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Grosse Pointe News

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ONE DOLLAR (DELIVERY 95¢) DECEMBER 5, 2024
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TEAM 26 member Gavin Monahan, left, reveals the Full Circle Foundation—A.A. Van Elslander Campus sign, while Gary Van Elslander and Full Circle's Stephanie DiVirgil watch.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

A new home for Full Circle

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The big announcement first was made at the Full Circle Foundation's Nov. 7 gala and then was made official with the unveiling of signage Monday, Dec. 2.

The Full Circle Foundation has finalized the purchase of two buildings in Grosse Pointe Park, thanks to a \$4 million grant from the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation.

"The A.A. Van Elslander Foundation believed in us," said Stephanie DiVirgil, director of operations for Full Circle. "Our missions align. They like to give to projects that better the community and they have been on our side for a long time."

Addressing the small crowd at the unveiling, which included Full Circle staff and volunteers, TEAM 26 members, city offi-

See HOME, page 8A

STR question put to council

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — While resident Joe Sullivan voiced opposition this week to a proposed draft zoning ordinance letting current short-term rental proper-

ties continue operating in accord with a process called grandfathering, he eyed a rub of Hamlet dimensions:

"There's no reason they should be grandfathered when there's no provision in place for them to have a track record," Sullivan told members of the Grosse Pointe Park Planning Commission Monday, Dec. 2. "They haven't complied with any regulations because there aren't any."

There's the rub. The Park has no regulations about short-term rentals, defined in the draft as "the rental or subletting of any dwelling on a

premises for a term of 28 days or less."

It's not possible for city officials to force shutdowns of existing short-term rental operators, according to city officials. Proposed rules, however, ban the establishment of new short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods.

Unlike in the Farms, where municipal officials in September forced closure of a short-term rental violating a municipal ban, the Park's book of rules is silent on the matter. There are no specific laws about homeowners in the city renting their houses or portions thereof for relatively

short periods of time.

The solution Park officials have been working on for about two years is nearing flood tide in the latest and possibly final draft of a 16-article, 116-section, 174-page update of the entire municipal zoning ordinance.

Planning commissioners voted unanimously during Monday's public hearing to forward the draft to the city council for consideration and possible passage 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at city hall.

A key and late refinement of the draft allows

See STR, page 2A

Parking fund sees significant deficit in City audit

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "I will say we had dinner today and we each paid our little parking fees so we're trying to help the parking fund as much as possible," said Spencer Tawa with the Plante Moran team, while presenting the City's 2023-24 audit last month. "My 75 cents I hope (goes a long way)."

The City's parking fund currently is facing a \$532,951 deficit. It fol-

lows last fiscal year's deficit of nearly \$62,000, all of which was spurred by last summer's extensive reconstruction of the CVS lot and the decorative entrance arches added to several city lots.

A net operating loss of around \$91,000 was expected, given the CVS lot couldn't collect revenue for an extended period and the fact the City offered free 90-minute parking in The Village parking structure to off-

See AUDIT, page 5A

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See our LIFE section

Trees aglow on Kercheval

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Kercheval Christmas tree and all it represents is visible to anyone who looks its way.

"The heart of the community is happening right here," said Mayor Michele Hodges during tree-lighting festivities Saturday evening, Nov. 30, in the traffic circle on Kercheval at Wayburn. "This is where the magic is."

At least 200 people attended the event, organized by the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association and for which a portion of the roadway was temporarily closed to traffic.

Attractions included two fired warming stations. They



In addition to the Christmas tree in the traffic circle at Kercheval and Wayburn, 47 trees in the Kercheval business district are draped with festive lights.

PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

served as welcome counterpoints to upper 20-degree temperatures made biting by a steady wind and light but large flakes of snow.

"A snowflake just came down from the sky and hit me in the eye," said a man from out of nowhere.

Some stores and restaurants hosted live musical performances within. Prior to the lighting, members of the Grosse Pointe South High School choir serenaded with carols. Afterward another group gave an outdoor concert at Red Crown Cantina.

"I'd like to welcome you to the first annual Grosse Pointe Park tree-lighting ceremony at the roundabout," Lisa Brancato, an association member and partner in the Sprout House Natural

See AGLOW, page 2A

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

Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Andrea Harp

Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Chief of staff at the Michigan Science Center.



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PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

What a parade!

Students in the combined Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high school marching bands played in the annual Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade, presented by the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce. Spectators and participants alike braved snowy weather for the parade, which flowed along Kercheval from Grosse Pointe Farms to the City of Grosse Pointe. For more photos, see page 9A.

AGLOW:

Continued from page 1A

Foods Market, told the crowd.

"I hope everyone's enjoying themselves tonight," said association President Trenton Chamberlain, a chef and operations director of Brick's Pizzeria, LeRouge Boulangerie, Red Crown and Brine Oyster House.

"I'm so proud of our community banding together and celebrating the holidays like this," Hodges said. "All you have to do is look around and see the magic."

The date of the lighting coincided with Small Business Saturday, a nationwide pro-local shopping campaign established 17 years ago by American Express.

"We are thrilled to have this wonderful community of supporters to allow us to be small businesses and serve you as our com-

munity," Brancato told attendees. "Thanks for supporting us on Small Business Saturday and spending your dollars here in your community."

Some of the businesses cited are affiliated with the owner of the Grosse Pointe News.



PHOTO BY BRAD LINDBERG

Lisa Brancato and Trenton Chamberlain represent the sponsoring Grosse Pointe Park Business Association during the celebration.

STR:

Continued from page 1A

established short-term rental operators to be grandfathered, meaning they may continue doing business if they meet the new ordinance's stan-

dards within 120 days of the measure being adopted.

"Established' shall mean the property was being operated as a short-term rental and possessed a valid certificate of occupancy and landlord business license at

the time this ordinance was adopted," according to Section 3.13 of the draft.

"If we had our way, there wouldn't be any short-term rentals in the city," Commission Chairman Patrick Coletta said. "But, I also understand from having talked with the city attorney that we cannot legally stop short-term rentals that are operating from operating once we adopt the ordinance."

The draft bans new short-term rentals from opening in residential neighborhoods. New short-term rentals are restricted to mixed-use districts where residential and commercial oper-

ations intermingle, such as above storefronts on lower sections of Jefferson, Kercheval, Charlevoix and Mack Avenue.

A practical ban

"This is functionally a ban on short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods in the Park," Coletta said of the draft. "The sooner we have an ordinance in place, the sooner we can enforce it. This is the way we can get as close to banning STRs as possible."

Resident Tom Steiber spoke against short-term rentals, particularly grandfathering.

"The big focus is on grandfathering people," he said. "I don't know why it's the focus to try to protect someone that hasn't been playing by the rules. 'Short-term rental' is nothing more than a fancy term for 'absentee landlord.'"

"This marks the best path forward in making sure bad actors are kept out of the business of short-term rentals in the Park," Coletta said.

"A number of (short-term rentals) have been operating (in the Park) for a decade," Commissioner Jimmy Saros said. "So, we're not letting this into our community. This (draft) allows the city to do its job and regulate it."

Provisions of the draft empower the city to shut down rental operators for not meeting standards. Three violations qualify offenders to be put out of business.

Commission Vice Chairman Michael Vethacke said the draft is more restrictive than the status quo.

"The people who benefit most by us not having this ordinance are the bad actors because (currently) there's no licensing requirement, no escalating punishment," Vethacke said. "It doesn't go all the way to completely banning (short-term) rentals, but to do so would be to penalize those owners who are responsible. This is a good middle ground."

"The draft ordinance represents an opportunity for us to regulate short-

term rentals on our own terms consistent with our own values," Commissioner Kristin Taylor said. "It gives a path to sanction nuisance short-term rental owners that we didn't have before."

Mayor Michele Hodges, a member of the commission, said the draft represents a balance between allowing and regulating short-term rentals.

"We've been reasonable and practical in our approach to this and found that sweet spot that does address all the concerns," she said.

Dave King, a Park resident and operator of a short-term rental in the city, stressed the role good operators can have.

"We operators have an opportunity to be ambassadors for the community," King said.

For all the work commissioners have put into writing the draft, their role in city government is advisory.

"Ultimately, the council makes the decision," said Morgan Martin, city attorney.

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Out of sight, but not out of mind: Fix your vein problems before shorts season returns



By Paul Gryzenia, M.D.

As the weather gets colder and we are past bare-legs season, it's the perfect time to think about how to solve any Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI) one might have. CVI is a common condition that can cause discomfort, unsightly varicose veins, and even more serious complications.

CVI occurs when the one-way valves in your leg veins become damaged, allowing blood to pool instead of flowing back to the heart. This increased pressure can lead to symptoms such as leg swelling, heaviness, fatigue, and cramping, as well as visible varicose veins. In severe cases, it can result in painful venous ulcers—open sores that are difficult to heal.

The good news is that CVI can be effectively treated. Diagnosis is made through a clinical exam and a non-invasive ultrasound. If CVI is confirmed, a minimally invasive procedure called endovenous laser ablation (EVLA) can provide lasting relief. During this outpatient procedure, a thin laser fiber is inserted into the affected vein. Heat from the laser seals the vein, redirecting blood flow to healthier veins. The procedure is performed under local anesthetic, takes about an hour, and patients typically go home the same day.

Treating CVI in the fall and winter allows for healing under cooler weather clothing, ensuring you're ready for the return of shorts and dresses in the warmer months. Recovery is quick, and most patients notice significant improvements shortly after treatment.

There's no reason to live with the discomfort or embarrassment of CVI. A quick consultation with a specialist can help determine the best treatment option for you.

Dr. Paul Gryzenia is the Chief of Radiology at Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital, located at 468 Cadieux Road in Grosse Pointe, and a specialist at the Grosse Pointe Vein Center at 87 Kercheval Ave, Suite 100, in Grosse Pointe Farms.



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Owen Stratton, Brittany Stratton and Alba Stratton stand with friends Lya Ostroski, Diana Ostrowski and Matthew Ostrowski in front of The Village Christmas tree.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lighting up The Village

The City of Grosse Pointe and City of Grosse Pointe Foundation hosted the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony Friday, Nov. 22. The event included hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting and carols sung by the Grosse Pointe South Choir.



The Grosse Pointe South Choir singing Christmas carols.



Left, Mason Philbrick waits while his toasted marshmallow fire goes out so he can make a s'more. Right, John Shook with the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation and City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak stand with Julian Roman Michaels, with his parents Makenzie Michaels and Nick Roman; Sloane Spice representing SideStreet Diner; Mia Doucet representing Posterity Art & Framing Gallery; and Kercheval Dance students Natalie Linsdau and Gwyn Linsdau. The youngsters, each representing a different Village business, helped pull the switch to light the tree.



Erla Qorraj stands with the Grinch and his elf.



'Tis the season for ID theft

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — During the Christmas shopping season, most acts of giving start with getting.

To give a Christmas gift, a giver must buy one.

Scammers are capitalizing on that dynamic to lure cellphone users into giving away their personal financial information.

There isn't much police can do about it, so they advise people to be their own line of defense.

They tell people not to respond to unsolicited, unusual, suspicious and out-of-character text messages. The same with emails.

A typical text messaging scam works this way: Someone pretending to be from the U.S. Postal Service sends a text about a delivery that is being delayed due to an improper ZIP code or similar variable.

"Please confirm the zip code address information on the link within 24 hours," the fake text reads, at least in one instance.

Scammers even get chummy: "Have a great day from the USPS

team!"

The text is unsolicited. The parcel to which it refers is for a purchase the cellphone user never made. Scammers send the text to countless cellphone users in what cybercrime-fighters call a smishing expedition. Smishing stands for SMS, short messaging service.

"Smishing is a social messaging attack that uses fake mobile text messages to trick people into downloading malware, sharing sensitive information or sending money to cybercriminals," according to a June 2024 IBM notice on the topic.

Smishers have odds on their side. They use a wide net in a well-stocked pond, especially during the busy season of giving. Some 64 percent of holiday shoppers this year plan to buy most of their gifts online, according to a Nov. 14 press release from Retail Drive, an internet-based source of retail industry news.

Only a few smishing victims are needed to make the expedition pay off.

"They're trying to get you to click on a link,"

See THEFT, page 9A

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 9

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Communities United in Diversity meeting, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Farms City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 10

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens' Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

Farms picks up judicial, drone liability coverage

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — A one-year renewal of the Farms' property and liability insurance will run about \$2,900 more than budgeted thanks to the additions of judicial and drone liability coverage to its Trident Insurance plan through Nickel and Saph Agency.

The public safety department purchased two drones in 2023. For an additional \$561 annually, the city will be covered for bodily injury and property damage to third parties.

Adding judicial liability coverage is more a situation of dotting i's and crossing t's, as the city long has had elected official coverage.

"We've been told now that technically even though your judges are elected officials, they don't fall under the same coverage guideline as your elected officials on city council," City Manager Shane Reeside said. "And there's a state requirement that you have a certain amount of coverage, so we're just making sure we fulfill that."

"I would make an argument that we did have coverage in the past, but this takes away any doubt."

The coverage protects the judge for attorney fees, judicial disciplinary proceedings, professional and managerial liability and employment practices liability.

Because Judge Charles Berschback presides in both the Farms and Shores, the second Pointe may contribute to the \$2,460 annual cost.

"They have a different carrier, but with that said, we have requested that the Shores be added to our policy," Reeside said. "So they would have coverage under our policy and then in that case, if that's granted, we would split that cost of that coverage with Grosse

Pointe Shores."

The Farms began contracting with Nickel and Saph for its liability and insurance coverage in 2022, because of the company's \$10 million in sewer backup coverage not offered by other providers.

The renewal includes a 7.41 percent, or \$29,429, increase over last year, for a total cost of \$429,123 for coverage through early December 2025.

"The original proposal received by Nickel and Saph from their underwriters was an additional \$14,085," noted a memo from Farms Finance Director Tim Rowland. "They went back to the underwrit-

ers and were able to get them to reduce the premium (by) 3 percent. Our increase of 7.41 percent is less than the increase received by neighboring communities and reflects the current insurance marketplace.

"While the year-over-year increases are burdensome, staff feels it is in the best interest of the city to continue with Nickel and Saph due to their ability to provide \$10 million in sewer backup coverage that no other provider can offer."

The renewal passed city council 6-0, with Councilwoman Sierra Donaven absent, Monday, Nov. 11.



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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

A day in the life at the Michigan Science Center

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

“Certainly the best part of working here is all the screaming kiddos and there’s usually something exploding,” said Andrea Harp, who clocks in as chief of staff at the Michigan Science Center each day among throngs of school children on field trips — and wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I think the very first time I came here at age 19, I was a camp counselor and fell in love with this place and wondered, ‘How do I get a job working here?’”

Tucking away that

dream, she finished school and worked at a series of nonprofits in the metro Detroit area and in Jackson — last, but not the least of which was Operation HOPE, arming young people with financial literacy.

Shortly after moving to Grosse Pointe Woods with her husband, Dr. Ernest Harp, funding was cut and her position ended. At the same time, the Michigan Science Center — also known as Mi-Sci — was hiring for the STEMinista Project, which focuses on getting fourth- through eighth-grade girls interested in STEM careers and partnering them with men-

tors in those fields.

Harp was hired on the spot as the program’s community partnership manager and started the next day.

She organically stepped into her current roles as chief of staff and director of culture and community in 2021 — “A little bit of ‘preparation meets being at the right place at the right time,’” she said — when the organization needed someone to act as a stabilizing agent as it transitioned through the pandemic.

Now going on six years working among the hustle and bustle of the Michigan Science Center, a typical day for Harp could be as grand as launching the Young Professional Advisory Council as a way to recruit the next generation to help Mi-Sci grow and from which the first chairperson already has become a full-fledged board member; or heading up Illuminate, the largest event held each year as a thank-you celebration for supporters.

It could also look like serving as a thought partner to the CEO, working with all of Mi-Sci’s teams to ensure everyone is moving in the same direction, troubleshooting and brainstorming solutions when projects face a hiccup and creating a space



COURTESY PHOTOS

Andrea Harp, center, with her husband, Dr. Ernest Harp, and daughter, Ashlyn McClelland. Harp recently graduated among class 44 of the Leadership Detroit program through the Detroit Regional Chamber.

where people want to work and feel like their work is important and meaningful.

“The leadership journey has really been one of reflection for me and one where I’ve had some really great folks that have poured into me and so I feel a responsibility to do that for our staff,” Harp said. “A lot of work that I do every single day is helping our team show up as whomever they are and be their best and do their best. And I love the role because every day is different. No two days look the same.”

The mom of a freshman Norseman is continually growing professionally and personally, as is the thread running throughout her life — one that got its start while she was raised as the kid of two pastors in Milwaukee — of finding work and hobbies that are meaningful.

She serves on the Leadership and Field Development Committee for the Association of Science and Technology Centers and previously served both as an advisory board member for the Blue Devil Scholars through Lawrence Tech University and on the editorial advisory board of Youth for Global Health, an organization

focused on clean water and sanitation around the world.

Any free time not dedicated to school pick up and drop off or taking care of dinner is spent on violin lessons at Grosse Pointe Music Academy, a pursuit she recently picked back up after nearly three decades, and her goal of reading a book a month throughout 2024 — many from her favorite bookstore, Next Chapter Books on East Warren.

Though she highly recommends “Slow Productivity: The Lost Art of Accomplishment without Burnout” by Cal Newport, her philosophy on work-life balance came from a colleague.

“She said it’s more important to have harmony in your life,” Harp recalled. “Meaning some days are going to be long work days and I don’t and won’t have a ton of time for my family or (hobbies), but then there will be times where I have to pull away from (work) and really spend time with my family.”

“So just more of that ebb and flow and knowing every day is not going to perfectly mesh together. ... It just works better to let it come as it needs to and be in the places that I need to be present in the moment

and then move on to the next thing.”

The best moments may see her being present with her husband at Lions games, with her daughter, Ashlyn, hanging out at STEMinista programs through the years or with them both at their home in the Woods, where the family was drawn to the sense of community and nostalgia.

“Our block still has block parties, which when we got there, I was like, ‘You do what?’,” she said. “I grew up doing that, but to have that where everybody brings a dish and the kids ride their bikes until midnight when the streets are closed off, it’s pretty cool.”

In her pursuit of earning enough money to supply 3-year-old labradoodle Gizmo with as much food as possible, Harp is thankful to be able to do so at Mi-Sci, where young people — such as a high school docent with aims to be a paleontologist — get their first opportunities in an environment focused on science.

“I took a selfie with that young person (to capture) that moment, because one day maybe I’ll be reading about her in National Geographic with some discovery that she’s made,” Harp said, “and feeling like maybe we were a part of that.”



Harp, right, and daughter Ashlyn participating in a STEMinista event at The Michigan Science Center.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Washington porch pirates

Shortly after being delivered by FedEx, a package containing a \$1,200 iPhone Pro Max was stolen off a porch in the 500 block of Washington at 12:50 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20. The suspect fled in a silver Chevrolet Trailblazer.

A package containing a \$1,100 iPhone 16 then was stolen off a porch in the 400 block of Washington at 3:50 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29, shortly after being delivered by FedEx. The suspect fled in a silver Jeep Cherokee.

Bad influence

Officers were dispatched a number of times to a local hospital for unruly patients, including for assault, throughout the weekend of Friday, Nov. 22.

They returned at 2:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, when two female staff members got into a fight.

Stolen bike

An unlocked \$400 black Mongoose bike with orange and grey detailing was stolen from outside a store in the 17000 block of Kercheval between 1:20 and 1:50 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, while the owner was shopping.

4 for the price of 1

A 2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen from a driveway in the 500 block of Lakeland Monday, Nov. 25, but was recovered in Detroit a short time later along with three other stolen vehicles.

Fool me once

The same suspect stole around \$400 worth of

beer and wine on three occasions in the course of a week from a business in the 16000 block of Kercheval.

The suspect is described as a short, bald, white man in his late 50s.

Chanel

A Chanel order worth \$364 fraudulently was ordered using a Grosse Pointe woman's name, email and phone number at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 25.

Early start

After being found slumped over the wheel in traffic at Jefferson and Dodge Place at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, a 43-year-old Woods man was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Tag team

Arriving together at a business in the 19000 block of Mack at 10:42 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, one suspect purchased a water bottle and tobacco, after which another asked to see a \$163 bottle of Don Julio 1942 from the top shelf and took it without paying.

The two left in a silver Chrysler Town and Country and are described as black men in their 20s. One was wearing a black hoodie, black pants and a surgical mask. The other had a mustache and wore a red hoodie with a black

stripe and black pants.

Lights out

A 24-year-old Chesterfield woman was arrested on an assault and battery warrant out of Detroit after being pulled over at Mack and Moross for a broken headlight at 8:29 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24.

Home sweet home

A 59-year-old Clinton Township man said he was on his way to his mother's house when he was pulled over for erratic driving on Lakeshore at 3:18 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The man was unable to stand without assistance and a preliminary breath test showed his blood alcohol content to be 0.303 percent, for which he was arrested.

Woods wallet

While shopping at a store in the 20000 block of Mack at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 27, an 80-year-old Woods woman's wallet was stolen from her open purse, which was sitting in the child seat of her shopping cart.

Before realizing it was missing, one of her debit cards was used to make a \$213.91 purchase at a gas station on Mack.

No limit

An unknown vehicle left the scene after hitting a speed limit sign on the median at Lakeshore and Moran at 6:46 p.m. Friday, Nov. 29.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe

Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Park

Timely warning

Chief Jim Bostock warns residents to guard against lawbreakers who regard the season of giving as an opportunity to take things that belong to others.

"Larceny of packages from porches and vehicles are typically crimes of opportunity that spike around this time of year," Bostock said. "Let's do our part by locking our doors, taking our packages inside and keeping tempting items out of plain sight."

He'd like residents to be on the lookout for each other.

"Be a good neighbor," he said. "If you see something suspicious, call public safety and let us check it out."

Smashed window

An hour after sunrise Monday, Nov. 25, the owner of a 2019 Chevy Trax parked the prior afternoon in the 1000

block of Wayburn discovered the vehicle's driver-side window broken.

Police logged the report as vandalism.

Out of it

Police arrested a 29-year-old Grosse Pointe Farms man at 12:01 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 1, as he sat clueless on the front porch of a house in the 1100 block of Three Mile Drive.

"Officers responded to the location on a report of an unknown male banging on the doors," according to police. "The window in the front door had been broken out. (He) was extremely intoxicated and unaware of where he was."

Police cited him for malicious destruction of property and being disorderly.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.



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AUDIT:

Continued from page 1A

set inconvenience to shoppers.

The liability includes \$400,000 the City loaned the parking enterprise fund from its general fund in May — set at a 3 percent interest rate, it has 10 years to pay it back — and its high-dollar amount now will require the city to file a deficit reduction plan with the state.

"The city is going to have to put something together to say, all right, well, we have a deficit of \$500,000," Tawa explained to council. "What's the plan to get out of it?"

Next year, a net income is anticipated for the parking fund, he added.

On the flip side, the marina fund turned around a \$121,508 deficit in 2022, to a net positive of \$109,967 this year.

As a whole, the City's balance in its general and capital projects funds combined increased approximately \$100,000.

Revenue in the general fund increased across the board thanks to taxable value and state shared revenue increasing, FEMA funding, contributions from the Grosse Pointe Foundation to purchase police equipment and a nearly \$69,000 return on investment income.

General fund expenditures also saw increases mainly due to salaries and insurance benefits in governmental services, public safety and public works, as well as in the recreation and culture subcategory due to various maintenance projects throughout the city.

While the City's pension liability is 99.07 percent funded, its Other Post Employment Benefits — retiree health care — liability sits at 13 percent funded.

The state wants municipalities to be at least 40 percent funded, but the City operates with a pay-as-you-go plan, setting aside \$500,000 from its general fund each year.

"I do know many municipalities are at zero," Tawa said. "... It's actually a very, very small percentage that are fully funded. The reason that OPEB usually is not as funded as pension is because historically the pension system is required to have extra contributions that go toward future payments. OPEB had a requirement just to pay as you go."

"... So this was under the radar for all municipalities, ourselves included, and all of a sudden they sprang it on us."

The City's audit for fiscal year 2023-24 was presented during its last council meeting Monday, Nov. 18.

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POINTES OF VIEW

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

Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Thoughts on Trombly, Tuttle

The time leading up to Election Day often is known in political circles as the “silly season.” Now, exactly one month removed from casting our votes at the ballot box, it appears some want to keep that season going as it pertains to the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

For some reason, the phrase “strategic review” seems to keep popping up. As they also say in the world of politics, it sounds to us more like a dog whistle than a serious proposition.

It first surfaced during budget discussions in spring 2023, when it was brought up by former Trustee David Brumbaugh and supported by Trustees Valarie St. John and Colleen Worden.

