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Grosse Pointe News

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DECEMBER 12, 2024
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The Hill becomes a social district

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Building off the expansion of outdoor dining on The Hill, city council unanimously voted Monday night to make the Kercheval downtown strip a social district, where patrons can leave restaurants with designated alcoholic beverages and walk around the confines of the district and into other businesses.

“It really is a reflection of our master plan,” Mayor Pro Tem Beth Konrad Wilberding said. “In our master plan, we had community suggestions that we do more to make entertainment or socialize more in our little city hub and this could be a way to do that.”

Operating year-round, The

Hill’s social district hours are noon to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and noon to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Its boundaries are the sidewalks and pedestrian crossings along Kercheval between McMillian and Muir, as well as the alley between Kercheval and St. James Place.

“I like the idea, but I’m concerned about right at the end of McKinley, there’s a school there and a church,” Farms resident Andrew Dervan said.

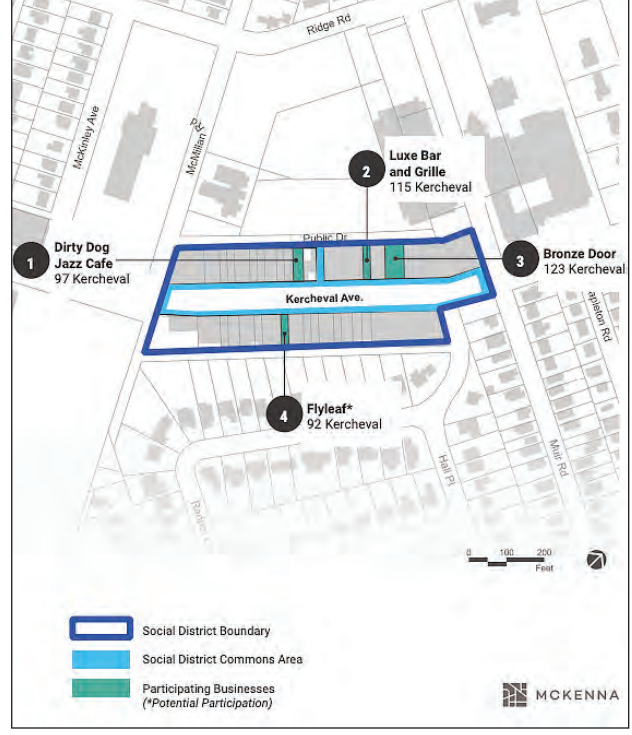
Moving the social district further back would prevent Jumps Restaurant from participating in the social district. Qualified businesses must opt in and be separately approved by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Those that have expressed interest thus far are The

Bronze Door, Luxe Bar and Grille, Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe and Flyleaf.

Mark Valade with Dirty Dog and Jenny Boettcher, president of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, both sent strong letters of support for implementation of the district.

“(In the past) the Chamber of Commerce would have to get the special liquor license and they would have to sell the wine and beer for, let’s say, the art festival,” Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Derrick Kozicki explained. “This would eliminate the need for that and just allow the visitors to be customers of the restaurants, get the drinks and come outside and look at the art festival.”

See DISTRICT, page 2A



A rendering of the Hill social district.

Wants action on Trombly

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

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— The mayor kicked off this week’s council meeting with a two-minute drill/offense.

“This reflects the urgency of this matter,” she explained.

Immediately upon leading the pledge of allegiance, Mayor Michele Hodges put at the top of the agenda a resolution demanding the school system do something with dormant Trombly Elementary School that benefits the city.

Ramrodding discussion, she received a unanimous vote of support, a

‘I also intend to ask the Board of Education this evening to commit to a process that produces a decision regarding Trombly in time for the 2026 school year and that Grosse Pointe Park be substantively at the table for the decision-making process.’

MICHELE HODGES
Grosse Pointe Park mayor



first down up the middle. Eying the goal line with time short, she called a Hail Mary, a long pass from council chambers at city hall to Brownell Middle School in Grosse Pointe Farms, where she rushed to present the resolution to a meeting of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

Grosse Pointe Park be substantively at the table for the decision-making process,” she said.

“Sounds good,” Caulfield squeezed in before Hodges was gone.

The school occupies 5.2 acres of property ringed by residential neighborhoods.

See TROMBLY, page 4A

Fee pays for growing stray problem

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Park officials gave their word as a downpayment on annual fees to use an animal shelter serving the five Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

Starting with the 2025 fiscal year next July 1, the city will pay the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society \$16,900 per annum to be responsible for lost and stray animals captured in the jurisdiction.

The fee represents the share of stray animals Park police dropped off

at the shelter so far this year.

Corinne Martin, the society’s founder and executive director, said the organization takes in 300 to 500 dogs annually. Some 13 percent are from the Park.

The biggest user among the six suburbs is Harper Woods at 61 percent, Martin said. The Park is second.

She said the problem of stray dogs is getting worse.

“We established (a larger) shelter for this reason,” she said. “We saw the problem coming.”

“The society provides services to our public safety department for lost pets, strays and injured animals (to be) sheltered and receive veterinary care until they are reclaimed or evaluated and re-homed,” Park Manager Nick Sizeland said.

“(The society) will seek foster homes and permanent placement for unclaimed pets through our adoption program, and humanely euthanize those that are critically injured, untreatable, aggressive (or) unadoptable,” according to the service agreement counseling.

