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# Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 46, 32 PAGES  
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NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN

Complete news coverage of all the Pointes

## Senior services millage passes in all but 1 city

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

### THE GROSSE POINTES AND HARPER WOODS

— By just 70 votes, Grosse Pointe Shores was the lone city in Tuesday's election to reject the 6-year, 0.35-mill senior services ballot proposal, which passed easily in the other four Pointes and Harper Woods.

The millage needed approval by four of the six cities to take effect.

Of the six municipalities, the Shores has the highest percentage of seniors, 28.8 percent, age 65 and older, but also had the lowest number of residents, 97, who made use of The Helm in 2023. The millage would have cost the average taxpayer \$126 annually — the most of the six cities, with the

Farms coming in next highest at \$82 annually — and brought in \$126,284 from the Shores in the first year.

"There was a close margin," Shores City Manager Steve Poloni said of the poll results, "but the residents that decided to the negative felt that our residents don't over-utilize The Helm and felt like those residents that want to use it can pay as they go."

Shores residents still will have access to The Helm's services, Executive Director Krista Siddall confirmed, but will be charged a steeper, compensatory rate.

"It has to be equitable between the communities, so we'll be having conversations about what

See SENIOR, page 2A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mellisa Bove hangs a bow on the Christmas tree while Jeremy Greenwood operates the lift. The company they work for, Bishop Design and Display, designed the tree with 2,000 lights and 400 ornaments last week.

## Village tree lighting is next week

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — Laura Clements, City of Grosse Pointe Foundation member and president of Bishop Design and Display, has decorating the Christmas tree in The Village down to a science.

Her team took advantage of the unseasonably

warm weather last week to methodically, over several days, wrap the blue spruce in its winter garb, vertical lights and all.

"We run the lights on the tree vertically instead of horizontally," Clements explained. "If you take a good look at that tree, it's got holes in it, it has parts that are dead, but when it is deco-

rated — and especially at night when you see it — it looks like the most perfectly shaped tree, because the lights are run in a vertical fashion."

The Friday evening before Thanksgiving, Grosse Pointers can see the magic for themselves during the annual Tree Lighting in The Village

See TREE, page 3A

## Worden, trio of newcomers win BoE seats

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — First-term incumbent Colleen Worden retained her seat on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in last Tuesday's election and will be joined by Clint Derringer, Laura Hull and Tim Klepp starting in January.

Worden was the top vote-getter at 15,519; followed by Klepp, 15,457; Hull, 15,709 and Derringer, 14,954.

The four were endorsed by the Grosse Pointe Education Association, the Grosse Pointe Democratic Club and the Advancing Michigan and Detroit PAC, the latter via funding from four Pointers.

"Tim, Laura, Clint and I are excited to lead GPPSS in moving our district forward to put our students first," Worden said. "We

See SEATS, page 10A

## Farms renews 5-year road millage

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — The 1,574 Farms residents who chose to vote on Election Day at The War Memorial were treated to a pianist in the lobby and views of Lake St. Clair as they filled out their ballots last Tuesday.

"One of the poll workers said, 'I would expect nothing less from Grosse Pointe Farms,'" City Manager Shane Reeside said the next day.

By significant majority, Farms voters approved the renewal of a 5-year, 2-mill road improvement levy, setting the foundation for a projected \$10,985,664 garnered for

street repairs through December 2029.

Among a voter turnout of 78.58 percent, or 7,492 people, just shy of 6,800 residents voted on the proposal, which passed by a 76.84 percent majority.

"Residents have voiced strong support for invest-

See ROAD, page 3A

## GPPSS sinking fund millage passes

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**THE GROSSE POINTES** — Voters across the Pointes and the section of Harper Woods in the Grosse Pointe Public School System approved the district's request for a new sinking fund millage by a 66 percent margin in last Tuesday's election.

"We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the citizens who cast their vote during this election," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said in a statement. "This successful passage of the 2024 sinking fund is a positive step forward for our students."

The millage is 3 mills per year for 10 years, beginning with the winter tax collection in 2025. The current five-year, 1 mill levy expires with this year's winter tax collection.

A mill is \$1 in taxes on every \$1,000 on a property's taxable value. In real-world numbers, the tax implication is 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.

The district expects the millage to bring in about \$11 million a year. Sinking fund dollars are used to pay for improvements to buildings, technology and security measures. The money cannot be used for things such as wages and benefits, extracurricular activities, desks or books, which are funded by the district's operating millage — which passed with 72 percent of the vote in August — and per-pupil state aid.

The measure received

See FUND, page 10A

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See story, page 4A

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# City swings Democratic

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — With 77.06 percent voter turnout, or 4,027 ballots cast, the majority of voters in the City of Grosse Pointe favored Democratic candidates in the presidential election last Tuesday.

The straight-party ticket saw 999 votes cast for the Democratic party and 828 for the Republican party.

In the presidential vote, Vice President Kamala Harris was

favored with 2,214 votes over 1,730 for former president Donald Trump. The Green Party's Jill Stein earned 16 votes and 14 residents ticked the box of Natural Law Party candidate Robert Kennedy, who suspended his campaign prior to the election.

City residents voted in favor of winning Democratic candidates Elissa Slotkin for state Senate and Shri Thanedar for Congress.

Also on trend with the

See CITY, page 4A

# Woods goes for Democrats

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — Voters here appeared to buck the national trend that could see Republicans in charge of the White House and both chambers of Congress by favoring Democrats at every turn in Tuesday's election.

Kamala Harris was favored by 52 percent of voters, compared to 46

percent for Donald Trump. Six different third parties also received votes for president, including 68 for the Green Party and 53 for Robert Kennedy Jr.'s Natural Law Party.

Democrat Elissa Slotkin got 6,083 votes for U.S. Senate, compared to 5,319 for Mike Rogers, again with a smattering of third parties getting less than 1 percent of the vote each. Incumbent Democrat

Shri Thanedar got 5,819 votes for the United States Congress 13th District, with Republican Martell Bivings at 5,056.

In the newly drawn Michigan House 10th District, Veronica Paiz received 4,660 votes, just 125 more than Republican Griffin Wojtowicz. The Michigan House 12th District saw Democrat Kim Edwards get 1,021 votes, with Republican

Randell Shafer at 860. Democrats also drew more votes for county-wide offices and the regents, trustees and governors at the University of Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State University, respectively.

Locally, the top vote-getters for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education were:

- ◆ Colleen Worden, 5,337;
- ◆ Tim Klepp, 5,018;

See WOODS, page 4A

# Farms trends Republican

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE FARMS** — Early voting was a net positive experience for election workers in the Farms, where all five of its precincts were consolidated into The War Memorial's ballroom beginning with the presidential primary election in February.

"I think the early voting worked out well, particularly for a presidential election where you get a high turnout," City Manager Shane Reeside said. "It took a lot of pressure off Election Day."

When the decision was made last November to consolidate polling locations, city administration estimated 20 percent of Farms voters — or 1,506

people — would choose to vote on Election Day, Nov. 5. The prediction was a mere 68 people off, as election results showed 1,574 Farms residents took to The War Memorial last Tuesday.

Voter turnout of 78.58 percent, with 7,492 ballots cast, also included 2,518 early voters and 3,400 absentee voters.

"Everything went pretty smoothly," Reeside added.

While straight-party voters in the Farms favored the Republican Party with 1,872 votes over the Democratic Party with 1,658 votes, the opposite was true by a small margin on the presidential ticket.

Vice President Kamala

See FARMS, page 4A

# Park favors Dems

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — A majority of Park voters on Tuesday, Nov. 5, maintained their nearly generation-old habit of supporting Democratic candidates in presidential elections.

The liberal-party tide washed in two decades ago in 2004, with John Kerry receiving more

votes than George Bush No. 2 and hasn't rolled back.

Buoyed by Park voters this time was Kamala Harris. She received 5,059 votes in the Park versus 2,726 for Republican Donald Trump.

Harris' nearly 2-to-1 victory margin was the biggest yet of the series — bigger than Joe Biden topping Trump in the Park four years ago.

At the time the Park released its unofficial election results at 1:36 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, the suburb's impact on the overall race was unknown. The presidential election was too close to call nationally. An hour later, however, national media outlets were projecting Trump to be a second-time winner.

Some 7,904 votes were cast in the Park in this election among a total of eight presidential candidates. Robert F. Kennedy

Jr., who didn't want to be on the ballot, tallied 24 votes.

Down-ballot results mirrored the choice for president:

◆ Democrat Elissa Slotkin won local appointment 4,975 to 2,713 for Republican challenger Mike Rogers;

◆ for Congress, incumbent Democrat Shri Thanedar received the voters' mandate 4,707 to 2,607 over Republican

See PARK, page 5A

# Shores favors red

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

**GROSSE POINTE SHORES** — Voters here chose Republican candidates up and down the ballot in both Wayne and Macomb counties, except for races in which there was no Republican challenger, which included the Wayne County prosecutor, clerk and treasurer.

Matching state and national votes, Shores residents favored Donald Trump over Kamala Harris 1,318 votes versus 726. There were 790 straight Republican ballots cast, compared to 343 on the Democratic side, along with three each for the Libertarian Party and Green Party. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who attempted to have his name taken off the

Michigan ballot as he joined forces with Trump, received six votes.

They also favored Republican Mike Rogers over Democrat Elissa Slotkin for U.S. Senate, 1,347 votes to 684.

The same was true for congressional races in both counties, as well as regents, trustees and governors of University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

Locally, top vote-getters for the Grosse Pointe

Public School System Board of Education were:

- ◆ Kate Hopper, 1,054;
- ◆ Terry Collins, 964;
- ◆ Melissa Fradenburg, 936 and
- ◆ Heath Roberts, 587.

Shores voters narrowly approved the GPPSS sinking fund millage, 883 to 858. They also narrowly rejected the senior services millage, 977 votes to 907. An even larger margin, 1,023 votes versus 728, said no

See SHORES, page 4A

# SENIOR:

Continued from page 1A

that actually looks like," she said. "... I want to express my disappointment that Grosse Pointe Shores did not pass this.

I am sad that they did not see the need to support all of the residents from youngest to oldest. I'm sad that they didn't see the need for senior services to be supported."

The other five cities passed the millage by

margins of:

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe — 65 percent
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms — 65.33 percent
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park — 59.54 percent
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods — 66.92 percent
- ◆ Harper Woods — 69.65 percent

The cities now need to

officially sign the tentative interlocal agreement and move forward with the creation of an Active Adult Commission — which likely will be accomplished in the first part of next year, Farms City Manager Shane Reeside said — to serve as a governing body over the millage funds.

Each city will appoint one member to the commission; however, an at-large member no longer will be needed since an odd number of cities approved the millage.

"We're not planning on seeing income from this millage for a year," Siddall said, as it is anticipated to go into effect with next summer's taxes.

The average taxpayer in each city can expect an annual cost of \$16 in Harper Woods, \$42 in Grosse Pointe Woods, \$64.70 in the City, \$65 in the Park and \$82 in the Farms.

Though use of the funds will require approval from the Active Adult Commission,

Siddall previously stated intention to use the millage for essential services The Helm currently provides; to increase its evidence-based programming; bring programming into the community at temporary sites such as the library; and open an adult day program intended for caregiver respite, likely in a rented space from one of the local hospital networks.

"One project that we're most excited about is the adult day program," Siddall said. "For many years, our residents have mentioned that there's a need for such a program and we're really excited to start to move forward on that."

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# Stocking TIFA with trees

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Benevolent weather and a timely schedule for leaf pickup provided blue skies and an open road for a quick beginning of the final round of tree planting this fall in the TIFA district.

A crew from Marine City Nursery needed just over half a day Friday, Nov. 8, to plant 35 trees on municipal property between sidewalks and curbs along six blocks of Maryland, nearly one mile long.

“They kicked butt,” said Brian Colter, city forester. “What really aided us in a serendipitous way is the public works department. They had Maryland designated for no on-street parking because of leaf collection. That made it much easier for the nursery crew to go down with a trailer full of trees. They didn’t have to worry about parked cars. They moved fast and finished early.”

Marine City field worker Jesse LaBuhn said some of the assortment of trees, including swamp white oak and October Glory maple with trunks greater than one inch diameter, first were planted four to five years ago as bare roots at the 160-acre nursery. “They’re going dormant pretty soon, so they don’t need much care this year,” LeBuhn said. “Next year, if it’s a dry spring, water them with five gallons every five days or so.”



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

**An employee of Marine City Nursery on Friday, Nov. 8, pounds into the ground one of two support stakes to which a newly planted October Glory maple tree will be tied and steadied on Maryland. Mulch initially piled high around the trunk will be tamped down before crews finish. October Glory is a cultivar with excellent red fall color, according to the Michigan State University Extension.**

A \$124,300 surplus in the Tax Increment Finance Authority’s \$1.3 million budget this year allowed an allocation of \$38,500 to plant 100 shade trees in the district in addition to those already put in the ground.

TIFA board members previously allocated \$40,000 to plant up to 116 street trees in the district — bounded by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority

near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham. TIFA is funded by a portion of additional property taxes generated within and for the benefit of the district.

“We planted almost 100 so far and will plant a couple hundred more this year,” Colter said.

The entire tree campaign cost nearly \$150,000 and was intended to increase property values, beautify the area, reduce

stormwater runoff and, by providing shade, diminish the heat-island effect. Trees are acquired and planted at no charge to the general public other than property taxes paid by district landowners.

Planting continues this week on nearby roads.

“We started on Wayburn, which is done,” said Warren Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager. “We’re moving west to east, to Lakepointe and Beaconsfield at the end.”

“Then, I want to do the cross streets in the TIFA area, like St. Paul, Kercheval, Charlevoix, Hampton and Goethe,” Colter said.

“If we can’t finish by the end of this calendar year, we should be able to do it by early spring,” Rothe said.

Many of the trees were scheduled for planting last summer. Due to a heat wave that risked setting off transplant

shock, wilting and reduced leaf size, Colter delayed work until now.

“I always appreciate Brian Colter’s help administering this for us,” Rothe said.

“I’m going to finish the entire TIFA district this year,” Colter said. “The district is going to have a full stocking of trees. There won’t be a need for tree planting in the TIFA unless we have to cut down a tree and a resident calls for a replacement. It’s always been like that for the rest of the city.”

## TREE:

Continued from page 1A

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22.

Festivities will include the tree lighting at 6 p.m., carols sung by the Grosse Pointe South High School Choir, hot cocoa provided by the Grosse Pointe Boat Club, s’mores, characters visiting from the North Pole, outdoor movies, photo opportunities and additional surprises.

The event will not be graced by the presence of live reindeer.

“Unfortunately, Santa’s reindeer could not join us this year,” Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock said. “They’re busy getting ready for the big day. ... We will miss them, but we have plenty to do for everybody.”

Though this is the second year the fan-favorite

reindeer will not be in attendance, Willcock said there “absolutely” are plans to bring them back in future years.

The City’s longtime reindeer farmer retired last year without advance notice. Because of retirements and consolidation of farms throughout the state, fewer reindeer are available and can book up as early as May and June.

“With the change in reindeer farms and reestablishing those contacts again, we’re definitely working on it and navigating it,” Willcock said. “We’ll do everything we can to bring that back.”

As is Main Street Grosse Pointe’s slogan, “It takes a village” to transform Kercheval Avenue into Christmas Street.

The majority of more than 200 red bows for the light poles and flower pots were hand-tied by Didi DeBoer, MSGP

board member and chair of the design committee, and her Washington neighbor Cynthia Mack, with a last-minute assist from volunteers Donna Satterfield and Betsy Enders.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, volunteers will plant live greens and decorate The Village flower pots for the holiday season. Those interested in lending a hand may meet at noon at the plaza near Trader Joe’s on St. Clair.

“We decorated a week earlier than we normally do, but Thanksgiving is

so late this year,” Clements said. “When you walk in a store and it’s decorated, you start thinking, ‘Oh, I’ve got to do some shopping. Oh, I can get this for that person.’ Our idea behind it is to promote early shopping in The Village. Hopefully we are going to plant the seed.”

The Grosse Pointe Foundation has sponsored the Christmas tree more than a decade.

“We’re going to kick it up a notch for next year,” Clements said of plans for the decor.

# Woods foundation raffle underway

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS** — The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation’s annual raffle runs through Thursday, Dec. 12.

“All proceeds from the raffle will be used to support additional improvements to the city, including a new swing area for Ghesquiere Park for which the city has requested a \$53,000 grant from us,” President Lisa Fuller said. “In just the past year we funded the tot lot and swing area in Chene-Trombley Park, the equipment in the Mack Avenue Dog Park and the disc golf course.”

Grand prizes in the raffle, donated by Edmund t. AHEE Jewelers, are a Shinola Canfield Sport chronograph watch with a gunmetal case and leather strap (value \$1,050) and a David Yurman Chatelaine Collection blue topaz bracelet in sterling silver (value \$395).

Top prizes include:  
◆ a private one-hour Polar Express tour for up to 24 guests;  
◆ one year of free

parking for two household vehicles on Mack; and

◆ a personally inscribed paver in front of city hall.

“Thanks to our generous local merchants, we also again have our popular gift certificate packages, all with a total value of at least \$300,” Fuller said.

Those are:

- ◆ Shop on Mack;
- ◆ Dine on Mack;
- ◆ Breakfast on Mack;
- ◆ Snack on Mack;
- ◆ Get Fit on Mack;
- ◆ Date Night on Mack;
- ◆ Spiff Up on Mack;

◆ Get Ready to Entertain on Mack.

Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50. They are available from the cashier’s office at city hall or by sending an email to [info@gpwfoundation.org](mailto:info@gpwfoundation.org) with name, address and indication of the number of tickets desired.

Winners will be drawn at noon Thursday, Dec. 12, at city hall.

See [gpwfoundation.org](http://gpwfoundation.org) for more information.

## The Week Ahead

### MONDAY, NOV. 18

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Parks Committee meeting, 4 p.m.
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7:15 p.m.

### TUESDAY, NOV. 19

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

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission/City Council joint meeting, 7 p.m.

### FRIDAY, NOV. 22

- ◆ Annual Village Tree Lighting, 5:30 p.m.

## ROAD:

Continued from page 1A

ing in the city’s road infrastructure,” Reeside said. “Much work has been accomplished in the past almost five years and the city looks forward to building on that progress over the next five years.”

Assuming an average home value of \$400,000, residents can expect the renewal to cost \$400 the first year.

While the first five years of the voter-approved millage focused on major roads throughout the city — such as Kercheval, Kerby and Ridge — funds the next five years are intended to focus on local, interior roads.

“There’s a couple major roads that we still need to address,” Reeside said, “but now we’re beginning to transition more toward our local roads.”

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# GPPSS teacher wins state award

By Ted O'Neil  
Associate Editor

Susi Sipos is a big believer not only in learning another language, but traveling and getting to use it.

"It all started in fifth grade when I was at Richard (Elementary School)," she said. "We took French one day a week after school and we were paired up with students in Paris. They came here in the spring for three weeks and two weeks later we went there for three weeks. It really opened my eyes to the world."

Sipos, who has taught French and German at Grosse Pointe North High School for several years, recently was named the high school teacher of the year by the Michigan World Language Association.

"I was very honored because I had to be nominated by my two department chairs and my colleagues all wrote letters," she said. "I also had to submit a resume and a list of activities I've done with my students."

Those colleagues included Jennifer Spears, Tamara Shepard, Mandy Grattan and Nagham el-Hage. Sipos said she's also grateful to Adrienne Nash in the central office, who connects teachers with grants.

Sipos said her proudest moment as a teacher was seeing two students — Marc Mueller and Jake Sachs — chosen in back-to-back years to participate in the Congress-Bundestag



Susi and Darren Sipos with their children, Elena and Henrik.

Youth Exchange program.

"It's a very competitive scholarship program and only 50 students nationwide are chosen each year," she said.

The program, sponsored by the American and German governments, sends students to Germany for a year to attend school and become more immersed in the culture.

After attending Richard, Sipos went on to Brownell Middle School and Grosse Pointe South High School, where she added German and Japanese to her repertoire. She has lived in all three countries, attending college in Japan and teaching in France and Germany. She returned to the States in 2001 to teach French in the Dearborn Public Schools.

Sipos had what has been referred to as the

Grosse Pointe syndrome.

"I swore I would never come back," she laughed. "Then we had our son and wanted to be near family."

Sipos' husband, Darren, teaches art and design at Henry Ford Academy. Their son, Henrik, is in seventh grade at Brownell Middle School and their daughter, Elena, is in first grade at Kerby Elementary School.

"Everywhere you go, you run into people you know," she added. "I've got neighbors who I graduated with from South. It's kind of cool that my children and their children are now friends."

"It's also great to know that when the kids walk to school, there are 100 other parents who know them and will look out for them," said. "I'm just blown away."

She joined GPPSS in

2015, teaching German and French at Grosse Pointe North. Also certified as a special education teacher, Sipos is spending this school year at Grosse Pointe South due to the shortage of those teachers.

Teaching two languages, Sipos said students often ask her which is her favorite.

"I tell them I'm neutral, like Switzerland," she laughed. "There are so many countries that speak French, but I spent the longest time in Germany. I have relatives there and was able to connect with extended



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, Nagham el-Hage (Grosse Pointe North French teacher), Susi Sipos, Tamara Shepard (Grosse Pointe North Spanish teacher/department co-chair), Mandy Grattan (Grosse Pointe North Spanish teacher) and Jennifer Spears (Grosse Pointe North Spanish teacher/department co-chair). Elena Sipos, in front, holds her mom's Michigan World Language Association Teacher of the Year award.

family."

The former cross-country runner and coach still likes to run in her free time and has an interest in geology. Both of her

children are learning German.

"They've both been to Europe a couple of times and gotten to use it," she said. "We love to travel."

## WOODS:

Continued from page 2A

- ◆ Clint Derringer, 4,961 and
  - ◆ Laura Hull, 4,901.
- The GPPSS sinking

fund millage drew 65 percent support, with 6,926 votes, while the senior services millage received 67 percent, or 7,187 votes.

There were 3,119 straight ticket votes for

Democrats and 2,814 for Republicans. Overall turnout was 81 percent, or 11,827 ballots. That included 5,641 absentee votes, 3,248 during early voting and 2,938 on Election Day.

## SHORES:

Continued from page 2A

to the Wayne County school enhancement millage.

Total turnout was slightly above 82 percent, with 2,086 ballots cast. That included 973 absentee ballots, 606 who took advantage of early voting and 507 who showed up

on Election Day. Because of the low number of voters, numbers in the Shores were tabulated about a half an hour after the polls closed.

## FARMS:

Continued from page 2A

Harris received 3,670 votes compared to 3,643 votes for former president Donald Trump. Jill Stein with the Green Party earned the favor of 41 voters and another 31 residents cast their ballot for Natural Law Party candidate Robert Kennedy Jr., who suspended his cam-

paign to back Trump.

Elissa Slotkin won the state Senate race by a tight 3 percent margin; however, Farms residents preferred Republican candidate Mike Rogers 3,699 votes to 3,570. The same was true of the congressional race, with local voters selecting Republican candidate Martell Bivings over Democratic incumbent Shri Thanedar, who easily swept the district race.

Though incumbent Colleen Worden and candidates Clint Derringer, Laura Hull and Timothy Klepp won seats on the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, the majority of Farms voters had a different lineup in mind.

Top vote-getters in the Farms were:

- ◆ Kate Hopper, 3,400;
- ◆ Terry Collins, 3,217;
- ◆ Melissa Fradenburg, 3,125;
- ◆ and Timothy Klepp, 3,004.

Farms voters also passed all four proposals on the ballot.

The renewal of the city's 5-year, 2-mill road improvement levy passed by the largest margin of 5,222 votes in support to 1,574 votes against.

The 6-year, 0.35-mill senior services millage, which passed in all but Grosse Pointe Shores, was approved 4,532 votes to 2,405 votes — similar to the GPPSS sinking fund millage, which passed 4,642 to 2,237.

Residents also elected to pass the Wayne County school enhancement millage, 3,747 to 2,913.

## CITY:

Continued from page 2A

winning candidates for the the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education, voters in the City gave the highest vote counts to:

- ◆ Clint Derringer, 1,749;
- ◆ Timothy Klepp, 1,720;
- ◆ Colleen Worden, 1,684;
- ◆ and Laura Hull, 1,672.