Luckily, the “board majority” (another popular dog whistle the past two years) forged ahead with a fiscally responsible budget. Was it painful? Yes. Was it necessary? Yes. It stopped three consecutive years of overspending. The result of that 2023-24 fiscal year budget was a surplus of \$1 million and an increase in the district’s fund balance for the first time in three years.

We are not quite sure, however, what those who use the phrase mean. What parts of the district’s operations do they not understand? And what do they think such a project would reveal? The budget? Capital assets? Number of employees? Facilities Director Ben Matteson probably could tell you how many doorknobs each of the district’s 13 buildings has off the top of his head.

Maybe it is code for delay and stall rather than making tough decisions. We prefer Superintendent Andrea Tuttle’s mantra of moving forward together. We do not need to return to the early years of this decade.

She and her fantastic central office team are basically in perpetual strategic review mode. Curriculum, technology, security, staffing, maintenance, money. Even their spreadsheets have spreadsheets. The reams of information they put together over the spring and summer on how the money would be spent should the new sinking fund millage pass was the epitome of a strategic review.

As Board President Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, said in his closing statement at last month’s meeting, requests for studies he has been presented always are “a solution in search of a problem.”

The phrase was resurrected on a few occasions at the board’s meeting last month, the first regarding the discussion to reopen Trombly Elementary School.

Dr. Tuttle presented, as the board had asked, dollar figures and associated projects required to reopen the building. The most reasonable came in at \$5.8 million. As Mr. Cotton explained, that could be achieved without using any money from the new sinking fund. That includes about \$1.5 million from the sale of Poupard Elementary School and the 389 St. Clair building, remaining money from the 2018 improvement bond and money from the current sinking fund millage, which will net the district \$3.5 million as it expires this month.

Oh, and about that bond. The \$5.8 million to reopen Trombly is just about the same amount of money the district told families south of Jefferson would be spent on the school in 2018 when the improvement bond was put to a vote.

As Vice President Ahmed Ismail noted at the last meeting, there were Post-It notes all over the building touting the improvements that would be

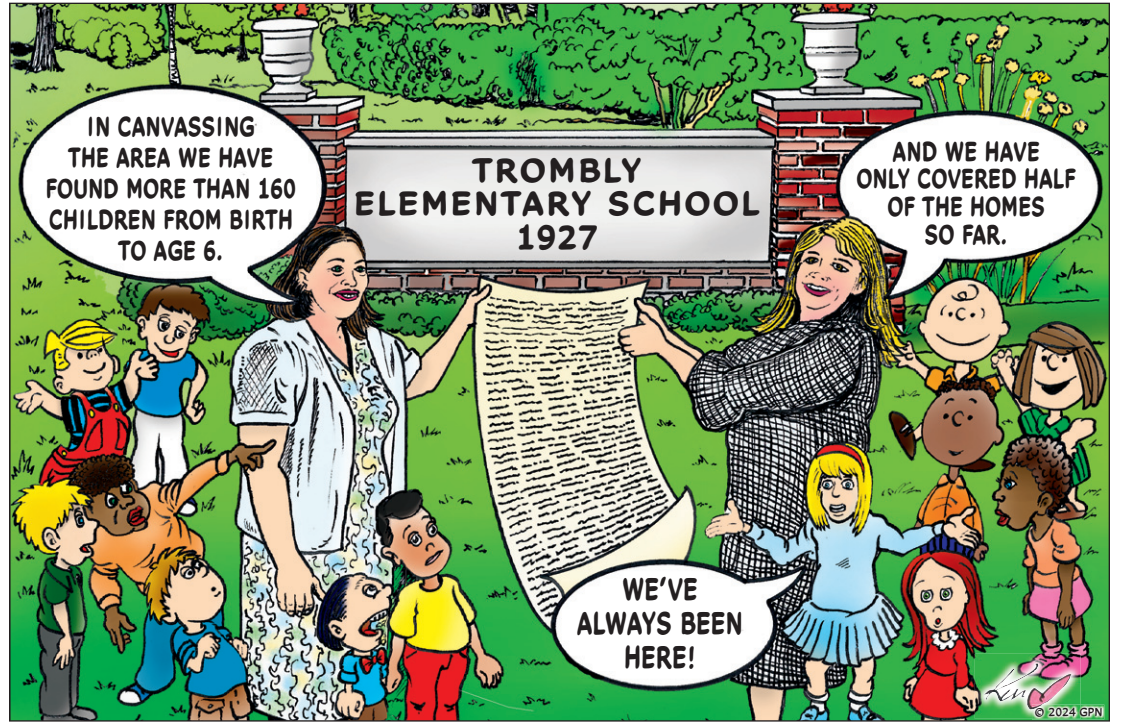


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

made. Within months of the bond passing, it was announced Trombly and Poupard would close.

That voters in Grosse Pointe Park still turned out to support the new sinking fund millage doubles the district’s obligation to reopen Trombly, Mr. Ismail said.

As Dr. Tuttle said, the information she provided was to start a discussion about Trombly and she was not making any recommendation one way or the other. Those who spoke against the plan again mentioned a strategic review that should be conducted when the new board is seated in January. The new board members will have to spend a lot of time getting up to speed on a number of projects, but already there is plenty of detail available on Trombly.

We hope they do not let this become a situation where they cannot see the forest for the trees.

Beyond the dollar amounts, there are the people numbers. There are 461 students at Defer Elementary School — the most crowded of the seven elementary schools — of which 174 would be going to Trombly were it still open.

Renee Jakubowski and Janine Eckert, who helped coordinate the state historical marker placed at the school in June, told the board in canvassing the area they found more than 160 children from birth to age 6 after knocking on about half the doors in the Trombly catchment area.

And in one of the most eloquent public comments we have ever heard, Matt Kahl told the board he lives in the 800 block of Westchester and there have been 11 babies born on the block in the last four years with another one on the way.

“It’s not lost on us that our front yards are filled with preschoolers and our backyards are filled with a beautiful, empty elementary school.”

As for Dr. Tuttle, we applaud the board in giving her the highest possible rating in her performance review, as well as a contract extension and fiscal protections should the new makeup of the board grow unhappy with her fiscal responsibility, attention to detail and push to finally increase enrollment.

Given her success in a short amount of time here, it would not surprise us if other districts around the state would consider trying to poach her.

It is true that in April 2022, in this very same space, we questioned why the board would consider a contract extension for the previous superintendent after serving in the position for roughly the same amount of time as Dr. Tuttle.

You can see the previous Our View at grossepointenews.com/articles/our-view-extension-too-soon/

There are several reasons why we feel dif-

ferently this time around. First, the Michigan Association of School Boards recommends superintendent evaluations be conducted on an annual cycle, occurring in November or December. The former superintendent had previously only served at the deputy level. Dr. Tuttle has 15 years of experience as a superintendent.

The previous superintendent, in that role and as deputy superintendent, saw the district lose enrollment, overspend by millions of dollars and decrease the fund balance.

As noted above, last fiscal year’s budget ended with a surplus and added to the fund balance. Admittedly, Dr. Tuttle was only here for less than half of that fiscal year, but her leadership certainly played some role in that outcome, not to mention the current fiscal year budget is balanced and early projections show the district beating budgeted enrollment.

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.

The Helm has it all

To the Editor:

I moved to Grosse Pointe Shores in December 2023, and shortly thereafter learned about The Helm, the senior center in the Pointes and available for use by the senior residents in all five Pointes and Harper Woods. What a great find that was!

I am 86 years old and have never found such a wonderful organization for seniors to gather that has so many great services and programs to participate in. I cannot understand how any seniors of the Pointes or Harper Woods could not find something they are interested in or services that might be helpful at times.

I want to publicly thank the administration, staff and volunteers of this marvelous organization. If you are not familiar with The Helm, you should make a point to find out about it. You will be glad you did.

They have so many great programs, projects and services, some of which I now use. There are Meals on Wheels, the tax service, loans of medical equipment and the bus service. The bus takes you throughout the area, is reasonably priced and you can go one-way or roundtrip. I was delighted to use the bus, which will take my pet and me to the veterinarian. They are the only ones that will take us. Since I don’t drive any longer, I greatly appreciate this. I use it to get to other appointments as well. And I know there are many more services, programs and projects I still have to learn about.

The Helm also hosts two catered luncheons during the year for a reasonable cost. They have various programs and social gatherings as well and what a great

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70%	30%	50%	0%	30%	55%	50%	
SUNRISE 7:47 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:47 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:51 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 4:58 pm	

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I SAY By Mike Adzima

Picking up the pieces after 'The Game'



I'm confident in saying most of you reading this felt like I did in the days and weeks leading up to Saturday, Nov. 30. With the University of Michigan football team limping through the season and trying to find its footing in the wake of so many key pieces from last year's national championship team leaving, it felt like there was not much of a chance of them beating Ohio State.

However, we all forgot that the maize-and-blue-winged helmets do something to the Buckeyes now. Ever since 2021, everything

changed. Ohio State coach Ryan Day simply cannot get out of his own way when he sees the Wolverines on the other side of the field.

Michigan's three straight victories over Ohio State from 2021 to 2023 felt much different than what we all watched on Saturday; 2021 was a bit of an upset, but it was clear Michigan was a team on the rise at that point, ready to finally get over the hump and compete for titles. In 2022 and 2023, it seemed like the Wolverines were just the better team.

Last Saturday's edition of "The Game" was the opposite of recent years. Instead of both teams entering the matchup with both Big Ten Conference and national championship aspirations, only one team had hopes for that. With everything in front of them and what should

have been an easy win over their biggest rivals to finally get revenge for three consecutive losses, the Buckeyes let it all slip away.

I've never been a huge fan of Michigan football. In fact, for much of my life I detested them since I was a Michigan State Spartans fan. I've become more neutral in recent years since I went to neither the University of Michigan nor Michigan State. I'm now fully loyal to my Syracuse University Orange, who pulled off the second-biggest upset in college football last Saturday by beating sixth-ranked Miami.

Even as a neutral observer of the Michigan and Ohio State rivalry Saturday, I relished in the irony of the Buckeyes losing. The loss summed up everything that has gone wrong for Ohio State in the Ryan Day

era.

Day trips over himself in big games, especially against Michigan. The Wolverines are his boogeyman. All he had to do to win last Saturday was have his quarterback throw the ball to any one of the Buckeyes' NFL-caliber wide receivers. Instead, he lost his team the game by wanting to prove a point.

Over the last three years when Ohio State has lost to Michigan, Day kept hearing the same thing over and over. He had to listen to everyone talk about how the Wolverines won by being the tougher team. So, Day came out Saturday and wanted to prove that the Buckeyes are the physical force to be feared.

He wanted to run the ball down Michigan's throat just like the Wolverines did to him each of the last three

years. However, with an offensive line that was down several key pieces, that probably was not the smartest idea by Coach Day. Instead of changing it, he kept trying and failing to the point where Ohio State finished the game with only 77 yards rushing on 26 attempts.

Yes, part of the blame also can be placed on Ohio State QB Will Howard throwing two interceptions both in key spots on the field. But those still aren't enough to overshadow Day's poor game planning.

The only thing now that feels like it could save Ryan Day's career at Ohio State would be winning a national championship this season. Even that would feel a bit bittersweet and awkward. Buckeye fans want to beat Michigan and Day has proven that

he can't. Any postseason success that might come after an embarrassing loss to the program's biggest rival would feel empty for the fanbase.

Even if Ohio State ends up making it to the national championship, Michigan still gets the last laugh. The Buckeyes can be in the College Football Playoff, but the Wolverines can still be laughing and talking smack from the Bad Boy Mowers Pinstripe Bowl or wherever they end up to close the year.

As for the on-field brawl between the two teams after the game, of course, it's something nobody wants to see. Nobody comes out as a winner in that case and both sides could have handled the situation better. But you know the best way to prevent your biggest rival from planting their flag in your stadium? Win the game!

Park retains health care control

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City officials retained flexibility in managing employee healthcare benefits by once again opting out of a state law limiting the amount public employers can contribute to employee health care premiums.

"Historically, the Park has opted out," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

The city council agreed to do so again. Members voted unanimously Nov. 12, to accept the opt-out component of Michigan Public Act 152, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution

Act of 2011.

The act caps the amount of money a public employer pays for employee health care benefits. Adherence essentially limits the amount the Park can spend on its workforce's medical care.

Park officials opted out. Instead, they chose to exceed the act's spending cap and, by doing so, offer better benefits to retain and attract good employees.

"The opt out for this year is about \$130,000," Sizeland said. "We wanted to save the employees \$130,000 they otherwise would pay proportionally across calendar year 2025. That will

be spread over two fiscal years."

He said the Park and the other Grosse Pointes operate a self-funded pool with a Blue Cross Blue Shield benefits plan.

"The city's projecting almost a 6 percent reduction in healthcare costs (from last fiscal year), which is huge when the trend was a 7 percent (increase) or more," Sizeland said. "When compared with negotiations with our collective bargaining with public safety, dispatch, public works and non-represented staff, we're able to work with employees on health savings account reductions, which help us financially."

He said the Park is preparing another round of open enrollment for employees to pick medical, dental and vision care plans.

"As a benefit enhancement, we are also looking to provide a flexible spending account," Sizeland said. "This is something we're trying to look at for future and (current) employees, how can we retain and attract talent. That new

account allows you to use it for daycare, pre-K, au pair, also for elderly care. The employee can contribute up to \$5,000. They have to spend it by the end of the year. There is no cost to the city. We're not providing any dollars into that."

Another enhancement came from changing dental coverage providers.

"Our coverage is increasing from 50 to 80 percent, which benefits the employee," Sizeland said. "Before, we were only able to get prescrip-

tion glasses every 24 months. Now we can do that every year."

Councilman Max Wiener said better benefits will help attract and retain good employees.

"I commend you on being proactive," he told Sizeland.

"We have to find a way to reduce these costs over time," Sizeland said. "The way healthcare is trending, continuing to ask to opt out is very difficult as inflation is going up and, most likely, changes will need to be made."

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

place to meet other seniors who might just become a cherished friend.

Their administrators, staff and volunteers are absolutely fantastic. They are knowledgeable, courteous, helpful and respectful to everyone. They are there to help and certainly do. Thanks to all those great people at The Helm for their wonderful programs,

events and services that are available to me and others.

I hope more seniors become familiar and that I may meet some new folks at The Helm OR maybe on the bus.

GERRI BEAUGRAND
Grosse Pointe Shores

Not supported

To the Editor:

Trombly and Poupard were closed after much research and discussion. Poupard is close to being sold for housing pur-

poses. Trombly should also be sold either to a charter school or for housing. But now that the Grosse Pointe Public School System is flush with money from the recent mileage, the powers that be find this money is burning a hole in their pockets.

Wake up! The demographics didn't and still don't support reopening another elementary school.

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8A | NEWS

HOME:

Continued from page 1A

cial and members of the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation, DiVirgil expressed her gratitude for Full Circle's journey.

"It's incredible to think that 15 years ago, we were selling used homecoming dresses in the hallways of Grosse Pointe North and now we're gathering in front of the new forever home of the Full Circle Foundation—A.A. Van Elslander Campus," she said. "... This state-of-the-art facility will open countless new and innovative opportunities for adults with special needs in our community."

DiVirgil thanked the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation for its support.

"Your belief in us, your willingness to give us a chance and your resounding yes made this possible," she said.

Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michelle Hodges also addressed attendees.

"Communities that are strong have a rich ecosystem that supports them. ... That's what's happening here," she said. "... Add to that ecosystem the richness of the Van Elslander Foundation's support. ... In so many ways you've made us come full circle."

While Full Circle's new home — officially named the Full Circle Foundation—A.A. Van Elslander Campus — won't be open for business for a while, its necessity to Full Circle is immediate.

The need

The building in which Full Circle has called home since 2013, is a conglomeration of three storefronts merged into



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Dozens of Full Circle supporters attended the unveiling.

one. To navigate the building is "choppy and difficult," DiVirgil said.

It is 5,600 square feet of cramped space that houses Full Circle administrative offices, as well as two community classrooms, a handful of micro-enterprises, a small kitchen, meeting room and the organization's Upscale Resale Store, as well as limited storage space.

There's no room for Full Circle's TEAM 26 program — which helps young adults with special needs learn independence and meaningful engagement with the community while strengthening their self-worth through learning life, social and job skills, among other efforts.

"We're renting space at First English (Evangelical Lutheran) Church, which is a wonderful partnership to have," DiVirgil said. "It's perfect for what we need right now — they have a gym and a commercial kitchen — but it's not ideal to have (TEAM 26) over there and us over here."

The new buildings — which housed Henry Ford Health services — are 10 times the size of the current facility. One building, measuring 5,500 square feet on the main floor with

another 4,000 square feet in the basement, will house the Upscale Resale Store and allow for much-needed storage space.

The second building offers 14,500 square feet, as well as basement space, to house everything else, from community classrooms to TEAM 26 to administrative offices and more. It also includes 100 parking spaces.

"Both buildings, even though they're separate, we really want them to have a campus feel," DiVirgil said. "That's what the Park is doing with the police station and the library ... to make it feel like more of a campus."

The process

Full Circle has been looking for a new home for years as it slowly and steadily outgrew its current space. Its hunt for a home has led to repeated heartbreaks as locations appeared and due diligence was done, but then fell through.

"We looked at four other places before this," said Mary Fodell, Full Circle founder, listing 9 Mile and Mack, on Vernier across from Eastland Center, on Kercheval and the former Trombly Elementary School among prospective sites.

"None of them worked,"

DiVirgil said. "We put a lot of effort and resources into it. ... We would get our hopes up and they'd be dashed, get our hopes up, dashed."

The new location, Fodell said, "fell into place. Then other angels came by and helped us do it."

Gary Van Elslander, president of the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation and Art Van Elslander's eldest son, said the foundation has been keeping track of Full Circle a long time.

"It's an excellent organization that teaches entrepreneurship and helps (young adults with special needs) gain their full potential," he said. "It's the kind of place my father always liked to support."

He added that he's been following Full Circle's search for a new home and the former Henry Ford location was a unique opportunity.

"This will allow them to do so many more things," he said, "not only the resale store, but also with programming and expanding TEAM 26."

Added Diane Wells, chief operating officer with the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation, "Full Circle is so beloved in the community. It's wonderful to see them on this property. This could have become anything. To see if become a permanent home for Full Circle is a perfect fit."

New beginning

Fodell and DiVirgil have visions of what the new spaces will look like, largely thanks to architect Robert Wood.

"He's making something really lasting," Fodell said. "It will be around for 100 years. We're trying to make it quality so it lasts beyond us."

The new resale shop will be housed on the main floor of the 5,600-square-foot building; the basement will be used for storage.

"All of our off-season clothing and stuff we can't fit here (at the current location) are all being stored in Trombly's gym," DiVirgil said. "There's 70 racks and giant storage bins there. With this building, the store itself will be bigger. We'll be able to keep more merchandise on the floor and have room for storage, too. We'll be able to sell kids' clothes,

small furniture items and more of everything.

"With the new place, cars can pull up to the door, be greeted by young adults who will take their donated items into the office," she added. "It's comfortable for us and for the donors."

They hope to add a cafe serving coffee and cookies in the resale store as well.

The 14,500-square-foot building — newly remodeled following flood damage a few years ago — will allow room for "bigger, more spacious classrooms," DiVirgil said. "They already have a full commercial kitchen in the basement. And the TEAM 26 program and Full Circle Foundation offices will be there.

"The lower level has a large unfinished space like a gymnasium," she added. "We're planning on adding a stage for the choir and for theater performances."

Plans also include renting out space for meetings and dances, as well as partnering with other community nonprofits to share space.

"We'll have a parent/grandparent room," Fodell added. "We can have symposiums. Educating parents is huge and we can have guest speakers for parents."

"The possibilities are endless," DiVirgil said, "when we look at where we are now and what we will be able to do."

"There's nothing like this in Grosse Pointe or the Eastside," Fodell said. "This will be a feather in Grosse Pointe's cap. ... When you enter Grosse Pointe, it's going to be a showcase to see."

More help needed

"Both buildings are in excellent condition, structurally, and they're clean," DiVirgil said. "Everything is already ADA compliant. But we'll be knocking down walls and making it work for us."

Henry Ford Health still has access to one building, but plans to be out by mid-December. Renovation will begin shortly after.

If all goes as planned, Full Circle will celebrate the grand opening of its Upscale Resale Store by mid-to-late-summer 2025.

The second building is projected to open at the start of the 2026-27 school

year.

While the grant from the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation covered the purchase of the buildings, renovations are estimated to cost an additional \$4 million.

"They gave us a \$4 million grant for the purchase of the buildings and an additional \$1 million if the Full Circle Foundation can raise \$3 million for renovations," DiVirgil said.

Full Circle will launch a capital campaign in the spring, offering naming opportunities for legacy donors. A party also is being planned for March, with smaller events to occur the next couple of years.

"We are so grateful to the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation," DiVirgil said. "Looking at our history of trying to find a place and it falling through, finding this amazing place that seems like it was built for us was amazing. When we found out how much it would cost ... here comes the Van Elslanders. They kept us on our high."

The A.A. Van Elslander Foundation was founded in 2016, by Art Van Elslander. Cumulative personal and foundation gifts exceed \$100 million in support of Michigan communities.

"Our father set the vision for his foundation," Gary Van Elslander said, "and helping people with cognitive and developmental disabilities is a cornerstone of our mission. This gift is really an investment in the entire Grosse Pointe community, where my siblings and I were raised. We believe in Full Circle's mission, want it to be in our community for generations to come and are delighted to be part of its evolution."

Additionally, Full Circle hopes to fundraise to support an endowment to cover future operational costs, DiVirgil said.

Fodell called the move a win-win for everyone.

"This isn't just about special needs," she said. "A lot of retired teachers volunteer; it's giving them life with purpose, life with intent. A lot of seniors come to work with us. It's about living life with intention. It's the whole, round, full-circle idea. It really does take everybody in the community supporting us."

"... And it helps the school district," she added. "It brings more families to Grosse Pointe, because special needs families are going to move to areas where these services are provided."

Added DiVirgil, "It's an additional incentive. You get awesome support through regular schooling, but then when they become an adult, we help them launch and be part of the community."

AN EVENING UNDER THE
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Words cannot describe the gratitude that we at Full Circle Foundation feel towards the Grosse Pointe Community. Because of your unwavering support and continued generosity, we have been able to continue our mission and commitment to helping those with special needs.

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Detroit Mounted Police are a parade favorite.



Presenting sponsor Coreander's Children's Bookshope had a float in the parade.

THEFT:

Continued from page 3A

said Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman, head of the public safety department investigative unit. "Attached to that link will be some sort of virus or something to attach to your computer or cell phone."

Pittman is familiar with the scam. Too familiar.

"I have gotten this exact scam several times," he said.

"From USPS something?" asked Pittman's colleague, Detective Paul Pionk, overhearing the interview at police headquarters.

"Yes," Pittman said. "Sometimes they come in an email. They might be trying to extract information or give you a virus just to be nasty. It might be ransomware, demanding \$10,000 to return your contact list or something."

"The criminals want to receive personally identifiable information about the victim such as: account usernames and passwords, Social Security number, date of birth, credit and debit card numbers, personal identification numbers, or other sensitive information. This information is used to carry out other crimes, such as financial fraud," according to "Smishing: Package tracking text scams," a US Post Inspection Service warning updated June 2024.

The fake text Pittman and thousands of others received this season came from a convoluted address that contained the letters "usps," which

hint at the message being from the real U.S. Postal Service, but also contained relative gibberish ending with a top-level domain (the part after the dot) "cc/ss."

Convoluted addresses are a clue that something isn't right.

"If it's really coming from the (U.S.) Postal Service, it will be from a really easily identifiable email address, like 'usps.gov,'" Pittman said. "Scammers will send you something similar, but it just won't look right. It will be like, 'uspsabr@microspft.org,' or something weird." He made up the address.

"If it doesn't look right, it isn't right," Pittman said. "The message doesn't match the sender's email address."

Cybercrime is hard to investigate and prosecute.

"Bad actors are normally out of state and, most often than not, outside the country," Pittman said. "A lot of them are in countries that won't allow us to investigate anyway. If something comes from India, sometimes you can get something there. But in Russia, where a lot of this stuff comes from, the Russian government will not cooperate in any investigation of identity theft."

"I think they encourage it," said Detective Pionk, recipient of a department citation recently for solving a case of identity theft.

"As long as they don't attack anybody in the homeland, they encourage them to send out ransomware," Pittman said of Russians.

On parade

Above, Santa and Mrs. Claus are the stars of the parade. Left, Toni Urso Salvador, aka Christmas Carol, cheerfully greets parade goers.