See STRAY, page 5A

Homes sought for holiday light tour

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE AND ST. CLAIR SHORES — Those who decked their homes, trees and front yards in the Christmas spirit are invited to submit their addresses to the first organized Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores Self-Guided Holiday Light Tour.

“The goal of this project is to create a list of houses in the area that have really stepped up and done some amazing decorating,” said Rebecca

Jenzen, coordinator of both the tour and the City of Grosse Pointe Parks and Recreation Department. “It doesn’t have to be elaborate. It could just be simple and beautiful or it could be the astounding light displays like the one that’s at the corner of Moross and Jefferson.”

The list of lighted homes will be broken down by city and then by street and provided to the cities to share with their residents.

“If people are looking to go out with their families and drive around, they can pull up this list and be like, ‘Oh, Grosse Pointe Park has a lot on Harvard,’ or ‘Grosse Pointe Farms has a lot on McKinley,’ and then kind of target their lights show to an area,” Jenzen explained.

There currently are not any other organized guided holiday light tours in the Pointes.

“I was looking for a new program that we could do around the holidays that wouldn’t interfere with the plans that people already had,”

See TOUR, page 3A

GATHERING for good

Michigan Design Center gets creative for Gleaners

Section C

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Phil Kozlowski
Home: Grosse Pointe Woods
Former Norseman tapped to lead school’s baseball program



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Men's Night returns to The Village

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Back by popular demand after about a decade-long hiatus, the Men's Night Shop Crawl returns to The Village 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19.

A majority of businesses on the downtown Kercheval strip will stay open late to welcome men of the Pointes for all their Christmas shopping needs.

"A lot of men have been wanting to bring back Men's Night in The Village," said Maddie Mancus, who owns Glitter

& Scotch with her mother, Mary. "It used to be a staple of the past.

"... And it's just a great way to have that last-minute push right before Christmas comes, because it's the Thursday before Christmas."

Organized by Joe Binkowski, owner of Ridge Crest, and Matt Turnbull, owner of Village Palm and Newport, Men's Night will feature holiday-themed drinks at some of the stores; a tasting sponsored by local brewery, Detroit Liquid Ventures, at Newport;

and scotch tasting at Glitter & Scotch.

Among other special offerings, Ridge Crest will have 15 percent off some of its brands, as well as a gift with purchase.

Glitter & Scotch will host two pop-ups: ReloveLuxe, which is a pre-loved designer handbags small business on The Hill, and Brigid French Designs, a jewelry and watch company.

"Hopefully it will be a great turnout and it's just going to be a nice holiday night too," Mancus said.

Men's Night falls on the third Thursday of the month, which is when Village businesses remain open late for night-owl shoppers.

"Jacobson's used to always be open to, I want to say it was 9 o'clock on every Thursday," Binkowski said of the tradition. "And so the stores would follow suit and stay open on Thursdays to get to the people who didn't have a chance to get out, after working and going home and having dinner."

— Laurel Kraus

Good audit news

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — To put it in baseball terms, the city won the Triple Crown during its audit presentation at council's meeting Monday, Dec. 2.

The city received a clean audit — also known as an unmodified opinion — the audit contained no findings and the city received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is the 51st consecutive year the city has received such a certificate, the longest current streak, according to the GFOA, for an award established in 1945.

The city also for the 11th straight year received a Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award from the GFOA for producing a high-quality report designed to be readily understandable by the general public, making it akin to "hitting for the cycle" in sticking with the baseball analogy.

"In creating an annual comprehensive financial report, which goes

beyond state requirements, it shows the city's commitment to transparency," Plante Moran's William Brickey told council.

While findings in an audit don't signal any red flags, they can be areas where the auditing team thinks a municipality can streamline its bookkeeping.

Josh Yde, also of Plante Moran, said the Woods finished the 2023-24 fiscal year with a \$630,000 surplus after starting the year with a projected \$1.2 million deficit.

"That was mostly due to exceeding budgeted income from investments," he said. "So there was a net change in fund balance with an increase of \$90,000, bringing the total fund balance to \$7.6 million."

The major street fund had revenues of \$1.4 million and expenditures of \$1.2 million. Similarly, the solid waste fund saw \$2.25 million in revenue and \$1.95 million in expenditures.

"Overall these are very positive results," Brickey said. "Legacy costs are still a big liability, but that's something munici-

See *AUDIT*, page 5A

Honoring original stewards

The Grosse Pointe Public Library Ewald Branch hosted an outdoor event Nov. 14, for a 1,000 Hours Outside program. The event was a gratitude celebration featuring Biimskanodin, or "Little Whirlwind," of the Ojibwe Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Biimskanodin spoke about the history of her people and brought along items made from nature like sweetgrass, which is significant to her people.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Biimskanodin reads a land grant she wrote and gifted to the Ewald library. The acknowledgement is a practice of honoring and recognizing the original stewards of the land.



Biimskanodin shows Cecilia Clarke, Teresa Kalinka and Kelly Konieczki an item made of sweetgrass, birch bark and porcupine quills.

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DISTRICT:

Continued from page 1A

"I think that's where this started from, was the businesses felt like they were missing out during the art fair, for example, and the chamber doesn't

want to have to go through the hassle of getting special licenses."