Voters also approved the passage of a 6-year, 0.35-mill senior services millage, 2,394 votes to 1,289, as well as the GPPSS sinking fund millage, 2,450 votes to 1,149.

Residents supported the Wayne County school enhancement millage, 2,166 to 1,370.

Turnout for the presidential election included 1,900 absentee voters, 1,110 early voters and 1,017 voters on Election Day.

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**Grosse Pointe News**

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## Grosse Pointe Farms

## Cover story

After trespassing at Pier Park and refusing to leave at 12:25 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, a 24-year-old Los Angeles man attempted to flee police in his vehicle and then denied being at the park and said he was going door-to-door campaigning for Kamala Harris.

Officers issued him a trespassing citation after he nearly backed into a patrol car in an attempt to evade the traffic stop.

## Larceny

A phone charger and \$5 in cash were missing from his vehicle when a 29-year-old Detroit man picked it up from an area repair shop Monday, Nov. 4.

## Dine and dash

Four men dined and dashed on a bill of \$347.68 from a restaurant on The Hill at 8:46 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5.

One of the men provided a picture of a credit card on his cellphone as payment, but when asked for an alternative form of payment, said it was in his vehicle and then left.

The four fled in a black Ford Edge and a white U-Haul pickup.

## Hungry

A 35-year-old Detroit

man said he was hungry when he was caught attempting to steal packages of shrimp from a business in the 18000 block of Mack at 7:26 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6. After being issued a ticket for retail fraud and a trespass warning, the man was transferred to the Woods for a felony warrant.

## Open liquor

When a vehicle was pulled over at Moross and Chalfonte for not having a license plate at 5:35 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, an open and partially full bottle of wine could be seen in plain view on the floor between the passenger's feet.

The 45-year-old Detroit man subsequently was arrested on a warrant out of the Woods.

The driver—a 26-year-old Harper Woods woman—was cited for open intoxicants and no proof of insurance.

## Drunken

After she was pulled over at Mack and Elizabeth for an expired license plate tab at 4:10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, a 31-year-old Sterling

Heights woman was found to be intoxicated and admitted to having two drinks that evening.

A preliminary breath test found her blood alcohol content to be 0.22 percent, for which she was arrested.

## Intoxicated

A 29-year-old Chesterfield man was arrested for operating while intoxicated at 1:52 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, after his vehicle was seen sliding sideways across both lanes on Mack into the curb.

A preliminary breath test found his blood alcohol level to be 0.12 percent.

—Laurel Kraus

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

## Grosse Pointe Shores

## Stolen truck

A 2021 Dodge Ram was stolen from a driveway in the 800 block of Lakeshore around 11 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6. The owner watched it happen on his doorbell camera and called 911. The thief used the

truck to hit a patrol car as he was backing out of the driveway. Officers chased the truck westbound on Vernier, but stopped for safety reasons. The owner stated he had the keys to the truck and it was locked.

## Losing argument

A 22-year-old Detroit man is facing charges of assault and battery and obstruction of a police officer for an incident around 8:15 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 10.

He allegedly struck his ex-girlfriend as they were arguing in a driveway on Putnam Place, then tried to hide in the backyard of a nearby house.

## Multiple charges

A 42-year-old Armada man was arrested for drunken driving and ticketed for speeding, having an open intoxicant in his vehicle and refusing to take a preliminary breath test.

He was stopped on southbound Lakeshore near Clearview around 10 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, after his vehicle was clocked going 54 mph.

He initially refused to take a Breathalyzer test, but did so at the police

station, where his blood-alcohol level was 0.23 percent.

—Ted O'Neil

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

## City of Grosse Pointe

## Bank fraud

A Grosse Pointe man last week reported three fraudulent money transfers worth \$2,000 were taken from his Chase Bank account in July. An investigation is ongoing.

## Intoxicated

A 23-year-old Florida woman was arrested for driving while intoxicated at 11 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, after she was pulled over for speeding near Kercheval and Fisher.

## Spicing things up

A Notre Dame resident suspects it was his neighbor who threw two small jars of spices through a window of his home between noon Tuesday, Nov. 5, and 9:45 a.m. the next morning.

## Pit stop

A 49-year-old Park woman was arrested for her fourth instance of operating while intoxi-

cated at 5:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11, after she was found passed out at a University and Goethe stop sign.

—Laurel Kraus

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

## Grosse Pointe Woods

## Unlocked

A Dodge Charger was stolen from in front of a house in the 2100 block of Anita sometime between midnight and 7:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4.

Surveillance footage shows the thief taking a set of keys from a van in the driveway before stealing the Charger. The woman's purse and her boyfriend's wallet were in the car.

—Ted O'Neil

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

## Grosse Pointe Park

Nothing to report per dispatch.

—Brad Lindberg

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

## PARK:

Continued from page 2A

Martell D. Bivings;

◆ Wayne County Sheriff Raphael Washington beat Republican challenger T.P. Nykoriak 4,827 to 2,488 and

◆ Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garret won another term by beating Libertarian candidate Joseph H. LeBlanc 4,943 to 1,152.

The race for four seats on the Grosse Pointe school board is being reported separately, but the top four vote-getters in the Park were:

◆ Timothy Klepp, 4,021;

◆ Collen Worden, 3,783;

◆ Clint Derringer, 3,774 and

◆ Laura Hull, 3,724.

Park voters supported the district's public school sinking fund millage 4,750 to 2,389; The Helm senior services millage 4,269 to 2,901; and also supported two municipal charter amendments by roughly 2-to-1 margins that push back a mandated April budget public hearing to May and require adoption of a budget in June rather than May.

The been-there, done-that quality of Park contests for the world's most powerful office ambled along Nov. 5, while voters engaged in something new and lighthearted—collecting “I voted” stickers.

“A lot of people are very interested in getting stickers when they vote,” said Kim Tocco, a Park resident working at the Precinct 5 polling station in the Lavins Community Center gymnasium, Windmill Pointe Park.

Most popular among nine stickers, resulting from a statewide contest among school children conducted by the Michigan Secretary of State's office, was one of

a howling werewolf ripping off his shirt, Hulk Hogan fashion, while standing in front of an American flag.

“I guess it's gone complexly viral and people are collecting them, coveting them,” said John Rizzo, pole worker for Precinct 4. “Someone showed me they're already being sold on eBay for between \$18 and \$45.”

A check of the online marketplace revealed 77 werewolf stickers listed for between \$2.75 and \$300, shipping extra.

What a werewolf, designed by Farms resident Jane Hynous, in seventh grade at Brownell Middle School, has to do with voting is being mulled everywhere from the New York Times to CBS News. Reasons may abound, but the fact is the stickers served as fragrant flypaper drawing some voters to the polls.

“Several people said they came just for the stickers,” Tocco said.

“We want to get as many people as possible out to vote,” City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler said.

She stood a few paces inside the gymnasium at 4:10 p.m. Election Day and smiled. Everything hummed along smoothly. Citizens obtained ballots, chose candidates and pocketed stickers.

Bowdler said, “This is my Super Bowl.”

“It's been one of the smoothest elections I've worked and I guarantee that early voting made a big impact on today,” said Katie Burgess, poll worker for Precinct 5 and veteran of about 12 elections.

She and her colleagues began the 13-hour work day at 7 a.m.

“We had a line ready to go this morning,” Burgess said. “It was very smooth. Greeter stations were super helpful in giving voters applications to vote. Typically, it was in and out.”

Early voting was a hit this election season in the Park.

Between traditional absentee voting and the state's new, eight-day period of in-person early voting, some 5,747 Park residents cast ballots before Tocco arose at 5 a.m. Election Day and yawned her way to her precinct desk.

Clerk Bowdler said absentee ballots totaled

3,679 and represented 94 percent of applications.

The busiest day of in-person early voting was the last, Sunday, Nov. 3.

“We had 365 people on Sunday,” Bowdler said.

She said early voting participation was spread evenly among all the city's precincts. No one precinct was particularly active.

“Everybody came out to vote,” Bowdler said. “This is an important election.”



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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

## The voters have spoken

Now that the dust has settled after Election Day, it is time to take a step back and take a deep breath.

First things first. Although the candidates we endorsed for the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education did not win, we want to congratulate Colleen Worden, Clint Derringer, Tim Klepp and Laura Hull on their victories. In fact, kudos to everyone who ran — the others being Terry Collins, Melissa Fradenburg, Diana Gellci, Kate Hopper and Heath Roberts. As the saying goes, all politics is local and there is nothing more local than public schools. Everyone has a vested interest in the matter, even those with children no longer in the district and those who never had children in GPPSS, because of property taxes.

The winners are set to join board President Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, and Trustees Ginny Jeup and Valarie St. John in January. The first order of business will be electing officers for the year at the organizational meeting.

It was a shrewd political move by the Grosse Pointe Education Association to announce its endorsements early, before the filing deadline. The union apparently learned its lesson from two years ago, when too many like-minded candidates split votes and only one of its endorsed candidates, Mrs. St. John, won. Mr. Klepp came close, finishing four votes out of third place after he requested a recount. It remains our hope that he will see fit to repay the district the nearly \$8,000 it cost taxpayers for the recount.

In what appears to be a 5-2 philosophical split on the new board, something the current board also has, we wonder if the derisive “majority board” mantra will be laid to rest. Our guess is that it will be.

We agree with Mr. Cotton, who has said on social media and in a letter to supporters, in part, that “I understand that there are concerns being raised about the future direction of our schools, but I am confident these worries will not come to fruition. The one incumbent and three new trustees set to join the board in 2025 did not campaign on divisive issues. Rather, they centered their platforms on academic excellence, fiscal responsibility and strengthening our walkable, close-knit school community.”

The winning “slate,” as it were, campaigned on four main issues: prioritizing students, supporting teachers and staff, fiscal responsibility and transparency. There will be plenty of eyes on them to ensure they stick to those goals.

The most important point, of course, is fiscal responsibility. Through the leadership of the current board, along with Superintendent Andrea Tuttle and her administrative team, the district was able to finish last fiscal year with a \$1 million surplus, raising its fund balance above 10 percent and stopping three years of hemorrhaging money.

There was more on the ballot last week, however, than the board race. Kudos to voters for passing the district’s request for a 10-year, 3-mill sinking fund millage. The money will go toward building, technology and security upgrades.

We were surprised the levy passed with only 66 percent support, compared to the 72 percent of voters who approved the district’s operating millage request in August. As noted here previously though, there were people who were very vocal that they would not vote for the millage simply because of who is on the current board.

Similarly, the team at The Helm was successful in getting the senior services millage passed. It received a thumbs up in four of the Pointes and Harper Woods,



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

## Pure Grosse Pointe

Jeremy Greenwood hangs up the Christmas Street sign on the corner of Notre Dame and Kercheval, replacing the Kercheval Avenue sign until after the holidays.

### GUEST VIEW By Noah Hauswirth, AAMS

## Make your final tax-saving moves by Dec. 31

Proactive investors know that the months before the end of the year can be an ideal time to make strategic adjustments.

While keeping in mind your long-term investment goals, meet with your advisor and coordinate with your tax professional to examine nuances and changes that could impact your typical year-end planning.

### Mind your RMDs

Be thoughtful about required minimum distributions (RMDs) to ensure you comply with the rules, especially as some of those rules have shifted since the pandemic.

Investors who reach a certain age are required to take RMDs from their IRAs. You’ll face a hefty 25 percent tax penalty on amounts not withdrawn from your IRA to meet the RMD, so be sure to speak with your advisor to ensure you’ve met your obligations.

Note: If the RMD is timely corrected within two years, the excise tax rate could drop to 10 percent. A few reminders for future distribution planning:

- ◆ RMDs can be automated with your advisor to help ensure you don’t miss applicable deadlines.

- ◆ Your first RMD can be delayed until April 1 of the year after you reach 70 1/2, 72 or 73 (depending on your year of birth). If you delay, however, you must also take your second RMD in the same tax year. This can

inflate your income, which may affect your tax bracket. Check with your advisor to determine what is applicable and best for you.

- ◆ Subsequent RMDs must be taken no later than Dec. 31 of each calendar year.

- ◆ Qualified charitable distributions allow traditional IRA owners who are 70 1/2 and older to gift up to \$105,000 from their IRA to a qualified charity. This is a non-taxable distribution from their IRA and can be used to satisfy an RMD.

### To harvest or not to harvest

Evaluate whether you could benefit from tax-loss harvesting — selling a losing investment to offset gains. If your capital losses exceed your capital gains, your excess losses up to \$3,000 (single or married filing jointly) can be used to offset ordinary income. Any additional losses can be carried forward to future years. With your advisor, examine the following subtleties when aiming to

decrease your tax bill:

- ◆ Short-term gains are taxed at a higher marginal rate; aim to reduce those first.

- ◆ Don’t disrupt your long-term investment strategy when harvesting losses.

- ◆ Be aware of “wash sale” rules that affect new purchases before and after the sale of a security. If you sell a security at a loss but purchase another “substantially identical” security within 30 days before or after the sale date, the IRS likely will consider that a wash

See GUEST, page 7A



with voters in Grosse Pointe Shores rejecting it by a margin of 70. Homeowners in the Shores would have paid the most of the six communities, an average of \$126 per year. Shores residents will now have to pay a compensatory fee to access programming at The Helm.

Voters in the Farms approved the local road millage, a 2-mill levy for five years, which had 77 percent support.

Overall, voter turnout was high across the Pointes — in the high 70s to low 80s — which isn’t surprising given a presidential election year.

Voters also took advantage of the new election laws, with far more people casting their ballots either by absentee or early, compared to how many showed up at the polls Nov. 5.

City council elections are next year, although by and large those are unexciting affairs. There are, however, three school board seats up for grabs in 2026. See you then.

## 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.

### Providing essential services

#### To the Editor:

The Helm Board of Directors is pleased Harper Woods, the City of Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Woods have joined 72 of 83 Michigan counties and numerous municipalities in creating a reliable funding source for essential services for their seniors. Thank you for understanding the value of providing for all residents.

The approved millage helps make it possible to continue to provide essential services and allows for limited expansion of services. The next step is for leaders from the cities that approved the millage to create an Active Adult Commission to administer the millage funds and keep the respective communities apprised of how millage funds are spent. We look forward to working with the commission to establish a plan for offering new and expanded

See LETTERS, page 7A

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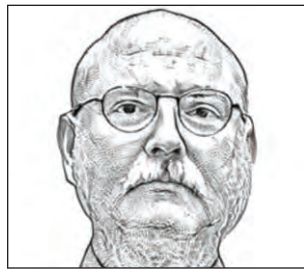
November 14 – 20



THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
53° 42°	54° 39°	57° 43°	58° 42°	55° 41°	54° 42°	53° 43°
Rain Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
80%	0%	0%	30%	30%	15%	30%
SUNRISE 7:22 am SUNSET 5:10 pm	SUNRISE 7:23 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 7:24 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 7:25 am SUNSET 5:08 pm	SUNRISE 7:26 am SUNSET 5:07 pm	SUNRISE 7:27 am SUNSET 5:06 pm	SUNRISE 7:28 am SUNSET 5:05 pm

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

I SAY By Ted O'Neil



# Is the World Series over yet?

First off, I am a baseball fan, but there are some aspects of the game I'm not crazy about.

Watching this year's World Series between the Dodgers and the Yankees brought back some fond memories. The same two teams met in the Fall Classic in both 1977 and 1978.

I was 10 in 1977, playing Little League baseball

and consumed with the game. My buddies and I played every chance we could, even if there weren't enough of us to fill every position. These phrases might ring a bell — all-time pitcher, pitcher's mound is out, right field is out.

If there were an odd number of players, one would pitch to both teams. Since you weren't allowed to hit to right field, it didn't make sense having a first baseman, so infield hits thrown to the pitcher constituted an out.

Can't forget the novel concept of ghost runners,

either.

My dad, who would pass away in 1979, was a huge Yankees fan. I, on the other hand, was a Dodgers fan, mostly because of Steve Garvey. My mom and I rooted for the Dodgers, but Dad's Yanks would prevail both years, winning in six games.

The 1977 series, of course, is remembered for Reggie Jackson, who hit three first-pitch home runs off three different pitchers in Game 6 to earn the nickname "Mr. October."

This year's series ended on the penultimate

day of October, thanks to that disastrous fifth inning by New York, but it could have extended into November like some previous years.

And that's my first beef. How many times can MLB expand the playoffs simply to sell more tickets? At least it's not as bad as the NBA, where 16 out of 30 teams make the playoffs. Some with losing records.

And then there are uniforms. Sometimes I'll turn on a game and it'll look like a church league softball game with all the different color jerseys. I'm more of a traditional-

ist — white uniforms at home, gray on the road. Just like the Detroit Tigers. But don't even get me started on those hideous City Connect unis.

I was happy to read MLB will be returning to the tradition of each player wearing their own team's uniform at the All-Star Game instead of specialized ones.

I'm starting to maybe come around to inter-league play, but was totally opposed when it was introduced. It made it seem like the World Series wasn't as special when teams from the two leagues faced each other

during the regular season.

The ironic thing is, when the Grosse Pointe News team went to a Tigers game in June to celebrate being named "Newspaper of the Year" by the Michigan Press Association a third straight time, it was against the Washington Nationals. A National League team!

Finally, the designated hitter. Never liked it. Pitchers should be complete players.

OK, enough "get off my lawn" stuff. How long until pitchers and catchers report?

## YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

### 1949

75 years ago this week

**GOVERNOR SIGNS FARMS CHARTER:** Gov. G. Mennen Williams officially approved the proposed charter for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms. The complicated machinery that was set in motion last March when the residents of the village voted to convert to city status,

now grinds near the finish of the long process of completed conversion.

### 1974

50 years ago this week

**HAIRDRESSERS JUBILANT OVER JUDGE'S DECISION IN MEN CLIENTELE CASE:** "Men in Grosse Pointe no longer have to sneak around and come in the

back door of beauty shops in order to get their hair styled," enthused Pointe hairdresser Leon Sehojan, following a Circuit Court decision that found two hairdressers employed by Leon's of Grosse Pointe not guilty of violating the state barber licensing statute. The two hairdressers, Laura Bowman and Kathleen Lamia, were charged with cutting men's hair without a barber's license. Both, as licensed cosmetologists working in a licensed cosmetology establishment, could cut women's hair.

### 1999

25 years ago this week

**KIDS SPEAK OUT ON MAKING POINTES MORE YOUTH-FRIENDLY:** Ten middle school and high school kids had their say about what it's like to live in Grosse Pointes: There's nothing to do and we'd like to do something about it. Their concerns and possible solutions were well received by members of the audience at the first

of two League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe town hall meetings held at Parcels Middle School.

### 2014

10 years ago this week

**K-9 DUKE PAYING DIVIDENDS:** Duke, the 1 1/2-year-old police dog named after jazz musician Duke Ellington, is getting in the swing of drug detection. A fresh graduate of the K-9 academy, Duke twice last week uncovered

illegal narcotics or related paraphernalia. He scored three arrests last week in two separate cases.

**NEW DIGS:** Grosse Pointe Farms resident Kevin Nugent recently opened the Lakeside Baseball Club, located at 3538 Cadieux, just west of Mack, in Detroit. This 4,800-square-foot facility is for baseball and softball players who want to improve their skills by using pitching machines to get swings in during the off season, as well as pitch, catch and even get some infield work.

## GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

sale and disallow the loss deduction. The IRS will look at all your accounts — 401(k), IRA, taxable, etc. — when determining if a wash sale occurred.

### Manage your income and deductions

Those at or near the next tax bracket should pay close attention to anything that might bump them up and plan to reduce taxable income before the end of the year.

- ◆ Determine if it makes sense to accelerate deductions or defer income, potentially allowing you to minimize your current tax liability. Some companies may give you an opportunity to defer bonuses and so forth into a future year as well.

- ◆ Certain retirement plans also can help you defer taxes. Contributing to a traditional 401(k) allows you to pay income tax only when you withdraw money from the plan in the future, at which point your income

and tax rate may be lower or you may have more deductions available to offset the income.\*

- ◆ Evaluate your income sources — earned income, corporate bonds, municipal bonds, qualified dividends, etc. — to help reduce the overall tax impact.

### Evaluate life changes

Bring your financial advisor up to speed on major life changes and ask how they could affect your year-end planning.

- ◆ Moving can significantly impact tax and estate planning, especially if you've relocated from a high income tax state to a low income tax state, from a state with a state income tax to one without (or vice versa), or if you've moved to a state with increased asset protection. Note that moving expenses themselves are no longer deductible for most taxpayers.

- ◆ Give thought to your family members' life changes as well as your own — job changes, births, deaths, weddings and divorces, for example, can all necessitate changes — and consider updating your estate documents accordingly.

### Next steps

Consider these to-do's as you prepare to make the most of year-end financial moves, and discuss with your financial advisor and tax professional:

- ◆ Manage your income and deductions, paying close attention to your marginal tax bracket.

- ◆ Evaluate your investments, keeping in mind whether you could benefit from tax-loss harvesting.

- ◆ Make a list of the life changes you and your family have experienced during the year.

\*Withdrawals from qualified accounts, such as an IRA, prior to age 59 1/2 also may be subject to a 10 percent federal penalty tax. RMDs are generally subject to federal income tax and may be subject to state taxes. Consult your tax advisor to assess your situation. Raymond James does not provide tax or legal services. Please discuss these matters with the appropriate professional.

Noah Hauswirth, AAMS, is a financial advisor at Raymond James & Associates in Grosse Pointe Farms.

## LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

essential services and sharing that with the community at large.

Our senior population is expected to grow for several more decades. While a millage provides a reliable funding source, The Helm will continue its traditional fundraising efforts to be able to support our growing senior population and their families.

Respectfully,  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
The Helm at the  
Boll Life Center

### An enjoyable season

To The Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Blue Devils football team, and Coach Chad Hepner and his staff, for such an enjoyable 2024 season. Your record-breaking year was such a pleasure to

witness, week in and week out. Friday night was disappointing, but only because I will not be able to see this incredible team play again. There is no shame in losing to an extremely talented and perennial powerhouse in De La Salle. What amazed me the most is what this South squad has accomplished with only homegrown talent, unlike most others with multiple ZIP codes. It's a huge credit to Coach

Hepner and his staff.

Again, to the 2024 Blue Devils football team, THANK YOU for providing such an enjoyable experience for our community and for carrying yourselves with such dignity and class in the process.

DAN GRIESBAUM  
Grosse Pointe

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# Seeks more streetscape grants

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Excitement is building for construction of the Charlevoix streetscape.

Although people involved in the project acknowledge numerous aspects of the plan need to be decided prior to groundbreaking in 2026, they're having a good time envisioning the results.

"It's going to be a shot in the arm for Charlevoix walkability and the entire neighborhood," said Jim Robson, a member of the TIFA board and former councilman.

"It's going to beautify the street as a whole," said Brian Czerny, owner of The Charlevoix restaurant and the board's newest member. "With the addition of lighting, bike parking, new trees and flowers, it's going to create a nice entrance into the Pointes."

Czerny expects streetscape improvements to make Charlevoix a destination.

"It's going to be a very popular entertainment district with family, food

and drinks — lively," he said. "I think it's going to draw people to the Pointes, whether from the villages in Detroit (East English and Indian), Island View, St. Clair Shores, Harper Woods, all the Pointes — it's going to create a place where people can have a lot of different things like Kercheval has."

Grants are intended to fund half of the \$4 million proposal by the Tax Increment Finance Authority to modernize the Charlevoix commercial district's infrastructure. The rest comes from a portion of additional property taxes generated within and for the benefit of the district and from the municipal budget.

The authority is self-funded by retaining future anticipated increases in tax revenue generated within the TIFA district that would otherwise go to the county and state.

TIFA's budget for last year set aside \$150,000 toward upgrading streetscapes on Charlevoix and Kercheval. This fiscal year's set-aside is \$629,823.

The TIFA area consists

of residential and commercial neighborhoods ringed by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham.

Comparable improvements are slated for Kercheval after work on Charlevoix is completed.

Municipal representatives and their consultants with OHM Advisors drew up renderings this year of new streetscapes combining traffic safety, walkability, greenspace, environmental stewardship and decorative lighting.

The goal on Charlevoix is to transform the well-worn place into a small-town enclave of commercial vitality of benefit to consumers and neighborhood residents.

"There's synergy between residents and businesses," Robson said. "Charlevoix needs some improvements."

Between now and construction, public engagement sessions and

meetings of the TIFA board will be scheduled to solicit suggestions from the public and area stakeholders.