Above, the Lucas family with their dog, Bentley, wore matching pajamas to walk in the parade. Right, a stilt walker perfectly keeps her balance during the parade.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

After more than 50 years of serving the community with Big Boy, the Curis family is excited to announce the next chapter in our journey with the launch of **Daily Jam**. This new concept will be a fresh take on breakfast, lunch and brunch, combining modern flavors with the warm, welcoming atmosphere our customers have come to expect. With this change, Big Boy will officially be closing Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, marking the end of an era.

As we say goodbye to generations of customers who have become like family, we're pleased to share that many of your favorite servers and staff members will continue on with us, ensuring you'll see familiar, friendly faces in **Daily Jam** when it opens in the spring. So, make sure you come in and get your favorites while you're out for holiday shopping and enjoy one last Big Boy experience.

As we look toward the next 50 years, **Daily Jam** embodies our commitment to quality, consistency and a customer-first approach. While our roots are in the traditions of Big Boy, our passion for bringing people together around the table continues to drive us forward. We believe **Daily Jam** will become a beloved gathering place, offering chef-inspired dishes and memorable dining in a vibrant setting. We're grateful for the unwavering support our community has shown us through the years and are excited to serve you with the same dedication and heart in this new venture.

Sincerely,

The Curis Family



10A | SCHOOLS

Going for the gold at Parcels

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Similar to the Olympics, students at Parcels Middle School have a chance to win bronze, silver or gold medallions, but they basically are competing against themselves rather than other students.

"It's a friendly competition that gets kids talking about academics," Principal Jason Wesley said. "We're trying to set them up for success in high school and beyond."

It's an idea the first-year principal brought from a previous district.

"I had a student approach me a long time ago and he told me everyone knew the kids who

were always getting sent to the office for bad behavior," he said, "but no one knew kids like him who didn't cause problems."

Students have an opportunity to receive a medallion each quarter of the school year. They feature the school mascot — a panther — the school name and the words "respect," "responsibility," "self-discipline" and "intelligence." Wesley refers to them as medallions, rather than medals, because they are not entirely solid.

"They earn points based on their GPA, attendance, behavior, citizenship and our software programs for tracking math and language arts progress,"

Wesley said. "We're thinking about adding a volunteering component."

The first round of medallions were awarded at an assembly late last month. That included 213 gold, 82 silver and 112 bronze. That's 407 students, or 61 percent of all students in the building.

"I didn't expect such an overwhelming response," Wesley said. "I had a parent tell me their daughter got a bronze medallion and her older brother got gold. All of the talk at dinner was about how she was going to get gold next time just like her brother. Another parent told me their student slept with their medallion."

John Bickmann, whose sons — fifth grader Jackson and eighth grader Aksel — both received gold medallions, is a fan of the program.

"I really appreciate what Mr. Wesley is doing," he said. "He's teaching the kids integrity and respect and being their best person every day."

Bickmann added his sons were proud to receive the medallions and hung them in their rooms along with other awards for swimming, soccer, martial arts and football.

Wesley said he often tells the students to be ready for what he calls 13th grade.

"Whether they're going to college or joining the



COURTESY PHOTO

Parcels Middle School students are able to receive a bronze, silver or gold medallion each quarter based on a number of criteria.

military or going to trade life," he said. "We want to give them every support ready for the grade of system we can."

STEAM foundation grants announced

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The GP Foundation for STEAM Support announced 31 grants totaling \$258,000 at the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19.

"As a former administrator, one of the toughest things I had to do was to say no to some great and innovative and creative ideas due to the lack of funding," said Walt Fitzpatrick, executive director of the foundation and former principal of Trombly and Kerby elementary schools. "Tonight I get to say yes."

Fitzpatrick added that of the 31 grants, 12 were awarded to schools in the north end of the district and 12 to schools in the south end, with the

remaining seven to benefit multiple buildings. Some 70 percent of the total dollar amount went to the north end.

The largest grant is \$133,000 for a new video scoreboard in the gymnasium at Grosse Pointe North High School.

The rest of the grants are as follows:

- ◆ Destination Imagination, Pierce Middle School, \$5,000
- ◆ Student-athlete leadership book club, North, \$2,315
- ◆ Quiz bowl team, North, \$840
- ◆ Lunchtime craft club, Parcels Middle School, \$1,000
- ◆ Graphing calculators, Pierce, \$2,250
- ◆ E-sports team, Pierce, \$3,000
- ◆ Photojournalism equipment, Pierce, \$2,620
- ◆ Detroit Tigers outdoor STEM classroom, Maire Elementary School,

\$2,500

- ◆ Touch math for students with autism, Monteith Elementary School, \$5,232
- ◆ Math recovery training, Monteith, \$1,100
- ◆ Blown Fuses, Parcels, \$20,000
- ◆ Xylophone refresh, Defer Elementary School, \$4,246
- ◆ Augmented and alliterative communication devices, Ferry Elementary School, \$1,500
- ◆ STEAM museum assembly, Ferry, \$1,895
- ◆ Decibel and light meters, Ferry, \$200
- ◆ Physical education cones, Ferry, \$926
- ◆ Full STEAM Ahead, all elementary schools, \$11,600
- ◆ Mini X video switcher, all middle schools, \$24,895

◆ Student engineering and manufacturing, Brownell and Parcels middle schools, \$3,700

- ◆ Underwater speakers synchronized swimming, both high schools, \$2,200
- ◆ Graphing calculators, North, \$13,213
- ◆ Abel chocolate, South, \$100
- ◆ iMac computers with drawing tables, \$5,600
- ◆ Physics and astronomy computer, South, \$3,000
- ◆ Kiln shelves, South, \$1,438
- ◆ Photo lighting equipment, South, \$568
- ◆ Math materials, all elementary and middle schools, \$1,000
- ◆ Math recovery training, Defer and Ferry, \$1,100
- ◆ Small engines, North and South, \$2,000

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GPPSS looking to increase grad requirements

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES

— The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education is slated to vote soon to increase graduation requirements in order to comply with state law.

The legislature in 2022 made changes to the Michigan Revised School Code that make it mandatory that students receive half a credit in personal finance in order to graduate. The requirement takes effect with

the class of 2028, meaning students who are high school freshmen now.

“We have some options,” Holli McNally, assistant principal at Brownell Middle School who is helping coordinate the transition, told the board at its November meeting. “This can be a new class or it can be embedded in a current class.”

McNally said the majority of students will meet the qualifications by taking economics, which already is

required. Students also can satisfy the requirements by taking a class in finance and investing or independent living I and II classes.

“The state is giving us some leeway because the one-half credit doesn't necessarily equate to additional seat time,” McNally said.

Administrators are asking the board to approve a pilot program that would additionally embed the requirements into the Advanced Placement microeconomics and macroeco-

nomics classes, starting with the 2025-26 school year.

McNally said the breakdown of those classes currently, by number of students, is economics, 309; independent living I and II, 154; AP microeconomics, 143; AP macroeconomics, 121; and finance and investing, 61.

Changes to the state

curriculum guidelines say the personal finance requirement must focus specifically on decision making in areas such as earning, spending, saving, the use of credit, investing and insuring.

McNally said some of the more precise areas of study include:

- ◆ Earnings
- ◆ Benefits
- ◆ Taxes

◆ Things to consider when purchasing goods and services

◆ Incentives to investing

◆ Diversification

◆ Impact of inflation

“I think we can agree all of this would be beneficial information for our students,” she added.

The board is expected to vote on the proposal at its final scheduled meeting of the year at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, in the multipurpose room at Brownell.



COURTESY PHOTO

Turkey Trot is Pierce's 50th

The 50th Pierce Middle School Turkey Trot took place Friday, Nov. 15. The half-mile race occurred on Pierce's back field. Turkeys were given out for boys and girls who placed first and second for each grade level.

Pictured front row, from left, are Michael Zarzycki, Ozzie Choma, Anna Fontecchio, Adalyn Herrandez, Avery Mille, Monroe Auderson, Wesley Urquhart and Blake Denner. Pictured back row, from left, are Brendan Orehowsky, Jordan St. John, Ella Woodburn, Emma Ford, Eleanor Pilsner, Lydia Thomason-Redus, Oscar Resnick and Jack Stentz. The fastest runner among the boys was Jordan St. John, who finished in 2:37. The fastest girl was Eleanor Pilsner, who ran it in 2:41.

Hello Holidays!



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Your Old Mansion series kicks off Dec. 8

Longtime journalist discusses new memoir, 'Rust Belt Reporter'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

When John Gallagher moved to Detroit in 1987, the city was in disrepair and getting worse, “and newspapers were riding high,” he said.

During the course of his 32-year career with the Detroit Free Press, Gallagher has watched the tables turn, both in the city he calls home, as well as the industry in which he’s made his career.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, Gallagher will discuss both ends of the spectrum while reading from his memoir, “Rust Belt Reporter,” published September through Wayne State University Press. The program is the first in



COURTESY PHOTOS

John Gallagher

the Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s Your Old Mansion series.

“There are two themes,” Gallagher said of the book, which will be available for purchase at the lecture. “The main theme is the recovery of Detroit and, more broadly, of older

cities in general. At the same time, the newspaper industry is falling apart. The Free Press, and all the major papers with the exception of maybe the New York Times, were devastated with the changing economic models.”

The opposite was true when Gallagher began his career in Detroit. He watched — and reported on — that reversal of course, much of which is detailed in his memoir.

“When I came to the Free Press in 1987, almost 40 years ago, it was going relentlessly downhill,” he said. “Detroit was the worst city in America, the Rust Belt capital of the world. That seemed to be the future. Then it started to turn around. ... With Detroit, it

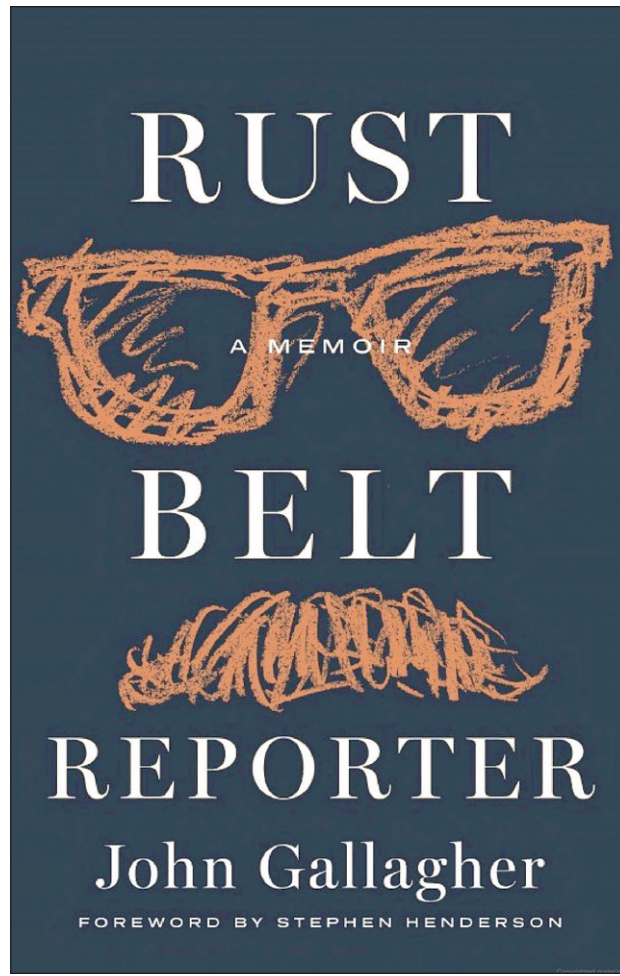
was not just one thing,” he added. “It was not all Mike Duggan. It was not all Dan Gilbert. There was not a silver bullet, but a mosaic of a hundred different efforts.”

What made the difference was vacant land being repurposed for use, nonprofits and philanthropic foundations stepping up to help, among other endeavors.

“Many different efforts over time began to coalesce,” he said. “Foundations began to work with nonprofits and it all became a great collaborative effort where it addressed everything.”

While Gallagher said there were gaps throughout the recovery process, there’s “no question the city is in remarkable recovery.

See SERIES, page 7B



Winners selected in AAUW poster contest

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

When every entry to the American Association of University Women’s annual poster contest had been evaluated, six individuals were honored.

In addition to first-, second- and third-place awards, three other student artists earned honorable mention.

“I wish we could give out five more honorable mentions,” said AAUW member Kathy Conlon, who praised the artists for the caliber of their work and mastery of relaying the contest’s theme, “Listening to Women.”

“(The theme) explores women’s issues, past and present,” Conlon said. “It’s not all doom and gloom; there’s a bright side, too.”

Student Marisa Marzoug earned first place for her three-dimensional ceramic piece, “The Window to the Soul.” She was awarded a \$200 cash prize.

“This ceramic sculpture seeks to explain how women can often be treated as accessories, meant to be seen but often not heard from,” Marzoug wrote of her entry. “So many women choose not to speak for fear of sounding controversial or being dismissed in traditionally male-dominated spaces.”



Left, first place was awarded to Marisa Marzoug for her sculpture, “The Window to the Soul.” Right, second place went to Andrea Comerford for her painting, “Petri Baby.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

“This was the first time we had more 3-D work than in the past,” Conlon noted. “We received fabulous ceramics.”

Placing second was Andrea Comerford, whose painting, “Petri Baby,” was one of several she submitted to the contest. She was awarded a \$150 cash prize.

“They were all incredibly well done,” Conlon noted.

“My original inspira-

tion for the piece was to create a commentary on in vitro fertilization,” Comerford wrote of her piece. “I also intentionally colored the baby in a rainbow pattern to reference the term ‘rainbow baby’ — a baby born after the loss of a pregnancy. Many women who have fertility issues turn to IVF to get pregnant.”

The fabric-and-bead creation of Melaniya Zozovsky, titled

“Preservation,” earned third place. She was awarded a \$100 cash prize.

“It’s a wall hanging that represents the Ukraine-Russia conflict,” Conlon said. “She (Zozovsky) is Ukrainian.”

Her mixed-media piece “explores resilience and innocence amid turmoil,” the artist wrote about her work. “It shows a young child holding an elder’s hand, adorned with traditional Ukrainian dress

against a backdrop of vibrant, folk-inspired embroidery. Despite the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the child’s gaze captures a sense of curiosity and hope, symbolizing the enduring power of childlike wonder and cultural heritage.”

Earning honorable mention were Abigail Prebe for “Her Thoughts,” Lily Anna Burden for “In the Shadows of Consent,” Brianna Scenga for “I

Am Not My Body” and Violet Sarcona for “Cut the Strings.”

The contest was juried by artist Elizabeth Gauthier, an adjunct professor at College for Creative Studies.

“She’s an accomplished artist, muralist and graphic designer,” Conlon said. “She created a mural at Stellantis headquarters. Her experience with so many art mediums made her well-qualified to judge the range we had in the show.”

More than 20 entries were submitted to this fourth annual contest, which invited students ages 14 to 18 to submit artwork that explores the life of a woman: from celebrating her achievements and honoring her inspiration to predicting her future or portraying issues she currently faces.

Many entries were local, but they were not confined to Grosse Pointe.

“A lot of the girls used self-image as dictated by social media and how they are affected by it,” said Conlon, noting the entries were “very eclectic.”

“Aging came into it,” she added. “The expectations of women to be perfect and be people pleasers, to do well in all the tasks women are expected to do. It was

See AAUW, page 8B

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2B | FEATURES

GP Community Chorus holiday concert is Dec. 8

The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus presents "A Holiday Concert" at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. The program, under the direction of Kayvon Kashani-Gharavi, features a range of holiday music to kick off the holiday season. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 12 and

younger. Tickets will be available at the door, as well as in advance at Moehring Woods Flowers, 20923 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. The Grosse Pointe Community Chorus was formed by Malcolm Maclean Johns and Marian Johns in 1953, and has been in active existence since then. For more information, visit grossepointecommunitychorus.org.



Wild Lights returns to Detroit Zoo

The Detroit Zoo recently announced the return of Wild Lights, presented by Corewell Health Children's. Now through Jan. 5, guests are invited to experience 30 nights of magic with dazzling displays of more than 5 million LED lights. For more than a decade, this event has brought families, friends and loved ones together for a night of breathtaking illuminations, holiday festivities and endless photo opportunities. One of the most anticipated holiday light displays in Michigan, Wild Lights offers a unique experience of celebrating the holidays mixed with the magic of animals at The Detroit Zoo. Visitors will enjoy larger-than-life twinkling displays of giraffes, polar bears, insects and more. Additionally, the event offers a musical field of lights and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer 4D theater show. As a bonus, guests also may snap a pic with Santa Claus, who will be at Wild Lights from 5 to 10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 5 to 9 p.m. all other event dates through Dec. 23. "We are so excited to host one of southeast Michigan's most anticipated winter traditions," said Emily O' Hara, senior director of guest



experience. "The event is special and memorable for guests of all ages. Whether you are a family with children or coming with a group of friends, this year's event promises

to awe with millions of twinkling lights that will immerse you in a memorable night." This year's event includes immersive and interactive displays, shim-

Event details:

Dates: Dec. 6 to 8, 12 to 23, and 26 to 31
Jan. 2 to 5
Hours: 5 to 10:30 p.m. most Fridays and Saturdays and 5 to 9 p.m. on select week nights and Sundays.
Location: The Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile, Royal Oak
Tickets: Tickets are available online at Detroit Zoo's Wild Lights page. Guests are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance, as nightly capacity is limited. General admission packages range from \$17 to \$25, based on the time and day of visit.
Sponsors: Wild Lights is presented by Corewell Health Children's. This event is also sponsored by MISS DIG 811, Burns & Wilcox, Michigan First Credit Union, KeyBank and Southeast Michigan Ford Dealers.

mering light tunnels, larger-than-life animal sculptures, seasonal food and drinks and more. Guests also are welcome to visit the new art exhibit, "Among the Living: Wildlife Photography of Guadalupe Laiz." Warming stations and live entertainment also will be available for guests. The Detroit Zoo also is partnering with Mittens for Detroit to collect mittens and gloves for those in need. Guests may donate a new pair during Wild Lights to keep Detroit families warm this holiday season.



A dream business

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB GRAMBO

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Club Past President Sherri Jones stands with Sofia Kirkman, CEO of Part of Your World Princess Co., during the club's Nov. 12 meeting at Ford House. Part of Your World is a Grosse Pointe-based character entertainment company, providing a costume-based party experience for kids, staffed by a number of local princess performers. Kirkman is a Wayne State University-educated theater major, who started volunteering at a special needs daycare, performing as Ariel from Disney's "The Little Mermaid." She was captivated by how much it meant to children to see their favorite princesses in real life, which is what inspired her to expand her volunteering into this dream business. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an open invitation to residents to join their Tuesday breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores. For more information, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

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AREA ACTIVITIES

Blood drives
The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, American House Lakeshore, 28801 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.
◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms.
◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, Roseville Public Library, 29777 Gratiot, Roseville.
Register at redcrossblood.org.

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:
◆ Premier World Discovery presents "Music Cities — New Orleans, Memphis and Nashville," 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. Learn about the itineraries for these two trips.
◆ Holiday Church Tours, Lunch and Dessert, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45

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SENIOR LIVING

Grandma's sweetest HEIRLOOMS

Bake up some memories passed down through generations

By Donna Zetterlund
Special writer

Along with shopping, decorating and wrapping comes the joy of holiday baking. For many, baking plans center around traditional family-favorite cookies, where recipes passed down from grandmother's kitchen come to life to please the palates of new generations. Polish koloczky, Scottish shortbread and Mexican wedding cakes are about to be baked and enjoyed, just like my Italian grandmother's Sicilian S cookies. As children we thought these treats were shaped like an "S" in honor of her name, Sarah. Legend is they bear the s-shape for Sicily, Italy. Whatever delicious culture you celebrate each year, there is always room for new recipes. Here are a few favorite recipes from my mother and grandmother that have stood the test of time.



Josie's Pineapple Rollups

1 package of yeast
1/2 cup warm water
6 cups sifted flour
4 eggs
3 T sugar
1 lb cold butter

1 cup sugar
3 1/2 T cornstarch
1 large can crushed pineapple

Dough: Mix yeast and warm water in separate bowl. Blend eggs and add to mixture.

Mix flour, sugar and butter, cutting the butter into the dry ingredients like when making pie crust.

Slowly add in yeast and egg mixture. Blend with fingers until it forms a ball. Break into 10 equal sized balls of dough. Chill at least 5 hours or over night, covered with wax paper and a towel.

Filling: Partially drain crushed pineapple and put in saucepan. Add the sugar and cornstarch and stir to a boil. Mixture should be thick and glossy. Let cool completely.

Roll out chilled dough one ball at a time into a circle. Cut dough into 8 equal slices like a pizza pie. Put one dollop of pineapple mixture (about 1 tsp.) on the wider end of each slice. Roll the dough up toward the center like a crescent roll and slightly tuck the ends under. The pointy end of the dough triangle should end up on top.

Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes at 400 degrees.

Cool cookies and sprinkle powdered sugar over the top with a sifter. Enjoy once cookies are room temperature.

Yields 7 dozen cookies.

Grandma Z's Candied Slices

1 cup butter
1 cup powdered sugar
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla
2 1/4 cups flour
1 cup walnut pieces
1 cup chopped candied cherries



Cream together powdered sugar and softened butter. Add 1 unbeaten egg to form a soft dough.

Cut candied cherries into 8 pieces each. Roll nuts and cherries gently into the dough, dispersing evenly.

Divide dough into 4 equal parts and roll each into a rough log.

Wrap each log in a 14" long sheet of waxed paper and gently press each side on countertop to form a 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" x 10" square log. Chill wax papered dough logs, covered, in refrigerator at least 5 hours or over night.

When chilled, unwrap from wax paper and slice into 20 half-inch slices. Keep remaining dough chilled until slicing.

Bake for 13 minutes at 325 degrees. Cookies should be light colored with very slightly browned edges when done.

Yields about 7 dozen cookies.



Grandma Sarah's Sicilian S Cookies (Biscotti Esse)

4 1/2 cups flour
1 1/4 cups sugar
4 tsp baking powder
3 large eggs
1 cup cold butter
1/4 cup milk
1 T almond extract OR vanilla extract
1/2 tsp salt (omit if using salted butter)
zest of one lemon OR orange

Optional frosting:
1 cup powdered sugar
1/4 cup milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
Decorative sprinkles

Cut cold butter into small chunks and blend into flour with your fingers until the whole bowl is shredded into tiny pieces. Add remaining ingredients to center of mixture and use a fork to incorporate throughout. Form a ball of all the dough by hand.

Break off a serving-sized piece of the dough and roll into a small log. Shape the log into an s-shape on a parchment-covered baking sheet. Fill the sheet with more s-shaped cookies.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes or until edges of the cookies are golden brown. Cool cookies completely, then frost or drizzle with the frosting mixture and add sprinkles of your choice.

Holiday gift idea

If you're the baker or cook in your family, it's a lovely idea to capture the family's best recipes in a book you can gift your daughter, son or grandchild.

Use any blank book to write in your recipes or find family cookbooks to fill in online. There are many styles to choose from like the one at left, from amazon.com.

You can type them up and glue in the pages, but copying them in your own handwriting will become an especially heartwarming connection for your family now and in generations to come.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Grandma and Mom: Sarah Rompollo, above left, delighted her extended family with biscotti, lighter-than-air meatballs and the best spaghetti sauce this side of Sicily! Her daughter, Josephine Zetterlund, above right, inherited her cooking skills — and along with the pineapple and cherry cookies above, prepared a lifetime of delicious Italian-themed meals, all made with love.

4B | SENIOR LIVING

In honor of Veterans Day

The War Memorial hosted its annual Veterans Day breakfast Monday, Nov. 11. More than 300 people attended the event, which featured keynote speaker Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Darren Werner, U.S. Army.

Werner spent more than 30 years in the Army, his final three years of active-duty service as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command in Warren. Currently, he is the president of

SAPA Transmission, a global leader in armored vehicle mobility technology.

Werner was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at Central Michigan University in 1988, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology in 1989. He also has a master's degree in human resources from Webster University in Missouri and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from

U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

During his career he served overseas in Germany, Jordan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea.

His decorations and badges include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge and Army Staff Identification Badge.



From left, U.S. Navy Vietnam veteran Robert Calhoun Jr., Adura Calhoun and Larry Bennett. Adura Calhoun crocheted a patriotic blanket as a present for Bennett, who is a World War II veteran and will turn 101 in March.

From left, Dion Johnson, Ph.D., Army, M.P.; Robert Calhoun Jr., Navy; Ward Case, Army; and Charles Perry, Army Airborne.