Requirements of the social district include:

- ◆ designated serving containers unique to each establishment,
- ◆ serving containers with liquid capacities of no more than 16 ounces
- ◆ and drinks purchased from one estab-

ishment cannot be brought into a secondary licensed establishment.

"I spoke to the mayor of Grosse Pointe City, Shelia Tomkowiak, and I asked her specifically if the district in their city has had any problems whatsoever from a public safety standpoint or litter," Councilman Lev

Wood said. "She said no.

"... We can always revoke this district if (Public Safety Director John) Hutchins comes to us and says it's out of control or there's too much litter."

The Park established its social districts in 2020, the City in 2022 and the Woods most recently in May.

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Installed

The final sculpture was installed along the Moross Greenway Project the morning of Nov. 15. Detroit artist Scott Hocking's "The Birth of Venus" was added to the greenspace, which currently bears 25 sculptures created by various artists. "The Birth of Venus," aka "Aphrodite and the Tortoise," is a cast-concrete sculpture made specifically for the Moross Greenway. Weighing between 2,000 and 3,000 pounds, it stands around 13 feet tall. "I used a headless and tail-less Jim Miller-Melberg turtle as the base — a play on the turtles-all-the-way-down/Turtle Island beginnings that pushed Aphrodite up from the sea on a 'shell,'" the artist wrote. "For the lower figure of Venus, which I imagine to be her legs in a flowing robe, I used an inverted fence-post footing that I found dumped in a vacant lot — the texture made by the shape of the earth in the hole it was poured in. Her torso is another concrete chunk that someone dumped in a field, which looked remarkably like a classical bust to me. The specific posture of the whole sculpture mimics some ancient carvings of the goddess, including the 'Aphrodite and the Turtle' sculpture at the Louvre. I wanted to add some myrtle tree branches to her back, another symbol of Venus, but myrtle is not easy to find around Detroit, so I decided to collect branches from a vacant lot along old Myrtle Street in Detroit — now MLK Jr. Blvd. — a street my grandfather once lived on and a connection to my personal history. The whole sculpture is painted with layers of black and white enamel, inspired by the classical marble statues of Greece, the black and white sculptures of Jean Dubuffet and my memories of painting die-cast Dungeons & Dragons figures as a kid, where I learned how to use a black 'wash' to give figures depth and contrast."

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Library back in business

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Staff at the Grosse Pointe Public Library are breathing a big sigh of relief since getting the all-clear from forensic analysts last Wednesday afternoon, following a week and a half of running operations manually due to a thwarted cyber attack.

"One of our IT guys came in on Monday morning on Nov. 25, and he noticed some suspicious activity on our network," Director Jessica Keyser said, "so he immediately enacted our safety protocols, which basically means taking our systems offline."

"We have insurance for this sort of thing, so we contacted our insurance and they provide a forensic analysis just to make sure that nothing has been extracted or compromised."

Nothing was, the analysis concluded, likely because of the library's strong firewall as well as upgrades to its systems recently recommended by the tech team and approved by the board of directors.

"They're going to give us their full study and I did ask if there were any recommendations," Keyser said as far as putting any additional mea-

See READERS, page 8A

See LIBRARY, page 8A

Park accepts license plate readers

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The days are ending when police in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods stand watch without belonging to a network of jurisdictions sharing data gathered from license plate readers.

"You don't see them in the Grosse Pointes or Harper

Woods — Detroit has several around the Harper Woods border," said Park Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman, head of the investigative squad. "Everywhere else you go, license plate readers are present."

"Cities all around the country already have them," said Dan Jensen, executive director of the Grosse Pointe/Harper

Woods Public Safety Foundation. He also is a retired Farms public safety director.

Foundation members followed through this month with an offer to donate license plate readers to the city. Members intend to outfit all the Pointes and Harper Woods with readers.

Park council members accepted Monday, Dec. 9.

"We're a little behind the curve on this," said Jim Bostock, Park public safety director. "Many communities around us already have license plate readers."

License plate readers are cameras of similar dimension to those in bank lobbies. They're often posted on poles or compa-

See READERS, page 8A

TOUR:

Continued from page 1A

Jenzen said, "so it wouldn't be stepping on their toes, but would offer them an opportunity to be out as a family or out as a friend group and just enjoy the community."

Though submissions thus far are off to a slow start, Jenzen hopes to make the self-guided hol-

iday light tour an annual event that grows each year.

"Hopefully we get some participation this year and then that will encourage others to participate in future years and we can just grow this list and encourage other people to come to our area," she said. "If we have this list, we may get people from Roseville or Warren or Detroit want-

ing to come in and look at our lights and bring commerce and things like that to the area as well."

Those who wish to add their home to the tour need only email their full names and home addresses to parks@grossepointecity.org.

Homes only may be submitted by the homeowner, not by neighbors or passersby.

Homeowner's names will not be included on the public list, but will be used for verification that whoever submits is indeed the homeowner.

"My hope is to have some addresses submitted by Dec. 15, allowing a list to go live for the 10 days preceding the holiday," Jenzen said. "We will put any submissions that we get out," no matter the quantity.

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, DEC. 16

- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods 75th Anniversary Planning Committee meeting, 7:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 17

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, noon.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Volunteer Luncheon, 1 p.m.

