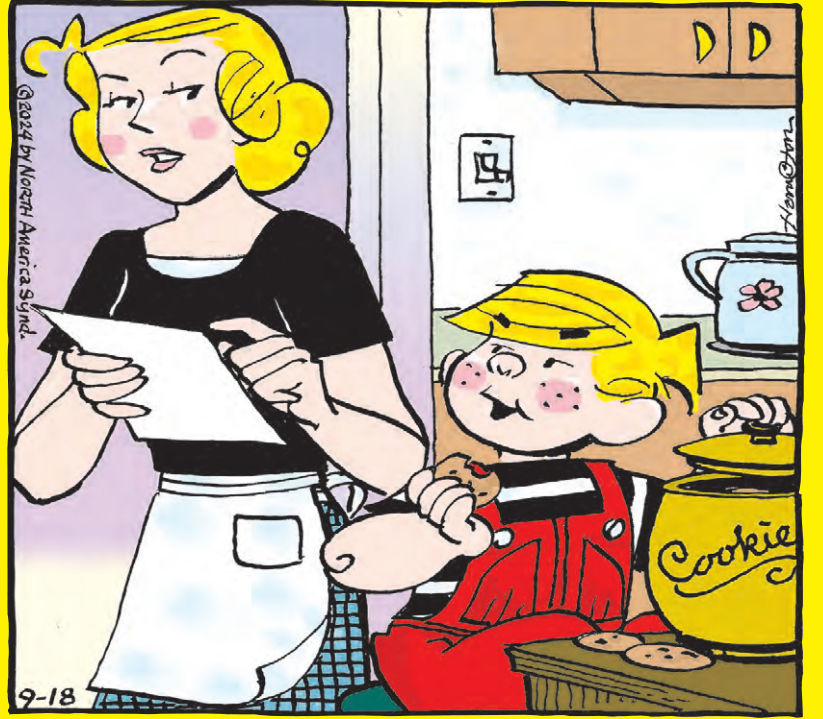
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



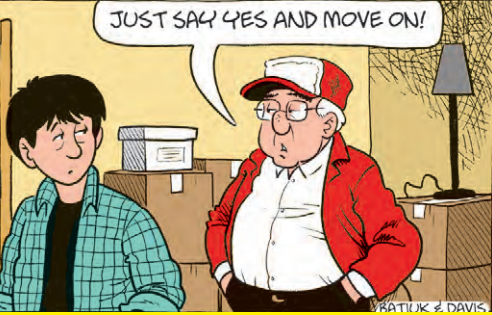
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



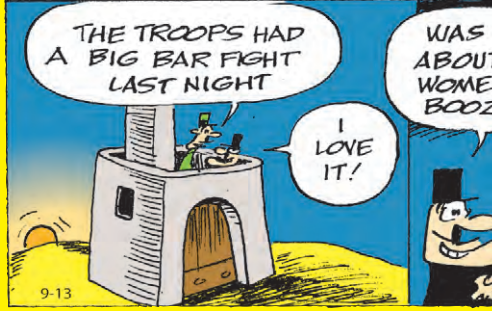
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

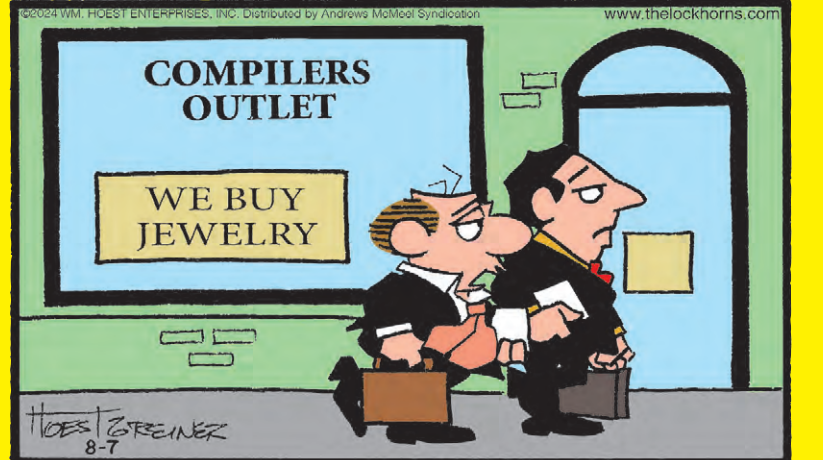
Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



"WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THIS NOTE FROM YOUR TEACHER?" "FAKE NEWS!"