Dion Johnson, Ph.D., Army, and his wife, Joy Johnson, Ph.D., show some of the cards local elementary school students made for the veterans.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT



The Men's Club of Grosse Pointe choral group sings a medley of service songs; as each military branch is announced, those who served in that branch stand up. Retired U.S. Coast Guard members William Geiger, Jim Semerad and David Hohlfeldt stood.



Meredith Hanoian sings the national anthem while the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 stands by.

Retired Army Sgt. Maj. Dave Laycock and Marine Lance Cpl. Jennifer Smith.



Keynote speaker, retired Army Maj. Gen. Darren Werner.

Oh, the magic of Christmases past!



Crowds await the arrival of Santa in The Village, downtown Grosse Pointe, c. 1974

When the sky would rumble with the sound of a helicopter, and the excited chatter of children would fill the air. Santa, in all his jolly glory, would descend right onto The Village in Grosse Pointe. The crowd would erupt in cheers as he stepped out, ready to greet his young fans. It was a sight to behold and a fun tradition to mark the beginning of the holiday season.



Grosse Pointe Historical Society
The hub for history in the Grosse Pointes

375 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
development@gphistorical.org
(313) 884-7010

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has thousands of resources about the history of the Pointes and adjacent communities. Visit our web site at www.gphistorical.org to find out more.



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Second Time Around

By Margie Reins Smith

All about Andy

My favorite grumpy old man is Andy Rooney, the bushy-eyebrowed “60 Minutes” curmudgeon who gave a final few minutes of commentary on the weekly TV newsmagazine for 33 years. “60 Minutes” has aired on CBS every Sunday evening for the last 56 years.

Andy finished the program with three or four minutes of ... well, it’s hard to say what. Personal observations. He usually started off

with “What is it about ...?”

“What is it about ... paperclips?” he might say. Or “What is it about sleep? Or stress? Or being Pope? Or Bill Gates? Or growing older?” He talked a lot about growing older. He died in 2011 at age 92, so he knew about older. First hand.

My doctor explains many of my complaints and ailments with the preface: “As we get older, ...”

My memory isn’t what it used to be because I have so much to remember. Compare 25 years of memories to 84 years of memories. Seniors sift through nearly three times as many theoretical file cabinets of memories

as twentysomethings do, just to pluck out the desired 3- by 5-inch card. And usually the card is frayed, water-damaged, smudged or riddled with erasures, cross-outs and revisions.

No wonder young people are so quick.

I’ve entered the phase of my life where ...

for hair, gray is the new brown (or blonde); and for skin, wrinkles are the new laugh lines. I also have a different perspective when I view the world. It’s wider. I have a treasure chest of experience to draw on (even though it takes a while to dredge up details). I think I am more tolerant and accepting because of all this experience.

I remember when prewar meant before 1941; when sleeping on the floor in front of the fireplace was fun; when nine out of 10 doctors smoked Lucky Strikes; and when babies were put to sleep

on their stomachs. They looked so adorable with their knees drawn up, their spindly little legs curled under fat, diapered bottoms, their tiny hands curled into fists.

I remember junior high school civics books showing pictures of “prosperous” cities filled with belching smokestacks and sprawling factories.

When I was a teenager, being crazy and wild meant driving the wrong way on a one-way street, smoking unfiltered cigarettes, deliberately littering or getting stuck with an objectionable nickname — one that started with a W, like Wicked or Wildman.

Andy Rooney talked about how our bodies betray us as we get older. I used to do a cartwheel on my birthday. No more. I used to skip

down (or up) the middle of a flight of steps, two steps at a time. Now I go straight to the railing. I used to “hop out of bed” in the morning. Now getting up from a chair feels like unfolding crumpled parchment. I’ve noticed that button-holes are getting smaller, too, and jars are sealed tighter and shelves are getting higher — or lower.

I recently read — or heard — or got an email — or got a text message (can’t remember which) about how you can tell your body is getting older. I’m not quite sure, but I think Andy Rooney said it.

“You know your body is getting old,” it goes, “when everything that is supposed to be moist dries up and everything that is supposed to be dry, leaks.”

I miss you, Andy.

GP Symphony Orchestra presents holiday concert

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor and music director Joe Striplin, presents its annual Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods.

The concert features music of the season, including two favorites by Leroy Anderson: “A Christmas Festival” and “Sleigh Ride.” The orchestra also will perform Samuel Coleridge Taylor’s “Christmas Overture” and Ralph Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasy on Greensleeves,” as well as three excerpts from Humperdink’s opera, “Hansel and Gretel.”

Tickets are available at the door or the orchestra’s website, gpsymphony.org. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors, \$5 for college students and free to K-12 students.

The orchestra’s 72nd season continues



Conductor and music director Joe Striplin

March 2, with a concert that includes the music of Jean Sibelius and Richard Wagner, and features Nester Scholarship Winner Ethan Mihaescu as the soloist in a performance of Frederic Chopin’s “Piano Concerto No. 1.”

The Grosse Pointe Symphony Orchestra is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing local professional and accomplished amateur musicians the opportunity to perform the classical symphonic repertory for the community at large.

Whispering wish lists

Charles Schwab of Grosse Pointe invited families to stop in and visit Santa Claus Nov. 27. Around 30 families stopped by during the event, during which Santa entertained children — including Eliza Psari and Clark Psari of Grosse Pointe Woods — with Christmas stories and a few magic tricks.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLES SCHWAB OF GROSSE POINTE



Clarifications

The article, “Staying strong: Mini Picassos founder planning classes amidst cancer battle,” published in the Nov. 21 edition, should have read the GoFundMe was started by friends of Katy Wereley.

The article, “Making life beautiful,” published in the Nov. 21 edition, should have read the award for 630 Bedford was for William and Jamie Snyder.

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6B | 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.

Robin Christopher Wright

Robin Christopher Wright, 74, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024.

Robin was born Nov. 12, 1950, in Detroit. His family moved to Grosse Pointe Farms when Robin was 9 years old. From an early age, Robin showed an affinity for music and acting. When Robin was 10 years old, he played Winthrop in a professional production of "The Music Man" at the Ford Rotunda Theater in Detroit.

Meridith Wilson, who wrote the music and lyrics for "The Music Man," rehearsed lines with Robin. The Detroit News captured this moment and wrote an article about the play with the headline, "Robin Sings A Song."

Robin also performed excerpts from the play for the Detroit City Council and then-Mayor Jerome Cavanagh. He also performed as Huck Finn at the Vanguard Theater in Detroit. Robin also was a member of the Grosse Pointe Children's Theater, under the direction of Sally Reynolds.

Robin played guitar, piano and string bass. He was first chair in the string bass section of the Grosse Pointe Orchestra and attended Interlochen music camp. At age 15, he started writing his own songs and putting them to music. As a teen he was a member of the Houston Hollow with his fellow Grosse Pointe High School classmate, Bob Page, and his brother, Randy Wright. The group performed all original music, most of which was written by Robin in and around Detroit and the Ann Arbor area. He also was in a band called the Wright Clefs and Dover, with his brother and Grosse Pointe High School classmate, Doug Dover. In 1966 and 1967, Robin participated in the Hootenanny Folk Festivals at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial under the direction of Alex Sucek.

Robin graduated from high school in 1969, and attended Wayne County Community College. He developed schizophrenia after graduating high school, but still was able to wrack up musical achievements. He played Judas in a production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Hope Lutheran Church in Detroit and toured to a number of Lutheran churches throughout the state.

Robin also had a solo act and performed at many local bars and venues. He was dubbed the "human jukebox," because he could play any song he was asked to perform. Due to his schizophrenia, he had trouble with the social banter needed for a solo music act, so he wasn't able to achieve his true potential. Robin continued to teach guitar, however, for a number of years.

For 25 years, Robin worked in the maintenance department at The Neighborhood Club. John Bruce, who was the director during Robin's tenure, was very accepting of Robin and tried to make

him feel important as an employee there.

Besides music, Robin had a passion for baking and gardening. His main mode of transportation was riding his bike and he was known to deliver baked goods to family, friends and even to his doctors' offices. In 2021, Robin was hit by a car while riding his bicycle and could no longer ride his bike.

He most recently resided at American House in Roseville, where he entertained residents weekly by playing the guitar and singing. He passed away as a result of a fall Nov. 20, eight days after his 74th birthday.

He is survived by his sister, Wendy Wright Bradley; brother, Randy Wright; nieces, Jennifer Bradley Robinson and Emily Bradley; and great-niece and great-nephew, Samara Robinson and Kiran Robinson. He will be missed by family and friends.

A funeral service for Robin took place Tuesday, Nov. 26, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Share a memory at dignitymemorial.com, by searching Robin Christopher Wright.

Donations may be made to the Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance, sczaction.org.

Girard F. Smith

Girard Fitzgerald Smith, 94, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024. He was a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Born April 23, 1930, in Newark, N.J., he was a graduate of Newark Academy and later of Franklin & Marshall College. In his professional life, Girard worked as an executive salesman for the corrugated box company, Schiffenhaus Packaging, headquartered in Patterson, N.J. He also was the president of office supply company, Gregory, Mayer & Thom, Co., based in Detroit.

Girard is survived by his children, Kathryn, Jefferey (Lisa) and Michael (Lucia); grandchildren, Brandon, Shane, Gerard and Christian; great-grandchildren, Sophie and Max; and sister, Kim Stephens. He was predeceased by his mother, Marie Stephens; son, Tony Smith; brother, Paul Smith; and grandparents, James and Josephine Fitzgerald. He was formerly married to Shirley L. Smith of Detroit, the mother of his four children.

In the past, Gerry coached many of his children's sports teams at the Neighborhood Club, as well as attended his grandchildren's sports events. During his time in Detroit, he was a member of the Detroit Economic Club, Detroit Boat Club and Gowanie Golf Club.

For recreation, he began running in the early 1970s, well before running shoes were a thing, and began participating in marathons in the late 1970s, making many running friends with whom he ran around Belle Isle and the cities of Detroit and Grosse Pointe, where

his family resided.

An avid sports fan and community volunteer, Girard was known for his funny banter and infectious laughter. While living in Truro, he was involved as the treasurer for The Friends of the Truro Council on Aging, chairman of the board for the Highland Lighthouse, a board member of Sight Loss Services, a founder of the Truro Summer Concert Series and was once a recipient of the Truro Senior Citizen of the Year award.

A memorial service is being planned for late summer 2025 on Cape Cod. In honor of Girard, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Truro Council On Aging, 7 Standish Way, Truro, MA 02652, or Independence House of Cape Cod, indhouse.ejoinme.org/donation.

Florence "Flo" May Rhodes

Florence "Flo" May (nee Arbuthnot) Rhodes, 90, of Grosse Pointe and longtime resident of Whitewater, Wis., died Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024, at her home and surrounded by family, having celebrated her birthday nearly three weeks before. Her passing followed the loss of her husband of 62 years, Benjamin Rhodes, earlier this year.

Born Nov. 6, 1934, in Janesville, Wis., Flo was the third of four children of George and Irene (nee VanDreser) Arbuthnot. Her parents owned Arbuthnot Dairy in Janesville, Wis. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative literature in 1957, and moved to Denver, where she taught middle school. Flo joined the Colorado Mountain Club, where she met her future husband, Ben, an avid skier and mountaineer. They married in 1961, and together raised three children and experienced much of the world through travel.

Flo was an avid gardener, an excellent chef and baker, a seamstress and a woodworker, but perhaps most remarkable as an expert knitter. Those who were fortunate enough to receive a gift of a personalized sweater or hat could feel the love and care that went into every stitch. She provided a beautifully perfect home for her family, always putting them first.

Flo is survived by her sons, John Rhodes of Seattle and Philip Rhodes of Grosse Pointe; daughter, Elizabeth "Betsy" Rhodes DeMaine (Robert) of Los Angeles; and grandchildren, Paul and Annette "Annie" DeMaine, both of Los Angeles. She also is survived by her brother, Paul Arbuthnot of Lake Oswego, Ore.; sister, Mary Zirbel (nee Arbuthnot) of Wauwatosa, Wis.; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Benjamin; and brother, John Arbuthnot of Scotts Mills, Ore.

As Flo wished, there



Robin C. Wright

will be no memorial service. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Colorado Mountain Club, cmc.org/donate, League of Women Voters, bit.ly/4i8H7Ho, or Detroit Symphony Orchestra, tickets.dso.org/support/donate.

Donald G. Franck

Donald G. Franck, 89, died peacefully Monday, Nov. 18, 2024.

Donald was born June 26, 1935, in Detroit, to Vivian and Herman Franck. He grew up in Grosse Pointe with his brothers, the late Gerald and Dennis Franck, and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1953, and the University of Michigan in 1957.

After his ROTC U.S. Air Force commitment, Donald and his young wife, Merrilee (nee Johnston) came back to Michigan in 1959. Donald began his career as a residential appraiser with Detroit Mortgage and Realty. In 1975, he became a senior vice president in commercial loans with First Federal of Michigan. He kept that position until his retirement in 1997.

Donald and Merrilee were married 52 years until her death in 2008. He was the beloved father of Michael (Jeanette), Mark and Stacey Powerski (Mark). Donald also was the loving grandfather, lovingly known as "Pappa," to Mark Jr. and Courtney Powerski and Ryan and Christian Franck (CJ).

In 2009, Donald married Sandra "Sandy" (nee Ranno), a friend of the family for many years. Donald was a very interested and supportive father figure and grandfather figure to Sandy's children, Ross Palombit (Jennifer), Richard Palombit, James Palombit and Penny Adrian (James), and their children, Dr. Rayne Palombit, Rudy Palombit, Lucy Palombit, Richard Palombit III, Christel Palombit, Sierra Palombit and Ben Sierra.

Some of Donald's favorite activities were watching University of Michigan football games and spending time with family and friends in Florida. He also particularly enjoyed spending time with loved ones at their cottage on Little Platte Lake in Benzie County. He always enjoyed northern Michigan's scenery during the changing seasons. During the summer, he spent many hours on his boat fishing and teaching the next generation to love the outdoors.

Donald appreciated being with family and friends, always welcoming people into his home. He had many hobbies throughout the years, including photographing lighthouses throughout Michigan. Donald loved bowling and was active in the Detroit Athletic Club bowling league for many years. He also was president of the Peridia Golf and Country Club bowling league in Florida for



Girard F. Smith



Donald G. Franck



Florence May Rhodes



George A. Nicholson III

15 years.

Donald and Sandy moved from Grosse Pointe Shores to Bradenton, Fla., several years ago to savor the warm weather. In the last few years, Donald's health declined and Sandy was a loving wife and cared for him. She was at Donald's side holding his hand during his last moments.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. Following Mass, a luncheon will be held at "The Pointe," located within the church complex.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to any cancer research foundation or a charity of the giver's choice.

George A. Nicholson III

George A. "Nick" Nicholson III, 90, a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe, passed away peacefully Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, after having enjoyed a Lions victory earlier that day.

George was the eldest of four. He was a graduate of Grosse Pointe High School and went on to Cornell University, where he earned a degree in chemistry and was an enthusiastic member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

While at Cornell, he also served in the Reserve Officer Training Corps in keeping with the university's Land Grant Charter, which made a lasting impact on his character and sense of humor. Following graduation, he served two years in the U.S. Army before attending the University of Michigan to earn an MBA. While at U-M, he met his future wife, Nancy. They were married for 64 years and built a life full of love, adventure and family.

A dedicated professional, George had a distinguished career at Arthur Andersen & Co., where he earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and clients alike, despite favoring short-sleeved shirts with his suit and notoriously using his red pen. Beyond the joy of his profession, George was committed to serving others and making a difference in his community. He was deeply involved in philanthropic work throughout his life, generously giving his time and energy to numerous causes. He served as warden at Christ Church Grosse Pointe and was also

involved in the local and national American Red Cross, Franklin Wright Settlements, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, Habitat for Humanity Detroit plus many other organizations. He always strived to have a positive impact on the lives of others.

A lover of sports and the outdoors, George enjoyed skiing, running, hiking and tennis, through which he particularly enjoyed longstanding play with good friends. He shared his passion for sports by coaching hockey, mentoring young athletes and instilling in them the values of teamwork and perseverance. Summers during his childhood were spent with siblings, cousins and extended family at Great Island Pond in Plymouth, Mass., where he made lasting memories he shared throughout his life. He later continued the tradition of summer adventures at Newcomb Hollow Beach in Wellfleet, Mass., where he found joy with his family and riding the waves of Cape Cod in his kayak, sometimes in high surf with family members holding their breath.

In addition to his love for sports and outdoor activities, George had a deep affection for the city of Detroit. He loved spending time in the city, especially on his Saturday morning trips to Eastern Market, where he savored the sights, sounds and flavors of one of Detroit's most iconic spots. George was proud of the city's rich history and remained a devoted supporter of its growth and revitalization.

George leaves behind his devoted wife and partner, Nancy; their children, George, Martha and Peter; and grandchildren, Elizabeth, Angus and Roan. He will be remembered for his unwavering kindness, generosity and dedication to his family, friends and community. His legacy and love will live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Red Cross of Southeast Michigan, 7800 W. Outer Drive, Ste. 205, Detroit, MI 48235, redcross.org/local/michigan/ways-to-donate.html; or Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236, christchurchgp.org/ways-to-give.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

OBITS:

Continued from page 6B

Patricia Ann Messina

Patricia Ann Messina, 87, passed away Friday, Nov. 29, 2024.

Patricia was the beloved wife of 45 years to the late Frank; loving mother of Sherie Cesar (Douglas), Norman "Chip" Pletz (Elizabeth) and Cathleen Neumann (Scott); proud grandmother of Kevin (Sarah), Patrick (Jordan), Sara (Keith), Alexis, Olivia, Ashton, Edward, Briana and Hailey; and adored great-grandmother of Brooks, Kendyll, Kodi and Bennett.

Frank and Patricia co-owned Francesco's Salon for many years, first on The Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms and later in The Village of Grosse Pointe.

Visitation will be held 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. A funeral will be held at noon Monday, Dec. 9, at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, 36900 Schoenherr, Sterling Heights. Interment will occur at Resurrection Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research



Patricia Ann Messina

Hospital, bit.ly/47PrHTz, or the Michigan Animal Rescue League, marl.org/donate/memory-honor-donation/.

Share memories with the family in the online guestbook at wujekcalcaterra.com.

Richard Ashare

Richard Ashare, 94, passed away Monday, Dec. 2, 2024.

He was the beloved husband of 62 years to Marlene; cherished father of Julie Ashare and Kate Patterson; adored grandfather of Paul, the late Jamie Keller, Lily and Danielle Patterson; and dear brother of Lorraine Wulf.

Family services will be held at a later date.

city of Detroit, whether they were born there or they work there," he said. "It's the next-door neighbor to the Pointes.

"People with an interest in the media landscape or an interest in writing (should attend), too," he added, noting he'll talk about carrying on when things seem to be falling apart.

"This is not just a nerdy journalism story," he said. "There's a very broad base."

The part he's most looking forward to is the question-and-answer segment. As he has previously given lectures for the Your Old Mansion series, he knows the audience typically comes up with great questions.

The Q&A follows the lecture. He'll also sell and sign copies of "Rust Belt Reporter" for \$25 each, via cash, check or Venmo.

Registration in advance for the lecture is recommended. Tickets are \$30 for GPAA members, \$35 for nonmembers.

To register or for more information, visit grossepointeartcenter.org or call (313) 881-3454.

Making legislative waves for living organ donation

On Monday, Nov. 25, Grosse Pointe Shores resident David Galbenski celebrated the five-year anniversary of his living donor liver transplant at Henry Ford Hospital. His living donor was his brother-in-law, Mark Dybis, of Grosse Pointe Woods.

Since the transplant surgery, they have focused on increasing awareness of living donation and the number of living donors by reducing the barriers potential living donors face when considering living kidney or living liver donation for a relative, friend or stranger.

"On Nov. 14, there were 2,384 people waiting for a kidney or liver in Michigan," Galbenski wrote in an email. "In 2023, 955 people were able to have a kidney or liver transplant. Of those, 164 received organs from living donors while the rest received organs from deceased donors. Living donation helps fill the gap between the demand for organs and the supply from deceased donors."

In 2023, Galbenski and Dybis worked with State Sen. Kevin Hertel to sponsor and turn into law SB384, to remove insurance barriers faced by potential living donors. They testified before committees in the House and Senate to help pass the law, which prohibits discrimination against living donors when it comes to life, disability and long-term care insurance.

"Insurers can't raise their rates, drop them or deny them coverage," Galbenski said of the law. "In addition is a new state regulation passed in 2023 giving living donors job-protected leave from public employers."

Last month, Galbenski and Dybis helped remove a major financial barrier potential living

donors were facing. Living donors' medical expenses — testing, donor surgery and follow-up care — typically are covered by the recipient's health insurance, but other costs are not. These costs include travel — airfare, hotel, meals, rental car, etc. — for the donor and his or her caregiver to donate at the recipient's hospital, as well as lost wages and childcare expenses.

HB4361 was sponsored by Rep. Felicia Brabec and signed into law Nov. 13, by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

"For living donor surgeries after Jan. 1, 2025, living donors now will have a state tax credit of up to \$10,000 to offset expenses — lost wages, travel and childcare expenses — associated with donation and recovery," Galbenski said. "Some living donors have short-term disability insurance to offset their lost wages, but many do not. Living kidney donors typically need a month to recover. Living liver donors may typically need two-plus months to recover to allow their liver to regenerate. This new law may

make the difference between a living donor being able to donate or not."

The American Kidney Fund rates each state in terms of living donor protection via its Living Donor Protection Report Card. With these improvements in 2023 and 2024, Michigan moved from a letter grade of F to a B when it comes to removing barriers to living donation.

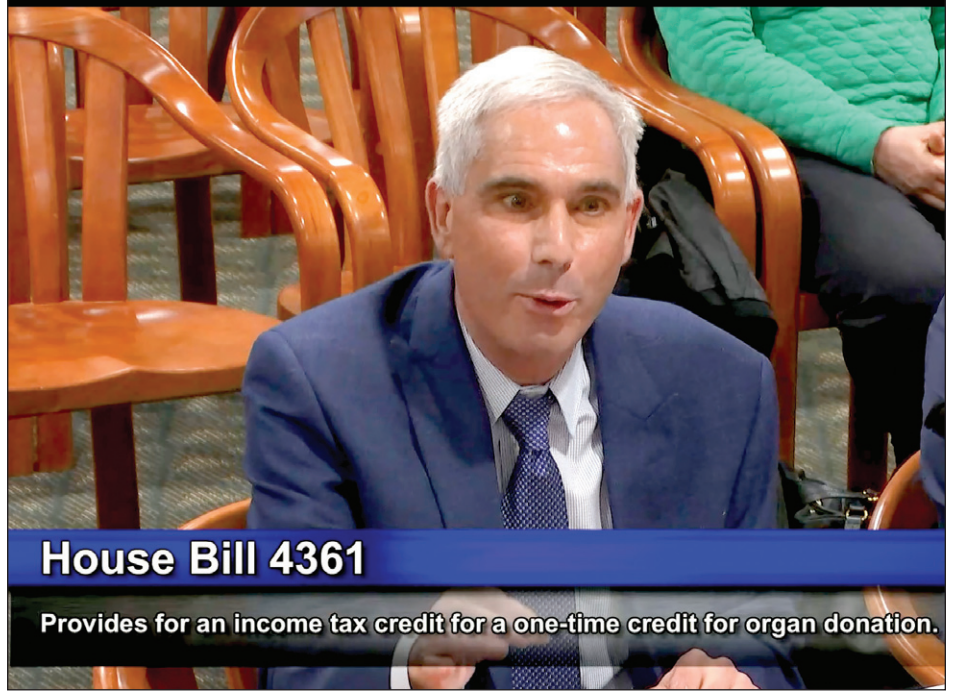
According to the American Kidney Fund, no state has gone from an F to a B in one legislative session.

"We have also introduced SB887 with State Sen. Kevin Hertel to give employers up to a \$25,000 tax credit for continuing to pay their employee as normal when he or she is recovering from organ donation," Galbenski said. "This final bill is important because living donors would prefer to continue to get paid during recovery versus claiming a tax credit for lost wages. If during recovery their employer continued to pay them for their normal wages, they would have peace of mind and they could

use their state tax credit for living donors to cover non-wage expenses like travel and childcare.

"We continue to remain hopeful that this bi-partisan legislation will pass during 2024, during this legislative session," he continued. "When this final law passes, Michigan will move from a B to an A-minus (for having) four of the seven living donor protections that are included on the Living Donor Report Card. Only three states have achieved an A. With these legislative advances, the number of living donors in Michigan could double or triple in 2025, saving a tremendous amount of lives along the way."