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4A | POINTER OF INTEREST

New varsity baseball coach lives for green and gold

By Mike Adzima
Staff Writer

Phil Kozlowski is a Norseman through and through. Growing up in Grosse Pointe Woods, he played four years of varsity baseball at Grosse Pointe North High School and quickly learned about the pride that comes with being part of the Norseman baseball program.

Now, more than two decades later, Kozlowski is returning home to his alma mater to continue that pride and tradition as the new head varsity baseball coach at North.

"It's surreal, to be honest," Kozlowski said. "As a player, you think that at the end of your playing career, it's pretty much over. To have that opportunity 25 years later to step on that field as the coach of the program is incredible. ... Life truly comes full circle. What's unique is that I'm not just a coach who's taking over the program. I'm a coach who bleeds the green and gold."

For the past three seasons, Kozlowski has been working with the North baseball program as an assistant and as head coach of the freshman team. With former varsity head coach Kevin Shubnell stepping down from the role, it was announced by the school Nov. 25, that Kozlowski would be taking over the helm of the varsity team.

"My first two years coaching at North coincidentally was with the juniors and seniors now at the varsity level,"



COURTESY PHOTOS

Phil Kozlowski is a Grosse Pointe North alumni and now resides in Grosse Pointe Woods with his wife, Rhea, and their five children.

Kozlowski said. "I get to run it back with these guys now, which I'm looking forward to. I had a meeting with the guys a couple of weeks ago after school just to kind of re-introduce myself even though they know me and talk about plans for the season. ... I told them that when I coached at the freshman level, the one downfall to that was that you only get one crack at it with that

group. ... To have the opportunity to coach the juniors and seniors now again, it's pretty cool that I'm getting three years with the juniors and two years with the seniors."

Kozlowski, a local business owner and former police officer, always has seen baseball as one of his biggest passions. After playing at North, he played one year of college baseball at Macomb Community

College before deciding to join the police force.

Kozlowski lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with his wife, Rhea, and their five children, two of whom currently are students at North. He also has spent years coaching in the Grosse Pointe Woods-Shores Little League as part of his love for baseball and being a leader for young athletes.

That leadership comes

from everything he learned from those who came before him at North, both from the coach who mentored him and the friends he has been able to coach alongside in recent years. Now, it is Kozlowski's turn to continue that legacy.

"Frank Sumbera had 1,000 wins and was a hall-of-fame coach," he said. "Kevin Shubnell went to the final four two

out of three years as a coach and went to the state championship once. The traditions that come with the program start down in the Little Leagues and work up to the high school level. Grosse Pointe is a huge baseball community and the fact that I get to continue on that legacy and help these other young men who are coming through North and help turn them into well-rounded individuals like Coach Sumbera did for me, to this day I feel had a huge impact on who I am."

Kozlowski carries the lessons he learned from past coaches in his everyday life. Everything he learned was useful on and off the field; he has the same mindset as a coach — that coaching goes beyond what happens on the field.

He knows that part of being a North baseball player is having pride and striving to be the best both on and off the field. That is what he wants to continue teaching the next generation of Norsemen as he takes over the program.

"We're looking at these guys as people, not just baseball players," Kozlowski said. "It's always been my approach to treat these guys just how you would like to be treated and show that we care about them and have respect for them and want them to lead by example and with integrity. ... You can't just ask these things of the kids. You have to display it and show it as a coach."

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TROMBLY:

Continued from page 1A

It's been 41 years since Park council members first passed a resolution championing the continuation of operations at Trombly. Another body passed one in 2019, about six months before education officials closed it and Poupard Elementary School in Harper Woods, citing declining enrollment.

Current council members followed up at this time last year.

On Monday, Dec. 9 came the latest pitch: "Be it resolved, that the mayor and ... council insist the school system make a decision that

ensures this vital asset contributes rather than detracts from the community," according to the resolution.

Hodges cushioned the demand by putting, as she said, skin in the game.

"In order to serve in partnership with (the school system) and to demonstrate its commitment to a vital neighborhood that is attractive to families, the Park could consider prioritization of capital improvement projects around Trombly, including water-sewer improvements, sidewalk improvements, roads, provide more young family programming (organized by the recreation department) to showcase our commitment to the vitality of the Trombly property and the surrounding neighborhood," according to the resolution.

Hodges said, "The resolution is toned in a way that extends our desire to be in partnership — which is a key word — with the board of education, in determining the future of Trombly School. Of course, most preferably, we want it to continue to be a school."

She shored-up her point by citing a Southeast Council of Michigan Governments tally, based on census data, showing an increase of 782 children ages less than 5 years old in the Pointes.

"We must seize this momentum," Hodges said. "I believe these trends warrant further analysis by the board of education. Trombly cannot sit derelict and vacant a moment longer. Whether or not it's a school, something needs to happen. We need to be on track to making that happen."

Grosse Pointe News

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Grosse Pointe Farms

Fraud

A fraudulent check for \$4,827 was written out of a Farms couple's Flagstar Bank account Monday, Dec. 2.

Porch pirate

Two packages containing \$959 worth of clothing were stolen from a porch in the 300 block of Touraine between 11:51 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Ex

A disgruntled 21-year-old Detroit woman called her ex-boyfriend's place of business in the 18000 block of Mack 166 times between the first and fifth of the month.

Even when officers advised her charges would be sought for harassment, she continued to call.