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



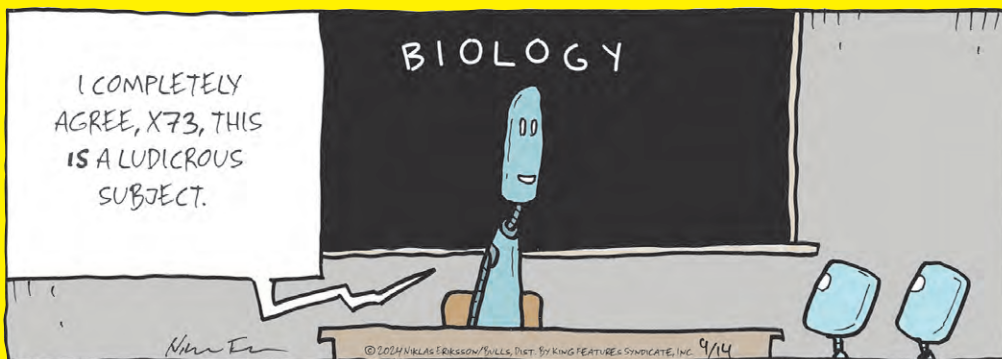
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



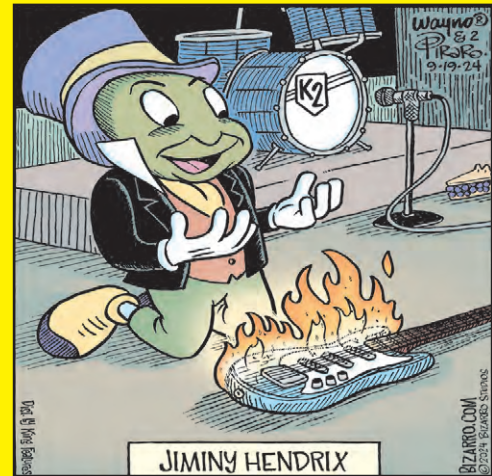
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



Close To Home

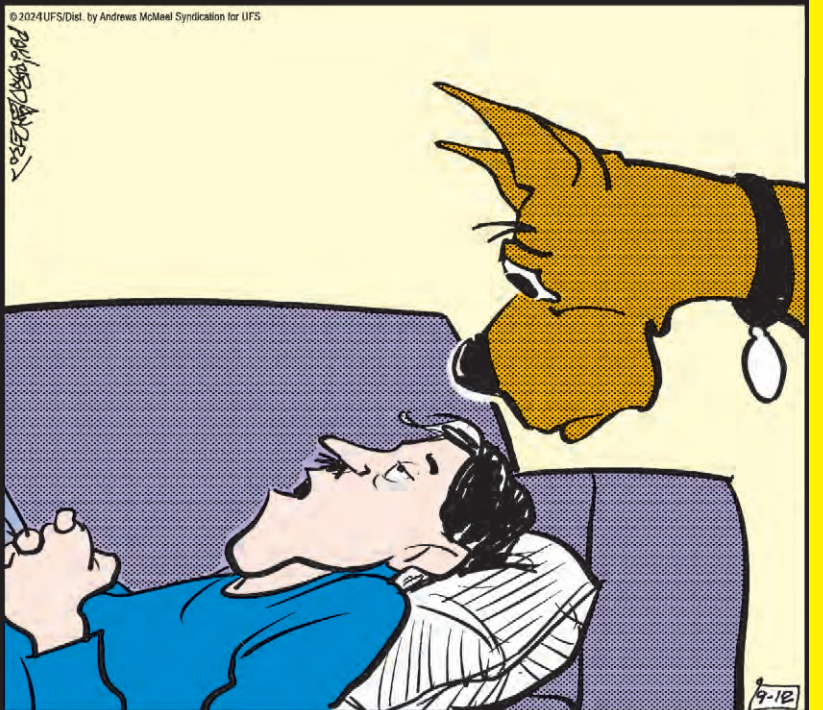
John McPherson



"I KNOW that dinosaurs and humans never co-existed. I just want to mess with the archaeologists who will see this in 100,000 years!"

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"You aren't the only one allowed to take naps."