"I met with OHM yesterday about our schedule next year," said Warren Rothe, TIFA director and assistant city manager during a Nov. 7 TIFA meeting. "We're planning, either this month or early December, to do a deep dive with business owners on Charlevoix to get feedback. Meanwhile, more full-fledged public outreach is going to start early next year."

"Public comment is critical," Robson said.

Rothe anticipates holding the first public meeting in January.

"The rest of the public meetings will occur between January and probably April of next year," he said. "Before we get there, we want to start meeting with business owners to talk about logistics and simple things like trash pickup, deliveries, how they're using their space, what will work and what won't work."

Park officials are canvassing other downtowns to see what can be adapted

for local benefit.

Rothe said he and Terry Brennan, the Park's building official and retired public services director for Grosse Pointe Farms, canvassed areas of Detroit, including grounds of the renovated Michigan Central train station that Ford Motor Co. renovated on Michigan Avenue.

"We also went to Brighton and Ann Arbor," Rothe said. "We have a lot of pictures and took notes of what we liked to help inform the design we're going to have over the coming months."

Financing is moving along with, first, the TIFA board setting aside funds but, almost magically, the city receiving a \$1.8 million federal Transportation Alternative Program grant. The grant totaled \$400,000 more than anticipated.

Funds are distributed by the Michigan Department of Transportation to recipients selected by a Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) review committee.

"We're continuing to file quarterly progress reports with SEMCOG and MDOT for grant funds," Rothe said.

"The biggest thing for us was when we got that grant," said Curt Ralstrom, voted by his colleagues to become TIFA chairman in September. "When John Hughes (Ralstrom's predecessor) was chairman, a lot of this was started. A lot of legwork was done. I'm just kind of stepping in and continuing the project. But, it's moving forward nicely. I look forward to working with OHM to see the plan. They have a vision for us so we can really get started with the planning phase."

"There are a few other funding sources I'm pursuing, too," Rothe said. "There's a new MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corp.) grant program that funds place-making projects. The application is going to open later this month. They're going to run through February. The state's last ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars they are funding. So, I'm going to be submitting an application so we can hopefully have success there and get additional funds."

"This doesn't happen overnight," Ralstrom said. "It's not just one person. There's been a lot of work."

## TIFA budget squared on trees and lot

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — Housekeeping actions this month by board members of the Tax Increment Finance Authority amended its budget to account for tree planting and parking lot construction.

Members amended the budget by \$80,000 to account for money set aside last year for extended tree planting this year in the TIFA district.

"None of this is a new expense," Rothe told the board Thursday, Nov. 7. "It's money that was set aside last year. To comply with Michigan accounting laws, we have to pass a budget amendment as a board. That covers about 500 trees for this year and the remaining ones we didn't get planted that we budgeted in the prior year."

Members also amended the

budget by \$53,200, representing the final payment for construction of a parking lot.

As reported in February this year, the lot provides 56 parking spaces behind businesses on the south side of Kercheval between Maryland and Lakepointe.

Construction was a partnership between TIFA and the Grosse Pointe Park Business Improvement Foundation. Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, is active in the foundation.

"We adopted a development agreement as well as a financing agreement," Rothe said. "The financing agreement called for three payments, one at the beginning, one at the middle and one when the project's closed. The project's close did not happen until this fiscal year. It was supposed to be paid last fiscal year." Work wasn't finished, however,

by the expected deadline.

"That's been completed," Rothe said. "I haven't issued the final payment yet because I have to have the budget amendment in place. That is what that budget amendment is for."

The partnership featured the following terms:

- ◆ the foundation conveyed its parcel to TIFA yet paid for designing the lot,

- ◆ both the foundation and TIFA funded construction,

- ◆ after construction, TIFA will lease the lot to the foundation for three years, while revenue from the parking meters goes to TIFA, not the foundation;

- ◆ at the end of three years, the foundation has the option of taking over the property under terms of a deed restriction requiring the lot to remain a parking lot, with meter revenue continuing to go to TIFA, not the foundation.

## Beauty com names officers

**GROSSE POINTE PARK** — It took teeth pulling, but members of the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission found a vice chairperson for the coming year.

There were no volunteers to serve as vice chair. Nominations required cajoling by Chairwoman Lisa Kyle.

When Cheryl Gauss, a member of the commission since May 2022, volunteered during the group's meeting Nov. 6, her colleagues quickly voted in concurrence.

"Thank you, Cheryl, for stepping up," Kyle told her.

On the other hand, it was a simple decision to re-choose Kyle to another term.

"I'd like to see you continue," Pat Deck told Kyle.

The vote was unanimous.

Shelley Hansen also was voted to another term as secretary.

Member Kelly Konieczki, appointed to the board this year by Mayor Michele Hodges, volunteered to chair the commission's adopt-a-garden program, which is in development.

— Brad Lindberg

## City leaves DTE for new natural gas supplier at lesser cost

By Laurel Kraus  
Staff Writer

**CITY OF GROSSE POINTE** — The findings of a utility audit engaged by the City in June, have identified opportunities for savings in electric, telecommunications, a singular instance of sales tax and, up first for remediation, its natural gas supplier.

With the City's DTE contract up for renewal Dec. 1, council last month voted to approve a new contract with supplier Constellation, which will produce a

\$9,600 annual savings on the cost of natural gas, as well as an additional \$1,700 annual savings in distribution costs.

Currently, DTE charges \$3.77 per 1,000 cubic feet. Constellation will charge \$3.32 per 1,000 cubic feet — a fixed rate the City will be locked into for the duration of its three-year contract.

"This program has been utilized (by) several communities throughout Michigan," City Manager Joe Valentine said, "and typically, the savings are

the savings, because they don't have the physical cost to maintain the infrastructure. They're just buying the gas and selling you the gas on someone else's pipe, so the costs are typically less for that reason."

His previous experience working with Constellation in other communities, he added, was "seamless," in regard to its supply and delivery.

Though the change in supplier drops the natural gas bill by \$11,300 annually, the City only will realize a savings of roughly \$17,000 during the three-year contract. This is because its agreement with the free

Tenurgy Utility Savings Program offered through the Michigan Chamber of Commerce outlined any savings found via the audit would be split 50 percent with Tenurgy for three years.

"Our savings might actually end up being more than that if the price that we would have paid continues to go up over the course of those three years and we're held at a fixed rate," Councilwoman Maureen Juip noted.

Alternatively, if natural gas rates were to go down in the next three years, Constellation would keep the windfall. "I think we're in a position where we have

to take a chance in trying to save a little here, a little here, a little here to keep shaving down across the whole thing for commodities," Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak said. "Eventually it adds up ... and I think anything we can do to pull anything back when the budgets are as tight as they are (is) good."

Council approved the natural gas contract with Constellation 5-0, with councilmen Chris Walsh and Dave Fries absent, Monday, Oct. 21.

Tenurgy's audit additionally identified 13 DTE accounts/meters on which the City was paying sales tax in error the last several years. In fil-

ing the forms to exempt the accounts, the city is expecting a refund between \$15,000 and \$20,000 — to be split 50 percent with Tenurgy — as well as an annual \$5,000 savings going forward, half of which will go to the auditing program the next three years.

Spurred by the report, city administration also currently is:

- ◆ reviewing its municipal lighting account to affirm the accuracy of the number and type of lights billed to the city;

- ◆ reviewing options under its telecommunication services to save approximately \$8,000 per month;

- ◆ and looking into new telecom solutions to save additional funds and enhance the redundancy of its system.

"We'll continue to audit our operation and identify ways to become more efficient and save our taxpayers money," Valentine said via email. "Our budget is tight, so taking a fresh look at what we do and how we do (it) is starting to make a positive impact on our bottom line."

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# Honey Dirt Coffee at home inside POST Detroit

## Pointe native builds up new business

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

**DETROIT** — Nestled toward the back of POST Detroit, Teddy Shaska's Honey Dirt Coffee business is keeping it real with traditional coffees and teas.

"It started with a pop-up coffee cart in January, on weekends only, and went fairly well," Shaska said. "We quickly got a following in the neighborhood."

As its following grew, so did Shaska's desire for a more permanent location. It didn't take long to realize the space toward the back of POST — an area with cabinets, a sink, dishwasher and refrigerator — would be the perfect fit.

In June, Honey Dirt Coffee opened in the space with limited hours. By September, business grew well enough that hours were extended to 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

As for the name: "I thought it was cool," Shaska said. "I was listening to a band called Dirty Honey. It sounded cool, fun, memorable. It will make someone look twice."

Despite its unusual name, Honey Dirt Coffee offers a traditional selection, "with a bit of what customers like," Shaska said. "We have flavors, but with a standard for everything. Everything is measured. I always say the best coffee is the one you like. I don't want to lose sight of what my vision is. There's no 'supersize me,' no blends."

"We have espresso-based drinks and an



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

**Teddy Shaska presents a latte with two types of cookies available for the day: rose pistachio shortbread and peanut butter paprika.**

assortment of teas — chai and matcha," he continued. "The coffee's roasted in house. I roast everything on Monday for what I'll need the rest of the week, so it's pretty darn fresh. I source everything. I work with many sourcers, but primarily Falcon Specialty Coffee Traders, which is based in the UK but has ports to serve the American market. They're on top of it."

Coffees come in eight- and 12-ounce sizes.

"I roast it all, sample it, source all the coffee," he added. "We offer a really yummy, clean, pretty cup of coffee, but the goal is to be relational around here. I want to make the

shop relational rather than just transactional."

Shaska's two employees, for example, were customers before he hired them.

"I thought they were cool and I could talk to them, so I offered them jobs," he said. "... I love hanging out with my employees. I consider them my friends. I want to create a culture where we're having fun, a culture that's laidback."

"At the end of the day, it's coffee. Having good coffee is the bare minimum. Coffee is just the conduit."

Shaska urges his employees to get to know the regulars and develop those relationships,



Latte art created by Shaska.

because that's what his experience was like growing through the coffee business. The Grosse Pointe Park native grew up on Maryland and attended Defer Elementary School before moving to Grosse Pointe Woods and going to Brownell Middle School. Before his high school years, he moved to Oregon.

"I spent 10 years in Grants Pass, in southern Oregon," he said. "I worked at my brother-in-law's cafe."

Next came a job with Dutch Bros. Coffee, which eventually opened more career paths in the industry, including management and training jobs. He spent eight years opening multiple coffee shops around the country.

Despite his years of experience, opening Honey Dirt Coffee was not his reason for coming back to Michigan. Shaska wanted to be a medic in the military, "so I could help people on the worst days of their lives," he said. When those plans fell through, he decided to use his savings — with the support

of his family — to start the business.

"We're still a startup, still growing, and I hope to continue to do so within the city," he said. "I want to bridge the gap between the customer and the barista."

"... Coming from Dutch Bros., the focus is on employees and the customer experience," he added. "It was about, how can I meet the employee where they're at? How can I give them a better quality of life? How can I give them the tools to succeed? I had great leadership above me. My goal is to be that leader for my employees."

Though now he calls Harrison Township home, Shaska is devoted to his business, located on Kercheval just west of Alter Road. He's on track to participate in Motor City Match, which helps "start new, permanent businesses and expand existing businesses in Detroit's commercial corridors by providing tailored assistance throughout the launch and growth process," according to its website.

While happy to be at

POST, Shaska hopes to open his own brick and mortar in the city, to start.

"My personal goal is to open three shops in five years," he said. "But I am allowing it to grow organically, naturally. I don't want too much at once. I want to crush it here and take it where it's needed."

In the meantime, POST — an open-concept production studio, retail shop and venue for craft workshops — is the perfect home for his startup, he said.

"The main thing I love here — and I don't mean this in a disrespectful way, but every coffee shop looks the same, like a third-wave coffee shop. Me? I like it gritty and rugged. There are tools hanging up and crazy stuff all over. It's not your average-looking coffee shop. I like the vibe. It really fits my personality."

Shaska credited POST Detroit founders Clare Fox and Wayne Maki for helping get the word out about Honey Dirt Coffee.

"They have classes on the weekends, so their customers know I'm here," he said.

"The support has been awesome and overwhelming," he added. "I'm super grateful for it."

While business is good, Shaska doesn't want to forget his roots.

"I still do pop up," he said. "The cart is all plumbed in with an espresso machine, so the coffee cart is going to be in use."

For more information about Honey Dirt Coffee, stop by 14500 Kercheval, Detroit; visit [honeydirtcoffee.com](http://honeydirtcoffee.com); or email [support@honeydirtcoffee.com](mailto:support@honeydirtcoffee.com).

## Nick Dyc, M.D., appointed IEP Urgent Care medical director

Nick Dyc, M.D., has been named medical director of all seven metro Detroit IEP Urgent Care locations. The announcement was made by IEP Emergency Physicians President and CEO David Hall, M.D., FACEP.

"Dr. Dyc is an enthusiastic advocate and champion for all patients, physicians and the practice of medicine," Hall said. "In addition to providing and leading care at all our IEP Urgent Care clinics, Dr. Dyc also provides care in the emergency department at Henry Ford St. John Hospital in Detroit and Henry Ford Hospital in Jackson."

Dyc chairs the IEP-PC Patient Experience Committee, advocating for both patients and providers while educating on the synergy between patient experience and provider wellness. Having faced a life-changing injury in his late teens, he experienced first-hand the impact emergency physicians can have on a patient's life and his leadership style is built on compassion. He is a partner in IEP-PC and was elected twice to the IEP-PC Board of Directors, serving from 2016 to 2021.

All seven IEP Urgent Care locations — Brighton, Clinton Township, Ferndale, Grosse Pointe, Jackson, Novi and Southfield —



Nick Dyc, M.D.

feature multiple exam rooms, onsite digital

X-ray imaging, an array of urgent care services, testing procedures, pediatric urgent care, occupational health and telemedicine services from ER-trained providers and staff. Each location is open seven days a week with convenient weekend and evening hours. Patients can walk in or schedule an appointment online at IEP Urgent Care's website.

IEP Urgent Care serves all members of the community by accepting pri-

vate insurance plans, as well as Medicaid and Medicare.

"It's more important than ever that providers deliver the right care, in the right place and at the

right cost to patients," Hall said. "IEP Urgent Care is providing an affordable care alternative to an ED visit for non-life-threatening illness or injury. IEP Urgent Care's

commitment to accept Medicaid insurance, just as we do in our emergency departments, will help to bridge existing gaps in affordable care for the whole community."

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The four winning posters.

## League of Women Voters of GP announce poster contest winners

The League of Women Voters of Grosse Pointe recently recognized the winners of its first Engage Democracy poster contest. The contest, open to high school students from the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods, emphasized the importance of voting and how one's vote can determine the future of one's community, state and

country.

Prize winners were:  
 ♦ First Place — Madeline Unkel, junior, University Liggett School  
 ♦ Second Place — Coco Marchal, junior, University Liggett School  
 ♦ Third Place — Luke Slanec, junior, University Liggett School  
 Honorable Mention — Madeline Hexter, junior, University Liggett School

The winning posters were displayed in the Grosse Pointe Artists Association gallery at The War Memorial.

The contest was judged by Jackie Rybinski. The LWVGP poster committee members were Anne Ballew, Catherine Dumke, Wilhelmina Giblin, Mary Jo Johnson and Margrit Poynter, chairwoman.



COURTESY PHOTOS

From left, Catherine Dumke, Mary Johnson, Margrit Poynter, first-place winner Madeline Unkel, honorable mention winner Madeline Hexter, Wilhelmina Giblin, judge Jackie Rybinski and Julianne Phillips.

## FUND:

Continued from page 1A

its highest support in the City of Grosse Pointe, with 68 percent of voters in favor. It narrowly passed in Grosse Pointe Shores, with 51 percent of the vote, 883 to 858. The Shores also was the only city to vote down the senior services millage.

GPPSS had 67 percent support in Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms, 65 percent in Harper Woods and 64 percent in Grosse Pointe Woods.

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.

The district plans to spend around \$36 million on technology and security upgrades. Other top priorities include \$12.8 million for roofing, \$12 million on entrances, doors and windows and \$8.2 million on masonry restoration.

"In the coming months, there will be more information provided to the community on our ongoing efforts, allowing clear transparency between the district and community members," Tuttle

said. "Your continued commitment to our school district and students is appreciated and valued as we all work together to prepare our students for success."

GPPSS Board of Education President Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, said he is "thrilled" the sinking fund passed, as it "ensures we can keep all of our school buildings open and fully operational. This also creates the possibility of reopening Trombly. I sincerely hope the new board remains committed to prioritizing the defined list of projects that our community voted on."



## Make art with fallen leaves

The Grosse Pointe Artists Association presents "Printing Fallen Leaves," a class with Nobuko Yamasaki, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

"Leaves are falling and giving us the opportunity to look more closely at their incredibly beautiful lines," Yamasaki noted.

Registration is limited to 10.

"We will have materials for each person to make five cards," she said.

"Remember they make great gifts. If you have leaves from your favorite trees, please press them in a heavy book for a few days before class."

Yamasaki also will have a supply of oak, ginkgo and Sweetgum leaves for use.

Cost for the class is \$20 for GPAA members, \$30 for nonmembers.

Register online at [grossepointeartcenter.org/classes](http://grossepointeartcenter.org/classes).

## SEATS:

Continued from page 1A

worked hard in our campaign to prioritize students and teachers, embrace academic excellence for all students and prioritize fiscal responsibility."

The next highest vote-getter was Kate Hopper at 13,350; followed by Terry Collins, 13,078; Melissa Fradenburg, 12,408 and Heath Roberts, 11,328. Those four were endorsed by Pointers for Academic Excellence, a group founded by Sean Cotton, board president and owner of the Grosse Pointe News.

The ninth candidate, Diana Gellci, garnered 2,617 votes. Totals are unofficial until certified by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers. Turnout was far higher than two years ago, when Cotton was the top vote getter with 12,500.

In what was essentially a slate-versus-slate race, Worden, Derringer, Hull and Klepp received a cumulative total of more than 5,000 votes over Collins, Fradenburg, Hopper and Roberts in both Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Park. The gap was 2,100 in Harper Woods, 1,000 in the City of Grosse Pointe and 20 in Grosse Pointe Farms. Grosse Pointe Shores favored Collins, Fradenburg, Hopper and Roberts by

some 1,600 votes.

Worden's seat was up for election, as was the one held by Collins. He was appointed to the board last fall to complete the term after David Brumbaugh had to resign after moving for job reasons. The other two seats were open as incumbents Ahmed Ismail and Lisa Papas chose not to run again.

The Shores led the way in voter turnout at 82 percent, followed closely by the Woods at 81 and the Park at 79. The Farms and City both saw 77 percent of registered voters cast ballots.

Klepp and Derringer both ran in 2022, when 10 candidates vied for three seats. Election night showed Klepp finishing in fourth place, 14 votes behind Trustee Ginny Jeup. A recount, at his request, showed Jeup keeping the seat by four votes. The recount cost GPPSS just shy of \$8,000.

Klepp at the time asked supporters for additional campaign contributions to cover legal costs associated with the recount. He also told the Grosse Pointe News in December 2022, he was open to looking at ways to repay the district for the cost of the recount. The district had not been reimbursed at the time he filed to run in this election.

When asked about the matter Wednesday, Nov. 6, Klepp said the Grosse Pointe News, "quoted me accurately," and there

was, "nothing new" on the issue.

"I'm gratified by the results and look forward to serving our students and our community," Klepp added.

Derringer said he, too, was honored and thankful for the work of his supporters.

"I'm excited to learn more about all of the operations and have as smooth a transition as possible," he said.

He added the new board will need to focus on electing officers, outlining budget parameters and planning for sinking fund millage projects. He also would like to see a student representative from each high school join in board meetings.

"They can give us updates and take board action back to share with students, teachers and administrators," he said. "It would be a good two-way communication."

Board President Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, said that while the results are not what he hoped for, he is proud of what the current board has accomplished.

"We restored fiscal responsibility, preserved academic excellence and strengthened our walkable, bikeable community," he added. "I sincerely hope that the new board continues to prioritize these crucial values to keep Grosse Pointe schools and our community strong."

# FEATURES



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2B OBITUARIES | 2&4B AREA ACTIVITIES | 3B CHURCHES

## Stahl honors classic automobiles, beloved pets at first solo exhibition

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Self-taught artist Sarah Stahl has been making a name for herself in the Grosse Pointes and beyond for years, initially finding success with commissioned dog portraits and then for her auto-centric maps in support of The Great Race and X-Cup.

This month through early January, more than 40 of her pieces will be displayed in her first solo art show, “History in Motion” The Automobile Immortalized, which opens to the public Monday, Nov. 18, at University Liggett School’s Manoogian Art Gallery.

Stahl, of Grosse Pointe Farms, was invited to exhibit her work while visiting fellow Grosse Pointe Artists Association member Nobuko Yamasaki’s exhibition at the school.

“I was over-the-moon excited about what that would look like,” Stahl said. “... I knew this



Stahl’s mixed-media maps were created in support of The Great Race, which her family participates in annually.

would give me the opportunity to explore my inner creative and to challenge myself with new mediums, subjects and inspiration. While highlighting classic pet portraits, horses included, I will debut vintage automobiles and the stories they tell.”

When mulling what works she’d like to display for her show, Stahl knew right away she wanted to showcase her

work in support of The Great Race.

“With my family’s annual participation in The Great Race, a vintage car rally of about 125 cars traveling 2,300 miles across America, I have learned to create detailed portraits of antique automobiles,” she said, noting her husband is a driver and her son, a navigator in the

See STAHL, page 4B



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARAH STAHL

Sarah Stahl stands with several of her pieces, which highlight American automotive history.

## Be ready to belly laugh as GPT goes ‘Over the River and Through the Woods’

Families get chance to win dinner at Gaudino’s

### The details

By Jody McVeigh  
Editor

Audiences who venture out to see Grosse Pointe Theatre’s “Over the River and Through the Woods” can expect hearty guffaws and a few tears during the fast-paced performance, which opens Friday, Nov. 15, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 24.

“It is extremely funny,” Director Laura Ver Beek said. “It’s well-written. I think people need a good laugh right about now. It’s got the kind of dialogue that will make people belly laugh.”

“Over the River and Through the Woods,” written by Joe DiPietro, focuses on a tight-knit New Jersey family: Italian-American Nick and his four Italian immigrant grandparents.

“He has dinner with them every Sunday night and they cherish it,” Ver Beek said. “But then he is offered a job in Washington state and they are devastated. They try to figure out a way to keep him from moving.”

Ver Beek said the family dynamic and generational gap lead to multiple misunderstandings, which feeds the humor. “It’s misplaced love,” she said.

Robby Mullinger plays Nick. Nick’s somewhat smothering grandparents



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GPT

From left, Sal Rubino, Kate Sweeney, Eileen S. White and Bill McCarthy take the stage in “Over the River and Through the Woods.”

are played by Bill McCarthy, Eileen S. White, Sal Rubino and Kate Sweeney. Bronwen Mischel rounds out the cast.

“The cast is fantastic,” Ver Beek said. “Three of them in the show have done the show before. There are not many great roles for older actors; this requires four of them. My two females have performed this together at a different theater and one grandpa has done it twice before. The other three have never done it before. “I told them, ‘You’ve

done this before, but this is a brand new show. It’s a different cast. I’m a different director. I require different things of you.”

Wiping the slate clean worked for director and cast alike as Ver Beek said she feels like she’s on cloud nine with the results.

“It’s an incredible cast,” she said. “They worked so well with me. They’ve done everything I’ve asked. And they work well together.”

Under her direction, the actors have made their characters well-

rounded, rather than just relying on jokes to make the play funny.

“I said, ‘You can’t do that,’” she said. “Then they’re just caricatures. We really take our comedy seriously.”

Ver Beek also credited her crew for making the process — which has been in motion since late August — run smoothly.

“I’m the head honcho, but it takes a whole team,” she said. “I’ve got a stage director, producer and other people who are with me every step of the way. I’m just

What: “Over the River and Through the Woods”

When:

- ♦ 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15
- ♦ 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16
- ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17
- ♦ 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20
- ♦ 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21
- ♦ 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22
- ♦ 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23
- ♦ 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24

Where: Grosse Pointe South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms

How: Tickets are \$35 on the weekends, \$25 Wednesday and Thursday, including fees. Students pay \$15 Wednesday only and must show their ID.

Tickets are available online at gpt.org/river, by calling (313) 881-4004 and at the door.