Lights cut

Christmas lights on the front of a home on Stanton were cut with scissors or a knife at some point last week.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Larceny

Miscellaneous items and money were stolen from two vehicles sometime overnight Tuesday, Dec. 3, into Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Coins, earbuds and a phone charger were taken from the first in the 1200 block of Fairholme. Coins and a pair of binoculars were taken in the 1500 block of Dorthen.

Neither vehicle showed signs of forced entry.

Fraud

A resident in the 19000 block of East Emory Court fell victim to a texting scam, according to a complaint filed around 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5.

The woman told officers she received a text indicating she owed money to PayPal, then a second text stating \$10,000 was deposited to

her bank account.

She then was told to deposit \$7,000 into a specific account via an ATM in St. Clair Shores.

—Ted O'Neil

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Bike stolen

An unlocked Specialized Riprock bike worth \$700 was stolen from a rear yard in the 900 block of Lincoln at 5 a.m. Monday, Dec. 2.

Theft

Two bags with unknown contents were stolen from a 2021 Lincoln while its driver was inside an area hospital between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6. The rear driver's side window was broken to gain access.

The suspect's vehicle is a black GMC Yukon.

— Laurel Kraus

Report information

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

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 Park

Theft from car

Approximately \$10 in assorted change and a cubic zirconia ring were stolen overnight Monday, Dec. 2, from a car parked unlocked in the driveway of a house in the 1300 block of Whittier.

Get out

Some guys can't take a hint.

Public safety officers responding to a trespassing complaint shortly after 4 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, learned their sub-

ject was a drunken 41-year-old man from Hamtramck who'd worn out his welcome at a house in the 1200 block of Maryland.

"(He) was asked to leave by the resident," according to a police report. "(He) was located in an adjacent, vacant apartment where he had entered without permission and passed out."

Officers arrested him for trespassing.

Consequences

Mack Avenue was the place last week for two suspended drivers to start paying the piper.

First came a 46-year-old Detroit woman. A patrol officer pulled her over at 2:22 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, near the intersection of Whittier for distracted driving.

"(She was) looking at a cellular phone while driving," the officer reported.

A background check revealed her suspension.

Fourteen hours later, at 4:07 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, an officer pulled over a 31-year-old man for oper-

ating a vehicle without headlights. His driving privileges, too, had been suspended.

Icy roads

The first meaningful winter storm of the season Friday evening, Nov. 29, confounded city administrators responsible to assigning public works crews to coat icy roads with salt.

"There was miscommunications between the public safety department and public works the day after Thanksgiving that led to a delay in getting salt on the streets," Chief Jim Bostock said. "Public safety and public works have clarified the communication process and will continue to work together to ensure this does not happen again."

"We could have done a better job," City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

—Brad Lindberg

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

STRAY:

Continued from page 1A

cil members approved Monday, Dec. 9.

Martin said the organization has agreements with all five Pointes and Harper Woods to shelter strays in her state-licensed facility. Establishing user fees is new.

"GPAAS must require an annual usage fee to sustain our services to the municipalities," Martin wrote this month to the Park public safety director. "We have served

as an animal shelter since 2012 at no charge except for minimal boarding costs."

Her projected budget overhead cost of the expanded facility is \$130,000 per year.

"But in order to provide these services to your city, we need a commitment in writing by Dec. 31, 2024," Martin told the public safety director.

"GPAAS, knowing our (fiscal year 2025-26) budget has already been adopted, is willing to wait for payment until July 1, 2025," Sizeland said.

Park officials began

using the society's services in November 2023 on a per-case basis. The arrangement filled a gap when a local veterinarian withdrew from working more than 40 years as the city's animal caretaker.

Although Park officials are delaying annual payments to the society until July, the service agreement starts now.

"(The) intake facility (at 20502 Harper, Harper Woods) will receive stray or found animals, with or without identification, that are transported by Park public safety per-

sonnel," according to the agreement. "Sick or injured animals will be provided with immediate veterinary care weekdays. Critically injured animals that are suffering will be humanely euthanized and the treating veterinarian will document such cases."

Martin approached

each of the five Pointes and Harper Woods recently about the need to start collecting set service fees in addition to the already established boarding costs.

The Park council was the first to which she personally presented the agreement.

"I have two (council

meetings in other cities) next Monday," she said.

If the other cities don't come to terms, the Park's arrangement stands.

"We have no other options," Sizeland said about housing strays at the society. "If (the yearly fee) increases significantly, it could become an issue."

AUDIT:

Continued from page 2A

palities are facing across the country."

The city's pension liability is 65 percent funded, but remains \$23 million underfunded.

"That was 43 percent funded in 2020, so you're doing the right things," Brickey said. "You just have to stay the course and continue making contributions."

The city paid down bond debt \$3 million, with \$24 million in debt outstanding.

"You have a pretty low debt load for a city of your size," Brickey added.

Councilwoman Vicki Granger asked if the city should consider paying off some bond debt early.

"It depends on interest rates," Brickey responded. "If you're making more in interest having the money invested than the interest

you owe on the bonds, then you shouldn't pay them off early."

Mayor Art Bryant and Treasurer/Comptroller Steven Schmidt both thanked city staff and department heads for their roles in assembling the audit.