For states, the tax credits pay for themselves because it's much cheaper to provide tax credits for living donors' expenses than to pay for the ongoing hospital and dialysis bills of transplant patients, many of whom are on Medicaid, Galbenski noted. Transplant recipients who have a new organ often are able to go back to work to generate tax dollars for the state.



David Galbenski of Grosse Pointe Shores, the recipient of a living liver donation, provides testimony on HB4361 earlier this year.

COURTESY PHOTO

SERIES:

Continued from page 1B

"It's been wonderful covering it and I happen to live in the city," he added, reflecting on years past when the streetlights didn't work and the grass wasn't cut, among other shortcomings. "Now the city works well for a lot of people."

Conversely, he said, "The devastation of the newspaper industry has been awful. When I joined the industry, there were great newspapers in every major city — really robust newsrooms. It was exciting. We were friends and had a common purpose. To see that fall apart to the extent that it has, with all the layoffs ... was devastating. I was covering a great urban recovery, but at the same time newspapers were falling apart."

Gallagher will tackle both topics and others during his lecture, which he encouraged "anyone interested in the city" to attend.

"People living in the Grosse Pointes have some connection to the

Detroit Concert Choir presents holiday concert

The Detroit Concert Choir, led by Artistic Director Michael A. Mitchell, presents "Home for Christmas with the Detroit Concert Choir," featuring festive holiday music and carols, joined by a brass ensemble.

Performances take place at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, at Sweetest Heart of Mary Church, 4440 Russell, Detroit; and 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22, at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township.

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students. Tickets may be purchased online at detroitconcertchoir.com or macombcenter.com, or by calling (313) 882-0118.

Now in its 38th season, the Detroit Concert Choir, featuring

several Grosse Pointe residents, is Detroit's international award-winning vocal ensemble celebrated for its diverse programming and distinctive performances.

This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information, visit detroitconcertchoir.org

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For more information, visit detroitconcertchoir.org

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](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparish)
(**) Saturday Vigil is streamed online at 8:00 a.m. Sunday on our facebook page

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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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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

8B | FEATURES

AAUW:

Continued from page 1B

insightful — a pleasure to see.”

The “Listen to Women” exhibition is on display at the Grosse Pointe Artist Association’s guest gallery through Saturday, Jan. 11. The gallery is located on the campus of The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends.

The mission of the AAUW is “to advance gender equity through research, education and advocacy.” Since 1944, the Grosse Pointe branch has met the challenge of that mission by providing fellowships, programs, scholarships and opportunities for women and girls.

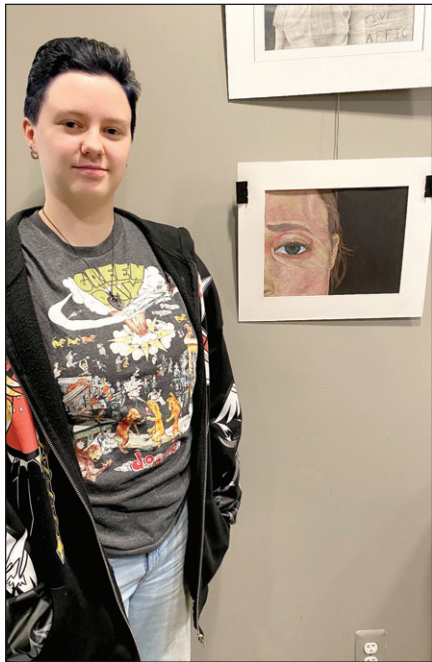
For more information, visit grossepointe-mi.aauw.net/



Third place was awarded to Melaniya Zozovsky for her mixed-media piece, “Preservation.”



Honorable mentions were given to Lily Anna Burden, left, for “In the Shadows of Consent” and Brianna Scenga for “I Am Not My Body.”



Abigail Prebe, above, earned honorable mention for “Her Thoughts” and Violet Sarcona, right, earned honorable mention for “Cut the Strings.”



COURTESY PHOTOS

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$112 for members, \$120 for nonmembers. Participants will visit Historic Trinity Lutheran Church and First Congregational Church of Detroit, with a stop at Amore de Roma Cafe for lunch and dessert at Shatila.

◆ The movie “Operation Christmas Drop” is shown at noon Friday, Dec. 13. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers.

◆ Field trip to the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17. Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for nonmembers, and includes lunch at The Continental and guided tours through the main residence, which is decorated for the holidays.

Book Sale

Shaw’s Books, 14932 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park, hosts its 15th annual Holiday Book Sale 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 6 to Jan. 5. All books, ephemera, prints, maps, posters and other paper collectibles — more than 25,000 items — are 20 percent off. For more information, call (313) 824-4932.

GPAA

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

◆ Design Principles for the Artist with Marcia Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6.

◆ Relax with Poetry and Painting: A Nancy Philo Experience, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12 and 13.

Lauren Radke art

Grosse Pointe Woods artist Lauren Radke hosts a Christmas open studio 2 to 6 p.m. Fridays, Dec. 6 and 13; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14; or by appointment. Cards, Christmas cards, frog books, gift tags, notebooks, paintings, stationery and more are available. For information or to make an appointment, call (313) 510-0767.

Radke offers a series of holiday floral workshops: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, and 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17. Participants will create centerpieces using a mix of flowers. Cost is \$45 and includes all supplies. To register, visit laurenradkeart.com. For more information, text (313) 510-0767 or email lauren@laurenradkeart.com.

Questers

The Pear Tree Questers will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 6, for a potluck Christmas luncheon at the home of member Kathie Smith. After lunch, Eva Armitage, president of the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan, will speak. Each member also will bring an unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots.

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

◆ Caricature Night with Andrew Sigman, 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6. Children younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$30 and includes materials.

◆ Bedtime Stories with Santa, 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8, and Thursday, Dec. 12. A sensory-friendly edition is offered at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. Cost is \$20 per child, \$1 for accompanying adult.

◆ Silent Book Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10.

◆ Make & Take a Charcuterie Board with Monger’s Provisions, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Cost is \$90 to build a board; \$100 to build a board with wine tasting.

◆ Holiday Ball: 6th-8th Middle School Dance, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13. Tickets are \$22 in advance, \$26 the week of the dance. Grosse Pointe students only.

Ford House

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

◆ Holiday Main Residence Guided Tour, 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Sundays, through Dec. 31. Admission costs vary.

◆ Home for the Holidays at Ford House, entry times every half hour from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, through Dec. 22. Admission costs vary.

◆ Cookies with Santa, 2 to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Thursdays, Dec. 7 to 21. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$30 for nonmembers.

◆ Mistletoe Mingle, 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Ages 21 and older welcome. Tickets are \$55 for members, \$70 for nonmembers.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Library

The Grosse Pointe Public Library hosts a variety of programs. To register for the follow-

ing, visit grossepointe.library.org.

◆ Saturday Drop-in Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Beginner CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Holiday Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Teen Creativity Circle: Felt Penguin Ornament, 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Science Fiction Book Club, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Jon Kung, chef and author of “Kung Food: Chinese American Recipes from a Third-Culture Kitchen,” 7 to 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 3D Thursday, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Sensory Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Readers’ Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Gift Wrapping Party, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Teen Crochet Class, 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe Library Board Trustee Sandra Ambrozy speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Jardinieres

La Societe des Jardinieres meet at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the home of member Madeleine Phillips for the group’s annual Christmas party. Dinner will be followed by a “consumable” gift exchange. Members have decided to provide a holiday meal to a metro Detroit family in need.

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Dog Man to visit Next Chapter Books Dec. 7

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

In celebration of the 13th installment of the “Dog Man” book series, “Dog Man: Big Jim Begins,” the Dog Man himself will pay a visit to Next Chapter Books, 16555 E. Warren, Detroit.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. “We’re very excited to partner with Scholastic to have the Dog Man character visit our store,” Next Chapter co-owner Sarah Williams said. “‘Dog Man: Big Jim Begins’ is the 13th book in the series and it releases Dec. 3, so we’re doing this in celebration of the new book. Also, a Dog Man movie will be hitting the big screen at the end of January as well.”

“So we’re having a hero party,” she continued. “The ‘Dog Man’ series is

about a crime-fighting dog. It’s about him and his friends, who are heroes. They all join up together to stop the Space Cuties from destroying the city.”

Families are invited to visit Next Chapter to meet and take photos with Dog Man. The event also includes a special storytime featuring “The Paperboy,” also written by Dav Pilkey.

Additionally, 9-year-old Goldendoodle Eden will be on hand. Eden is certified through Therapy Dogs International and has been a therapy dog in the community more than eight years.

“Kids can pet Eden and meet Eden one by one for a paw shake,” Williams said.

Next Chapter also has a number of fun activities in store — like learning to draw Dog Man — as well as giveaways featuring



Above, Dog Man will visit Next Chapter Books at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. Right, Next Chapter Books owners Sarah and Jay Williams get into the spirit of the event with Cat Kid and Dog Man character masks.

Dog Man and Cat Kid, like double-sided posters and character face masks.

“Our coffee partner, Eastside Roasterz, will have a special Dog Man-themed drink available for purchase, in addition to other holiday and coffee drinks,” Williams said. “And there will be Dog Man treats made by Been There Baked That.”

“We’ll also have lots of fun, specially ordered merchandise for sale, including Dog Man and Cat Kid stuffies, character backpack pulls, fun socks and, of course, the Dog Man and Cat Kid graphic novel series by Dav Pilkey,” she added. “This is a great time to shop for the Dog Man fan in your life or introduce a new reader to this ‘supa



fun’ character.”

The latest “Dog Man” book also will be available for purchase.

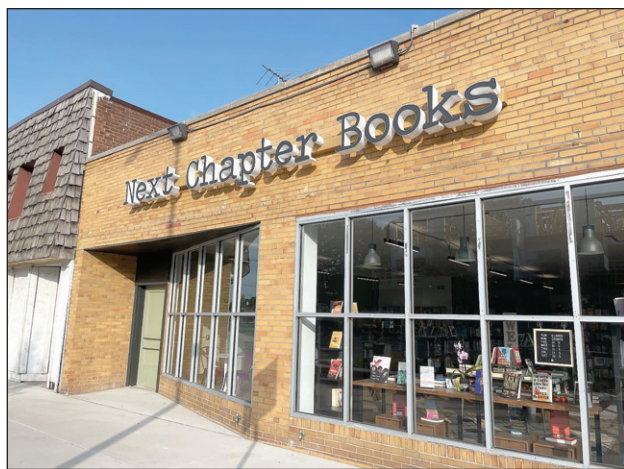
“It’s a nice way to celebrate an uplifting character and connect with kids in the community and it’s a fun thing to do with the whole family,” Williams said. “We’re really excited to be Scholastic selected. I don’t know how many stores were selected, but we’re the only one in the ZIP code and we might be the only one in the city.”

For more information, call (313) 320-6371.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARAH WILLIAMS

Eden the therapy dog will be on hand during the Dog Man event.



Next Chapter Books is located at 16555 E. Warren, Detroit.

ASK JEFF AND DEBRA

Drink alternatives for a merry holiday gathering

Q: My family has been blessed with recovery from alcoholism three times over. My husband, sister and aunt are all proud members of Alcoholics Anonymous. Most other family members who drink do so very lightly, but we do have a couple of exceptions.

These exceptions concern me since intoxication is all too common and this year I will be hosting the extended family for our Christmas Eve gathering, culminating in celebration of Christmastide by attending Midnight Mass. I don’t want our over-drinkers to make a long evening uncomfortable, even embarrassing, for everyone else. So I am asking, is it a hostess’s duty to serve alcohol? The only family members who will miss imbibing are the ones who commonly exceed their limit.

A: Alcoholic beverages are not required for any social gathering, the expectations of guests notwithstanding. In your question, you do not suppose your over-drinkers are alcoholic, nor do you rule it out. Guests who are not alcoholic will enjoy an evening with or without alcohol. Alcoholics, on the other hand, may experience

varying degrees of discomfort. As hostess, this is not your problem to solve. You are free to decide how to best maximize an enjoyable evening for your guests.

Whether you decide to forgo alcohol or not, we suggest serving interesting mocktails dressed up in pretty glassware with festive garnishes. Red and white striped drinking straws can add to the holiday spirit. Here are a few suggestions.

Red-nosed Reindeer Cheers

Ingredients
4 cups of ginger beer
1 cup club soda
2 Tbsp of fresh lime juice

1 Tbsp of fresh lemon juice

1/4 cup of grenadine
Maraschino cherries for garnish

Instructions

In a pitcher, stir the first five ingredients. Pour them into tall glasses filled with ice. Add a maraschino cherry garnish.

Snowy Holiday Cider

Ingredients
10 ounces of apple cider
1 tsp. of pumpkin butter

Whipped cream for garnish
Sparkling or sanded finishing sugar

Instructions

Mix the first two ingredients and heat. Pour into a cup and saucer. Add a generous dollop of whipped cream and sprinkle with finishing sugar.

Berry Berry Merry

Ingredients
2 cups of frozen or fresh mixed berries
1 pint of raspberry sorbet

1 1/2 cups of lemonade
Mint leaves to taste
Sugared lime slice for garnish

Lime juice and sugar for dipping glass rim

Instructions

Mix the first four ingredients in a blender until smooth.

Pour into a festive glass with the rim dipped in lime juice and sugar.

Add sugared lime slice garnish.

Jeff and Debra Jay help families resolve addiction problems. They live in Grosse Pointe Farms and have been working in the treatment field more than 30 years. Contact them through their website, lovefirst.net.

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Including your neighbors this holiday season

Dear Gabby: I have a neighbor who lives alone and doesn't appear to have any visitors. With the holidays approaching, I want to invite him for Christmas dinner but I'm a little worried about coming across as intrusive or making him feel like a charity case.

How can I extend an invite without being offensive? — Trying to be a thoughtful neighbor

Dear Thoughtful,

Reaching out to some-

one who may be lonely or isolated during the holidays is truly in the spirit of the season. The key is to make your invitation warm and genuine without seeming obligatory or pity-driven.

You could try saying something like, "We're having a small Christmas dinner and would love to have you join us. It would mean so much to us to share the holiday with a neighbor we admire."

This approach emphasizes that his presence is valued rather than framing it in a way that

sounds like you are doing a chore or a favor. Remember, sometimes the gesture of caring is just as meaningful as the event itself.

Even if he declines, you are still making him feel seen and appreciated.

Warm wishes for a joyful holiday season.

— Gabby

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



Is love enough when trust feels lost?

DEAR ANNIE: I've been with my spouse for nine years. Lately, I feel he's so distant, and I can't help but be bothered by it. About a year ago, everything changed. He started hiding his phone, being secretive with his friends, had multiple social media accounts, etc.

I've had a gut feeling for a while, and when I talked to him about it, he told me to never trust my gut, which left me confused because my whole life, my gut has always been right.

I've talked to him about his change in behavior many times, and he either gets upset and flips it on me or I just get the silent treatment.

I'm still with him. I love this man so much,

and I could see him being my forever. But I'm at a point in my life where I'm ready to grow and put my dreams into reality. I would love for him to be the one beside me for that, but for the life of me, I cannot not think about how he's acting.

I just want to know for sure what's going on, but I feel like I'm never really going to know or get the truth out of him.

They say what happens in the dark always comes to the light. But when? I don't want to work on things and then find out my gut was right and it breaks my heart even more.

I want to trust him and grow old together, but at this point, I don't know what to do. Can you

help? — Torn Between Love and Doubt

DEAR TORN: Your gut has been sending you a message — and you should absolutely trust it. Your spouse has been stringing you along, dismissing every red flag you've noticed and gaslighting you into doubting yourself.

In a healthy, loving relationship, he would be doing whatever is necessary to ease your anxiety and prove he can be trusted. The truth here is, he can't be.

DEAR ANNIE: I've been involved in a long-distance relationship for over two-and-a-half years. We have never met but have emailed each other for all this

time. I'm in Tennessee, and she lives in Birmingham, Alabama, but her job has her in Seattle quite a bit. We are both 70 years old. She seems to be into me, and I'm into her.

I've tried to meet her many times, offering to fly out to Seattle or even meet in Las Vegas. She always tells me she has to think about it and, of course, I never get an answer. I've even asked her why she won't meet, but again, of course, no answer.

She has never asked me for money or gifts. I know she went through a tough divorce a long time ago. We've all had our rough times, especially at our age. She is a Capricorn and fits the bill to a T.



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

I'm sure you're going to tell me to call it quits, but my problem is, when I see something I want, I don't give up. Maybe that's my weakness!

Tell me I'm crazy, but she has told me I'm starting to break down some of her walls. Am I a fool? — Crazy in the Head

DEAR CRAZY: As hard as it is to hear, this person is nothing more to you than a two-and-a-half-year pen pal, at best.

What's most concerning is that this "woman" hasn't allowed so much as a phone call in the years you have known her.

If this person really is who they say they are, it's clear they're not ready for a romantic relationship (whether that's really because of her messy divorce or because she doesn't see you as her next partner, we don't know).

What we do know is that you deserve a relationship that is real and has the potential for a future — and this woman, at least right now, isn't it.

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

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Flyleaf, a place to relax and enjoy a good book



COURTESY PHOTOS

Storefront medallion.

At the heart of The Hill in Grosse Pointe Farms, a building that once housed an oriental rug shop was under a major rebuild in early 2023. Questions were swirling around town as to what this could possibly be. Once the rumors of a combined bookshop, bistro and bar started to spread, the rumors became reality.

The concept was something the neighborhood did not have, but was certainly appealing: a place one could come to relax while enjoying a favorite book, along with a coffee and croissant or glass of wine, while strolling the tall, wooden shelves filled with approximately 7,000 books available for purchase,



Literature & libation.

4,600 of them with different titles. That's a lot of literature that fills two of three levels of this beautifully finished building.

Flyleaf opened its doors at 92 Kercheval in August 2023.

"I wanted to create a space in my hometown that made people feel at home," owner Lindsay Cotton said. "Some of my favorite things are books, wine, cocktails and coffee, food and entertaining, so I put them all together and created Flyleaf. I wanted the space to feel cozy, yet elevated. The intent is to feel like you've escaped to a beautiful European spot."

In my opinion, that is exactly what it feels like walking into this unique establishment.

Of the approximate 7,000 books on hand, I asked Flyleaf's managing director, Lani, how often do the books switch? I was shocked when she told me weekly, if not daily.

"There are always new, interesting titles being released," she said, "and I do my best to find books that I think our customers will enjoy."

She said a lot of independent bookstores tend to buy specific books that are suggested by their publishing reps. Not at this bookstore.

"Literally every book on our shelves was reviewed and handpicked," she said. "We carry a lot of bestsellers and our selection is definitely very curated and very thoughtful."

Located on the second level, down the hall from the fireplace, is a cozy back room, the Reading Room. With fabulous natural lighting and cozy couches, this room is the perfect space for hosting gatherings of up to 12 people. It's become popular for book clubs to sit, sip and snack while discussing their monthly novels. This space needs to be reserved and there is a minimum that must be cleared.

As for libations, a word used for centuries, this term for cocktails and alcoholic beverages suits the decor of Flyleaf perfectly. The quaint small bar on the main level offers house-crafted cocktails, from classic favorites to some that include unique ingredients, such as sesame-washed tequila, lemon sherbet and pie-spiced syrup. Its signature drink is an espresso martini that I cannot wait to pull up a barstool to enjoy. It also has a variety of fun



Extensive wine collection.

mocktails and other non-alcoholic drinks. Last month Flyleaf welcomed a new addition to their libations team, Catherine Johnson, as beverage manager and sommelier. Catherine found her way back home to her native Grosse Pointe Farms after decades of traveling around the world becoming the sommelier she is today.

With Catherine also came a stepped-up wine program. Flyleaf now carries an impressive wine list featuring famed growers and producers, both old world and new.

Lani mentioned there are lots of wine events planned for the future, including wine tastings, educational wine gatherings and food pairings. During "Tonight by the Glass," every Friday and Saturday, they offer glass pours from one bottle — one you wouldn't typically find on a by-the-glass menu. This is designed to give guests a chance to try something new and special.

Drink service is available on all levels and in summer months, the third floor/rooftop is a highly sought-after dining and gathering location, especially during Bar Card, from 3 to 5 p.m. for small bites, and cocktail hour from 3 to 5 p.m. when drink specials are offered. Full bar and service, along with comfortable seating under the stars, is something that truly makes Flyleaf a unique experience. Rest assured, there is an elevator to help you on



Food Gossip

by Nina Taormina

your way up and down.

While many patrons are obsessed with Flyleaf's signature french fries and deviled eggs, the business recently welcomed a brand new chef de cuisine to their team as well, Chef Christina Soldano.



Signature hand cut fries.

Christina is classically trained and has served in many West Coast restaurants in and around Seattle and Los Angeles. She's aiming to change the menu every couple of months, providing new and different shareable dishes, with the freshest seasonal ingredients. Currently her pear and brie flatbread has been ordered often from the evening menu.

Coffees and desserts? Yes, please! Flyleaf's coffee blend is exclusive to the location. After a few tastings, they came up with the right flavor for their brand. They use it exclusively for

regular drip and espresso coffees. It's so popular they decided to offer it for purchase in 8-ounce giftable bags. They also use it in their popular affogato dessert. Lani explained the star of the dessert menu: "Our WOW item is definitely our amazing house-made truffle flight. Flavors will change from time to time."

Flyleaf also offers the



Truffle flight and cappuccino.

timeless classic tiramisu, as well as a red wine, poached pear, which I find intriguing. If you like tarts, you're in luck as they're a chef favorite. This menu also includes seasonal offerings.

With the holidays approaching and many friendly get-togethers happening, by popular demand, you can now

See FOOD, page 3C

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



Our family couch has been the heart of countless movie nights and holds many cherished memories. Though it's in generally good shape, it could definitely benefit from a refresh.

When I came across the Bissell Little Green Multi-Purpose Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner on Amazon, I decided to give it a try. At \$100, it's an investment, but

given all I'd heard, I felt it was worth testing.



Using the Little Green was straightforward: I filled the tank with the pro-

vided cleaning solution and water, plugged it in and started on one cushion at a time. The cleaner gently lifted dirt and stains and, as I worked, I could see the water in the tank growing darker, a clear sign of its effectiveness. Each cushion began to look noticeably cleaner and fresher, restoring the fabric without any damage.

The process took a bit of time, but as the couch dried, I could see a marked improvement.

The cushions looked nearly new and the color seemed brighter, as if years of use had been gently removed. It's reassuring to know the Little Green can be used on other household items, like chairs and curtains, making it versatile for regular cleaning needs.

Overall, I'd rate the Bissell Little Green Machine a solid 5 out of 5. It's an effective tool for families or anyone looking to maintain their

upholstery with ease and reliability.

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

5 Out Of 5



Party hors d'oeuvres

Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

We are officially in the thick of my favorite time of year! The glorious season of holiday hors d'oeuvres has arrived — hot dips, baked bries, candied and roasted nuts, cocktail meatballs and puff pastry wrapped anything to name a few.

My waistline screams no more while my festive spirit yells, the more the merrier!

Sausage rolls are my favorite hors d'oeuvres, bar none, this time of year. I just can't resist these warm, buttery and flaky bites. They are the elegant, eager to please and strapping big brother to the crescent wrapped cocktail weenie. A classic British snack, these are a mixture of pork and spices wrapped inside puff pastry and baked to golden brown perfection.

To keep things festive, I made a sweet cranberry mustard that only has two ingredients.

Sausage rolls are easy to put together and can be made ahead of time and stored in the refrigerator until you are

ready to bake them. Also, they freeze well.

I used ground pork but the Belgian sausage from Village Market on Mack Ave is so delicious as well.

Holiday guests will devour these and appreciate they're substance to offset all the holiday cocktails!

Cheers, Mombeau

Sausage Rolls

½ onion, diced

½ tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

1 lb ground pork

½ cup breadcrumbs

¼ tsp nutmeg

2 tbsp fresh, chopped sage

2 sheets, thawed puff pastry

2 eggs

¼ cup whole berry cranberry sauce

¼ cup stone ground mustard

Sesame seeds (optional)

To make the cranberry mustard, combine both the stone ground mustard and cranberry sauce in a small bowl. Refrigerate until ready to use. To make more, just make sure you use equal parts of both ingredients.

Start by sauteing the onion in the olive oil. Season with the salt and pepper. Cook the onion until soft for a few minutes. Transfer the onion to a bowl along with the ground pork, breadcrumbs, nutmeg, one egg and sage. Mix until combined and set aside. Beat the other egg in a small bowl with a splash of water. Set aside.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Unfold each sheet of the dough on a floured work surface. Gently roll out until they are about a 10 x 8 inch rectangle. Slice the pastry in half lengthwise creating two long rectangles.