Brownen Mischel and Robby Mullinger are among the show’s stars.

another spoke in the wheel.”

Ver Beek is no stranger to Grosse Pointe Theatre. A member since 2007, she directed her first

main-stage production, “Broadway Bound,” in 2022. She’s also directed a few of Grosse Pointe

See LAUGHS, page 3B

## 2B | 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.

## Elizabeth Bryant Presogna

Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bryant Presogna passed away Wednesday, July 17, 2024, in Wolfeboro, N.H., due to complications of a glioblastoma, diagnosed a year ago.

She was born May 11, 1970, in Grosse Pointe, to Leslie (nee Pearce) and John Bryant II.

Lizzie's school years were spent in Grosse Pointe and New York. She attended The Grosse Pointe Academy and graduated from University Liggett School in 1989. While there, she was involved in choral music and the school's first girls hockey team. She also assisted the athletic trainer and was a Sigma Gamma Junior. She graduated from Whittier College in 1993, with a degree in communications. She also was active in women's rights issues.

Lizzie traveled to Russia with a youth group and sang in the girls choir at Christ Church Grosse Pointe. She was a delightful friend and could always be counted on to enliven any events. She also was quick quoted and a courtier on important topics.

Lizzie appreciated her Bryant family legacy. Her great-grandfather helped build the River Rouge Plant and Detroit Institute of Arts, and her great-grandmother was instrumental in the founding of the Detroit Artist Market.

Lizzie was predeceased by her father, John Bryant II. She is survived by her husband, Damion; son, Jake; mother, Lee Bryant; and stepfather, Norman Schwartz. She was dearly loved by her stepmother, Dorothy Bryant. She leaves behind fond half-siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews, along with a huge cast of friends. She is missed and her loved ones will keep her in their hearts.

Memorials may be sent to the Christ Church Grosse Pointe choir program, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

A life celebration will be held summer 2025.

## Katharine Worcester Getz

Katharine Worcester Getz, 72, passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 4, 2024. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend. Her passing leaves a profound emptiness in the lives of those who knew her, but her family faithfully knows she has been reunited with her cherished husband, John Michael Getz Sr., who predeceased her Nov. 30, 2023, and whom she deeply loved and missed.

Kathy was born May 29, 1952, in Detroit, to Nancy Jones and John Philip Worcester. She attended Richard Elementary School and graduated from Grosse Pointe University School. Kathy received a Bachelor of Arts degree in child psychology from Briarcliff College, a former all-women's college in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

Kathy is survived by her daughter, Allison Sullivan (Kevin) of Grosse Pointe; son, John Michael Getz Jr. (Sabrina) of Greenwich, Conn.; daughter, Molly Sheldon (Oliver) of Pelham, N.Y.; son, Max Getz (Eliza) of Grosse Pointe Farms; brother, John Worcester Jr., of Phoenix, Ariz.; brother, Peter Worcester (Wendy) of Greensboro, N.C.; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Arthur and Betsy Getz of Grosse Pointe Farms and Charles and Marna Getz of Draper, Utah; along with many other relatives and friends who loved her dearly. She was predeceased by her husband of 47 years, John Michael Getz Sr.; mother, Nancy Jones Worcester; and father, John Philip Worcester.

Kathy and Mike met at Grosse Pointe University School and began dating at the young age of 16. She was a cheerleader, full of spirit and life, and he was the quarterback of the football team. They were high school sweethearts, inseparable from the start, with their love withstanding long distance during their college years between Briarcliff and Mike's alma mater, Trinity College. Their companionship always

was central to how she lived her life.

Kathy had a wonderful sense of humor, an infectious laugh and a kindness felt by all who knew her. A nurturing and supportive mother, her dedication to her children was unwavering and she took great pride in the lives and families they created. Her greatest joy came from spending time with family, especially her cherished grandchildren, who affectionately referred to her as Nana: Teddy and Emma Sullivan (Allison and Kevin); Leela, Samson and Millie Getz (Michael Jr. and Sabrina); Lucy, Tommy and Maggie Sheldon (Molly and Oliver); and George and Charlotte Getz (Max and Eliza).

As a child, Kathy enjoyed summers on Walloon Lake with her parents, brothers, aunts, uncles and cousins. Walloon held a deep significance throughout her life as it was where her parents met, fell in love and eventually married. It also was a special place for her and Mike as they created many lasting memories there with their children, including "float boat" rides, days on the dock and family dinners.

Kathy dedicated herself to her four children and their many activities and interests, always cheering from the sidelines and navigating busy schedules. She created a cozy and welcoming home where walking in the side door on Cloverly Road brought the feeling of a warm hug. Kathy also spent many joyful years caring for her special pug companions, Louie and Toby, who brought her countless smiles and laughter.

Kathy and Mike took great pride in their active community engagement. Kathy was a member of the Tau Beta Association since 1967. She and Mike also had countless memories of family fun and friendships as former members of the Country Club of Detroit. In recent years, they loved spending special times at the Grosse Pointe "Little" Club, where they felt at home and treasured the views of Lake St. Clair.

While raising her chil-



Elizabeth Presogna



Katharine Getz



Carol Hennecke Gagnon

dren, Kathy found renewed faith as she converted to Catholicism, a choice that brought her a great sense of hope and peace.

Kathy was a parishioner at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, where services will be held Friday, Nov. 15. She will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. followed by a funeral Mass at 10 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, [stpaulonthelake.org/donate](mailto:stpaulonthelake.org/donate), or the Tau Beta Association, [bit.ly/3UK7M36](mailto:bit.ly/3UK7M36).

Share a memory at [verheyden.org](http://verheyden.org).

## Carol Hennecke Gagnon

Carol Hennecke Gagnon, 86, of Grosse Pointe Park, died Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.

Carol was born Dec. 29, 1937, in Grosse Pointe, to James and Marian Hennecke, both now deceased. She was an alumna of The Academy of the Sacred Heart and also attended Newton College and the University of Detroit. After college, she worked in New York City in the commercial music industry. There, she married Richard Gagnon, who also was from the Detroit area. They returned to Grosse Pointe, where she began raising their three children.

Carol also started Carol Gagnon & Associates, a business representing music and voiceover talent in the advertising industry. After her children married, she served as a committee member and on the board of several philanthropic and social organizations, including the Grosse Pointe Club and Tau Beta. In her free time, Carol enjoyed gardening, boating and traveling.

Richard passed away in 2021, their marriage having spanned 55 years. Carol is survived by a son, Richard Gagnon Jr. (Jennifer); two daughters, Laura Timmis (Michael) and Andrea



Thomas John McCubbin



Allan LeChard

Tingue (David); and 11 grandchildren.

A memorial for family and friends will be held in the chapel of her alma mater at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23. She will be interred in the St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church columbarium.

## Thomas John McCubbin

Thomas John McCubbin, 67, passed away in hospice care in Dunedin, Fla., Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024. He was a former resident of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Tom was born Aug. 28, 1957, in Detroit, to Donald and Nancy (nee White) McCubbin, both now deceased. Tom graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1975. He was a top draft choice for the Great Lakes Junior A Hockey League, where he played for two years. Tom then was recruited to play hockey at American International University in Springfield, Mo. He ultimately graduated from Ferris State University in 1984, with a business degree.

Tom worked as an account representative for OneBlood in Clearwater, Fla. He was universally loved by his family and friends and was affectionately known as "Uncle Buck" by his nieces and nephews. He always showed genuine interest in their lives and accomplishments. This same interest continued with his great-nieces and great-nephews. He also was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Tom was predeceased by his parents; grandparents, Thomas and Jean

McCubbin and John and Annie White; and sister, Ann Klein (John). He is survived by his siblings, Cathy Byron (Barney) and Jean Silveri (Robert); and nieces and nephews, Alex Byron, Kristin Duncan (Jose), Andrew Byron (Olga), Michael Silveri, Joe Silveri (Crystal) and Melissa Klein.

## Allan "Al" LeChard

Allan LeChard, 90, passed away peacefully and surrounded by family Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024.

Al was born Dec. 27, 1933, in Philadelphia, and raised near Atlantic City, N.J. He then spent more than 60 years in Grosse Pointe.

Al lived a long and remarkable life and was known for his incredible intelligence, generosity, caring nature and devotion to family.

Al is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sidney; and children, Leigh Vittert (Jeff) and Mark LeChard (Lori); along with six grandchildren, Kevin, Sammi, Allie, Jennifer, Anna and Cooper.

Visitation for Al will be held 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Al will lie in state Friday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. until the funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Stag Island Memorial Fund, 9135 Cambridge Dr., Saline, MI 48176.

## The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge,

Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs.

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

- ◆ Mapping Out the Future, 6:30 to 7:30 Thursday, Nov. 14, with Richard Levin, CEO of Riverview Health, and Lori-Ann Rikard, attorney and founder of Rikard and Associates.

- ◆ Thanksgiving Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20. Cost is \$22 for members, \$26 for nonmembers.

- ◆ The movie "The Long Game" is shown at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

- ◆ The movie "Under the Same Moon" is shown at noon Friday, Nov. 22. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

## Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the following, visit [grossepointelibrary.org](http://grossepointelibrary.org).

- ◆ 3D Thursday, 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ 1,000 Hours Outside Gratitude Celebration, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ "An Unknown Angel's Gift" book signing, 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Capturing the Holiday Moment with Monica Morgan, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe

## AREA ACTIVITIES

Park.

- ◆ Dino Tales on the Big Screen, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

- ◆ Readers' Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Gift Making, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Craft-to-Go: Dinosaur Fossils, all day Monday, Nov. 18, at three branches.

- ◆ Dream Lab: Adults Only, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at

Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ DinoStem, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ DigiLit Series, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Dino Movie, 10 a.m.

See EVENTS, page 4B

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# Teamwork feeds thousands at Mercy in Action Day

The Family of Parishes — including St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Matthew and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic churches — joined together for a Mercy in Action Day of Service.

The group partnered with Kids Coalition Against Hunger to pack 11,500 meals for St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, All Saints Soup Kitchen and Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. Of the total, 10,000 meals



Members of St. Ambrose, St. Clare of Montefalco, St. Matthew and St. Paul on the Lake Catholic churches were involved in the Mercy in Action Day of Service.

were shipped to Florida to aid the victims of recent hurricanes.

Student groups from all corners of the community were present.



Above, Jodi Corbett and Mike McDevitt are all smiles during the food-packing event. Left, from left, volunteers Colleen Brunton, Grayden Waterson, Julie Van Marcke, Elodie Marcke, Jim Bartoletti, Makenzie Waterson and Marty Waterson work together to package food.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRICIA KESTELOOT



Casey Lynch poses near a portion of the food packages that were created during the project.



## CHURCH EVENTS

### St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts its next Lunch, Laugh and Learn program Thursday, Nov. 21. John Kosanke, director of public safety for Grosse Pointe Woods, will speak about the latest and newest attempts by scammers: how to recognize them and avoid them. The program is free and open to the public; a good-will donation will be accepted at the door. Call (313) 884-4820 to reserve seats by Tuesday, Nov. 19.

### St. Matthew

All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend for an evening to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, hear a Gospel reading and reflect, and join in praise and worship music from the Encounter praise team, from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 6021 Whittier, Detroit. For questions, call (313) 885-8855.



From left, Bill McCarthy, Eileen S. White, Robby Mullinger, Bronwen Mischel, Kate Sweeney and Sal Rubino.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GPT

## LAUGHS:

Continued from page 1B

Theatre's Purdon Studio Theatre shows.

This show, she said, has included a few challenges — one of them being a small stage as the show takes place at Grosse Pointe South High School's auditorium — which she and the crew have faced head on.

"This is the only play that could conceivably be done at South," Ver Beek said. "It's one set. It's presenting some challenges, but we figured out how to work around them."

The script, for example, calls for a side porch, but there's not enough room for one, so the crew will use lighting changes to indicate private conversations.

"That's a challenge live theater presents when you don't have your own space, but I have a wonderful team," she added. "They'll make it work."

Ver Beek said the "snappy" production is two acts and moves along quickly. All ages are welcome to attend.

"The little ones will not understand every joke, but they'll have a good time," she added.

Parents and grandpar-

ents may want to ensure the younger generation sees the show. Their attendance comes with a special bonus courtesy of sponsor, Guadino's restaurant.

"If you come as a family — with kids, grandkids, a sibling — you put your name in a bowl and we do a drawing, I believe it's before the performance, for a \$50 gift for a meal at Guadino's," Ver Beek said. "It's perfect because the whole play revolves around food. The grandma is constantly cooking. It's all about the meal."

Guadino's is located at

27919 Harper, St. Clair Shores. One winner will be selected at each performance.

Ver Beek encouraged anyone to check out a performance, which she called a spectacular — and much-needed — experience.

"These are very difficult times in our country," she said. "Now is the perfect time to get out and have a fun evening and watch a show that will really make you laugh and, by the way, will also make you cry. It's very funny and then there are very heartfelt moments. It's a full experience."

# Worship Service



**Saint Ambrose Catholic Church**  
 15020 Hampton Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

**Masses**  
 Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. (\*\*)  
 Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
 Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Mass  
 Thursday — 7:00 p.m.  
 Friday — St. Francis Day — Blessing of Pets — Noon Mass

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

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 www.christthekinggp.org

**SUNDAY**  
 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service  
 Sunday School - During Service

**WEDNESDAY**  
 10 a.m. - Bible Study  
 6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

**Solomon Spangler, Pastor**  
*Making New Disciples - Building Stronger Ones*

**Grosse Pointe Congregational Church**  
 (United Church of Christ)

**Worship Sunday at 10:00 am**  
**Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver**  
*An Open & Affirming Church*

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## 4B | FEATURES

## STAHL:

Continued from page 1B

race. “My annual Great Race paintings have raised funds, offering youth the opportunity to study automotive restoration, receive grants, internships and scholarships for travel and to participate in The Great Race. I also enjoy painting rare cars featured at the Stahls Automotive Collection.”

Stahl’s mixed-media maps are a combination of watercolor and acrylic paints and oil-based pens. She styled her Great Race maps after Jack Juratovic’s “Great American Race.”

“I studied his work,” she said of the Automotive Fine Arts Society founder. “I was given a route of the race and over the years have put together different maps. I don’t have the full collection, but I have all these pieces I’ve done over the years supporting X-Cup. Money raised through the auction supports their future. One piece sold for \$25,000. The art pieces go toward something bigger than just coming up with an idea.”

When Stahl visited Yamasaki’s exhibition, she got a feel for the space and how to display her own work. She also got the idea to pay homage to her artistic roots.

“So many people love, love, love those dog por-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH STAHL

One of Stahl’s “Dog Breeds: A to Z” portraits: a dachshund.

traits,” she said. “I decided to honor where it all began.”

Stahl plans to do so by showing examples of the next project she plans to undertake.

“Recently, I finished my Bachelor of Science degree in English and am working towards a master’s in communications,” she said. “With what I have learned, paired with my passion for art and literature, I am now launching into a new adventure. I design and illustrate for writers locally and abroad. In addition to the continuation of commissioned artwork, I am also cultivating thought-provoking artwork for the children’s books that I

have written.”

Stahl currently is working on the series, “Dog Breeds, from A-Z,” each of them featuring a different dog, told from the dog’s perspective. The books also include black-and-white graphite sketches of each breed.

“This exhibit has really inspired me to think outside the box and pursue my future in children’s literature — and, of course, illustration,” she said.

For her solo show, Stahl plans to show her gratitude to those who visit the show. She has teamed up with University Liggett School student Ruby Noble, 16, who created a gourmet dog treat business.

“I have a love and passion for promoting and encouraging the next generation in their future business endeavors,” Stahl said. “Upon arrival at the reception, Ruby and I have collaborated and will offer our guests a welcome gift — a gourmet dog treat by Ruby’s Bakery combined with a signed print.

“... Each piece I have involved other people,” she added. “The bottom line is it’s about the next generation. I am where I am because someone else believed in me. I’m excited to put together these fun gifts for our guests.”

The opening reception takes place 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21.

Stahl’s work will be displayed through Friday, Jan. 3, and the majority of her pieces are for sale. Orders may be placed and gift certificates will be available as

well.

“I will make available gift certificates for purchase so families who would like to give one of my pieces as a Christmas present, their family member or loved one can reach out to me after the show,” she said.

Not for sale is the piece Stahl entered in the Grosse Pointe News’ first Finer Pointes art contest. It features a 1930 Packard with the historic Alger House in the background.

Also not for sale are a couple of works Stahl created for local clients, “who were kind enough to lend me the pieces I’ve done for them.”

Stahl said she feels the opportunity to showcase her work is a blessing and she’s grateful to follow in the footsteps of her artistic father.

“Growing up in Tennessee, I witnessed my father’s ever-developing artistic technique as he experimented with painting, drawing and woodcarving,” she said. “Today, I still marvel at his ingenuity — qualities I gravitate towards in my own art. My artistic career began specializing in pet and people portraits. Now, the topics of interest are limitless.”

The exhibition is open Mondays through Fridays, Nov. 18 to Jan. 3, by appointment only. University Liggett School is located at 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods. Call (313) 884-4444 to schedule an appointment.

To schedule a time to meet at the school with Stahl, email sarah.stahl@gmail.com.



## What a treat!

Sixteen-year-old Ruby Noble began her business when she was 9.

“I have always had a passion for pets and baking and when my own dog started to experience allergies towards store-bought treats, I knew that I wanted to find a solution,” she said. “I began baking cookies using recipes that I found online and before I knew it, my dog was happy and healthy again.”

“I began baking more cookies and selling them to my family and friends,” she continued. “I was in my first vendor event when I was only 10 years old. I continued to do vendor events and farmers markets to spread my products and now I sell online as well. I hope in the future, after college, to eventually open my own store and website, making healthier alternatives that are chemical- and preservative-free more accessible to dogs worldwide.”

## Inspiration

“Jack Juratovic was the renowned and legendary automobile artist who captured The Great American Race cross-country adventure,” Stahl said. “Now called The Great Race, I am honored to continue the tradition. I meticulously researched and studied Juratovic’s artistry and technique, capturing his nostalgic legacy in my inspired style.”

“What is involved? First, I begin with research. I study the route of the rally course, which spreads into many different states. I select special sites that are known in the area, then I have the privilege of choosing six to eight different vintage cars from the picture gallery to be featured in the art piece. It’s always a mystery and a fun surprise for those who discover the spotlight on their car.”

“After the research is completed, I sketch out the map on a special painters board and consider the positioning of the cars and ‘must-see’ tourist sites. Then I create the automotive story. Over the last several years I have donated an art piece to be auctioned off at the start of the race. All proceeds go towards the X-Cup teams. These are students of the trade. The funds raised will offer them opportunities otherwise not possible, such as grants, college scholarships and a chance to experience The Great Race adventure.”



Stahl entered this piece in the Grosse Pointe News’ first Finer Pointes art contest.

## Republican Club to hear journalist

Michigan journalist and podcast host James David Dickson will address the Eastside Republican Club Tuesday, Nov. 19. Dickson’s topic, “Morning Again in Michigan: What to expect in 2025,” will focus on state and local affairs in light of 2024 general election results.

Tuesday’s presentation will be at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Forum doors open for coffee and networking at 7 p.m.

“Mr. Dickson is a skilled journalist and blogger with keen insight into Michigan’s changing voting patterns, so we look forward to hearing his thoughts on the election impact,” said club chairman Mike Vethacke in a statement in advance of the meeting. There is no charge for the forum, which will include an opportunity to ask questions of Dickson.

A native of Inkster, Dickson now hails from Ferndale. While attending the University of Michigan, Dickson was editor-in-chief of The Michigan Review, a columnist for the Michigan Daily and a James B. Angell Scholar.

He started his career in 2007, with a fellowship at The American Spectator and two newspapers in Ann Arbor. Beginning in 2012, he served a decade at The Detroit News. Then he served at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy as managing editor for Michigan Capitol Confidential.

Dickson currently blogs at Enjoyer.com, which he describes as “Michigan media for those who relish the beauty of life here and are tired of apologizing for it.”

Admission is free and all are welcome.

## EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

to noon Saturday, Nov. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

## Chamber

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosts the following networking events:

◆ Building Your Business Boot Camp: Integrating the Influence of AI, presented by AllReitz Group Inc., 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, at The Neighborhood Club, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. Tickets are \$25 and lunch is included. Sign up at

grossepointechamber.com.

◆ Holiday Happy Hour, 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, at Rustic Cabins/Original Buscemis 313, 15209 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ After Hours Networking, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Closet Connections, 20427 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

## GPA

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

◆ 2D-Or-Not-2D with Marat Paransky, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

◆ Watercolor and Gomuban with Nobuko Yamasaki, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Registration closes Nov. 21.

◆ Relax with Poetry and Painting: A Nancy

Philo Experience, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12 and 13.

## The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org

◆ Sun: Sets @ The War Memorial, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17. Metro Detroit DJs Lady Witch, Sapphyree, Konfucious, Dej.y Wrckles and Margaret spin electric sounds throughout the day. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.

◆ An Evening with Chef Joe Paxton, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20. Dinner tickets are \$75 each.

◆ Modern Manners: Youth Etiquette, 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24.

◆ Tree-Lighting Ceremony, 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24. A VIP reception costs \$45.

◆ Vet Connect Seminar Series: Tri-County Veteran Navigators, 6 to

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.

## Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. The following programs take place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms, unless otherwise noted. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ CPR Training, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at Monteith Elementary School, 1275 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods. This free, non-certification class covers CPR for adults, children and infants, as well as recognizing the signs of choking and using an AED. Registration is required. Email maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

◆ Health for Her at The Helm, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19. This

session’s topic is menopause, including perimenopause, what to expect throughout menopause, medications and ways to treat various symptoms and how to know if you’re past it. Register at helmlife.org.

◆ Narcan training, 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at The Whiskey Six, 646 St. Clair, City of Grosse Pointe. Participants learn signs and symptoms of opioid overdose, as well as how to administer Narcan. Training is free and participants receive a free Narcan kit. Registration is required by emailing maryjo@familycenterhelps.org.

## Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Julia Roeder, a Grosse Pointe South High School senior and Rotary intern, speaks. Email grossepointe

rotary@gmail.com.

## Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22, Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center, 20025 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 28300 Rockwood, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2, Ford House, 1100 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Shores. Register at redcross-blood.org.

# LIFE & LEISURE



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## Buddying up to butterflies

By Brad Lindberg  
Staff Writer

An environmental go-getter with a soft spot for monarch butterflies is motivated by the innocence of youth.

"I've been inspired by my daughter," said Kelly Konieczki, recipient of the Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan's 2024 Individual Service Award. "It was exploring and learning with her that inspired me to keep going with nature education. Every plant, every garden and every connection I make is an exercise in hope."

Daughter Matilda, now in high school, likes insects.

"A friend of ours gave us a monarch chrysalis (the hardened shell a caterpillar forms to protect itself while forming into a butterfly) back in 2019," Konieczki said. "We watched it. Seeing the magic in her eyes ... It's a wondrous thing watching a butterfly emerge. We started learning what butterflies need to survive. We did a deep dive into pollinators and native plants during the pandemic."

Things took flight from there. Within the last year, Konieczki was the force behind invigorating the Park's participation in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge. From that grew the award.

"This is a nationwide effort to protect the monarch butterfly that aids in creating habitats, community education, engaging in citizen science projects and presentations," according to a federation release. "She also serves on the Sustainability and

Conservation Committee for the city and has been actively involved in encouraging planting pollinator gardens and native plants. Kelly supports the '1,000 Hours Outside' project that encourages families to spend more time outside. Her work is making a difference in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness in Grosse Pointe."

Monarch butterflies are on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's endangered list. Equal billing is pending by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Konieczki's reputation for getting things done is a reason Mayor Michele Hodges appointed her this year to the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission, where she chairs the adopt-a-garden program.

"She's the real deal," Hodges said. "She's a special part of our community. She knows her craft very, very well. The award is much deserved. High fives to you, Kel, and thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with us."

"I ran the Monarch Pledge as a resident volunteer before I was on the commission," Konieczki said. "When I brought the idea to the commission, I found out they'd done the pledge in 2017. So, I did some research and met with organizers of the pledge. I went back (to the commission) and explained the program had changed drastically since they first started it."

Jurisdictions contending for the Monarch Pledge must complete three actions per year. The first is raising

awareness through communications and convening.