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Grosse Pointe News

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16980 KERCHEVAL AVE., GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900 FAX: (313) 882-1585
E-MAIL: EDITOR@GROSSEPOINTENEWS.COM

SEAN COTTON: Owner
ANNE GRZENIA: Publisher
JODY MCVEIGH: Editor in Chief

OUR VIEW

Another successful year

Sitting roughly halfway between Thanksgiving and Christmas, give or take a few days, let us take a look back on the year to recognize what we are thankful for and blessed by. A sort of “hits and highlights,” if you will, to borrow a sports term. Please note, these are in no particular order or importance, just simply chronological.

Our respective beat writers will have a more in-depth look at the year’s big news in the coming weeks, including the good, the bad and the ugly, but for now we’ll just focus on the positive.

January
◆ The Junior League of Detroit announces its 25th and final Designers’ Show House at 315 Lakeland in the City of Grosse Pointe. Held every other year since 1976, the Designers’ Show House raised more than \$4.5 million for programs and projects in Detroit.

◆ Grosse Pointe South High School graduate and Johns Hopkins University alum Renee Liu is one of just 150 students worldwide selected for a grant to study health policy in China.

◆ Grosse Pointe basketball standout Karter Richards joins the 1,000 career point club.

◆ Former Blue Devil Will Johnson is named defensive player of the game as Michigan goes undefeated and wins the college football national championship.

◆ Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, is elected president of the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education.

◆ Dr. Lawrence Herzog is honored for 41 years of service as city veterinarian in Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ The War Memorial begins celebrating its 75th year.

◆ South junior Wyatt Hepner notches his 100th career wrestling victory and would go on to win a state title.

◆ The GPPSS Board of Education unanimously selects Dr. Andrea Tuttle as the district’s new superintendent.

February
◆ Park Public Safety Director John Bostock is chosen to attend the FBI National Academy.

◆ South boys varsity basketball goes undefeated in MAC Red play and would win the MAC Red/White title.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Unified figure skating team wins the district championship.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Unified gymnastics team wins its league championship.

◆ Milania Rodriguez becomes the first female wrestler from South to qualify for the state tournament.

◆ Grosse Pointe North’s girls varsity basketball team wins the MAC Red/White title.

◆ South’s boys swim and dive wins its 26th consecutive MAC Red title.

March
◆ Brownell Middle School Assistant Principal Holli McNally and eighth grader Emmy Brown are named Administrator of the Year and Student of the Year, respectively, by the Michigan Association of Middle School Educators.

◆ The Pointes dominate the Division 1 All-State team in the Michigan Girls High School Hockey League, with all six first team selections playing for either North, South or University Liggett School.

◆ South beats three-time defending champion Liggett in the girls Division 1 hockey state finals.



Snow much fun!

Linda Birg sent us these photos after the area’s first snowfall of the season, the evening of Nov. 29. Her daughter, Kelly Birg, visiting from Tempe, Ariz., created a snow maze the day after Thanksgiving in the family’s Grosse Pointe Farms backyard. Kelly Birg is a freelance artist who mostly draws and paints, but she used snow as her medium for this project. Her brother, Jeff Birg, snapped the photo from the second floor.

COURTESY PHOTOS

◆ Grosse Pointe Farms resident Christina Danieli qualifies for the Special Olympics World Games in downhill skiing.

◆ North senior basketball player Natalie Babcock joins the 1,000 career point club.

◆ South senior swimmer Troy Liu wins the state title in the 50 free.

◆ Liggett’s Sofie Ancona is named Miss Hockey.

◆ The Grosse Pointe News is named Newspaper of the Year by the Michigan Press Association a third consecutive year.

◆ Liggett’s Madeline Unkel wins first place in the Daughters of the American Revolution “Patriots of the American Revolution” state essay competition.

◆ Park resident Clara Breicha celebrates her 107th birthday.

April
◆ Mishka, a 3-year-old terrier mix from California, is found in Harper Woods after going missing for eight months.

◆ Brownell’s Bella Maldonado is the national winner in the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest, “Sparkling in the Stars with the 50th Anniversary of the NASA Space Shuttle Program.”

◆ South baseball coach Dan Griesbaum Sr., earns his 900th career win.

◆ The Park receives a \$1.6 million federal grant to help pay for its extreme emergency relief valve to help prevent basement flooding.

May
◆ Woods resident Betty Vorhees celebrates her 100th birthday.

◆ St. Clare of Montefalco eighth grader Shelby Jones is one of just 143 students nationwide to win a scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to pay for private high school.

◆ Woods resident Flo Kliber celebrates her 102nd birthday.

◆ The Grosse Pointe News wins 15 awards, including seven first places, from the Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

◆ North’s library is named for former GPPSS Superintendent Suzanne Klein.

◆ The North and South girls varsity tennis teams qualify for the state tournament.

◆ Pointer Ted Everingham receives the Outstanding Eagle Scout Award from the National Eagle Scout Association.

June

◆ The Rev. Randy Boelter retires after 38 years at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

◆ North’s band and orchestra room is named for longtime director Nate Judson.

◆ A history project by Liggett students Annabel Klaasen, Zaire Polk and Teresa Romanelli examining discriminatory real estate practices once used in the Pointes is selected for display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

◆ North varsity softball and baseball teams win their respective district titles. Baseball would lose in the state semi-finals.

◆ South girls soccer wins districts.

◆ North’s Clinton Allen wins the discus state championship in Division 3.

◆ Sara Delgado is named principal of Grosse Pointe North.

July
◆ Olivia Johnson and Giovanni Thams from Liggett are nominated for Sutton Foster awards.