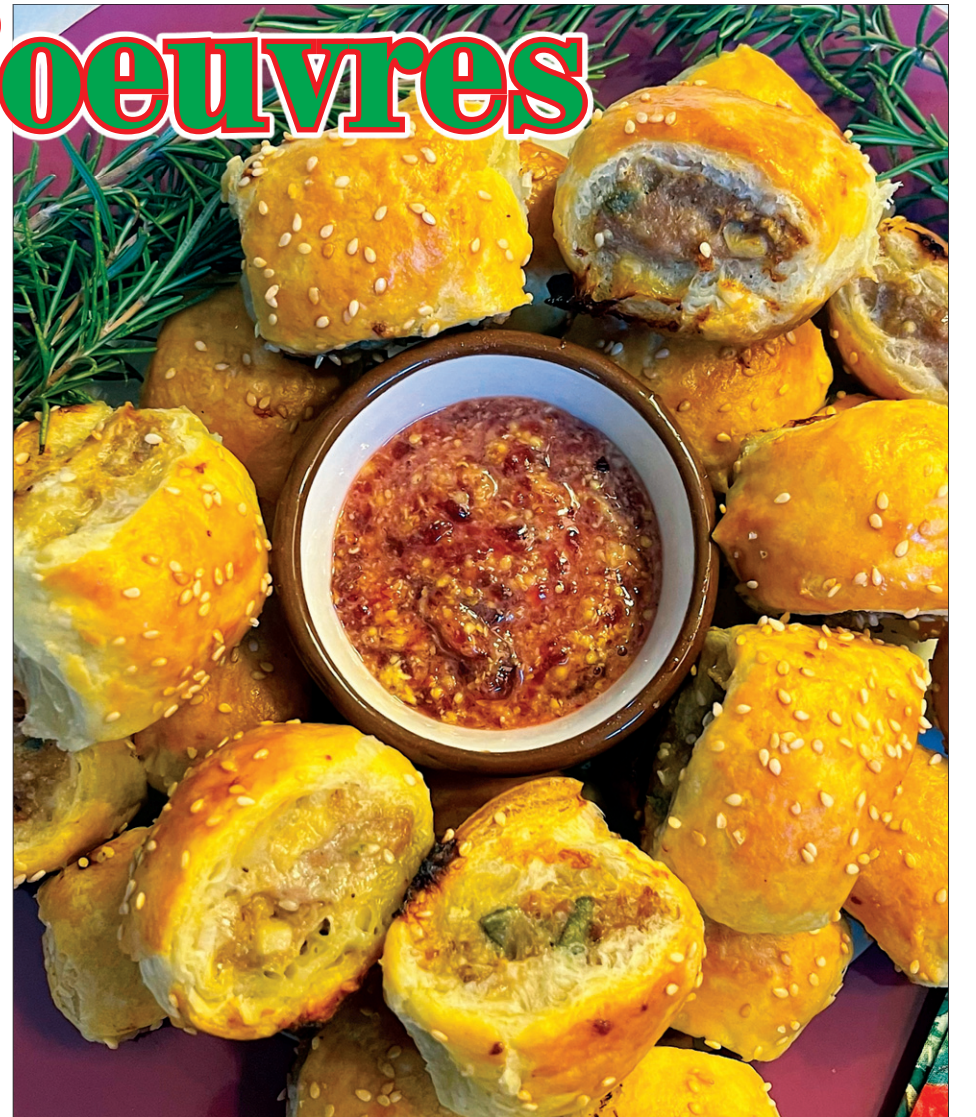


PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Divide the sausage mixture in four portions and form into a thin log in the middle running all the way down the pastry. Brush the two long sides of each rectangle with egg wash. Roll the pastry up

around the sausage so one side overlaps. Flip the log over, seam side down. Cut each one into six to eight pieces and arrange on a parchment paper lined baking sheet, seam side down. Brush the tops

with remaining egg wash and sprinkle with sesame seeds, if so desired.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown on top. Serve on a platter with cranberry mustard for dipping.



Wine prices

No one is quite certain what will happen to U.S. wine prices in the coming year, but one thing is certain: Change is afoot.

Several weeks ago, news stories indicated a strong likelihood that wine prices would come down in retail stores because of scant demand by consumers seeking alternative beverages combined with a prohibitionist movement that seeks to report medical dangers too simplistically.

It has been known for decades by medical sci-

ence that small amounts of wine consumed regularly are part of a healthy diet. But neoprohibitionists' recent messages attempt to counter that notion.

As a result of slow sales of wine, it is estimated that more than 25 percent of all the grapes grown in California either were not harvested this year or were never made into wine because of the lack of demand.

This is not just a domestic problem. Literally hundreds of

thousands of grapevines worldwide have been targeted for removal this year in significant wine country regions, including France, Italy, Spain and Australia.

France announced last week that roughly 120,000 acres of vines would be pulled out!

However, wine prices also hinge on political considerations. When President-elect Donald Trump promised that he would impose tariffs on foreign goods, it brought back memories of the tariffs he imposed on French wines in his first term.

Should this occur again, it could trigger higher prices for French wine. This might be seen as good news for domestic wines, but it remains to be seen if any tariffs levied on European goods includes European-produced winery and vineyard equip-

ment that's needed here.

Americans seeking lower prices for wine might take advantage of a relatively new category of wines.

California produces more than 85 percent of all the wines made in the United States. Most of this wine is labeled as "California" wine. But a federal law permits wines produced here to contain up to 25 percent of wines produced outside the country.

These "import-blended" wines cannot be called "California" but may carry the designation "American."

Several large wine companies, taking advantage of really inexpensive imported wine coming here in bulk, now produce lower-priced wines that say "American" on their labels. Federal law prohibits such wines from

carrying a vintage date.

Companies are charging very low prices for these blends. I sampled three of these wines recently and found them to be decent values even though their prices were lower than \$6 per bottle!

They were not memorable. They didn't make me forget quality wines. They were simply ordi-

nary table wine that were better than I had anticipated they would be.

Dan Berger lives in Sonoma County, California, where he publishes "Vintage Experiences," a weekly wine newsletter. Write to him at winenut@gmail.com.

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FOOD:

Continued from page 2C

make reservations during lunch and evening hours via resy.com. I definitely recommend it this time of year.

Flyleaf's current hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday

and 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Dining hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for pastries (or until they run out), 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch, 3 to 5 p.m. for bar card, weekdays from 3 to 5 p.m. for cocktail hour and 5 to 9 p.m. for the evening menu.

Follow along with all the happenings at Flyleaf on Instagram: @flyleafg or

Facebook: Flyleaf, or visit flyleaf.com.

Fun Fact: Flyleaf now carries pastries from Grosse Pointe's own, LeRouge Boulangerie. It's a fantastic partnership to say the least!

Stay tuned. Stay hungry.



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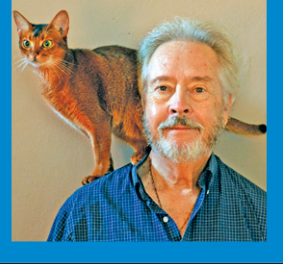
PHOTOS COURTESY OF RABBITS BLACK AND TRIBUNE PICTURES

Left, Matilda De Angelis as Renata Contarini and Liev Schreiber as Col. Richard Cantwell in the 2024 movie "Across the River and Through the Trees," directed by Paula Ortiz.

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

"Life is too short to watch mediocre movies"



Capt. Wes O'Neill (Danny Huston), warns him that if he keeps up with his drinking, smoking and drug use, he won't have long to live. Of course, this advice is totally ignored.

He reluctantly allows Cantwell to spend a weekend in Venice and

assigns him a driver, the chatty Jackson (Josh Hutcherson).

It's not long before he ditches Jackson with the intention of revisiting his beloved city on his own. After disembarking the train station, he encounters a beautiful young woman, Renata (Matilda

film works so well is the fine performance turned in by Schreiber. Throughout the film he maintains a steely, macho exterior, while we can sense the emotional upheaval boiling just under the surface.

There's also an undeniable chemistry between him and Ms. De Angelis. I don't know why, but she reminded me a lot of Audrey Hepburn.

I'm especially thankful the director didn't turn the movie into a cross-generational romance. Her interpretation works so much better and I believe she's created a cinematic masterpiece.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Across the River and Through the Trees"
 2022 - Not Rated
 1 hr 46 min
 ★★★★★

There were two compelling factors that drew me to this recent film. The first is that it's set in Venice, which I consider the most beautiful city on earth. I'll admit I'm a bit biased, but I'm a self-admitted Venice-ophile (if that's even a word). If you've never been there, I urge you to visit it — you certainly won't be disappointed. And if you have visited La Serenissima, you know what I'm talking about. In fact, the city so captured my heart, my wife and I gave our eldest daughter Venice for her middle name.

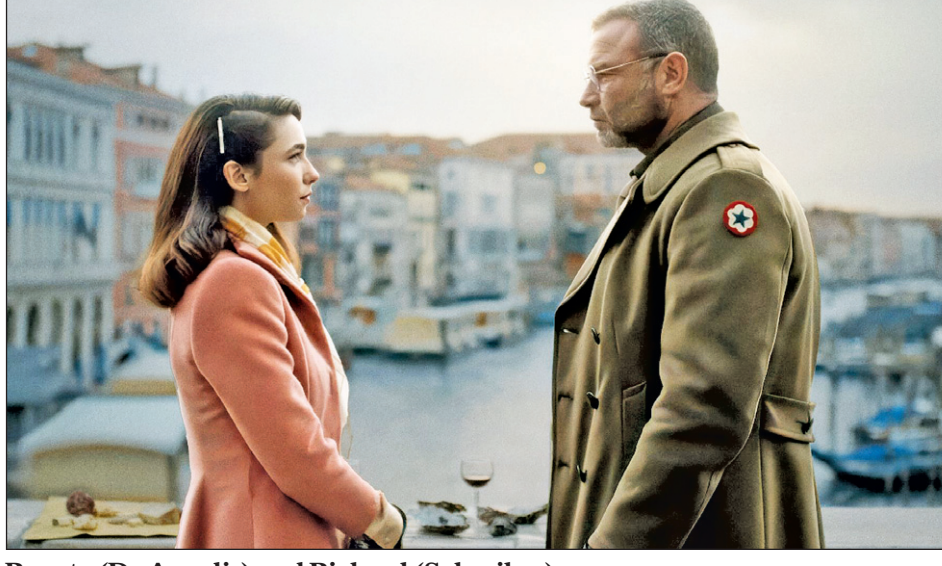
The second reason I needed to see this movie is that it starred Liev Schreiber. I'm not alone in feeling he's one of the most underrated actors in Hollywood. I've enjoyed him in the wide variety of roles he's played over the years including films like "Salt," "The Last Days on Mars," "Asteroid City" and "Don't Look Up."

I think, however, this is without a doubt his finest performance to date. He has an undeniable on-screen presence that's thoroughly riveting. Here it's not so much what he does, it's what he's withholding and the steely composure he exhibits the entire film.

"Across the River" is based on a book by

Earnest Hemingway. It was originally serialized in Cosmopolitan magazine in 1950 before being published as a novel later that year. When it was released it received lukewarm reviews but it's since been regarded as one of his finer works.

The book was adapted for the screen by director Paula Ortiz and was written by award-winning writer Peter Flannery. I've not read the book but have heard the story was pared down a bit, which made for a more powerful film.



Renata (De Angelis) and Richard (Schreiber).



A flashback.

Schreiber plays American Army Col. Richard Cantwell, a veteran and hero of the two World Wars. He returns to Italy after WWII, presumably to go duck hunting. We soon learn the country holds a special place in his heart for memories both happy and tragic. Cantwell is in ill health and his friend, the physician



Richard (Schreiber) in the ruins of a church.



Renata (De Angelis) offering a ride.



Capt. Wes O'Neil (Danny Huston).

De Angelis). She volunteers to ferry him to his hotel in her boat and this proves to be the beginning of a special friendship between the couple.

Apparently, in the book, they end up romantically involved. In the film version, the two become close during their long walks through the enchanting city. They spend most of their time together baring their souls to one another.

We learn that Renata is a countess from a long line of royalty. Her family has fallen on hard times in the wake of the war, and she's engaged to be married. She's in a loveless relationship and it's merely a marriage of convenience — her fiancée is from a wealthy family and it's hinted that the marriage was arranged by her mother, Contessa Contarini (Laura Morante).

A good portion of the film is spent following the couple as they explore Venice. Thanks to the marvelous cinematography of Javier Aguirresarobe, we're treated to breathtaking scene after scene that paint a vivid picture of the unique city.

I found it interesting that during much of their wandering, the city was almost totally deserted. It lent an otherworldly feel; almost like they were living in a virtual purgatory. It leaves the viewer with a haunting sensation.

One of the reasons the

Note to parents: The movie is Not Rated. With the exception of a few battle scenes, I don't think there's any other objectionable material in it. I'd probably give it a PG-13.

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Hoopla. And to rent on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, Fandango, and other services.

My rating system:
 ★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you're embarrassed to admit you've seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ Pretty good. In fact, if there weren't any other movies in your queue, you might watch it again.

★★★★ One you'd recommend to friends.

★★★★★ So good you'd actually go out and buy it!

If you have any suggestions, feel free to email me at: dominmark@yahoo.com.

Also, if you're looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.

A look back: Village trick-or-treating event

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

The Village of Grosse Pointe held its annual trick-or-treating event the afternoon of Halloween and lots of families turned out to gather candy in their bags and buckets.



Mary Sanderson and her two sisters from "Hocus Pocus," Winifred and Sarah, struck a pose with Cosette Surowski, who was very excited.



Dressed as a scarecrow and Mario, Madeline Brown and her brother, Adam, came ready to collect some candy.

Evelyn Schikora was a bomb pop, Kathryn Schikora was an upside-down ice cream cone, Joe Schikora was a cookie, Henry Schikora was a cupcake and Robert Schikora was a cake. Mom Kathryn Schikora made all the costumes.



Willie Dixon and his brother, James, came equipped with their own rockets and dressed as astronauts.

Dressed as a skeleton, Gus Feder came to The Village event with his sister, Samantha, dressed as a fairy, and his brother, Teddy, dressed as a cowboy riding a dinosaur.



Above, Scary Clown, Hudson Bobrovetski shows the book, "Make a trade Charlie Brown," which he got from the Friends of the Library table, which handed out 765 books at the event.



Amalia Buchanan, dressed as Cruella DeVill, stands behind her twin brothers, Oliver and Lloyd Buchanan, who are dressed as Lloyd and Harry from the movie, "Dumb and Dumber."

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Aquarius.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 5, 2024: You are multitalented, modern and cutting-edge. Despite your strong individuality, you value loyalty with family and friends. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time for reflection. You also might renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you a better understanding of yourself.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

If you're discussing controversial subjects today, you will put a lot of yourself in what you have to say. (Go easy if you see the hair blowing back over other people's ears.) Remember to use the advantage you have right now when dealing with bosses and authority figures. Yes, use it! Tonight: Friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, and today you will have strong opinions about issues related to taxes, debt, insurance and shared property. This is why you won't hesitate to speak up! Do be aware that people notice you more than usual today. Tonight: Show respect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Discussions with partners, spouses and close friends will be lively today. (This could involve an ex-partner or old friend back on the scene.) The intensity of whatever transpires might come from someone else or it might come from you. Meanwhile, do something different today to shake things up! Tonight: Learn!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

At work today or perhaps with issues related to your health, you will be opinionated! One reason for this is you might feel that you are covering old ground and dealing with things from the past that you have already been clear about. (Will no one listen?) Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a powerful day for those involved in creative projects. If you act, work in the arts, or you draw or sculpt or dance -- whatever the medium -- you will express yourself with passion! Meanwhile, be ready to compromise and be agreeable with others today. Tonight: Listen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Family discussions will be lively today because someone from the past who is back on the scene might have strong opinions. Perhaps parents have strong ideas. Whatever the case, everyone has their two cents to add to the argument. Look for ways to facilitate things. Tonight: Get organized.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today social diversions appeal to you. Play hooky if you can. Take a long lunch. Enjoy fun outings, sports and playful activities with children. Meanwhile, exchanges with others will be lively and dynamic because everyone has an opinion today! Tonight: Socialize.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You have strong ideas about financial matters today. Or perhaps about something you own. Either way, you won't hesitate to tell it like it is. Fortunately, with Venus in your House of Communications, you'll be diplomatic and charm-

ing. Cocoon if you can. Tonight: Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today the Sun is lined up with Mercury retrograde in your sign, which makes you talkative and clear about what you want. You might reassess your goals and redefine what really matters to you. You will find it easy to express yourself in an eloquent way. Tonight: Conversations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today you might find yourself rethinking something. You also might wonder how others see you and your ideas. Nevertheless, you have increased clarity today about whatever it is that's been holding you back and perhaps needs an adjustment. It's a day of self-awareness. Tonight: Check your money.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Discussions with an old friend or someone you haven't seen for a while might be clarifying and provocative for you today. In fact, somebody might say something that causes you to rethink your goals. In part, this might be due to changing values that you're experiencing. Tonight: You're strong.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

If talking to parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs or the police today, you'll have a lively exchange! This might be about past issues. Or it might be that you want to introduce a new way of looking at things. Certainly, if someone in authority has a strong opinion, you must listen. Tonight: Privacy.

BORN TODAY
Actress, comedian Margaret Cho (1968), Gen. George Armstrong Custer (1839), actor Adan Canto (1981).

Contract Bridge

HOW WOULD YOU PLAY IT?
Contract — Four Spades.
Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

NORTH
♠ 3
♥ K Q 10 6 4
♦ Q 10 9 8 7 6 3
♣ —

WEST **EAST**
♠ A 9 6 2 ♠ 4
♥ 9 8 5 ♥ A J 7 3
♦ A 4 ♦ K J 2
♣ 10 8 7 6 ♣ 9 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q J 10 8 7 5
♥ 2
♦ 5
♣ A K Q J

to make the contract — and it can be made — now that you know how the East-West cards are divided.

As with most problems of this type, the solution is easy once you've seen it. If you'd like to work it out for yourself, stop reading right here; if not, here's the way it's done:

Obviously, you have to try to do something to keep West from getting a second trump trick. To that end, after ruffing the diamond jack at trick two, you should lead a club and trump it in dummy!

Now play the third round of diamonds and, when East produces the king, discard a heart (instead of ruffing). This hands East-West their second trick, but the only other one they can get is the ace of trump. East is out of diamonds, and there is nothing else he can return to injure you.

The effect of this "loser on loser" play is that it removes a potential threatening card (the king of diamonds) from East's hand at the same time as you dispose of a heart — which was a loser in any case.

It is not important that you wind up losing two diamond tricks instead of a heart and a diamond. What is important is that you lose only one trump trick instead of two.

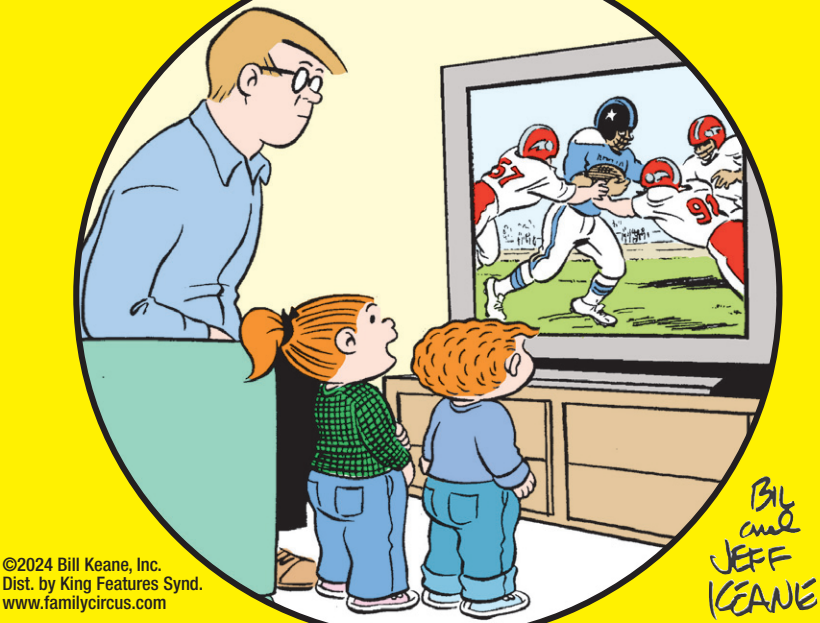
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

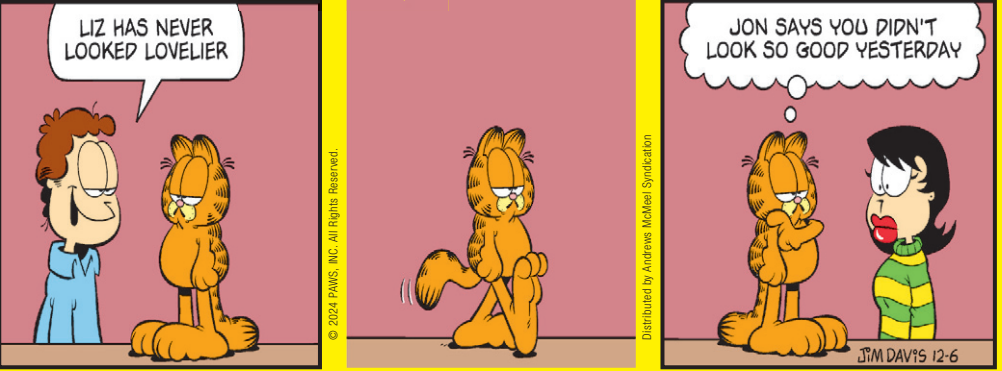
Bill and Jeff Keane



“He won’t let anybody else have the ball. He hasn’t learned about sharing”

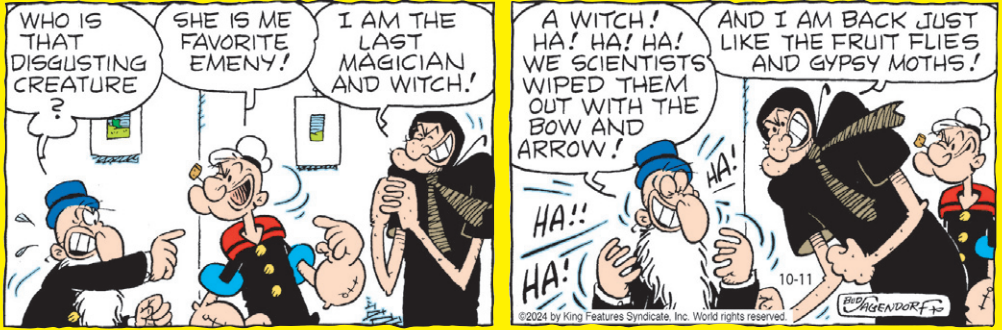
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



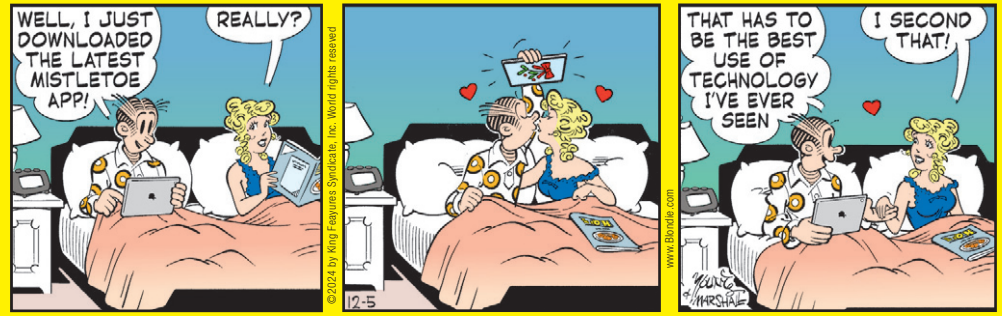
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/5 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

© 2024 by Andrews McMeel Syndication 11/28 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 5, 2024

- ACROSS**
- 1 Plant-based
 - 5 “BuzzFeed Unsolved” cohort
 - 10 Events with smokers, for short
 - 14 Like many people in the Fertile Crescent
 - 15 ___-mouthed (vulgar)
 - 16 Boor
 - 17 “You’re 100% correct!” (In this answer, note letters 4, 6 and 8)
 - 20 Course that might teach someone to say “It’s nice to meet you”: Abbr.
 - 21 Geometry calculation
 - 22 Bakery desserts
 - 23 Space similar to a cave
 - 25 ___ Stone (famous artifact with hieroglyphs)
 - 27 “___ better to have loved and lost ...”
 - 28 Green Avenger
 - 29 Hypotheticals
 - 30 Apt letters missing from “ont_l_er”
 - 31 Greek sandwich
 - 32 Greek god of love
- DOWN**
- 1 Sleepover game challenges
 - 2 Like boxy and colcannon
 - 3 Scouts BSA bird
 - 4 “not gonna lie ...”