"Michele issued a proclamation declaring May as Gardens for Wildlife Month in Grosse Pointe Park," Konieczki said. "We launched public communication efforts and started a Facebook group called the Grosse Pointe Park Friends of Patterson Park. A lot of this overlaps with adopt-a-garden."

The second criteria involves programing and demonstration gardens.

"That includes planting native plants, hosting the native plant sale which we did for the first time," Konieczki said. "We used profits from that to add plants to city hall. Another part of that category is our plant swap at the Tompkins Center. Some of these things the commission was already doing."

The third requirement, systems change, is the most time consuming.

"One thing we accomplished under that list was removing milkweed from the list of noxious plants in the city," Konieczki said.

Milkweed is toxic to many insects and animals, but is a horn of plenty to a certain butterfly favored by female members of the Konieczki family.

"Monarch butterflies are the best-known insect that feeds on common milkweed," according to "Add common milkweed to your garden to make colorful insects happy," posted on the Michigan State University Extension Service website, canr.msu.edu.

"Milkweed is the only host plant for the monarch butterfly," Konieczki said. "It's the only plant their

caterpillars can eat and the only one that female monarchs can lay their eggs on."

She said the city accomplished 17 of the pledge's 29 possible actions this year.

"New ones we tackled were engaging with more schools," Konieczki said. "I helped the Green Team at Maire Elementary sow seeds. At Defer, I did their assembly presentation on Earth Day and talked about the monarch's life cycle. Also, the Grosse Pointe Garden Center does a garden family fun day every year at Kerby. I've been a guest there the last couple years working with the kids."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY KONIECZKI

Matilda Konieczki focuses on a monarch butterfly in 2017.

### Outside today at the library

Today's presentation by the 1,000 Hours Outside club is about Native American culture. "We'll be celebrating gratitude and learning with a special guest — Biimskanodin (Little Whirlwind) of Awishinaabe," said Kelly Konieczki, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park. "She will be sharing a land acknowledgment and hands-on activities."

The hour-long program starts at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, outside the Ewald public library, across the parking lot from Park city hall on Jefferson between Maryland and Lakepointe.

("The presentation) ties nicely into the Fox Indian Massacre (historical marker) effort that is underway on Windmill Pointe," Mayor Michele Hodges said.

The area around the marker was enhanced and re-landscaped last summer.

"This is our third year coordinating outdoor programming at Ewald Branch," Konieczki said. "We meet outside monthly, rain or shine, to celebrate the seasons and connect with nature. Celebrations include everything from neighborhood walks to scavenger hunts, birding, mud play, moon parties and more. All ages are welcome and events are listed on the library calendar."

1,000 Hours Outside was started a few years ago by a Michigan mother of five wanting to spend more time outdoors with her family.

"In December, we will wrap up with our annual 1,000 hours year-end Solstice Celebration on the 19th," Konieczki said. "We'll be sharing memories, drinking hot cocoa and taking a neighborhood walk to close out 2024."

—Brad Lindberg

### ASK THE EXPERTS By Rachel Powell

## Make a plan before it's too late

We can't fight the inevitable, but we can plan for it.

Part of living is dying. For most it's an unsettling topic of discussion. Too often a dying family member's wishes are unknown. Sometimes these wishes are heard too late to properly honor them.

Part of dying is discussing end-of-life wishes. These can be as simple as funeral planning, discussions about cremation or where do they want to be buried, musical selections and designated eulogists. Or these discussions can be more complex. They can involve where they want to die — at home, a hospital or long-term care facility. Planning both empowers and unburdens you and your loved ones.

It's important to have a plan. Discussions with doctors and attorneys about end of life can help. The creation of advance directives and use of a do-not-resuscitate orders are just as important as the selection of a hospice provider and what location you want to receive services — and that can be anywhere you call home.

Do you have a plan? Do you know your loved one's wishes? If you don't, experts suggest getting your affairs in order. You can map out your advance directives with the help of Five Wishes. This offering generates a printed document for \$5 that spells out, in very easy-to-understand terms, how your wishes can be honored should you become critically ill or die untimely.

Five Wishes is divided into these sections:

- ◆ The Person I Want to Make Care Decisions for Me When I Can't



**The Family Center**

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- ◆ The Kind of Medical Treatment I Want or Don't

- ◆ How Comfortable I Want to Be
- ◆ How I Want People to Treat Me
- ◆ What I Want My Loved Ones to Know

Each section has an explanation with easy checkboxes, lines to fill in and statements to cross out. It may look overwhelming, but once started it becomes less daunting. Five Wishes is recognized nationally and also will advise you of any necessary forms that may need to be filled for your wish fulfillment in your state. Five Wishes can be found at [fivewishes.org/](http://fivewishes.org/)

Discussing end-of-life wishes may seem too soon, until it's too late. The holidays can actually be a great opportunity to make time with loved ones to have these conversations.

Rachel Powell is a business development manager with Michigan Community VNA (Visiting Nurses Association) specializing in home care and hospice coordination. She received her degree in community health education and has a passion for advocating patients rights and wishes.

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at [familycenterhelps.org](http://familycenterhelps.org).

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# GROSSE POINTE Gabby



POINTING YOU IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH REAL-LIFE ADVICE!

## Passing the holiday hosting torch on to others

**Dear Gabby:** The holidays are quickly approaching and I'm already feeling overwhelmed. My in-laws all expect me to throw huge parties (as usual) and although I've done it for years and I do enjoy aspects of it, I'm exhausted.

I think I need to really simplify this year but I don't know what to do or how to break it to them. Is there a good way to let them down easy but still have a great holiday? — Overworked in the Farms

**Dear Overworked,**

The holidays should bring joy, not stress, but we all seem to have gotten away from that with the expectations, Pinterest and pressure to make each holiday better and more impressive than the last.

I don't know about you, but most times isn't it more fun the more casual and laid-back the party is? What if you shifted a little to more of a potluck-style holiday where everyone brings something? Each year

you can offload a little more to others.

Or if you really want to abandon your hosting responsibilities of a huge dinner party, what about going out to eat and then having family over for cookie making or a game night?

Best of luck and happy holidays!

— Gabby

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



## Crushing on a younger co-worker

**DEAR ANNIE:** I have a crush on my 18-year-old co-worker, and I'm certain she has a crush on me, too — even though I'm 42 and she doesn't know my age yet. The age gap is too big, which makes me afraid to ask her out because I don't want to ruin my friendship with her.

The last time I had a relationship with an age gap this big was with a 19-year-old woman when I was 33. Before that, I had a relationship with a 45-year-old woman when I was 25.

I'm not sure what to do. Transitioning our relationship from friendly co-workers to something possibly romantic is a huge step for me. But there's a new movie coming out soon that I know she's excited about, and it seems like the perfect chance to ask her out. But is it worth risking the friendship? And possibly complicating things at work? — Age-Gap Gambler

**DEAR AGE-GAP GAMBLER:** It's important to remember that

along with this woman's young age comes a much different phase of life than the one you're in. Your dating history makes you much more equipped than her to handle a relationship with such a significant age difference — and that's assuming she is even interested in one.

**DEAR ANNIE:** I recently moved to Colorado to help out my daughter and her family. I'm a small-town woman, so living in the city with them was challenging, but I gave it a real try. I even sold my house and everything in it to make the move possible.

I am now back in my small town. After a while in Colorado, I struggled with the new lifestyle and ended up moving back. Now, I deeply regret leaving. I miss my daughter and her family so much, and the separation has been harder than expected.

How do I live with the regret of leaving? I asked my daughter if I could move back and live somewhere else, not with

her again. She said no. What should I do? — Miserable in Vermont

**DEAR MISERABLE IN VERMONT:** Of course you miss your daughter and her family; after living under the same roof together, anything different must feel extremely isolating. On top of that, I imagine her reaction to you asking to move back didn't help matters, either.

If relocating to Colorado isn't in the cards right now, you'll have to make do maintaining your relationship through phone calls, FaceTimes and visits, whenever you and your daughter feel ready for that step. Otherwise, see this as your chance to reclaim your small town as your home. This turning point is the perfect opportunity to fill the void you're feeling with new friends and experiences in a place near and dear to your heart.

**DEAR ANNIE:** I I was a high school teacher in an urban area and just retired after a grueling 37-year career under very difficult circumstances. I've been married for 30-plus years and am the father of two daughters who are now in their late 20s.

I've been a good father, husband and provider for my family throughout my life. My relationship with my daughters is exceptional. However, I harbor some resentment toward my wife because she didn't value my sacrifices at the end of my career.

Lots of my friends who retired with me were recognized properly by their wives and immediate family with gatherings and get-togethers to celebrate such a once-in-a-lifetime event. However, when I asked my wife if we could have some of my friends come for a small gathering at our house, her response was a big NO, reason being that she had had previous parties for her parents and siblings for other occasions and didn't feel that celebrating my retirement was necessary.

At that moment, I felt totally unvalued, and I never brought the subject up again. However, it surprised me that three weeks later, my wife was the key organizer for a retirement party for a member of her church, in which I saw her put in a lot of effort and time organizing something for someone unrelated to her. This definitely led to big feelings of resentment on my side, but I managed to keep a lid on my emotions.

When my 60th birthday came up, I asked my wife for a small birthday gathering of my friends at our house and again, she got mad at me just for asking.

But a month later, she went all out on planning and making me go to her brother's 60th birthday party.

A lot of my close friends were stunned that she's never recog-



## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

nized my efforts and hard work over the years. I finally had a serious conversation with her about the whole issue and she started crying, saying she felt guilty for ignoring both important events. She felt so guilty she sought professional help for some time to get over those emotions.

Despite her recognition and apologies, I still harbor resentment as my logic tells me that there was a reason for her ignoring such a milestone moment. Whenever I try to talk about it, she gets upset and walks away. On top of that, during our marriage, I've had to endure negative racist comments from her mother and brothers since we are a mixed-race couple. I've kind of brushed those off as it's something I've learned to deal with all my life. What bothers me is how she now brags about all the benefits she's enjoying because of my retirement that she didn't care to celebrate.

I have thought very seriously about ending my marriage as I don't want to spend the rest of my days with someone who doesn't value me. The reason I haven't done so is that although my daughters

are now adults, I'm very afraid of the emotional impact that might have on them. Any ideas on how I should proceed? — Undervalued and Hurt

**DEAR UNDERVALUED AND HURT:** While your wife may have apologized for these recent instances, it's clear there's been a pattern of disrespect and disregard that you've had to endure over the entirety of your marriage, especially combined with her family's racist remarks toward you over the years.

You have every right to feel hurt and frustrated.

A good couples counselor can help you two figure out the root of, and solution to, changing this behavior.

The resentment you feel, though understandable, will only put more and more strain on your relationship the longer you let it go unresolved.

Your daughters aside, you deserve to be in a marriage where you feel seen, valued, celebrated and loved.

Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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# We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



I am affectionately calling my new fake Uggs “Fuggs.” I decided I wanted to try a \$40 dupe of the \$120 Uggs of the season called “Tasman slippers.” They looked pretty good on the Amazon page and got good reviews, so I pulled the trigger and found them waiting for me on the porch by the next day.

When I pulled them out of the sad-looking bag, I didn't have that excited feeling that hits when you purchase a nice pair of shoes.

They smelled a little fake, too. However, when

I picked them up to take a look, I was very happy with the weight of the shoe. They are very light, while still looking substantial.

The sherpa on the footbed was every bit as nice as the real thing (which if you know your Uggs, you know the quality of the sherpa has diminished the last few seasons anyway) and the size was a perfect fit (I wear a 9.5 and they run true to size).

Other than the Ugg logo and the tread pattern, they might actually be the same shoe. They are THAT similar.

But I wondered if they would hold up and be comfortable too. Spoiler alert: Yes! They are



every bit — and maybe even more — comfortable than my real Uggs. They are light, fit perfectly and are easy to walk in. I like the platform for hockey games

and cold places, because I always feel like the larger the barrier from the cold floor or ground, the better.

They are perfect for errands, fall and winter sporting events, school drop-offs, après-ski and, if you are casual like me, basically any occasion.

My kids would say I am not cool for wearing Fuggs, but I don't really mind. I could buy three pairs for the price of one Ugg and not worry if the suede gets a little dirty.

They are available in black, beige and camel on Amazon for around \$40, and can be found here:

tinyurl.com/4f8y36rn. I'm giving them 4.5 alligators — only shying away from 5 alligators because of the off-brand “uncool” factor.

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](mailto:media@grossepointenews.com).

4.5 Out Of 5



## Realistic goals Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

I woke up last Sunday morning and saw a post from Ballerina Farm on my Instagram feed. This is a mother of eight, Juilliard ballerina, Mrs. America winner of 2023 and current rancher. She was casually whipping up a batch of homemade apple cider doughnuts while cradling her brand new baby in her arms.

I thought, “I could make doughnuts today, what a great idea.” The freshly made cinnamon sugar doughnuts, after waiting in line at the Haunted Garage for 45 minutes, are so good that the wait is worthwhile. I thought, “wouldn't this be a great project for today? Surely, I have the time.”

Well, I then came to reality and remembered I had five girls downstairs waking up from a stellar “make your own sushi” birthday sleepover. There was no way I was about to start making doughnut dough. I needed a mom break which involved the couch, a fire and leftover sushi. I think for that day I was ok with being just enough

for my kids and husband. It was my Sunday too after all.

I'm content watching the ballerina do the impossible from the comfort of my own couch while I focus on setting realistic goals for the day.

To compensate for my lazy day, I made an easy, hands off beef stew that cooks in the oven. It's comforting in the sense that everybody knows how it tastes and there are no surprises. They know it tastes good.

I saved the bacon fat from breakfast and seared the meat off in it. It adds a delicious smoky flavor. I also added lots of fresh thyme and tomato paste which made a rich and flavorful sauce.

The oven did all the work while I sat back and watched a two-hour movie in peace.

Spoiler alert, I woke up the next morning and made the doughnuts. They were terrible and too dense. The kids told me it tasted like bread with some sugar on it. Go figure.

Cheers, Mombeau

### Sunday Beef Stew

2 tbsp bacon fat or neutral oil (canola)

3-4 lbs beef chuck roast, cubed

1 large onion chopped

1 lb carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks

2 cloves, minced garlic

2 lbs fingerling or small potatoes, cut in half

10 sprigs fresh thyme

3 tbsp tomato paste

½ cup dry red wine

1 quart beef broth

6 shakes Worcestershire sauce

2 tsp salt

2 tsp pepper

Preheat the oven to 325. Season all sides of the meat with 2 teaspoons of salt and 2 teaspoons of pepper.

In a large dutch oven over medium high heat,



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

melt the bacon fat. When the pot is hot, start browning the meat in two batches as not to overcrowd. Sear the meat for a few minutes on each side and remove to a bowl. Set aside.

In the same pot, add the onion and carrots.

Saute for a few minutes or until soft. Stir in the tomato paste and garlic. Let the tomato paste caramelize for a couple minutes. Pour in the red wine and let reduce by half then add the thyme, potatoes, broth and Worcestershire sauce.

Bring the stew to a boil and cover with a lid. Braise in the preheated oven for two hours. Remove from the oven and give it a good stir. Check for seasoning.

Serve with buttered orzo and some parsley leaves for garnish.



## Elegance in wine

Sales of wine and many other alcoholic beverages are declining rapidly in the United States in a repeat of a softness in this industry that occurred exactly 22 years ago.

Downturns in wine sales occur on a cyclical basis in the wine business. They are often accompanied (as in today's scenario) by a prohibitionist movement in which advocates of abstinence spew questionable health warnings.

There is one new fact in today's decline in alcoholic beverage sales: Alcoholic beverage buyers seem to be getting tired of too much alcohol in their lives. Low- and no-alcohol beverages are gaining traction with many buyers. Mocktails are all the rage.

This has already begun

impacting the way wines are being produced. And although most of the new styles of wine that are now being explored will not be visible on shelves for at least a year, the trend is already headed in that direction.

As consumers seek wines with lower alcohols, some things already are evident, such as an increase in sales of sparkling wines, most of which have lower levels; an increase in German Riesling sales, many of which have alcohol levels as low as 7 percent; and an effort by California winemakers to make wines with lower alcohols.

One technique that has been used with rewarding results is simply to reduce alcohol levels by adding judicious amounts of water. If done carefully,

flavors are not compromised and actually may be improved when the alcohol levels drop from 15 percent to 13 percent.

(Expensive California red wines have always had slightly higher alcohols. In the last 30 years, average alcohol levels have risen from about 13.5 percent to about 15 percent. Although it is possible to make excellent red wine with lower alcohol, some high-end wine buyers are impressed by what high alcohols do for a wine's “sweetness” or richness.)

New technologies have also been employed to reduce alcohols, including an exceptional machine called the spinning cone. Several large wineries use this device to reduce alcohols by up to 2 percent and produce wines of better balance.

Higher temperatures produce more sugar in grapes, and more sugar equals higher alcohols.

To keep sugars slightly lower, many grape growers are retrofitting their vineyards' trellising systems to create larger leaf canopies. Greater shading keeps sugars from

advancing rapidly.

Additionally, new strains of yeast have been developed that theoretically can ferment grape juice to dryness and at the same time produce lower alcohol than traditional yeasts.

However, no yeasts have been produced that do this efficiently because chemistry gets in the way! Although it's possible to use a modern yeast that gives some lower alcohol, the usual result is for only about a 1.5 percent loss, say from 16 percent to 14.5 percent. And 14.5 percent is still a lot of alcohol!

### Wine of the Week:

2023 Mouton Cadet (Baron Philippe de Rothschild), Bordeaux (\$16) — It had been nearly a decade since I tried this simple but reliable red Bordeaux blend with cabernet as its main grape. For a period in the early 2000s, the wine seemed to be rather ordinary. And other red blends seemed to be a little more interesting. But this brand has come back strongly recently and now is made only from organic grapes. Prices for many modest European red

blends have recently risen over \$20, and this can be found closer to \$14.

Dan Berger lives in Sonoma County, California, where he pub-

lishes “Vintage Experiences,” a weekly wine newsletter. Write to him at [winenut@gmail.com](mailto:winenut@gmail.com).

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SEE MENU

# Thanksgiving RADIANCE

## Gracing your table with stunning florals



PHOTOS BY LINDSAY NAPIORKOWSKI OF RUSTIC ROOT DESIGN CO.



If there's ever a time to enjoy your home, entertaining during the Thanksgiving holiday is it. It's a time you are aware of and appreciate every room, as if seeing them anew through the eyes of your guests. The dining room certainly takes center stage as you ponder how to create a memorable tablescape that is beautiful, functional and inviting.

Our friends at The Rustic Root Design Co. offered some fresh and fabulous ideas for a table that incorporates all the glory and richness of autumn into the stylish surroundings of a modern dining room. Their table florals simply glow with seasonal allure, creating an environment of natural beauty and warmth where family and friends can gather, enjoy great conversation and eat!

The star of the show is the stunning floral table arrangements, artfully designed with dusty terra cotta roses, cappuccino roses, merlot peonies, rich greens and more. The beautiful centerpiece is a softer take on fall flowers, which complements the room in an elegant way.

Sweet dual topiaries in ceramic pumpkin containers hold more flowers and greens that aesthetically support the centerpiece. Small fall-hued bud vases with roses and dramatic bronze hanging amaranths add to the cohesive natural look. Tall tapered candles bring height into the design and complete the visual masterpiece.

For your own splendid tablescapes this Thanksgiving and beyond, The Rustic Root Design Co. can be found at 23165 Greater Mack Ave. in St. Clair Shores. To reach out, call (586) 359-6004 or get inspired at [therusticrootmi.com](http://therusticrootmi.com) or on Instagram@[therusticrootdesignco](https://www.instagram.com/therusticrootdesignco).



A home looks truly majestic at Thanksgiving, with a table adorned by The Rustic Root Design Co. Lush centerpieces capture the spirit and color of the season, while offering visual depth and texture to the tablescape. Simple touches like autumn leaves tied with bright ribbon make each place setting memorable.



A cream-toned runner over a rustic wood table, above, is the right touch to evoke a feeling of casual yet elegant tradition. Simplifying the settings makes the centerpieces pop.



Beautiful silver candlesticks and creamy yellow candles, above, add sophistication.



Keeping your home decor in mind when you design your tablescape makes for a seamless composition that is simply stunning! The Rustic Root Design Co. has created an original look that celebrates the holiday, blending the table decor with the home's own style for a knockout custom dinner party atmosphere.



From any angle this floral arrangement is gorgeous, above and below.



There is nothing like a flickering candle to warm up a home, especially at the holidays. Ella B pumpkin-scented candle, right, is the perfect home accessory for Thanksgiving ambiance. Linnea's Lights double-wick Harvest Pumpkin candle, far right, adds coziness to any room. Both candles are from Small Favors.



# Plating perfection for pretty



PHOTOS BY JILL CAVANAUGH

Above: A handsome carved turkey and small silver vase filled with fall-toned flowers set off this beautiful setting nicely with Thanksgiving spirit. An elegant plaid napkin, deep bronze charger and mother of pearl flatware come together perfectly over natural linen for an engaging setting.



Below left: A touch of the wild by way of some leopard accents add pizzazz to the gold-themed setting. A little red in the ribbons and flowers add a pop of color. Traditional silver and linen with earthy florals, below right, create a heartwarming, cozy vibe that family and friends will love.



PHOTOS BY JILL CAVANAUGH AND ANNE GRYZENIA



An evergreen set of china works for all seasons. Anna Weatherly china in "Anna's Palette Summer Green," brightens your table. From The League Shop.

Anna Weatherly "Antique Forest" dinner plate, right, offers a fresh spin on tradition. From The League Shop.



# custom settings



Flowers are a sure thing for adding special touches that create a warm and inviting place setting. Individual stems on each plate and a personal note on the place card make every guest feel special.



## Pecan pie is a real crowd-pleaser for Thanksgiving

A Thanksgiving dinner table can be a sight to behold. For foodies and others who love the array of comfort foods on display it's a slice of heaven!

While a mouthwatering turkey and sides like mashed potatoes and stuffing own the bulk of the attention on Thanksgiving, the dessert table is also a tempting place to direct one's eyes (and appetite.)

Though no dessert is off limits on Thanksgiving, pie is a particularly popular option on turkey day. With that in mind, those tasked with crafting something yummy for dessert this Thanksgiving can consider the following recipe for pecan pie, courtesy of Lines+Angles.

2 T flour

1/4 tsp salt

1 tsp pure vanilla extract

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.
2. Spread pecans along the bottom of the prepared pie shell.
3. In a large bowl, mix the remaining ingredients and pour over pecans. The pecans will rise to the surface of the pie.
4. Bake for 60 to 65 minutes until the filling has set. Pie is done when the center reaches 200 F.

### Pecan Pie

Makes 8 servings

1 9-inch unbaked frozen deep dish pie shell, thawed

1 1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans

3 eggs, lightly beaten

1 cup light corn syrup

1/2 cup brown sugar

1 T molasses

2 T butter, melted

To know it's done — the center of the pie should spring back when lightly tapped.

Remove pie from oven and let cool on a wire rack for at least two hours.

Serve at room temperature or slightly warmer. For a presentation that's "extra" — serve with a small scoop of vanilla bean ice cream on top. If you dare — add thin drizzles of caramel sauce over the ice cream for added flair and enjoy!

Preparation time: 15 minutes  
Cooking time: 1 hour, 5 minutes  
Cooling time: 2 hours  
Total time: 3 hours, 20 minutes.

## Good gravy!

Adding a new gravy boat to the table in a style that's loaded with personality is a great conversation starter that will be a part of family memories for a lifetime.



Arthur Court turkey gravy boat, above, is not only a nod to the day's favorite bird, it also holds three cups of delicious gravy — so less refilling for you. From The League Shop.



Stunning Majestic Forest acorn/oak leaf gravy boat by Vagabond House, above, elevates the look of any table. From The League Shop.



For humorous fans, Mud Pie's "So Gravy Baby" boat and ladle, above, will give the table a giggle. It's from Small Favors.



This lovely Arthur Court grape design gravy boat, above, from The League Shop is classically elegant and offers warmth and style.

### THE LEAGUE SHOP

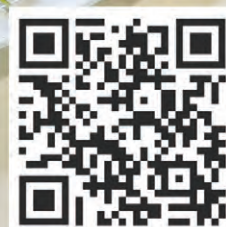
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF FILM4, LOST WINDS ENTERTAINMENT AND OMNISCIENT PRODUCTIONS

Left, Richard Armitage as Jasko and Jett Klyne as Max in the 2023 movie "The Boy in the Woods," written and directed by Rebecca Snow.