◆ Nona Yehia, a 1989 Liggett graduate and urban farming visionary, receives the school’s distinguished alumni award.

◆ First English Evangelical Lutheran Church hosts 180 volunteers from the Group Mission Trips’ Workcamp who completed repairs to 24 houses in the area.

◆ Farms resident and WXYZ-TV7 reporter Peter Maxwell helps save a man suffering cardiac arrest at a restaurant along the Nautical Mile in St. Clair Shores.

◆ Some 39 anglers win a variety of prizes in the Grosse Pointe News annual fishing classic.

◆ The Youth Nautical Education Foundation awards 12 college scholarships worth \$2,000 each to area high school graduates.

◆ Nine people file to run for four open seats on the GPPSS Board of Education. Incumbents Ahmed Ismail and Lisa Papas chose not to run for re-election.

◆ North graduate Tim Herd appears on “Jeopardy!”

August
◆ The Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation celebrates 40 years.

◆ Jason Wesley is named principal of Parcels Middle School.

◆ The Woods Warriors win back-to-back Lakefront Swimming Association championships.

◆ The family of Hudson Brown collects and donates 279 LEGO kits to children at Ascension St. John Hospital.

◆ Lochmor Club wins its fifth straight Michigan Inter-Club Swimming Association title.

◆ The GPPSS operating millage passes with 72 percent support.

◆ City voters approve a flood mitigation millage.

September
◆ The Grosse Pointe Education Association ratifies its contract.

◆ Brownell student Jane Hynous designs

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(313) 882-6900
Jody McVeigh:
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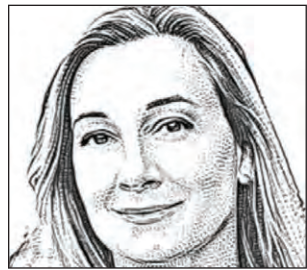
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SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 4:59 pm	SUNRISE 7:53 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:54 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:55 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:55 am SUNSET 5:00 pm	SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 5:01 pm	SUNRISE 7:56 am SUNSET 5:01 pm		

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

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Fun facts, traditions about Christmas

Christmas-time can be so many things to so many people. Ask five people how they feel right now and you might get answers ranging from “stressed” and “frantic” to “joyful” and “triumphant.”

“How’s your Christmas shopping going?” conversations are like talk therapy for most people I know, which usually devolves into hosting woes, decorating dilemmas and commiseration about relatives coming to town or how much cleaning is left to do.

All of that said, we march on like good soldiers, determined to make the best holiday ever for the benefit of our friends and family. It’s all worth it because that’s what we do — we put in time and effort

and care to show our people how much we love them.

But while all of the chaos is swirling around us, Amazon packages are piling up on our porches and the kids are going bonkers writing their lists for Santa, here’s your chance to sit down with a mug of hot cocoa and forget about all of that for a few minutes and ponder some mostly useless fun facts and traditions of Christmas:

◆ Did you know that before the 1930s, Santa wore blue, white and green? Coca-Cola gave him the red suit to make him match their colors. Genius!

◆ The first artificial Christmas trees originated in Germany in the 1800s and were made from goose feathers dyed green and attached to wire branches.

◆ Candy canes were invented by a very smart choirmaster in Germany so the young singers would stay quiet in

church.

◆ Thomas Edison made the first strand of electric lights in 1880; he hung them outside his lab in New Jersey.

◆ In the U.S. alone, more than 3 billion Christmas cards are mailed every year.

◆ The average Christmas tree takes about 15 years to grow.

◆ People in Venezuela rollerskate all night long and then roll to church Christmas morning. It is so popular, they close down the streets.

I hope everyone has a joyful holiday, with an extra ounce of gratitude for our amazing community and all it has to offer, from the schools to the parks to the beautiful shops and restaurants. I know the term “shop local” has become a bit trite, but it truly makes the biggest difference when we patronize our locally owned businesses who serve us all year long, donate to our causes and give their all.

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.

Our brother’s keeper

To the Editor:

Honor thy father and thy mother, good advice for a child. But what if the mother or father are not worthy of trust, as allegedly happened recently in Detroit and Madison Heights.

Kym Worthy, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, held a press conference to announce charges against

the mother and stepfather of an 8-year-old boy accusing the mother of second-degree murder and the stepfather of felony murder and first-degree child abuse leading to the death of the boy from severe abuse.

Karen McDonald, prosecuting attorney of Oakland County, held a press conference also to announce charges against the mother of a 6-year-old boy and the mother’s boyfriend accusing both of murder and first-degree child abuse leading to the death of the boy from severe abuse. The DA called the abuse horrific.

The suffering of these boys is very hard to think about. What we can ask ourselves is: Did anyone know about, or suspect abuse, and not say anything?

For instance, did a teacher see bruises on the body of a boy and call Child Protective Services to look into it?

Did the school counselor notice that a boy was not coming to school

and investigate why not?

Did a doctor follow up on why a child didn’t come in for the second set of vaccinations?

Did a child say something to a teacher or to his best friend such as, ‘My father beats me very badly and it hurts’ or ‘I’m always hungry and I want more to eat’?

And did nobody listen?

A good rule is to listen to the child and believe the child, because in most cases the child is telling the truth. Later, investigate if there are questions.