- 5 Ferns’ reproductive units
 - 6 Fine-tuned, as skills
 - 7 Flour ground in a chakki mill
 - 8 Ultimate degree
 - 9 Hazel or blue
 - 10 British fella
 - 11 Very weary
 - 12 Travel in search of
 - 13 Piggy’s place
 - 18 Hummus ingredient
 - 19 Luchador’s covering
 - 24 Huge fans, in slang
 - 25 Like farm living
 - 26 Mule’s father
 - 28 Publicized heavily
 - 30 Cleaves
 - 31 Say hi to
 - 32 No friend
 - 33 Abruptly desert
- 34 “ABSO-LUTELY!”**
- 35 ___ word score (Scrabble board phrase)**
- 36 “___ Dark Materials”**
- 40 Fivers, in old slang**
- 41 Like a cozy spot by the fire**
- 43 Tiny arachnids**
- 44 Podiatrists’ concerns**
- 45 Yuletide tune**
- 46 “Hometown Glory” singer**
- 47 Carried around**
- 49 Actors’ prompts**
- 51 “___ goes there?”**
- 52 Eggs, to biologists**
- 53 Some music store offerings**

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

N	I	K	E	A	D	I	E	U	A	T	O	M
T	R	E	X	N	O	C	A	P	D	A	V	E
H	I	P	H	U	G	G	E	R	S	O	P	E
S	T	A	T	E	S		S	T	I	P	E	N
		L	I	L			A	N	T			
R	A	D	I	C	A	L	S	I	G	N	T	R
A	R	E	N	A			E	A	S	E		H
L	O	N	G			P	O	U	N	D	N	E
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11/28 Solution © 2024 by Andrews McMeel Universal www.upuzzles.com

Hopping Mad by Dylan Schiff

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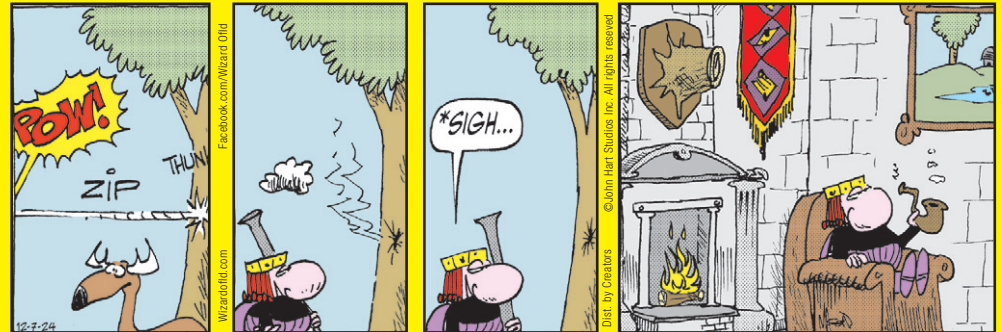
Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



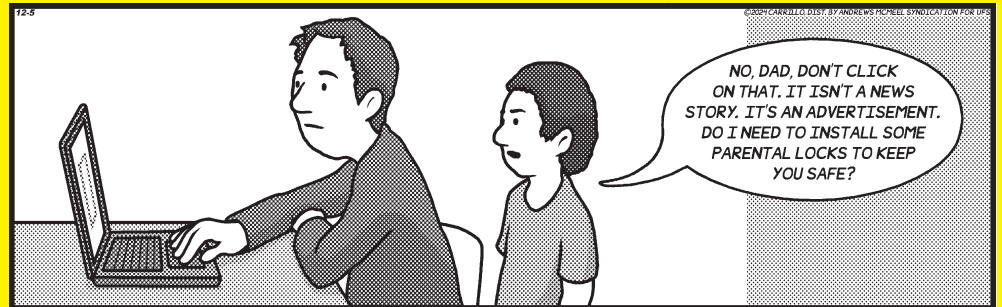
Wizard of Id

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



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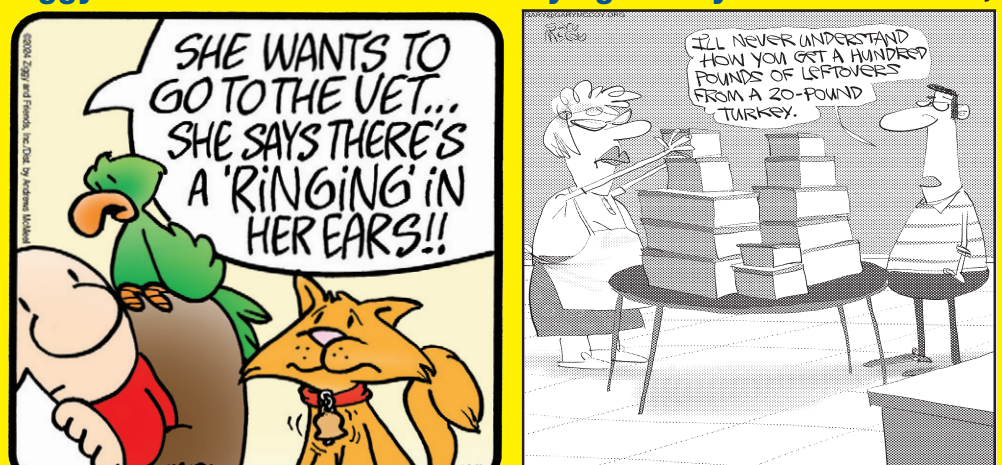


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

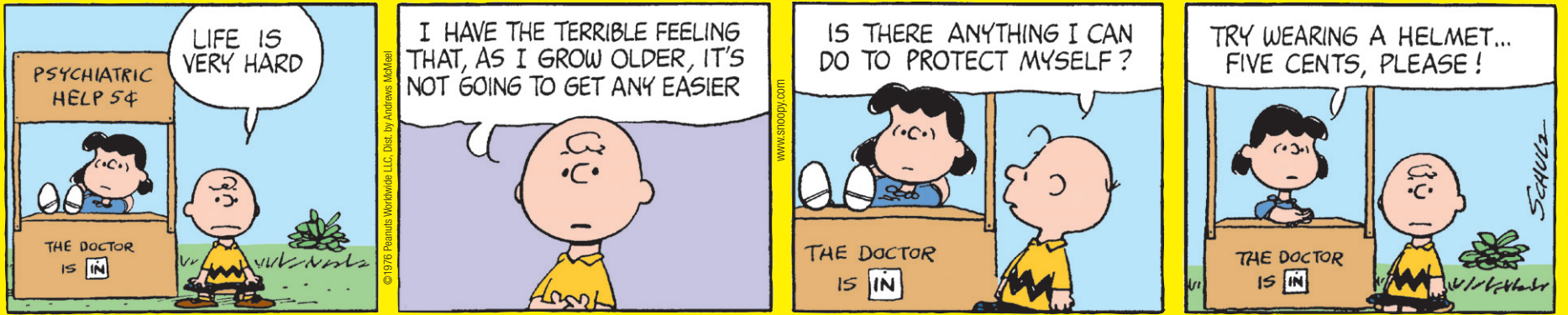
Glenn McCoy



Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



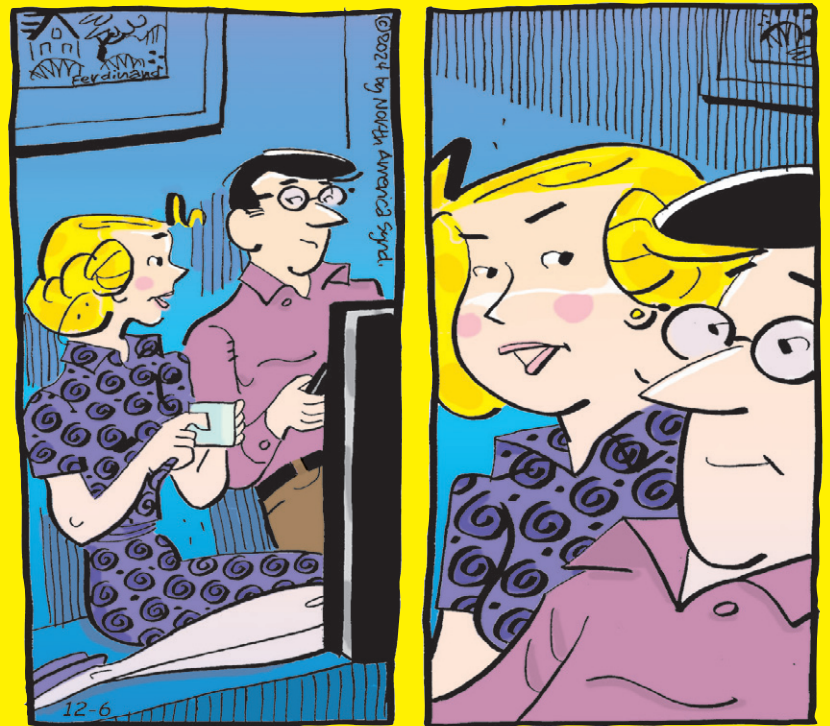
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



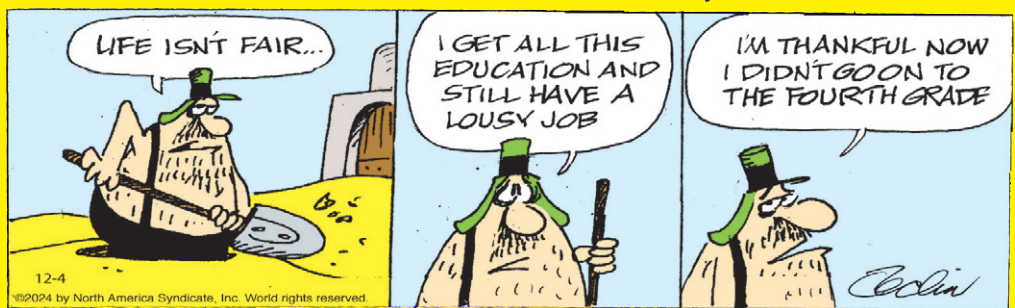
Crankshaft

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



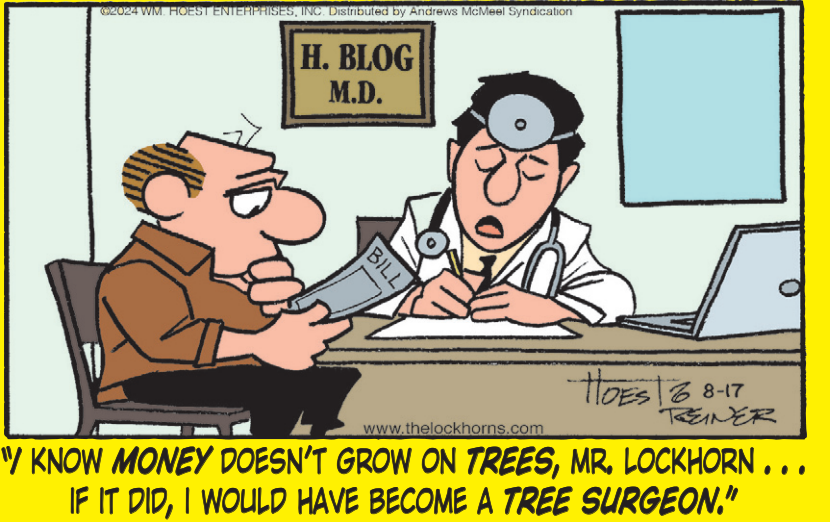
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayno



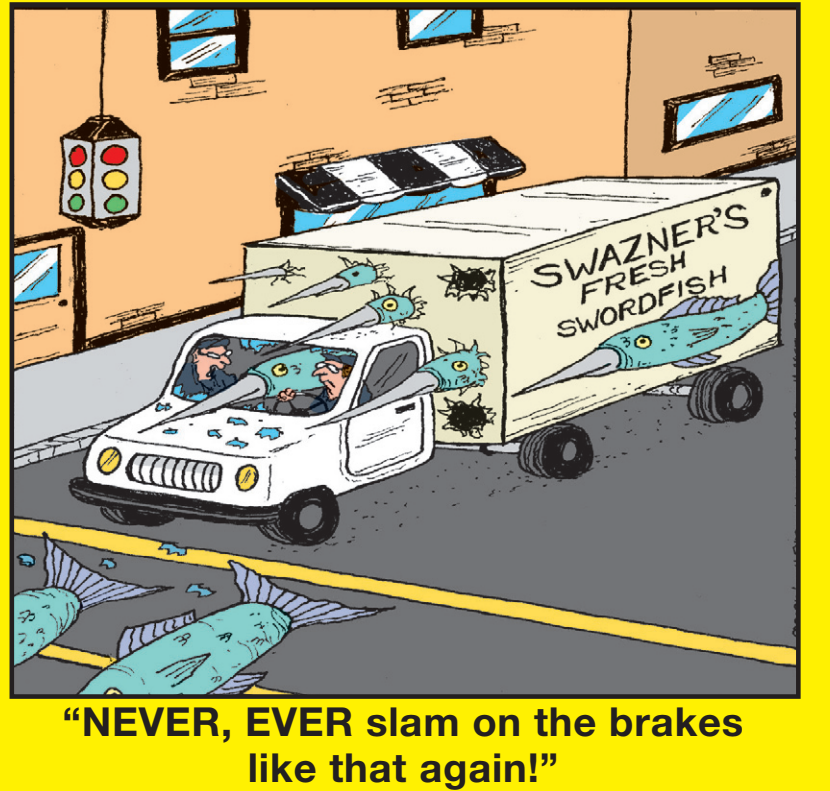
The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



The Gift of Time

Want a gift that keeps on giving the whole year? Write lots and lots of reasons you love someone then pop the reasons into a jar so your loved one can pull out a new one each and every day.

I love you because you drive me to school each day!

I love you because you cheer me up when I'm sad.

I love you because you help me with my homework.

Gifts from the Heart (NOT THE WALLET!)

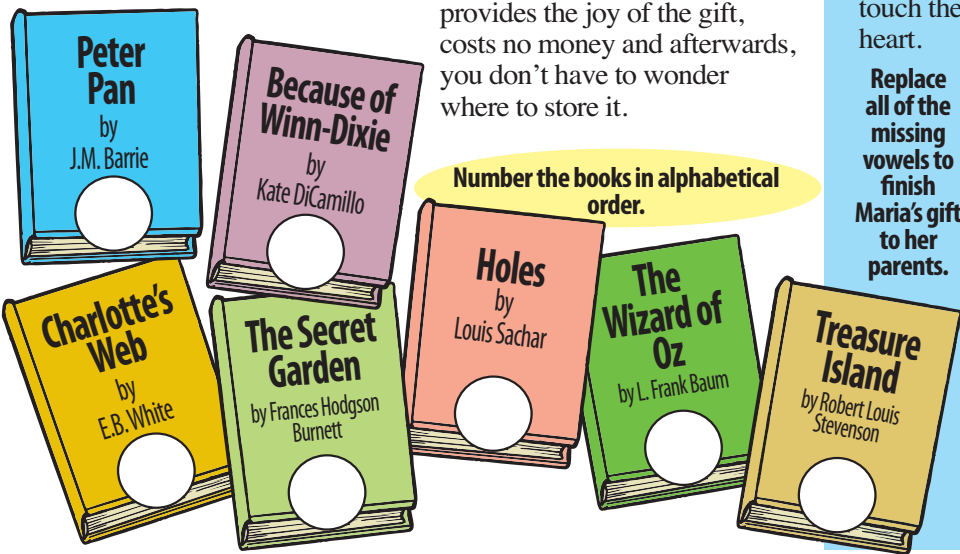
The spirit of the holidays is about giving, not spending money. Although at times, this becomes hard to remember.

Kid Scoop News Librarian Jim Silverman has a cool way to give gifts that warm the heart and don't cost a cent!

"Select some books from the library!" says Jim. "Wrap them up and tuck them under the tree."

Of course, you have to return them after a couple of weeks. But by then, the books are read.

A wrapped library book provides the joy of the gift, costs no money and afterwards, you don't have to wonder where to store it.



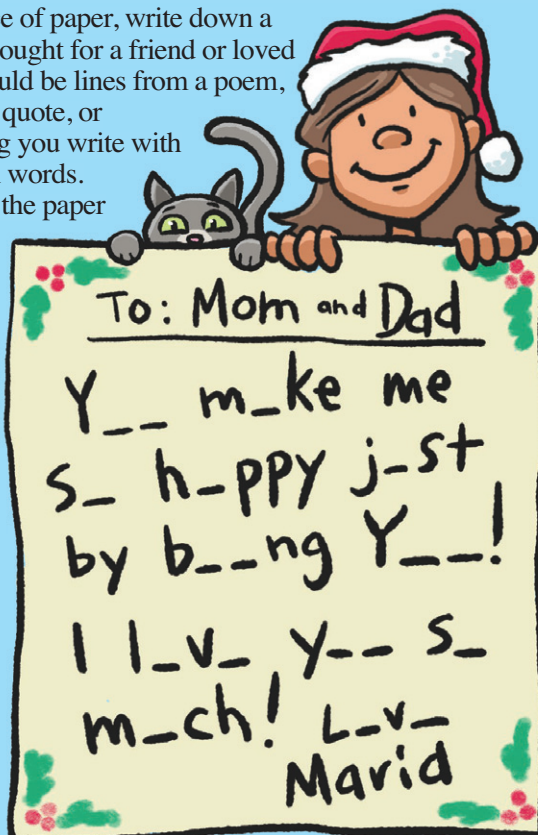
It's the Thought That Counts

It truly is the loving thought behind a gift that makes it special. And, thoughts are free!

On a piece of paper, write down a special thought for a friend or loved one. It could be lines from a poem, a famous quote, or something you write with your own words.

Decorate the paper to offer a gift that will touch the heart.

Replace all of the missing vowels to finish Maria's gift to her parents.



Standards Link: Spell grade-level appropriate words correctly.

The Gift of Time

Create a coupon book of chores and actions you can take to be helpful. Could you take out the trash? Wash the dishes? Sweep the floor? Make a list of helpful things you could do for someone in your family.



Give a Pet ... Rock!

Find a sweet, rounded rock outside. Clean it off. Paint it and give it as a gift. Write a little story about the rock. Maybe give it a name. Make a list of instructions on how to care for it.

Find the two identical rocks.

Give the Gift of Helping Out

Step up and offer to help someone. Can you help someone carrying a lot of stuff? Can you help pick up after a game? Can you pick up some trash on the playground? Can you help an older neighbor with yard work or running an errand for them?

These little actions can make a big difference in someone's day!

What is fairness?

Look through the newspaper for words and images that describe someone in your family. Cut out the words and images. Make a collage to give them as a gift.

Standards Link: Visual Arts: Use a variety of media to create artwork.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Give the Gift of a Smile!

Is there someone at school who is looking sad. Give them a smile and a hello! Draw the face that continues the pattern in each row.



Standards Link: Recognize patterns.

Double Double Word Search

- ACTIONS
- BOOK
- CARE
- CHORES
- CLEAN
- COSTS
- FREE
- GAME
- GIFT
- HELP
- LIST
- POEM
- ROCK
- STORY
- THOUGHT

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

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Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **COLLAGE**

The noun **collage** means a type of artwork in which different materials are pasted onto a surface to make a picture.

I was happy that grandma hung the **collage** I made on a wall in her house.

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Caring for Community

Look through the newspaper for info about organizations that help others in your community. List ways they help people. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper thanking this organization for what they do.

Standards Link: Recognize syllables in words.



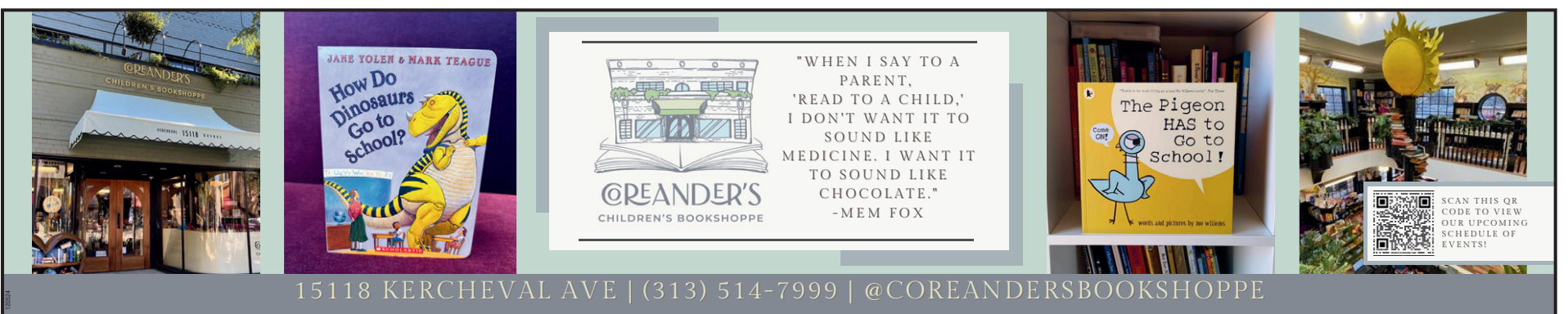
What seasoning does a snowman add to every meal?

ANSWER: Chilly flakes.

Write On!

Money-Free Gifts

What can you give without spending any money?



SPORTS



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Fall athletes from around Pointes end season with honors

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

The fall high school sports season has come to an end. As some athletes get ready to join their respective winter sports teams, the final honors of the fall season have been given out for several sports, with various athletes from the Pointes being recognized for their outstanding performances.

The Pointes were well represented in the All-State team lists for boys soccer, released by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association. In Division 1, Grosse Pointe South's Onction Zape was recognized as third team All-State after scoring 28 goals this season, a new school record for South.

Grosse Pointe North's varsity boys soccer team had two representatives on the Division 2 All-State lists. Senior captain Matthew Robert was named second team All-State and sophomore Vincenzo Bonasso received an honorable mention. In Division 4,

University Liggett State. School senior Bobby Harthorn was recognized as third team All-



COURTESY PHOTO

South junior Gabby DiVita was named Division 1 first team All-State by the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association.

Volleyball Coaches Association recognized just one player from the Pointes. Grosse Pointe South junior Gabby DiVita was named first team All-State for Division 1.

South, North and Liggett all were represented on the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association's All-State boys tennis lists. Gruhith Yerramalli and Louis Macres from North were named All-State in Division 2 for doubles. Matthew Holowski from the Blue Devils received an All-State honorable mention for Division 2 singles.

The Knights had five tennis players named All-State in Division 4. Tise Courtright made the list for singles while the doubles teams of Griffin Marchal and Niko Cooksey and Landen Maltby and Luca Marciano also received All-State honors.

A large number of swimmers from the Pointes earned All-State titles with their performances at the girls swim



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

North boys tennis' doubles pair of Louis Macres, left, and Gruhith Yerramalli received All-State recognition in Division 2.

and dive state championships. South had swimmers earn All-State honors in nine events at the end of the competition.

Among those events was the 200 free relay with the team of Mischa Eng, Nicole McEnroe,

Caroline Bryan and Quinn Ryan. Ryan, Bryan and Eng also reached the All-State mark in the 100 backstroke. Bryan, Eng and teammate Hannah DiDio achieved All-

See ALL-STATE, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Hoops journey leads North's Rickerman to career performance in season opener

By Mike Adzima
 Sports Reporter

Some nights in sports, everything seems to perfectly come together for an athlete. Sometimes, it comes as the culmination of an incredible journey that someone has experienced, which could be said about Grosse Pointe North senior Ben Rickerman.

Rickerman has seen himself evolve from being a bench player on North's freshman and JV boys basketball teams to being a senior captain for the Norsemen's varsity squad. During his first career start in North's season opener against Warren Woods-Tower Nov. 26,

Rickerman dominated the court with 23 points, including six three-pointers, along with four rebounds and four assists in a 67-54 win for the Norsemen.

"Our team is loaded and any given night could be anyone's night and it just happened to be mine," Rickerman said about his career night. "Coach had a great gameplan for me and I thrived in my role.

My teammates were really good about getting me the

ball and I was just ready to go." How Rickerman became a varsity captain and scored 23 points to lead North to victory in the season opener shows just how much a performance like that truly means.

Rickerman began playing basketball at a young age and grew up playing for the Neighborhood Club and in AAU leagues.

When he got to high school, he knew he was

undersized at around 5 feet tall. His height coupled with injury troubles caused him to spend much of his freshman and JV seasons on the bench. Rickerman admits that back then he did not put much work into making himself better. However, as he got ready to make a push for the varsity team going into his junior year, something in

his mindset changed and he dedicated every day to making

himself bigger and stronger both physically and mentally.