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
 "The Boy in the Woods"  
 2023 - Not Rated  
 1 hr 46 min  
 ★★★★★☆

This isn't just another film about a Jewish boy hiding from the Nazis. It's a true story based on the autobiography by Max Smart. Obviously he survived to tell about it, so there are no spoiler alerts needed here. There are several aspects of the film made it such a rewarding experience to watch. While there were some close calls, there wasn't an overwhelming sense of dread throughout it. And the war itself wasn't the primary focus of the movie. You're aware that it's going on, but there weren't any battle scenes — it simply serves as a backdrop for the story.

One thing that amazed me is that even though WWII has been over for nearly 80 years, these stories of survival continue to turn up every year or two.

Twelve-year old Max (Jett Klyne) lives with his dear mother and sister in Buczacz, in eastern Poland. Max dreams of becoming a famous artist, but his plans are derailed when the Nazis round up his family for deportation. His mother tells him to walk away and escape, for it's his only chance for survival. He walks, and then runs to freedom, to be looked after at first by an aunt. Eventually, he's taken in by a sympathetic family out in the countryside. There he's given a new



A tearful goodbye with his mother.

identity. He's now the nephew of farmer Jasko (Richard Armitage), and joins his wife Kasia (Masa Lizdek) and their infant daughter. Although he's a city boy, he quickly adapts to country life. All seems to be going smoothly until the Gestapo pays them a visit. It's a tense scene and serves as a warning that there may be trouble ahead for the young boy. The locals are told they'll be shot if it's discovered they're harboring Jews. To protect his family, Jasko decides Max would be safer if he hid out in the nearby woods. You can tell he sends the boy off with a heavy heart. Before he takes him into the woods, he instructs Max in the various ways to survive. He teaches the lad how to snare rabbits, and he educates him about the various types of edible mushrooms to be found in the forest. Only eat the ones growing on trees and don't eat the yellow ones. I'll be sure to remember that if I'm ever lost in the woods

Max builds a shelter in



Jasko (Richard Armitage) comforts Max (Jett Klyne).

ous ways to survive. He teaches the lad how to snare rabbits, and he educates him about the various types of edible mushrooms to be found in the forest. Only eat the ones growing on trees and don't eat the yellow ones. I'll be sure to remember that if I'm ever lost in the woods

Max builds a shelter in

**Movie Junkie Mark**  
 by Mark Domin  
 "Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



a small cave that he covers with branches and twigs. He forages for food and spends his time sketching with makeshift art materials. When he runs out of art supplies, he draws imaginary figures in the sky with a bird feather. After some time has passed, he naturally begins to get quite lonely. Luckily it's at this point when he comes across another Jewish boy who's also hiding out from the Nazis. Yanek (David Kohlsmith) is a bit younger than Max, and he quickly takes him under his wing. He now has a newly found purpose in life — to take care of and mentor the boy. Obviously they become fast friends, and they soon act more like brothers than just fellow survivors.

The two boys have a couple close calls with

both Nazis and Russian soldiers in the forest. Needless to say, they manage to flee to safety. One of the only faults I have with the film is that, even though Max was in the woods for a full year, his face was always clean and he looked like he just got out of the shower. If I was camping on my own in the woods for even a long weekend, I'd look way worse than he did at the end of his adventure.

I thought writer/director Rebecca Snow did a commendable job bringing Max's story to the big screen. The movie was filmed in her native Canada, which filled in nicely for Eastern Europe. Be sure to watch the film after the initial credits roll. There's a touching epilogue where you get to meet the real Max Smart. It's a sweet bonus to a fascinating tale.

If you enjoy films of this ilk, I highly recommend looking for "The Island on Bird Street." It's the astonishing true story of a young Jewish boy who hides out in the Warsaw Ghetto as the Nazis were leveling the area, block by block. It's a hauntingly powerful film that never got the attention it deserved.

"The Boy in the Woods" is currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. And

to rent on Apple TV and Amazon Prime.

Not to parents: The film is Not Rated but I'd probably give it a PG-13 rating. You may want to talk to younger children about the war before they see it.

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!

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: [dominmark@yahoo.com](mailto:dominmark@yahoo.com).

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: [moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com](http://moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com).



Movie Poster.



Yanek (David Kohlsmith) and Max (Jett Klyne).



Max (Klyne) in his secret shelter.

**DEATH WATCH**

by Bill Bradley

**Part 3:  
 Thor's Chariot**

Nightmares recurred throughout the years so graphic and metallic that Katie still cautioned sleep. Ghoulis Goya images reappeared of her Dad tangled in the rigging and his pitched commands to "Stand by the Wheel."

The Death Watch origi-

nated in the schooner years when men and boys climbed towering mast timbers to the sky, freeing massive canvas and whipping lines snarled from the howling winds. Seamen chopped loose the huge manila ropes with razor sharp hatchets and wrestled the forces of Odin, some plunging to the decks below. Sailor's

fingers could freeze to the overhead lines and booms in the frigid conditions and have to be cut off to free the sails. Seasoned crews who rounded Cape Horn and sailed the brutal Southern Ocean learned the sound of a man's body as it crashed to the deck from the topsails and became witness to the Death Watch.

The dangerous storm season was weeks away and Katie always stayed close to shore for those weeks in July. She now considered the notion. Had man-made particles and greenhouse gasses poked holes in the Ozone and darkened the sunspots observed by Galileo, disrupting the balance and rhythms of Neptune? Katie



had seen the brilliant Northern Lights over the lakes, and knew of the powerful solar winds. She read about them in the World Atlas, which described them in celestial terms as "bands of brightly colored lights in the night sky caused by high-speed

solar particles entering earth's upper atmosphere."

These conditions cause solar winds with violent eruptions and bursts that may reach earth within days and penetrate the earth's shield.

See PART 3, page 9C

## PART 3:

Continued from page 8C

The colored streamers of Aurora Borealis near the North Pole inspired Biblical testaments by prophets of these celestial apparitions as "horsemen running in the air in cloth of gold." Katie tightened her grip on the wheel and locked down the main-sheet line. Could these be the wicked solar winds? Or a toxic brew of greenhouse gasses and the promised global warming?

She braced her leg in the cockpit as the hull jabbed into the deep rich indigo blue water. Her father had instilled in her his storm maxim "As fast as they come is as fast as they go. Fight 'em Katie, and stand by the wheel."

Billy Hawkins scanned the harbor at Bennett's Marina. The yacht transoms reflected the professions, traditions and personalities of their owners. Sun Chaser, Knot Guilty, My Sally, Sapphire, MoonShadow, Over Drawn, Black Gold, Pirate's Lady and his favorite, Yar. "Wherever you go there you are."

Other elegant ladies of the lakes gently rocked on Battleship Row, The Helene, White Heron and the Evelyn U and all sparkled with polished brass cleats and perfect teak as the day's sun started to fall. This scene was one of the simple pleasures of his lifestyle and living quarters. He lived on his Islander 27 sloop, the WindSong in Well No. 75 at the marina. It was the best slip on the lake with a panoramic view of the cove and distant freighter channel.

He was five berths from the harbor entrance and his neighbors rarely used their boats. The gulls at the end of the dock had their beaks pointed to the north as he flicked on the West Marine radio and moved the dial to Channel 16. He was concerned for his friend Brooke who had left her berth at daybreak as the winds now continued to shift.

"Cresting seas building to 17 feet, all vessels in the Huron tip seek immediate shelter. The sloop Jasmine is approximately one hour from gale force weather, north of Stoney Point. Coast guard search and rescue underway."

Billy grabbed his duffel and ran down the docks and over the Canal Bridge. He rushed through the high gates and under the swinging sign reading "McNab's Marine Services, Est. 1872." Nathan McNab sat at his desk in the dark wood office and flipped aside his long black ponytail laced with silvery white strands that whispered his age. A small bronze cheetah stared at all the entering visitors from a far corner of the room. With a speed of 70 mph, the cheetah was the fastest wild animal on earth and reflected Nat's personality. Two long rifles were racked above his polished mahogany desk, next to a framed quotation that read "Women, Wind and Fortune, change quickly." He read the latest edition of "The Working Waterfront."

"Where's Thor?" Billy questioned.

"Thor's asleep and it's nice to see you too, Billy." Nat rebuked.

McNab's was a hard place of greasy steel winches, dusty railroad ties and high voltage motors used to operate a

full service boat yard. The bulky steel pillars and hungry gears of the boat hoists could break an arm or crush a rib cage and never miss a beat. 50 ton, bring'em in, move her to the rails. Sling her up, sling her down. When she creaks and groans we all be workin'. His dark complexion came from his mother's Chippewa heritage and years in the sun.

"I'm takin' him."

"Oh no, Thor's in the slings."

His solid build rippled from the request and formed by years of moving huge boats, cradles, heavy equipment and hours of endless sanding. Thor was Nat's 30-foot custom designed Navy Seal Zodiac, the result of a lifetime of boat yard wisdom and sea trials.

"Katie's in a storm. Way out. She's in trouble." "She's always in trouble. Call the Coast Guard," Nat said as he continued reading.

Nat's hands, nicked and scarred from rusty screws and hard oak slivers, thrust out from the cuffs of his prized Kenya bush jacket, faded from the weather. A thick diver's knife hung from this belt. The yard had seen the ships move from sail to stream and stream to diesel. Nat grew up helping his grandfather carve and finish the treenails they pounded into the hard oak beams of skeleton hulls. The wooden pegs would glide into Honduras mahogany frames they crafted and planned with sharpened chisels that peeled back the lumber planks.

His youthful eyes had seen rich cherry grains trimmed with supreme ebony rails and Georgian Bay Pine. He had also seen the murky waters in the rice patties of Hue and the battles of the Tet Offensive. During a savage battle a Bouncin' Betty landmine had caught Nat's eye and stomach. The land mine's curved panel of scrap metal detonates a spray of death when tripped. A shard of this nasty creation pierced Nat's right eye and was replaced with what looked like a doll's eye that slightly hung down and occasionally watered. His vision was left one dimensional, as a Polaroid picture, but he could still survey a vessel, reveal what hull number she was and who built her.

His mother, Martha, sanded layers of varnish while pregnant with him and worked in the yard right into labor. After his birth the yard became his day care center and research playground. He mixed glues and selected planks for decks, hulls and transoms. He soaked Burma teak in water tubs "till they warped like rubber." After years of painting, sanding, planning and constructing works of art, he also examined, tested and welcomed new compounds, gadgets and electronics that arrived at the yard. He told the yard crews "engines and motors didn't take sick days and power boats went out. Wind or no wind."

Nat read technical manuals cover to cover and became so knowledgeable that salesmen and manufacturers referred customers to him for product evaluations and explanations. He also packed up and returned scored pistons and melted hoses to quivering engineers. One year he put hydrofoils on the pontoons and Thor started to

fly. Nat came back to the yard, dumped a barrel of taconite in the bow and broke 90 miles per hour.

"Thor's resting. You're not taking it." Nat responded.

"You can have the WindSong if something happens. The papers are in the dive box." Billy replied.

"The WindSong won't cover the fuel lines."

"Time's a wastin', we'll deal with it later."

"Later never comes with you Billy, this is later."

Nat followed Bill to the hoist.

"It's gusting up to 40 out there, Nat. She headed deep for Able's. She's alone with Starter off Stoney Point."

"Great. Nice course. Damn you. You people will never get it straight, who's in charge Billy? Who's in charge? She should know better, better than anyone."

"Enough, Nat. You know the rules. What am I going to do, read about it in the paper? I'd go if it was you and you'd go if it were me."

Billy popped the snaps of the soft cover and laid it on the pier. The high-tech sea dragon rocked calmly in the slings. The gold leaf letters on the transom sparkled the name Thor's Chariot. The commanding twin 250 horsepower turbo hornet engines were laced with hydraulic racing cables, jet engine fuel injectors and scarlet shadowed exhaust pipes coiled in the stern. Nat had retooled and puncture-proofed the hard bottom so it could withstand a gunshot at close range. Thor was built by a man that didn't usher in the future, he designed it.

Billy lowered the skiff to the water and checked the fuel tanks as Thor splashed into the harbor basin. Billy punched the ignition buttons backfiring the high-powered engines as the stiletto props looped and jabbed in the water. Thor jolted and reared up like a bull squeezed in a bullpen waiting to be released. Nat unlocked the metal cleats and threw the heavy nylon to the dock as a drizzling rain began. The engine fuel started to burn, pushing dark blue smoke from the blackened exhaust pipes. Billy moved the gearshift and nudged the throttle while backing the black and orange aquamissile into the murky canal.

Billy spun the wheel and swerved out of the narrow shoot. He tapped the gearshift and throttles again propelling the craft in a forward lunge. The five-blade stainless steel props shredded the weeds next to the wharf on his way to open water. The hull started to bounce and pound in a struggle of natural and physical forces.

Look for part 4 in next week's Grosse Pointe News.

*About the Author: Bill Bradley graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School. He was a dock boy at Kean's Marina and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1968 and served 13 months in Vietnam. He taught sailing in the Atlantic Ocean and delivered sailboats up the East Coast. A graduate of Burlington College in Burlington Vt. with a B.A in writing & literature. A certified grant writer and animal rights advocate. He is currently working on a novel. E-mail: lakeclair48080@yahoo.com.*

# Royal Stars

## Weekly Horoscopes

**Moon Alert:** After 2:15 a.m. EST today, there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Taurus.

**Happy Birthday for Thursday, November 14, 2024:** You are creative and talented. Even though respect is important to you, your love life is colorful. This is a year of service for you, primarily service to family. Therefore, it's important to take care of yourself so you can be a support to others. Is it time for a makeover?

**ARIES**  
(March 21-April 19)

You're ready to work hard for your money today. In fact, you might do some serious practical planning, perhaps with the help of a boss, parent or an authority figure. Ignore an early morning irritation with your kids or a romantic partner. Let it go. Tonight: Make plans.

**TAURUS**  
(April 20-May 20)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional. Don't take the bait this morning with a family member. Keep your cool. Later in the day, someone older or more experienced might have excellent advice. It will be a smart move to keep things practical and orderly. Tonight: Serious discussions.

**GEMINI**  
(May 21-June 20)

Early this morning, you might be grumpy. Fortunately, this is short-lived. In fact, it's an excellent day for research of any kind. You'll enjoy coming up with answers. Quite likely, you'll impress someone -- a boss or a parent. Gifts and favors might come your way today. Tonight: Solitude.

**CANCER**  
(June 21-July 22)

Ignore some silly squabbles this morning about money or possessions. Travel plans might look doable. You also might explore school schedules and opportunities in publishing, medicine and the law. Enjoy schmoozing with friends today. You feel sociable. Tonight: Get advice.

**LEO**  
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Don't get your belly in a rash today, especially when dealing with parents and bosses in the early morning. Move on. You will impress others today with your willingness to accept your duties. You also have practical suggestions. You might look heroic because you're prepared to go that extra step. Tonight: Show respect.

**VIRGO**  
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Avoid controversial subjects early in the morning, because they will frustrate you. Instead, travel plans and chances to explore avenues in medicine, the law and higher education will please you. Make plans to see people from different backgrounds. You might learn something. Tonight: Study.

**LIBRA**  
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Do what you can to keep the peace with a friend or a group this morning, especially when dealing with shared responsibilities. In fact, you're willing to forgo your own comfort to fulfill your obligations to someone. Your reward might be a pleasant day at home. Tonight: Check your finances.

**SCORPIO**  
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Avoid morning squabbles with bosses and parents. Don't waste your time. Instead, make practical plans about vacations, the arts or your kids. You might be involved in sports

in a vigorous way today. Meanwhile, you'll impress others with your charm and diplomacy. Tonight: Cooperate.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Avoid controversial discussions this morning. They might be nasty. Actually, this can be a great day for you. Financial negotiations will go well. And you're prepared to work hard to get practical results, especially at home. Tonight: Work.

**CAPRICORN**  
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be patient with your kids this morning. (How a morning begins can affect one's entire day.) The fact is that fair Venus is in your sign making this a wonderful day to schmooze with others. Accept invitations to socialize. You also might work out vigorously in sports or the arts. Tonight: Accept responsibilities.

**AQUARIUS**  
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Avoid family squabbles this morning or difficulties with a partner. Instead, focus on practical matters, because you can accomplish a lot today. You feel confident and happy about how something is unfolding. To get the results you want, you're willing to be inconvenienced. Tonight: Relax.

**PISCES**  
(Feb. 19-March 20)

This morning you might find yourself at odds with someone at work or even a neighbor, colleague or sibling. Don't waste your energy on this. Instead, focus on relations with friends and groups. Today you're willing to undergo some hardship to accomplish something. Tonight: Set goals.

### BORN TODAY

Actor Josh Duhamel (1972), actress Olga Kurylenko (1979), King Charles (1948).

## Contract Bridge

### A TACTICAL MEASURE

South dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 3  
♥ 6  
♦ A Q J 7 6 3  
♣ Q 9 4 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ K Q J 10 7  
♥ A 8  
♦ 9 5 4  
♣ 10 6 5

**EAST**  
♠ 9 5 2  
♥ 7 5 3 2  
♦ 10 8  
♣ A J 8 7

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 8 6 4  
♥ K Q J 10 9 4  
♦ K 2  
♣ K

The bidding:  

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

Opening lead — king of spades.

There are plays in bridge that are easy to understand when they are pointed out, but that are overlooked in practice because they are very unusual. For example, take this deal where West leads the king of spades against South's four-heart contract. How should declarer play the hand?

Let's say South wins the spade with the ace. What should he do next?

If he ruffs a spade in dummy at trick two, he cannot stop East-West from

eventually collecting two spades, a heart and a club to defeat him one trick.

If South instead leads the king of clubs at trick two, East beats the contract by winning with the ace and returning a trump. West wins and cashes three spades for down two.

As a matter of fact, if declarer adopts any other method of play at trick two after winning the first trick, he eventually runs into a dead end from which there is no escape.

The solution to the problem, and the only way to make the contract, is to let West hold the first trick!

If West then switches to a trump, whether high or low, declarer draws trump as soon as possible and loses at most a spade, a heart and a club to bring in the contract.

A club shift by West at trick two is equally futile, and so is another spade lead, which declarer would ruff in dummy. In the latter case, a club return from dummy at trick three establishes a parking place for South's remaining spade loser.

It is certainly unusual to duck the king of spades at trick one with dummy holding a singleton spade opposite the ace, but if that's the only way declarer can make the contract, then that's what he must do.

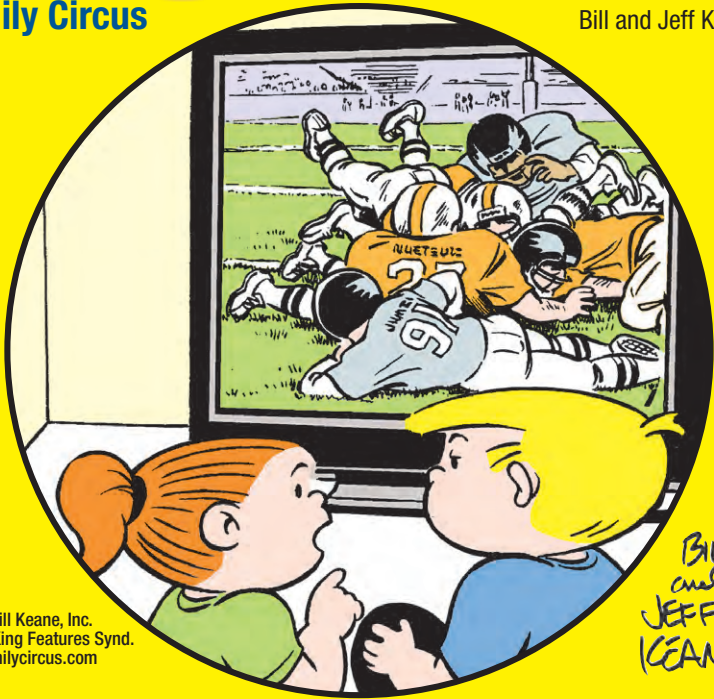
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by Steve Becker

# Puzzles and

## Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"Why do they always run into the pile?"

## Garfield

Jim Davis



## Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



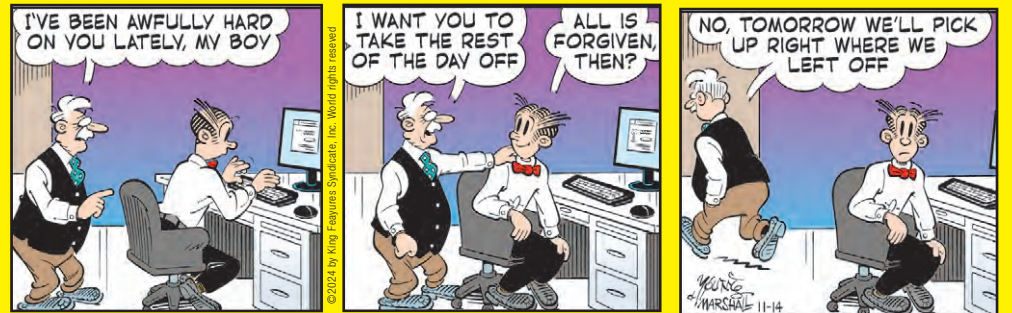
## Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



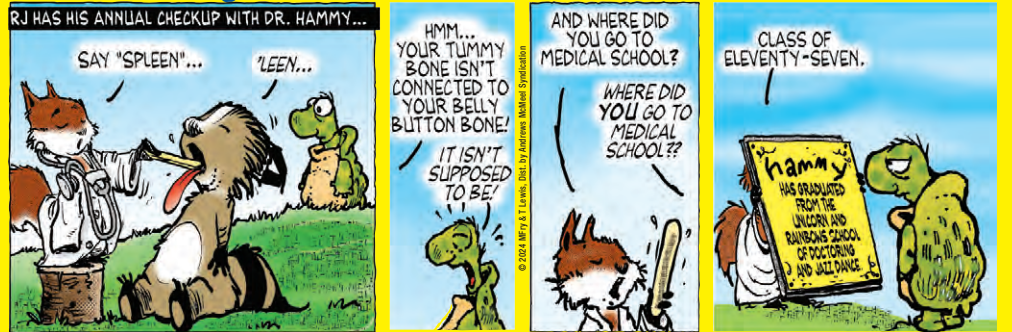
## Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



## Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



## UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

### Previous puzzle solution

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

11/14

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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## Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson November 14, 2024

### ACROSS

- Chemistry 101, for instance
- Let in the door
- Blond shade
- Business tycoon
- Sign made with two fingers
- Pedicure venue
- Popular place for vacationers (In this answer, note letters 6-10)
- Extended family
- Expert
- Galentine's Day mo.
- Contacted privately on Insta
- Defining time period
- Buffalo team with a 13-season playoff drought
- Swirling current
- Broker's charge
- Blue-green shade
- Jogging shirt
- Make a fresh start (... letters 10-7)
- Eyeliner mishap
- Rite answer at the altar
- Honored with a party
- Iconic exclamation from "Die Hard" (... letters 4-7)

### DOWN

- "Nashville" channel
- Tapestry maker's device
- Water, in Spanish
- Opinion poll
- More cunning
- Appropriate
- Like many Gallaudet students
- Female zebras
- Runner's cold soak

### ACROSS

- Longjing or oolong
- "I can't do this right now"
- Invasive plants?
- "Don't walk" symbol
- Complete mess
- Window curtain
- Like many bodyguards
- Site for crafty folks
- "G.I. Jane" star
- Moore skeleton in the closet
- "Black Panther" villain
- Killmonger
- Break up everyone
- Pay for everyone
- Playdate pile
- Trait transmitter
- Pushing the envelope

### DOWN

- Gala or Honeycrisp
- Dilating dose
- Dog known as "the silent hunter" in Japan
- Hole in a pool table
- "Ancient" diet
- Specifics, in slang
- Wavy hairdos
- "Yo, over here!"
- out (allocate)
- Take cover
- Quick scissor cut
- Target of an annual vax
- Vessel for making kake udon
- Furnace fuel

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

11/7 Solution

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11/14

### Look Both Ways by Zhouqin Bunnikel

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14						15						16	
17					18	19	20	21	22				
	23												
26	27	28			29	30	31		32				
33				34				35		36	37		
38				39			40			41			
42				43				44		45			
	46							47		48			
	49							50		51	52		
53								54	55		56	57	58
59					60					61			62
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

## Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



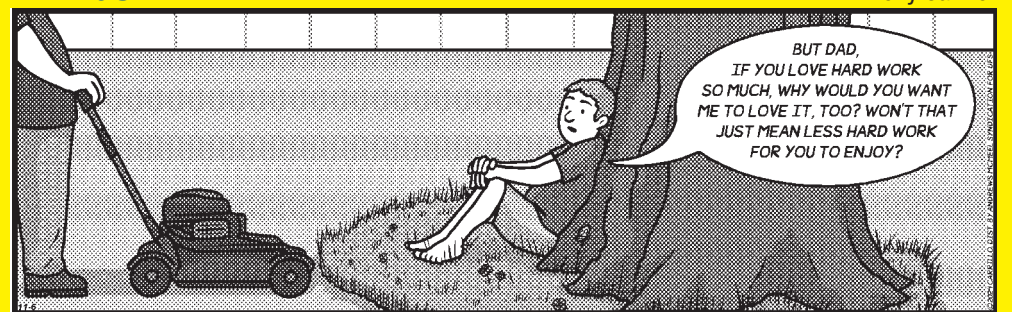
## Wizard of Id

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



## F Minus

Tony Carrilo

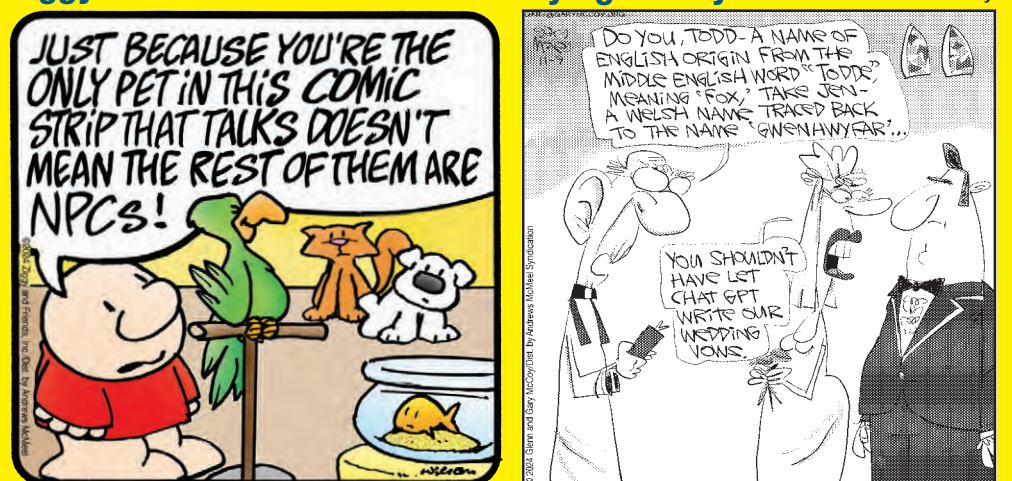


## Ziggy

Tom Wilson

## Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy

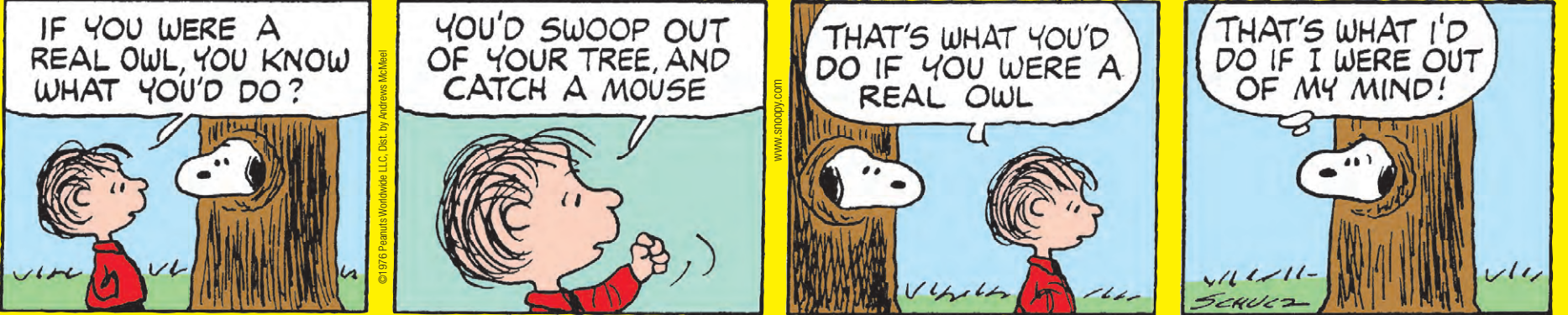




# Comics

## Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



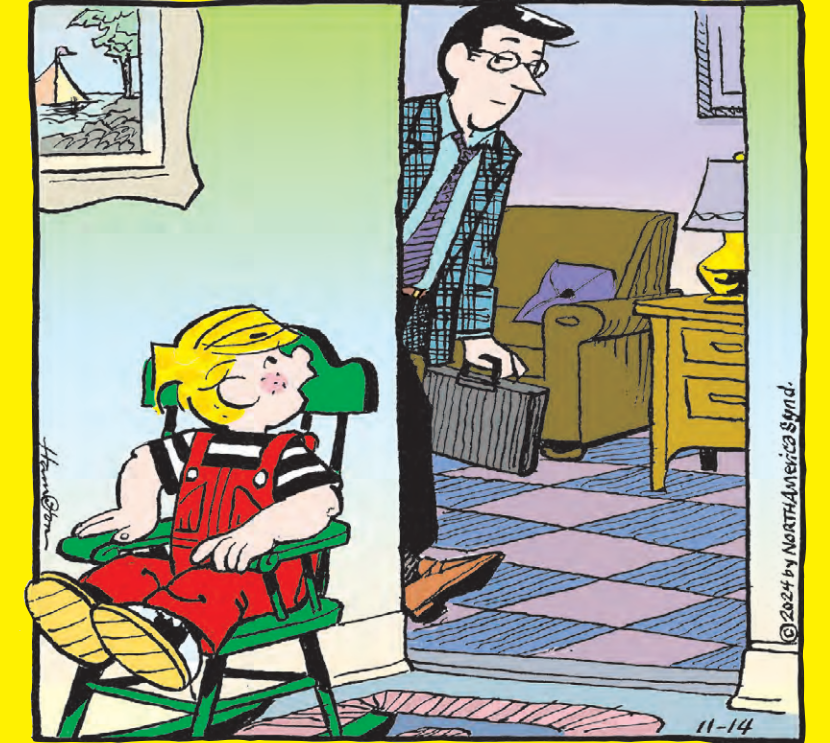
## Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



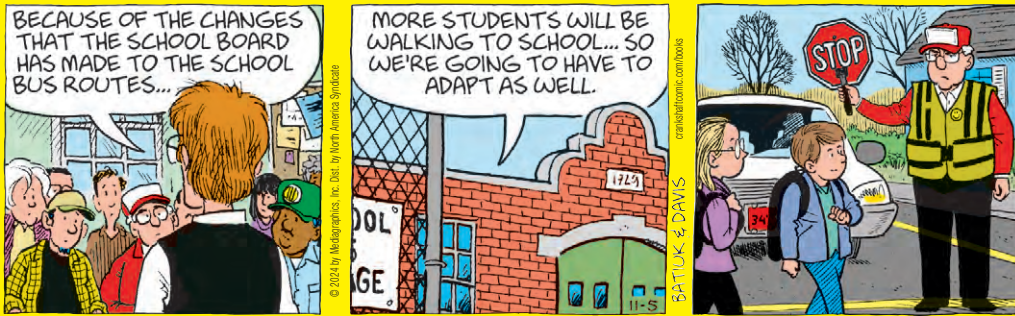
## Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



## Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



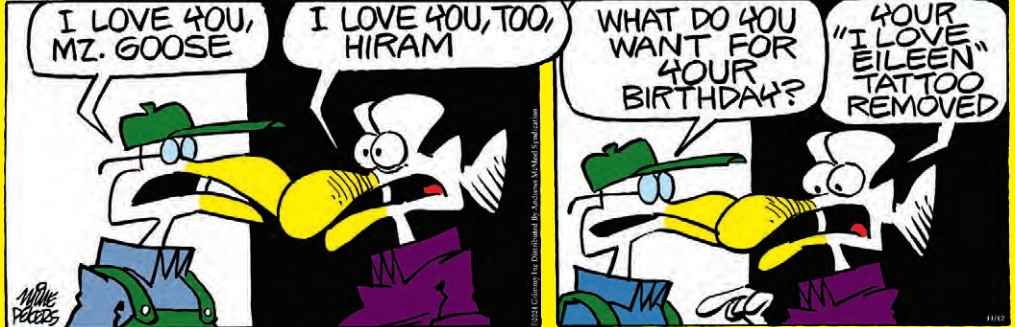
## Crock

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

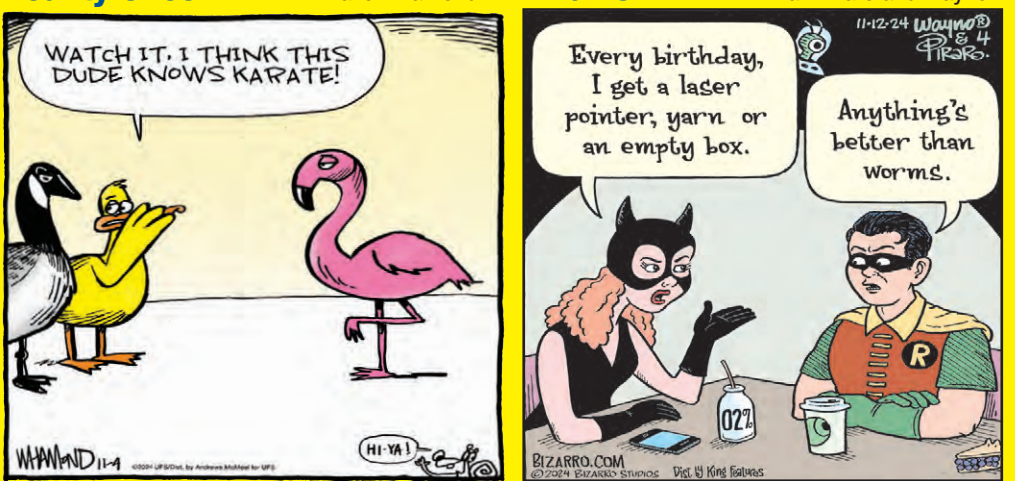


## Reality Check

Dave Whamond

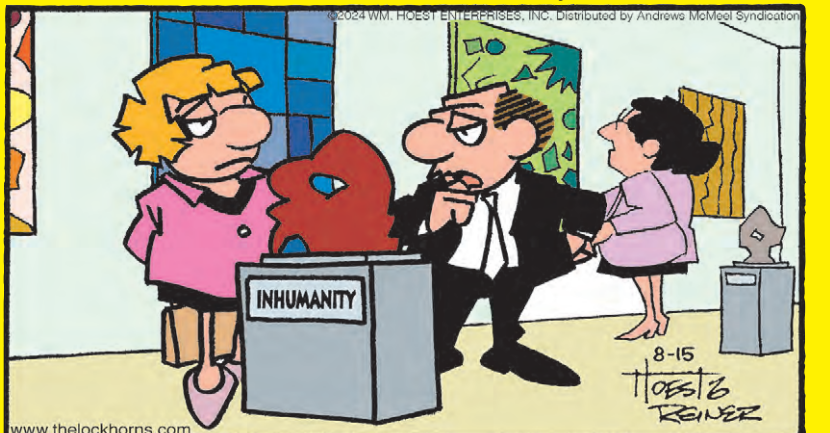
## Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



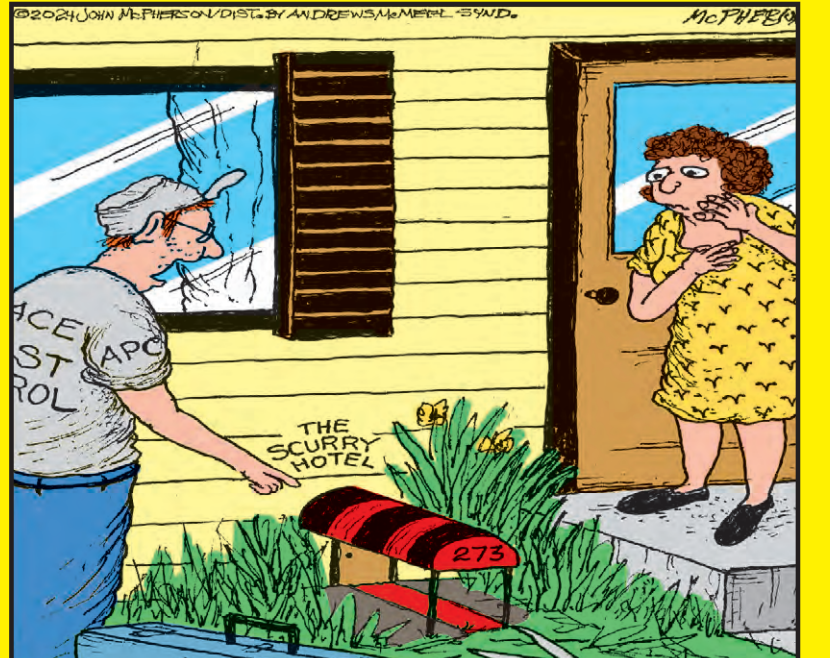
## The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



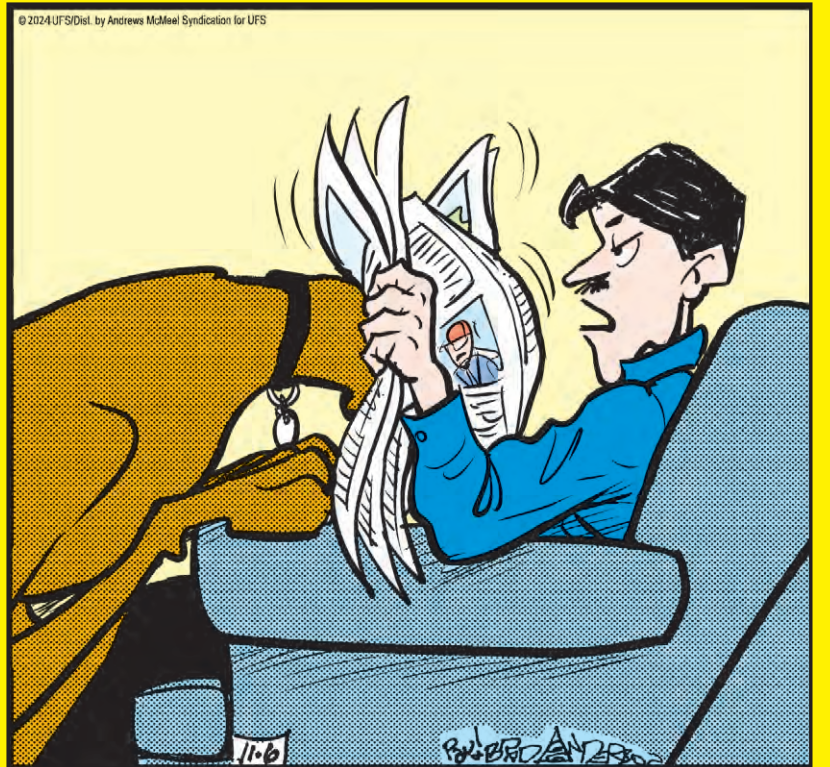
## Close To Home

John McPherson



## Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



# Kid Scoop

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Get puzzle answers, recipes and more at [www.kidscoop.com](http://www.kidscoop.com)

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**Kid Scoop Together**

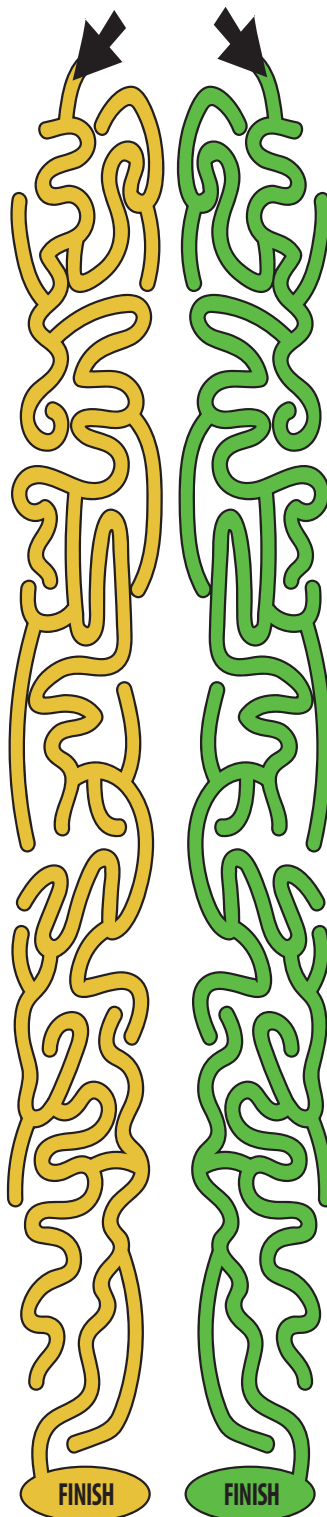
## Cheese Versus Person

Each year in May at Cooper's Hill near Gloucester, England, people try to beat a rolling wheel of cheese down a big, steep hill.



Race against a friend or family member to see who can run down the maze hill first!

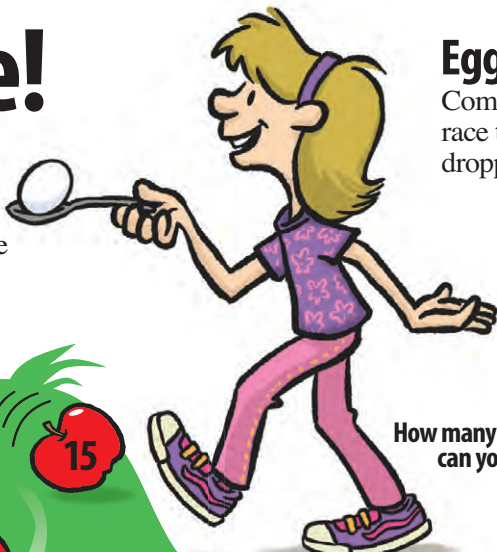
PLAYER 1      PLAYER 2



## Sports Surprise!

What do you think of when you think of sports? Many people think of sports such as soccer, football, baseball and basketball.

There are hundreds, maybe thousands of sports played all over the world. We went looking for some of the most surprising!



### Egg and Spoon Race

Competitors carry an egg on a spoon and race to cross the finish line first, without dropping and breaking their egg!

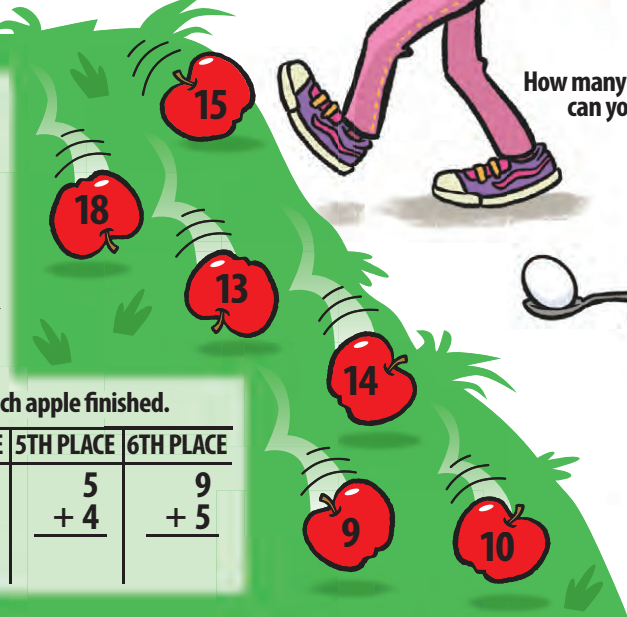
Holding the spoon with two hands or touching the egg with hands is not allowed. If a competitor drops the egg, they have to pick it up, put it back onto the spoon and balance it before they can resume running.

How many differences can you find?



### Apple Racing

In Tasmania, Australia, people drop apples from a bridge and watch the apples bob down the Houn River for 300 meters (328 feet). The owner of the first apple to cross the finish line wins. The Rotary Club of Houn Valley raises money by selling apples.



Which apple won? Do the math to see how each apple finished.

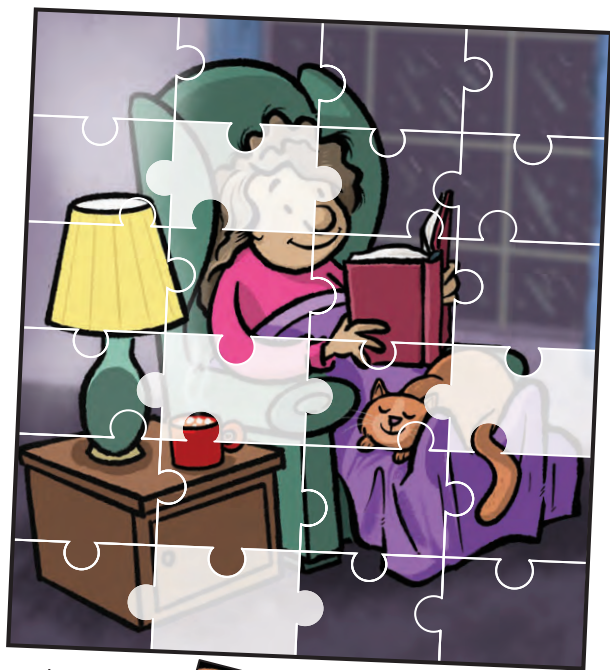
1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE	3RD PLACE	4TH PLACE	5TH PLACE	6TH PLACE
$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ +7 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ +7 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ +4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ +9 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 5 \\ +4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ +5 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums and differences.

### Speed Puzzlers

Often people think of doing jigsaw puzzles as relaxing. But some puzzlers also see it as a chance to see who can put a puzzle together the fastest.

Draw lines to show where each missing puzzle piece belongs. Can you do it in under 60 seconds? Ready? Set? GO!



Standards Link: Language Arts: Follow simple, written directions.

### Puzzle Pros

Use the code to discover some amazing puzzle facts!

	= 0		= 2		= 4		= 6		= 8
	= 1		= 3		= 5		= 7		= 9

In 2020, Sarah Mills of the United Kingdom completed a 1,000-piece puzzle in  $\square$  hour and  $\square$  minutes. That's  $\square$  one piece each  $\square$  seconds!

Students at Vietnam's University of Economics put together a massive  $\square$  /  $\square$  -piece puzzle! This puzzle measured nearly  $\square$  feet by  $\square$  feet (14.85 x 23.2 meters).

It took  $\square$  students  $\square$  hours to put this big picture of a lotus flower together.

Standards Link: Language Arts: Read informational text.

The fastest time to complete

a  $\square$  -piece jigsaw puzzle is  $\square$  minutes and  $\square$  seconds, set by Alejandro Clemente León at the 2023 World Jigsaw Puzzle Championship.

**Extra! Extra!**

### Newspaper Ball Games

Scrunch up several pages of a newspaper to make a big ball. Wrap the ball in tape to hold it all together. Play catch with your ball. Or hit it back and forth like in a volleyball game. What else can you do with your newspaper ball?

Standards Link: Make reasonable assertions through supportive citation. Analyze text.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### What is a Good Sport?

A person with a good attitude in difficult situations is often called a good sport. Which person is being a good sport?

"My team didn't win but that's because this is a dumb game and the referees were terrible."



YES  NO

"We lost today, but it was still fun. The other team just played a little better."



YES  NO

"We won, but it wasn't easy. The other team is really good!"



YES  NO

### Double Double Word Search

- APPLES
- BALL
- BIG
- BRIDGE
- EGG
- HOLD
- HOUR
- JIGSAW
- LOTUS
- PIECE
- PLACE
- PUZZLE
- SPOON
- TAPE
- TIME

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

### FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

#### Outdoor Plans

Look through the newspaper for things that look fun to do outdoors. Make a list of outdoor activities you'd like to do and share them with your family. Make a plan to do one of them.

Standards Link: Use the newspaper to locate information.



### What kind of cats go bowling?

ANSWER: Alley cats!

### Write On!

#### Poetry in Motion

Write a poem about your favorite sport.