"I did three to four workouts every day and I went from not playing on JV to just making varsity," Rickerman said. "This offseason, I really wanted to contribute to the team because I knew we had a special group this year. I did two or three workouts a day and it really shows how much work ethic can play into your career, because I went from not playing on JV to

two years later starting on opening night for varsity."

Rickerman has grown to 5 feet, 11 inches in North's varsity lineup as a senior and all the work he has done has helped him become the type of athlete he always wanted to be. It also would not have been possible without the belief of his coaches, especially North varsity boys basketball coach Rob Johnson, with whom Rickerman has spent years working and learning from in the Norsemen program.

"(Coach Johnson) just has the utmost confidence in me," he said.

See ATHLETE, page 6D



COURTESY PHOTO

North boys varsity basketball captain Ben Rickerman achieved a career high in points in the team's victory against Warren Woods-Tower on Nov. 26

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Ben Rickerman

School: Grosse Pointe North
 Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Expert Heating & Cooling

Believe in Ben

- Led North boys basketball with 23 points in win over Warren Woods-Tower on Nov. 26
- Finished game with 4 rebounds and 4 assists and made 6 three-pointers
- Senior captain of North boys varsity basketball

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| GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Varsity Wrestling

Blue Devil wrestlers have sights set on making podiums at Ford Field

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Grosse Pointe South wrestling enters the 2024-25 season knowing it must follow up a historic season for the program with even more success. Last winter, the Blue Devils had the program's first-ever state champion, who is back for another season to defend his title. Meanwhile, some other South wrestlers look poised to make a run to Ford Field and the state finals as well.

All eyes will be on senior Wyatt Hepner,

who won the Division 1 state title in the 138-pound weight class last season. He now is the only South wrestler to compete in a state championship match and win a title, and will be joining the wrestling team at Harvard University after graduation.

A lower-body injury kept Hepner off the wrestling mat in the offseason and off the football field much of the fall. However, his wrestling coaches believe the defending champ is fully ready to hit the ground running in his title defense.

"From what we've noticed since we started practicing, (Wyatt) seems ready to go," South wrestling head coach Dave Salazar said. "Even though his lower body was a bit injured, he kept up with everything else in the weight room and in some ways, it was probably good to give his body a summer off to recover. ... He is good to go and his mindset is that he's still as hungry as last year. Now that he's the defending champion, everyone is looking to get that upset and dethrone him, but he's as hungry as ever to be on top."

Hepner is far from the only South wrestler this season determined to make it to Ford Field when all is said and done. There are plenty of Blue Devils to watch out for, including fellow senior Josh Lemanski.

Lemanski made it to the state finals last season and finished eighth place overall at 165 pounds. This year, Lemanski has shown his coaches that he seems determined to make it back to that stage and make it onto the podium this time.

"He's been playing football all summer and is looking great," Salazar said about Lemanski. "He's also looking to improve on what he did last season and we want to get him on the podium and into the finals."



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Senior Wyatt Hepner returns to the South varsity wrestling team this season after capturing the program's first ever state championship last winter.

Other big names to keep an eye on throughout the season and who could very well find themselves on the state finals stage for South include seniors Lex Willson and Othneil Honablue and junior

them, both freshmen and upperclassmen, have been learning wrestling from South's coaches for years even before high school. That makes everyone within South's program optimistic about the future with nearly

through our kids' club program and wrestle in middle school at Pierce and now be at the high school level with us," Salazar said. "I think the big thing is our mental side of the game, where we work hard and train hard and everyone comes into the room in shape and has a good knowledge of wrestling, because we've been working with some of them since they were 10 or 11 years old. ... We have a room full of people ready to go from day one."

'Now that he's the defending champion, everyone is looking to get that upset and dethrone him, but he's as hungry as ever to be on top.'

DAVE SALAZAR, GP SOUTH WRESTLING HEAD COACH ON WYATT HEPNER

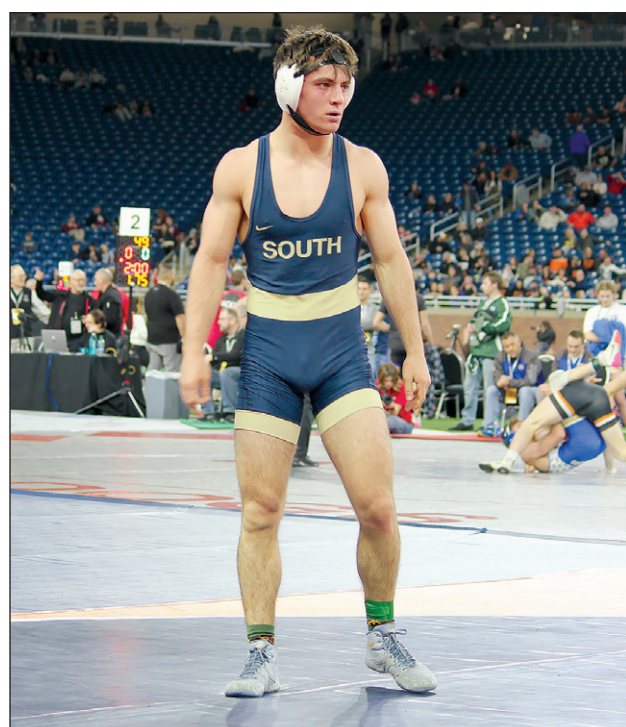
Mason Zentz.

A large crop of freshmen also has joined South's program this year, giving the Blue Devils more wrestlers on the roster than they had last season. Many of

everyone starting their careers already with plenty of experience.

"The last couple of seasons have really been some of the first times that we've seen a lot of these wrestlers come

South begins the season Thursday, Dec. 5, in a quad match at Chippewa Valley. The Blue Devils also compete Saturday, Dec. 7, in the Titan Duals hosted by Warren Woods-Tower.



South senior Josh Lemanski, who finished 8th in Division I at 165 pounds last season, is looking to make a return to the state finals this winter.

| GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Varsity Wrestling

North wrestling continues to build team culture ahead of new season

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity wrestling team enters the 2024-25 campaign with a mix of familiar names and new faces on the roster. With a melting pot of experience and skill coming together on the wrestling mat, the main goal is to continue building up the Norsemen's wrestling culture with the mentality that a rising tide will lift all boats.

"We have athletes who are ready to get after anything we throw at them," North varsity wrestling head coach Jaron Nelson said. "... This year, we have a good group of kids who are all in. It's a sight to see, especially with a younger group."

This year's North team is going to be led by experienced seniors and a strong junior class. Julian Garmolera, Barrett Nelson, Grady Mead, Dwayne Howell and Aaron Rabaut are just some of the wrestlers who are expected to make waves this season and have their sights set on reaching Ford Field and the state finals.

Derand Sako, the only wrestler still on the roster who qualified for regionals last season, also is returning. The Norsemen are also looking for Sophia Salvador to do big things in the girls' division.

"They're really hardworking and they've seen where we were their freshman year and how far they've come,

so the sky is the limit for them," Nelson said about North's veteran wrestlers.

While many of those wrestlers have set their goals of competing for regional and state championships, they also are expected to lead and help the younger crop of wrestlers just entering the program grow and learn the sport. The season will be a grind for the Norsemen, but for a program that is growing every single year, every great individual performance hopefully will inspire more success going forward.

"Year to year, you might have a few kids who do well individually," Nelson said. "... Over the last few years, we've been trying to maintain the team

aspect and the family perspective. We just won the district championship for the first time in 12 years and we're looking to go back to back while maintaining the young team that we have. They can just see

the growth and unity that we've instilled in the program. I tell them all the time that if we do well as a team, then the individual success will come and they're starting to believe in that."

The Norsemen began

the season wrestling in a quad match after press time Wednesday, Dec. 4, hosted by Romulus. North's wrestlers are in action again Saturday, Dec. 7, competing at Carleton Airport High School.

Grosse Pointe News

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete?



Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

To nominate a future Athlete of the Week, scan the QR code or visit our website.



grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week



GROSSE POINTE SOUTH

Boys Varsity Swim & Dive

South boys swimmers look to maintain standard of success with new talent

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South varsity boys swim and dive team tries to reach a high bar of success every season. The Blue Devils come in with expectations to be champions of the MAC Red, a league they have dominated for much of this century, and to compete for state championships.

However, this winter might look a bit different from previous seasons. The Blue Devils are without several key pieces who graduated after last season, including almost all of the swimmers who earned points for the team at last year's state championship meet.

Now, it is up to a new class of leadership to help South maintain that high bar of success, but the team knows there may be some growing pains along the way.

"We lost a ton of points, most of our points from the state meet actually," South boys swim and dive head coach John Fodell said. "It's kind of a rebuilding year, but we have some really good senior captains who hopefully lead us the right way."

Those senior captains include Owen Mulcahy and Jack Finazzo, along with Duncan Richards. Finazzo and diver Troy Richard are some of the only returning pieces for South who were qualifiers for last sea-

son's state finals.

However, the Blue Devils are hopeful that some swimmers will be able to step up and make the journey to states this season. John Klepp, Thomas Brieden, Brady Bond, Everett Wood and Joseph Fodell are just some of the names that enter the season with expectations to perform at the biggest meets of the year.

While South may not look as dominant this season as it has in recent years, there still is plenty of optimism that the team can maintain its success in the MAC Red and beyond. The league has gotten tougher, but there is belief that both the young talent and the upperclassmen leaders

know the goals South has set out before them and how to work hard to achieve them.

"Qualifying for the state meet is a huge goal for a lot of them," Fodell said. "We don't have as much experience returning, so it's going to be interesting. ... We don't have many individual points returning. We're going to rely on some of the younger class to make sure we win the MAC meet again. We need to be making sure they're consistent and getting better so we can win the MAC, because there's some really good talent in the MAC Red this year on other teams."

South's season begins Thursday, Dec. 19, with a meet at home against Stevenson at 6 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA BRYAN

Fresh off of leading South's varsity girls swim and dive team to a state runner-up finish in the fall, coach John Fodell returns to the pool deck for another season at the helm of the Blue Devils' varsity boys swim and dive squad.

GROSSE POINTE NORTH

Boys Varsity Swim & Dive

North boys swim looks for strong leadership to improve performance

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the winter season starting, the Grosse Pointe North varsity boys swim and dive team is ready to dive into another campaign in the pool. The Norsemen may not have many seniors on this year's roster, but the group of swimmers they do have are more than capable of using their experience to lead the team both in and out of the pool during what North hopes to be a

strong year.

"It's a fun group of kids who know how to balance work but also know how to keep it light, which is important in our sport because it can be a grind," North boys varsity swim and dive coach Kyle Kinyon said. "... They're supportive of one another and allow

that energy to bounce off each other. It's exciting."

Leading the Norsemen this year are two juniors who have been elected captains, Paul Stephens and Alejandro Delgado. Also expected to make a big impact this season is sophomore Tyler Collins, who finished fifth in the 50 freestyle as a freshman

in last year's MAC Championships and was teammates with Stephens on the fifth-place 400 freestyle relay team.

Junior James Gusmano also looks to build on strong performances last season, including finishing eighth at the state finals in the 50 freestyle while breaking the school record. Also expected to

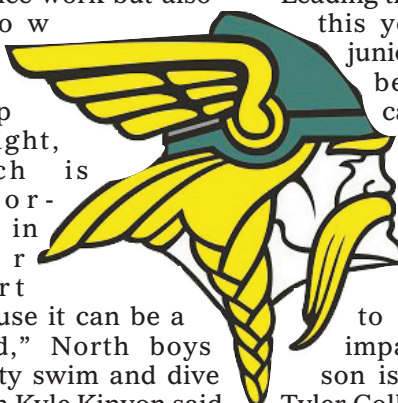
take a big step is sophomore Brady Winbigler, who made waves by reaching the podium with third place in the 500 freestyle in last year's MAC meet.

What ties everything together is the team's chemistry. Those swimmers are just a few who are coming into the new season with expectations to improve on their previous times. The

Norsemen see their leadership as the best way of elevating everyone's abilities.

"Our leaders are all about inclusiveness," Kinyon said. "It's one thing to have talent, but being a teammate is about more than just training hard and using your talent to have success. It's making sure

See NORTH, page 6D



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This, and every year- My family and I are extremely grateful & humbled, by the amazing clients I am fortunate enough to have.

"I can't say enough good things about Tom. He helped us find a house and then sell it several years later. When we were looking for our home, he spent countless hours showing us around and his knowledge and insights helped us fall in love with the area. When we finally found our home, Tom did an expert job in conducting what proved to be a difficult negotiation. When it was time to sell, there was no doubt that Tom was our guy. Once again, he came through and far exceeded our expectations. It was a particularly complicated sale because we were overseas at the time. Tom wasn't phased. He handled things in our absence with aplomb (which included many tasks that he would not have to do in a normal sale), happily accommodated a 12-hour time difference, and delivered a final result that was well above what we expected going in. Most importantly, Tom is just a solid human being all around. Again, I cannot recommend him enough"

Client review; Zillow-11/2024

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**CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.
ROLL CALL:All Councilpersons were present
MOTIONS PASSED
1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on November 4, 2024.
2) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 131234 through 131339 in the amount of \$374,874.92 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$25,002.34 for professional services during the month of October 2024 for the following projects: Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-303; San. Sewer Cleaning, #180-340; San. Sewer FCIPP Pgm, #180-339; Probation Office Eval., #180-358; Misc. Concrete Repair, #180-338; Pavement Striping, #180-342; Signal Mod. M-102, #180-355; Miss Dig, #180-255; Dist. System Materials, #180-357; DWSRF Lead Water Repl. #180-331; DWSD Sewage Discharge, #180-347; CDBG Sidewalk Repl., #180-350; Roscommon Pocket Pk. #180-329 and MDOT 8 Mile Crack Treatment, #180-359. (3) approve payment to SAFEbuilt, LLC in the amount of \$31,823.82 for the contractual building department services performed during the month of October 2024. (4) approve payment to Doxim, Inc. in the amount of \$5,773.61 for the processing and mailing of the summer tax bills and envelope supplies.
2) to approve the Administrative Services agreement and the Business Associate agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Varipro for the administration of Lifestyle Accounts, and further to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreements on behalf of the City.
3) to approve the Professional Services Agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Plante Moran for the preparation and review of financial schedules and analysis as provided in the scope of services per the City's annual financial audit and further, to authorize the acting City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
4) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$139,416.03 for Progress Payment No. 1 on the 2024 CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Project, #180-350.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor
Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, December 5, 2024

4D | SPORTS

Liggett boys hockey bests South in thrilling rivalry matchup

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

East Side Foundation Hockey Arena was nearly overflowing with fans Wednesday, Nov. 27, as supporters of Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School were there to witness the first night of what may become another great sports tradition in the Pointes.

South's varsity boys hockey team hosted Liggett in the first edition of The War Memorial Classic rivalry night. Even with the

Blue Devils hosting, it was the Knights who ended up on top 4-2 at the end of an extremely competitive game.

Much of the game was back and forth, including the opening period. The Knights got on the board first with a goal by Alex Gould to take a 1-0 lead a little over halfway through the first period.

Less than two minutes later, the Blue Devils evened things up with a goal by Jack O'Keefe, assisted by Lucas Reynolds and

Merritt Huebner. The game remained locked at 1-1 at the end of the first 17 minutes.

Liggett did not waste much

Liggett's Gary Stacy fights for a loose puck while being pursued by Quinn Cameron from South.



time taking back the lead to start the second period. Nick Gould put the Knights ahead 2-1, but once a gain South

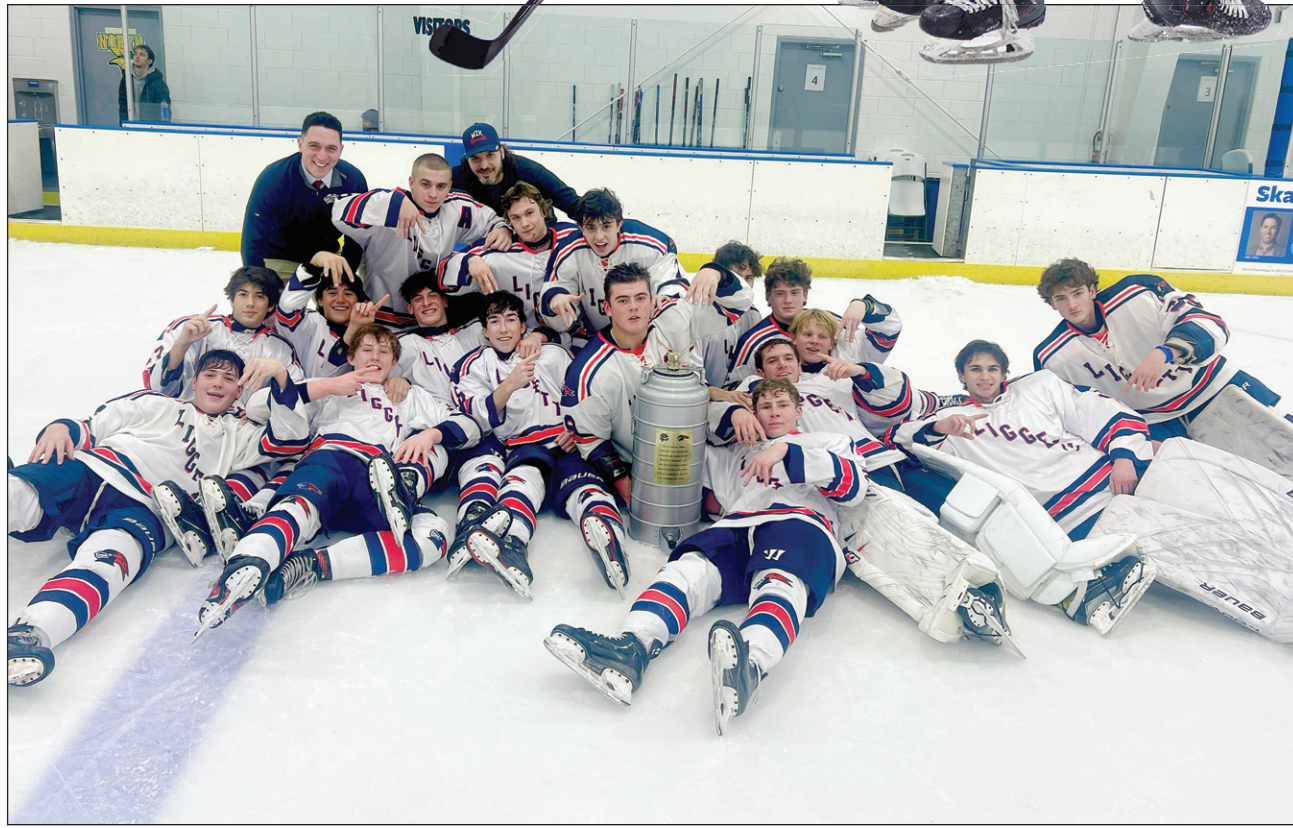
make it a 3-2 game. Holding onto a one-goal advantage, Griffin Marchal gave the Knights some insurance by scoring with just over five minutes remaining to make it 4-2 and ultimately cap off the rivalry win.

The win helped the Knights improve to 4-0 to start the season. After a break for the Thanksgiving holiday, Liggett is back in action Saturday, Dec. 7, going on the road to face Flint

answered quickly. O'Keefe scored his second goal of the night, redirecting a shot from the point by teammate Quinn Cameron, with an assist also credited to Will Gryzenia, to knot things up at 2-2.

The third and final period started with the score still at two goals apiece. Black Shock put Liggett in front once again with a goal early in the third period to

Powers Catholic at 3 p.m. For the Blue Devils, the loss dropped them to 1-4 so far this season. South played against Trenton Wednesday, Dec. 4, after press time. The team is back in action Tuesday, Dec. 10, facing off against Brother Rice at Oak Park Ice Arena, with puck drop at 6 p.m.



Above, Liggett's Gary Stacy fights for a loose puck while being pursued by Quinn Cameron from South. Left, the University Liggett School varsity boys hockey team celebrates with the War Memorial Classic trophy after becoming its inaugural recipients by defeating Grosse Pointe South 4-2 on Nov. 27.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS & ERIN WAYMAN

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6D | SPORTS

ALL-STATE:
Continued from page 1D

State times in the 100 butterfly.

McEnroe raced to All-State times in the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke. Whitney Handwork was All-State in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle and was part of the All-State 200 freestyle relay team along with DiDio, Bryan and Ryan. Rounding out

South's All-State competitors was Heidi Bryan, who reached the mark in the 500 freestyle.

The Norsemen also had swimmers who achieved All-State status. Senior Avery Beal was All-State in the 50 and 100 freestyle. Beal, Cailey Hard, Liliانا Ivanaj and Addie Wakefield achieved an All-State finish in the 200 freestyle relay, and Beal, Wakefield, Hard

and Kennedy Hasting also earned All-State in the 400 freestyle relay.

At press time, All-State lists had yet to be published by the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. However, several football players from South, North and Liggett were recognized for their outstanding seasons by being named to All-Region teams.

Six Blue Devils were named All-Region after

the South football program experienced a historic season with 10 wins. Offensive lineman Sawyer Weisbrodt, receiver Vince Vachon, quarterback Jack Lupu, defensive lineman A.J. Zieleniewski, linebacker Lex Willson and defensive back Henry Domzalski all were included in the Division 2 All-Region list.

Two Norsemen made the All-Region list in Division 3, with senior linebacker Daylon Doe and senior receiver Leo Perettie recognized.

Offensive lineman David Brooks, receiver Santino Cicarella, quarterback Nikkos Davis, defensive back Sean Harris and specialist Alex Gould were the five University Liggett Knights players who were named All-Region in Division 7.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY LIGGETT ATHLETICS

Junior QB Nikkos Davis was one of five Liggett football players who received All-Region honors in Division 7.



PHOTO BY JESSICA BRYAN

South's Whitney Handwork achieved All-State status in the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle and as part of the 200 freestyle relay team.

Below, Blue Devils' senior quarterback Jack Lupu received All-Region recognition in Division 2 after helping to lead South football to one of its most successful seasons in program history.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Left, North varsity boys soccer senior captain Matthew Robert was named second team All-State for his performance on the pitch throughout the fall season.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



Daylon Doe

PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH

ATHLETE:
Continued from page 1D

"It doesn't matter if I miss a shot or have a turnover. ... He has confidence in me to execute the game plan that he has. ... If your coach trusts you, it's really easy to trust in yourself."

What Rickerman has done has not been lost on his coaches either. They would not have believed in his ability to not only be a varsity player, but a captain, if they did not have faith

that all the hard work Rickerman put in was going to pay off.

Seeing Rickerman score a career-high in points as the Norsemen opened the season with a victory was a special moment, not only for the players but for the coaches as well, who always believed in him as a player and leader.

"He's put so much work into it," Johnson said. "... All he did for two years straight was just stay in the weight room. He got a trainer and trusted what we were doing for him and

we kept preparing him for this moment when he was a senior and could be a leader and help us win games. ... It was really cool for his teammates to see him too, because they know how much work he's put into it."

While his 23 points against Woods-Tower was a great experience, Rickerman knows he does not have time to rest on his laurels. After all, it was only the first game of the season.

Rickerman knows a performance like that

will not come every night, but part of being a leader is knowing he can help any of his teammates achieve the

'He got a trainer and trusted what we were doing for him and we kept preparing him for this moment when he was a senior and could be a leader and help us win games.'

ROB JOHNSON, GP NORTH VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL COACH

same kind of game any given night. It is that mentality — and shar-

ing the same belief in his teammates as they have in him — he hopes will lead the Norsemen to plenty of victories

throughout the season. "Coming off of a game like that, it's a big

morale boost as a team just to start 1-0," Rickerman said. "... I really hope that we keep the mindset that it can be anyone's night on any given day. ... Anyone in the starting lineup and even guys off the bench can score 20 (points) any night. Not that we need 20 from anyone, but even if we get 5 or 10 from everyone every night, we'll be just fine. It's not going to affect my confidence too much, but it was definitely nice to see a couple go down."

NORTH:

Continued from page 3D

that everyone who's coming to practice is trying to get better and doing anything you can to help throughout the

process and making it an environment that people want to come to and get better. ... Our leadership this year is tremendous when it comes to that."

The Norsemen are going to need to trust

that process of leadership and consistent improvement if they want their swimmers to make the podium in the tough MAC Red and beyond. While some of their best swimmers might still be young and

seeking improvement, going up against some of the best is only going to make the program tougher and hungrier in the future.

"The MAC Red is incredibly competitive with some strong talent

both in the team aspect and with some individuals," Kinyon said. "Racing those guys is really great from a character-building standpoint. In addition to that, it's hard to quantify, but as I kick off my fourth

year here I want to keep building a camaraderie with everybody and that inclusiveness."

North begins the season at home Thursday, Dec. 12, with a meet against L'Anse Creuse starting at 6 p.m.