## Your Neighborhood

It's what's most important to you, to your kids, to your family. It's easy to stay on top of what is happening around you with the

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# SPORTS



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## South girls swim & dive captures program's 24th straight MAC Red title; Norsemen take 2nd

By Meg Leonard  
Guest Writer

In his catchy dance song, "24k Magic," singer Bruno Mars asks "Guess who's back again?"

Grosse Pointe South's girls varsity swim and dive team answered that question last weekend as it stood atop the podium for the 24th consecutive time as MAC Red champions — putting some 24-karat magic in the air, earning 600 points and the conference title, Swimmer of the Meet and Coach of the Year honors at the Boll Center Natatorium Saturday, Nov. 9.

Grosse Pointe North finished second overall in the conference with 368 points.

"Our tradition of excellence is so big," South head coach John Fodell said of his team's latest accomplishment. "We consistently get top 10s at states at both the individual and team level. This year, we carry almost 60 girls, so it's a great experience for everyone from the top on down."

While South scored in every event at Saturday's champion-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

The Grosse Pointe South varsity girls swim and dive team celebrates on Saturday, Nov. 9, after winning the MAC Red Championship for the 24th straight season.

ship, the team won eight of the meet's 12 events.

North sent 19 swimmers to the MAC Championship, which included Friday's preliminary round and a raucous, walk-up music-filled championship final Saturday. Both squads beat Dakota, Eisenhower and L'Anse Creuse North, teams

that finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

"I am super happy with our MAC Red results," North girls varsity swim and dive coach Chris Trepanowski said. "We met our goal of placing second," adding that "nobody was going to beat South."

"We were thrilled that every single swimmer (had) at least one season best/PR (personal record) for a total of 35 season-best times."

South kicked off the meet by winning the 200 medley relay with freshman Caroline Bryan, junior Mischa Eng, freshman Nicole McEnroe and sopho-

more Lorelei Carr, who won it in 1:48.93.

The Blue Devils won the next four straight events. Junior Heidi Bryan won the 200 freestyle in 1:58.64. Eng took first in the 200 IM in 2:09.85, followed in second by teammate McEnroe in 2:10.19.

In a race worthy of two greyhounds, junior

Whitney Handwork won the 50 free in 23.78, just out-touching North senior Avery Beal, who took second place in 24.04. Caroline Bryan then won the 100 fly 55.47.

Completing the Blue Devils' sweep of three relays, Handwork, Carr, McEnroe and Hannah DiDio won the 200 free relay in 1:39.39, while the 400 free relay of Handwork, DiDio, Eng and Bryan won in 3:35.50, earning them a season-best time.

Caroline Bryan, who is competing in her first year at the high school level, continued her season's tear by winning four events to earn the nod as MAC Red Swimmer of the Meet. Her time of 55.47 in the 100 fly is a personal best. She is ranked the state's No. 1 swimmer in the event in Division 2. She also took first in the 100 backstroke in 57.29, outpacing teammate Eng's time of 57.93. Bryan also was part of two first-place relay teams to round out her all-gold medal day.

Junior Handwork was a meet standout as South's top sprint free-

See SWIM, page 4D

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

# North's Doe makes big plays whenever, wherever

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

For how often Daylon Doe seems to have the ball in his hands, he is among the most unselfish athletes. The Grosse Pointe North varsity football senior receiver and linebacker always is willing to do anything and everything to help the Norsemen win.

However, it is Doe's character that stands out to his teammates and coaches. He has stepped up to make plenty of big plays this season and throughout his career as a Norseman, but always is willing to do so from whatever position his team needs him in.

"I really just wanted to see the field so I was willing to play wherever my coaches wanted to play me or needed someone," Doe said. "... I played quarterback my

freshman year, but ended up getting hurt in our green and gold



PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH

Daylon Doe has become a key player for North on both sides of the ball, playing linebacker and wide receiver this season.

scrimmage. Returning sophomore year, they told me they wanted me to convert to a receiver and (defensive back) type. In my junior year, I started at safety. This year, I turned into a linebacker because we needed someone and I told coach I'd play wherever he needed me to play and do whatever to help the team."

Doe can play and become a great player in practically any position.

This season as a linebacker he recorded 49 tackles including nine tackles for loss, the second most by any North player in both categories. He also had three interceptions returned for touchdowns, creating truly momentum-shifting plays in some key games for North.

"He had the interception against South last year and he got caught from behind," North football head coach Joe Drouin said about Doe. "... He dedicated himself to getting faster and it showed. He had those interceptions where once he got it, there was no doubt he was going all the way. ... The

enthusiasm that he brings to the game, he's just awesome. He's had the right attitude since he was 14. He knew what he wanted and had the ambition and the drive and, once he realized how to focus it all, it turned into something special."

It does not just stop with defense. Doe also continued to play receiver for the Norsemen this season and came up with several big catches in North's biggest games.

Perhaps the most memorable was his acrobatic touchdown catch in the fourth quarter of North's first-round playoff win over Port

Huron that had those in attendance wondering if they were watching Randy Moss.

"I make sure I can go all game every snap," Doe said about his athleticism. "... I probably come out only on punts and kickoffs. My teammates have been making me better every day in practice because I go up against some pretty good athletes at our

See ATHLETE, page 6D

### Daylon Does It All

- 3 Interceptions returned for TDs in 2024 regular season for North football
- Recorded 49 tackles and 9 tackles for loss
- Caught 4 TDs for North on offense

Grosse Pointe News



**Daylon Doe**

School: Grosse Pointe North  
Sport: Football

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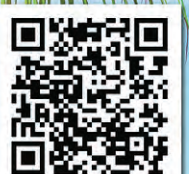
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2D | SPORTS

# Blue Devils' historic football season ends in playoff loss to Pilots

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The 2024 Grosse Pointe South varsity football team knew it would hold a place in the program's history regardless of the outcome of last Friday's Division 2 district final playoff game against De La Salle Collegiate. This year's Blue Devils team already had made history by being the first to win 10 games in a season and was hoping to keep the magic alive by winning the district championship. However, South's historic season came to an end on Nov.

8, with a 35-21 loss to the Pilots.

"It was really important to the team being part of the tradition and part of history and important to me because I've had a connection to this program for decades," South football head coach Chad Hepner said. "These kids that are coming through now seem to appreciate their place in the program as a whole."

South took the lead first, late in the opening quarter on a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Jack Lupo to senior receiver Vince Vachon. The Blue Devils

remained ahead 7-0 into the second quarter until the Pilots tied the game with a rushing touchdown by Anthony Bitonti.

Bitonti reached the end zone again for De La Salle with just over a minute remaining in the first half, making it a 14-7 lead for the Pilots going into the break.

Turnovers gave the Blue Devils trouble all game long and hurt them at the beginning of the second half. South's first possession after coming out of the locker room ended with a fumble that set up De La Salle in good field position



Roy Bishop III, left, and Blake Griesbaum get the chance to take some selfies with former Grosse Pointe South Blue Devil and current University of Michigan Wolverine Will Johnson.



De La Salle's Drew Bouhanna (No. 4) jumps to avoid a collision as South's Vince Vachon gets tackled in the end zone for the first touchdown of the game last Friday, Nov. 8.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

tion and ultimately resulted in a touchdown by Damion King to extend the Pilots' lead to 21-7.

South pulled closer later in the third quarter when Lupo connected with Trey Grabowski for a touchdown to get the Blue Devils back within a touchdown. However, the Pilots extended the lead shortly after when Mike Lopez broke off a 49-yard touchdown run before the third quarter ended.

Up 28-14 going into the fourth quarter, De La Salle continued to build on the lead as Bitonti scored again, making it 35-14. Another touchdown catch by Vachon for South made the score 35-21, and

South recovered the onside kick after the touchdown to get the ball back. Any momentum from the onside kick return ended for South after throwing an interception just a few plays later, which all but sealed the game for De La Salle.

South's season ended with a final record of 10-1. As mentioned, this year's team was the first in program history to ever achieve 10 wins and also earned the MAC White Division championship for a third straight season.

While the season ended sooner than the players and coaches would have liked, the Blue Devils are now ready to face the long

offseason before next fall. South will see a strong senior class graduating, but the team knows that their legacy will stick with those who are coming back for another season in the blue and gold.

"This was fantastic leadership on this team," Hepner said. "...Not only can the underclassmen learn some lessons and experience from those guys, they can learn about the work ethic. They put in the work and the year-round dedication was evident with this group, and hopefully, they can leave that impression with the younger guys and let them know that that's the expectation for the next group."

# South to host The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up hoops showcase

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

High school hoops fans in the Pointes should mark their calendars now for Saturday, Feb. 8. That is the day The D Zone is hosting its Playoff Tune-Up showcase event at Grosse Pointe South High School. Throughout the day, 14 boys varsity basketball teams from around Michigan will be in action, including Grosse Pointe South and

Grosse Pointe North.

"We feel very strongly about the Grosse Pointe community because it's such a strong community," Stuart Carlin, founder of The D Zone, said. "To have an event that both high school teams are playing in is pretty outstanding and hopefully it can get a lot of the community to come and support them because they both have great teams this year."

North and South will be featured in the final

two games of the day. The Norsemen will face Adrian at 7 p.m. and the Blue Devils are slated to take on Old Redford at 8:45 p.m.

The first game of the day tips off at 10:15 a.m. between Hazel Park and Arts and Technology Academy of Pontiac. Other games throughout the day include Center Line taking on Imlay City, Saginaw Heritage versus Warren Fitzgerald, Eisenhower against Linden and

Macomb Dakota battling River Rouge.

The D Zone, a website and social media platform that covers high school football and basketball around the state of Michigan, hosts events and showcases like this in different communities throughout the year. However, what makes the Playoff

Tune-Up in February unique is that it gives teams a break from their conference schedules to play against competition they may see in the playoffs, which start just a few weeks later.

"So many of these showcases are in December during Christmas or in January around Martin Luther

King Jr. Day," Carlin said. "... We think it's a little unique to have a showcase right before the playoffs. That's why we named it the way we did, because it's just different. And around that time of year, there aren't many of these."

For more information, visit [basketball.thedzone.com/tournaments](http://basketball.thedzone.com/tournaments).

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## THE D ZONE

SAT 2/8/2025 | GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HS

# PLAYOFF TUNE-UP

	10:15 AM HAZEL PARK VS ATAP	
	12 PM CENTER LINE VS IMLAY CITY	
	1:45 PM SAGINAW HERITAGE VS WARREN FITZGERALD	
	3:30 PM EISENHOWER VS LINDEN	
	5:15 PM DAKOTA VS RIVER ROUGE	
	7 PM GROSSE POINTE NORTH VS ADRIAN	
	8:45 PM GROSSE POINTE SOUTH VS OLD REDFORD	

# North, South and Liggett volleyball teams all celebrate district titles

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The beginning of high school volleyball playoffs last week brought some exciting action to the Pointes for the varsity teams from Grosse Pointe South, Grosse Pointe North and University Liggett School. All three teams played in their respective district tournaments last week and all three teams ended up adding some hardware to their schools' trophy cases by winning the district championships.

South hosted its district tournament in Division 1 and played its first match in the semifinal round Wednesday, Nov. 6. The Blue Devils faced Hamtramck and won the match 3-0, taking the sets 25-8, 25-9 and 25-6.

The Blue Devils moved on to the district championship match the next day, Thursday, Nov. 7. South took on Detroit Cass Tech and won in three straight sets, taking the win 25-8, 25-8 and 25-12.

South moved on to the Division 1 regional semifinal after press time Tuesday, Nov. 12, facing Livonia Stevenson. The regional final is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, hosted by Northville High School.

North also was in action in the district tournament round for Division 1 last week, with its district hosted by L'Anse Creuse. The Norsemen faced Lakeview in the district



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

Another year, another district championship for South varsity volleyball as the Blue Devils defeated Cass Tech 3-0 on Nov. 7.

semifinal Wednesday, Nov. 6, winning the match in three sets, 25-15, 25-18 and 25-20. The Norsemen then faced host L'Anse Creuse

in the district final Thursday, Nov. 7. Despite losing the first set 25-22, North then won three sets in a row by scores of 25-16, 25-17 and 25-13 to take the district title. Isabella Boedeker and Kathryn Schaden each had three aces in the match and Leah Burney had 15 kills.

North faced Eisenhower in the Division 1 regional semifinal round Tuesday, Nov. 12, after press time. The regional championship match is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, hosted by Troy High School.

The Knights from University Liggett hosted last week's Division 3 district tournament. Liggett's team breezed through the district semifinal round with a 3-0 win over Center Line Prep Academy Friday, Nov. 7, winning 25-11, 25-13 and 25-7. Lydia Fedewa-Widick and Collette Peabody had impressive performances in the match as they each recorded 10 aces.

Liggett then moved on to the district final Saturday, Nov. 9, where again the team won in three straight sets, this time over Mount Clemens. The Knights won 25-8, 25-10 and 25-8. Fedewa-Widick had 13 kills in the win, while Shade Patrick recorded six kills.

The Knights took on Cass City in the Division 3 regional semifinal round after press time Tuesday, Nov. 12. The regional final is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, at Bad Axe High School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

Grosse Pointe North varsity volleyball holds the district championship trophy after defeating L'Anse Creuse 3-1 last Thursday, Nov. 7.

## Norsemen fall out of playoffs with loss to King

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

There were times this season when the Grosse Pointe North varsity football team might have felt like its goal of making the playoffs was getting out of reach. The Norsemen, however, did achieve their postseason aspirations and found themselves in the district final round, where they faced off against Detroit Martin Luther King Jr. Friday, Nov. 8. That game saw North's season come to an end with a 62-28 loss to the Crusaders.

"They played really hard and that showed the way the season went," North football head coach Joe Drouin said. "There was no give up in them. ... That's the story of our season. We hung around long enough to be competitive and I think that showed the grit and resilience of the kids on this team."

The Norsemen found themselves down 19-0 early in the game before a touchdown pass from Deon Doe to Daylon Doe finally got the Norsemen on the board.

North wasn't able to catch up throughout the game despite some impressive plays. With the first touchdown caught by Daylon Doe, the other three touchdowns in the game for the Norsemen were scored by senior Leo Perettie. Both Doe and Perettie have been pillars of the North team for years and played their final game in the green and gold last Friday, but their teammates and coaches know the impression they left — and that of the entire senior class — will be felt throughout the program for a long time.

"After the game, we talked about leaving the jersey in a better place," Drouin said. "When those guys were freshmen, we were just coming off of the COVID year. ... Their freshman year, they came in and we were 3-6 that year. You look at what they learned going through the seasons, they learned what it was like to be part of that run in 2022. They learned what it was like to scrap and battle through seasons. ... As a whole, they led this team

by example."

The Norsemen finished the season with a final record of 5-6. The team finished in a three-way tie for the MAC Gold Division championship, the third season in a row it ended up winning at least a share of the league title.

While last Friday's playoff loss brought the end of the season, the Norsemen are already looking to the future and next fall. In the minds of the coaches and players who will be back for North next season, the offseason process already is underway and the focus is on coming back better and stronger in 2025.

"One of the things that we hang our hat on is the weight room," Drouin said. "We've been getting stronger and we've been getting faster. ... Seeing how close we are, we're on the edge of something good. At one point, it was like we just play nine games and that's it. Then, we thought we're a 10-week team, but it turns out we're an 11-week team and maybe we can become a 12- or 13-week team."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SULLIVAN

University Liggett varsity volleyball earned its third consecutive district championship last week, defeating Mount Clemens in the district final match.

### Grosse Pointe News



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Grosse Pointe News

4D | SPORTS

SWIM:

Continued from page 1D

styler. Her first-place win in the 50 free came courtesy of a personal best 23.78, ranking her at No. 3 in the state, separated from No. 1 by only eight one-hundredths of a second.

She is also nipping at the heels of the school record in the event, held by former Blue Devil star Catie DeLoof's time of 23.58. DeLoof is a former Big Ten champion swimmer at the University of Michigan and earned a bronze medal in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay.

Last weekend's meet also helped three South swimmers earn their first state cuts of the season, including freshman Natalie Warnick in the 200 IM in 2:19.66. She is the fourth freshman to join South's state squad. Sophomore Lydia Prysak punched her state ticket Friday in the 100 breast (1:11.42), swimming even faster at Saturday's finals with a time of 1:11.19. Lillian Irby also earned her state cut in the 100 fly in 1:02.93.

DiDio added the 50 free to her growing list of state cuts, swimming it in 25.30.

The Norsemen's silver medal finish was led by senior Avery Beal. With her second place in the 50 free, she helped set the pace

for her other teammates in the event, including Addie Wakefield, who took fourth (25.39), Liliana Ivanaj, who finished fifth (25.25), fol-

lowed by sophomore Mia Melham, who finished eighth (26.29).

Team co-captain Beal took first place in the 100 free in 52.43, while Wakefield finished third in 56.53. Beal's freshman sister, Hadley Beal, took fifth in the

Avery Beal, who has completed her "bingo card" by earning a state cut in all individual events.

Hard has earned state cuts in the 200 free, 200 IM, 100 free, 100 fly and 500 free, while Wakefield qualified in the 50 free and 100 free.

Additionally, North will field three relay teams at states in the 200 medley relay (Hasting, Hadley Beal, Melhem and

Ivanaj), the 200 free relay (Wakefield, Hard, Ivanaj and Avery Beal) and the 400 free relay (Hard, Hasting, Wakefield and Avery Beal).

One or two more swimmers have a chance to qualify at the Last Chance Meet, which took place at South after press time Tuesday, Nov. 12, Trepanowski added.

"Our goal for states is to be in the top 10," he said. "It's going to take some time drops and some really good performances by our relays, but we think it's a realistic goal."

For the Blue Devils, the squad heads into the season's final meet as the No. 2 ranked team in Division 2, and currently has 12 qualifiers for the state meet Nov. 22 and 23, at Oakland University.

"It takes a lot of hard work, but we're right where we need to be right now," Fodell said. "We have (the) Last Chance (meet) and we're hoping to get a few more (cuts). But if not, we're happy. We're looking real good. It takes a full season to get everyone to where they need to be. It's all starting to fit."



South's Whitney Handwork celebrates a first-place finish in the 50 freestyle.

event in 56.91.

North's other top individual medalists include Cailey Hard, who earned second place in the 200 free (1:59.12). Hard also finished fifth in the 100 fly (1:03.78), just ahead of Melhem's seventh-place finish (1:04.58). Kennedy Hasting took sixth in the 200 IM (2:21.09)

The Norsemen also took second place in the meet's three relays, including the 200 medley relay (1:56.62), 200 free relay (1:40.09) and 400 free relay (3:44.77).

Three North swimmers have qualified for states, including



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN & CHRIS TREPANOWSKI

Clockwise from top left, Grosse Pointe North's 400 free relay team includes Addie Wakefield, Kennedy Hasting, Cailey Hard and Avery Beal.

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## Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map

**THIS WEEK**

1. 750 University Grosse Pointe City	2. 245 Stephens Grosse Pointe Farms	● = ESTATE SALE	○ = YARD SALE
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See Classifieds for more details

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6D | SPORTS

# Liggett football's district title hopes dashed by Leslie Blackhawks

By Mike Adzima  
Sports Reporter

The University Liggett School varsity football team entered last Saturday's Division 7 playoff game against Leslie in search of its first district championship in program history. The Knights hosted the Blackhawks Saturday, Nov. 9, looking to make history, but the wait will continue as Leslie pulled out a close 23-21 victory to end Liggett's season.

Leslie took the lead first in Saturday's game with a touchdown by Jayden Colby to go up 8-0. The Blackhawks built on the lead later in the quarter with a rushing touchdown by sophomore quarterback Joel Cranmore to make it 14-0.

Liggett got on the board in the second quarter when Gary Stacy barreled to the

end zone on a 31-yard touchdown catch to cut the Blackhawks' lead in half. Junior quarterback Nikkos Davis got his second touchdown pass of the day later in the second quarter when he connected with senior receiver Santino Cicarella for 45 yards. A successful two-point conversion gave the Knights a one-point, 15-14 lead before halftime.

While the Knights held a narrow lead at halftime, the Blackhawks took back the lead in the third quarter with a field goal to go ahead 17-15. Leslie went out in front by even more in the fourth quarter on a touchdown by Evan Dexter, but a failed two-point conversion left the score at 23-15 leaving the door open for a Knights' comeback.

Liggett did not go

down without fighting, as Davis connected on a touchdown pass to Marvin Hartfield Jr., later in the fourth quarter to bring the Knights' within two points. A two-point conversion would have tied the game, but Liggett was unable to cross the goal line successfully and remained down by a couple points. With just over two minutes remaining, the Blackhawks' offense held onto the ball and let the clock run down to end the Knights' season.

Davis finished the game completing 20 of his 37 passing attempts for 278 yards and three touchdowns. While he did not reach the end zone, JuJu Barnett led Liggett in receiving with 12 catches for 127 yards.

The Knights' season ended with a final record of 7-4.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Liggett's JuJu Barnett caught 12 passes for 127 yards in the team's loss to Leslie in the district final round of the playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 9.

## ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

practice, so when it comes to game time it all comes easy to me."

Doe can catch just about anything and thinks another year of being more mature and confident in himself helped his hands become even better during his senior season

this fall. It was enough confidence for him to know he could catch the ball no matter who was throwing it, whether one of North's quarterbacks or the quarterback on the other team.

The Norsemen often featured two quarterbacks in their offense this season. Junior Jacob Sahadi took several snaps under center and so did fellow junior

Deon Doe, Daylon's younger brother.

"(Deon) and I have just had that chemistry for a very long time," Doe said. "Jacob is also a great quarterback. I just alternate between the two. They both understand me well, so I have good timing with both of them. Whatever pass or throw they're trying to make, I just adjust to the ball pretty

well so I can get it."

Doe's attitude and athleticism, which were on display this season and throughout his entire career, caught the attention of programs at the next level. With his senior football season concluding last Friday night in a playoff loss for North against Detroit Martin Luther King Jr., Doe now has to look forward to the future of his

football career beyond high school.

He has received offers and interest from college programs at the Division I and Division II levels and is still weighing his options for now. Doe knows no matter where he ends up, he is going to continue to have the same mentality of doing anything to help his team win. His focus now is on

continuing to improve as an athlete and a leader when he gets to the next level.

"At the college level they want me to play linebacker," Doe said. "I'm just trying to get bigger and put on more muscle. ... I also need to work on being a more vocal leader. I'm already a leader, but I think I can turn it up even more."

# HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:



PHOTO COURTESY OF RANDI KOHLER

## RED BARONS REIGN SUPREME

The Grosse Pointe Red Barons freshman football team capped off an incredible season by winning the Michigan Youth Football & Cheer Conference Super Bowl on Saturday, Nov. 2. The team earned the top seed the playoffs after finishing the regular season with an 8-1 record and went on to defeat the Lake Area Hawks in the championship game.

## EASTSIDE EARNS RUNNER-UP AT TENNIS NATIONALS

The Eastside Tennis and Fitness Club 4.5 Team earned second place at the USA League National Championships in Arizona last weekend. Led by captain Brian Kean, Eastside swept its local district playoffs then won the state championship in August. Afterwards they moved on to compete at the Midwest Sectionals in Indianapolis beating the state champions from Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois to represent all of the Midwest at Nationals. Eastside beat Missouri Valley in the Semis but just fell short of beating Florida in the Finals. Players representing Eastside included: Kean, Matt Prigorac, JD Spina, Jason Go, Ryan Stevens, Jordan Andrews, Connor Stafford, Julian Olejnik, Brian Nguyen, Eli Wissner, Daniel Huan, Jason Chen, and Justin Collins.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

## ACED IT!

Mike Kowal celebrates a hole-in-one on the 16th hole at Country Club of Detroit. The shot went in from 169 yards out with Kowal playing a five iron during a round with Joe Curtis, Eugene Agnone and Joe Michelotti.

## CITY OF HARPER WOODS 2024 DECEMBER BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Harper Woods Board of Review will be conducting the 2024 December Board of Review and will convene at City Hall located at 19617 Harper Ave., Harper Woods, MI 48225

The regular Board of Review schedule is as follows:

December 10, 2024 at 4:00 pm

The Board of Review is held for the purpose of reviewing Clerical Errors, Mutual Mistakes of Fact, and Poverty applications.

All Board of Review meetings are open meetings in compliance with the "Open Meetings Act".

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at (313) 343.2500

Leslie M. Frank  
City Clerk