Along with honor thy mother and thy father, we must remember that we are all our brother’s keeper.

ELIZABETH LANDERS
Grosse Pointe Farms

Woods officers express gratitude for holiday meals

To the Editor:

In 2016, Grosse Pointe Woods resident Debbie Fisher started what has

become an annual tradition in providing holiday meals for both Thanksgiving and Christmas for the Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety Department with her group called Grosse Pointe Moms Giving Back.

The group of about 20 women take time out of their busy schedules to cook delicious meals and deliver them to our department. In addition to organizing the event, Ms. Fisher also has typically provided a main dish and other items.

On behalf of the department, I would like to publicly acknowledge our gratitude to Ms. Fisher and the members of Grosse Pointe Moms Giving Back for their continued kindness and generosity throughout the years. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by our department members who report to work on days when most others are at home enjoying the holidays with their families.

JOHN KOSANKE
Director, Grosse Pointe Woods
Department of Public Safety

YEAR:

Continued from page 6A

a new “I Voted” sticker that receives the most votes in the state.

◆ AAUW Grosse Pointe marks 80 years.

◆ Mason Elementary School’s new playground is named for longtime Principal Bill Mestdagh.

◆ North varsity boys tennis wins the MAC Red.

◆ Liggett field hockey wins the CHSL title.

◆ South boys soccer wins the MAC White title.

October

◆ Jim Motschall is appointed to fill a vacancy on the Woods City Council.

◆ North announces a large increase in SAT and ACT scores.

◆ North, South and Liggett boys tennis teams all qualify for the state finals.

◆ South football, which would conclude an undefeated regular season, wins the MAC White while North clinches a share of the MAC Gold title.

November

◆ The GPPSS sinking fund and The Helm millages both pass.

◆ Incumbent Colleen Worden, along with Clint Derringer, Laura Hull and Tim Klepp win the four open seats on the GPPSS Board of Education.

◆ Farms voters approve a five-year road millage.

◆ GPPSS teacher Susi Sipos is named World Language Teacher of the Year.

◆ GPPSS teacher Amy Wilson is named Autism Spectrum Disorder Teacher of the Year.

◆ South girls swimming and diving captures its 25th consecutive MAC Red title and finished as state runner-up at the Division 2 finals.

December

◆ Full Circle Foundation finds a new home thanks to a grant from the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation.

◆ More than two dozen fall sports athletes from North, South and Liggett receive All-State honors.



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Settling with short-term rentals

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — First-ever licensing and regulation of short-term rental properties in the city passed this week without meaningful change from recent drafts fine-tuned during a nearly two-year process to update the municipal zoning ordinance.

Despite a preference by most members of the planning commission, which drafted the ordinance (No. 245), and the city council, which monitored and reviewed it prior to passage, to outlaw current and prospective short-term rental businesses, they realized doing so would prompt costly and likely losing legal challenges.

“One of the paramount responsibilities of this body is to protect the city and residents from liability,” Councilman Max Wiener said. “There is no bigger waste of money than getting caught unnecessarily in lawsuits. Legally, we cannot retroactively criminalize behavior that’s already in existence.”

Short-term rentals are thought to have been free-wheeling in the Park for 10 or more years.

Wiener cited reasoning given by Planning Commissioner Jimmy Saros during a Dec. 2 meeting which ended with commissioners recommending the council approve the rules.

“A number of (short-term rentals) have been operating (in the Park) for a decade,” Saros said at the time. “So, we’re not letting this into our community. This (ordinance) allows the city to do its job and regulate it.”

“We realize we have them in place,” Wiener said. “We want to restrict them. We’re currently in a Wild West situation. The city has no authority whatsoever.”

The ordinance passed Monday, Dec. 9.

Terms forbid the establishment of any new short-term rental operation in a residential neighborhood. STRs currently operating in residential neighborhoods, however, are allowed to continue if they meet and continue to adhere to rules. A minefield of penalties awaits

offenders.

Current STR operators have 120 days to comply with the ordinance or be shut down.

STR licenses are not transferable.

“(They) terminate upon a transfer of ownership of the property,” according to the ordinance.

That proscription, plus a rule outlawing new STRs from opening in residential districts, means as current owners cease operations for whatever reason, the number of short-term rentals operating in residential districts will peter out by attrition. Eventually, none will remain in residential neighborhoods.

Rules are different in mixed-use districts, where the zoning mantra promotes combinations of residential and commercial activity.

“The new zoning ordinance permits new STRs in mixed-use zoning districts,” said Warren Rothe, assistant city manager and secretary of the planning commission.

Of all Park administrators, Rothe worked most on the ordinance.

“All new STRs are effec-

tively banned in residential districts,” he said. “This (ordinance) establishes how we are going to regulate them.”

Short-term rental is defined in the ordinance as “the rental or subletting of any dwelling on a premises for a term of 28 days or less.”

Regulations adopted by a 5-1 vote of the council Dec. 9 set down the following rules, regulations and requirements:

- ◆ Property owners must obtain an annual license, which are non-transferable and subject to renewal criteria.

- ◆ Initial and annual inspections, for which there are fees, are required to verify compliance with city standards.

- ◆ There are occupancy limits, parking requirements and prohibitions on certain activities, such as hosting events and yard sales.

- ◆ Properties must be outfitted with smoke detectors and related safety features, while owners must keep records of rental activity.

- ◆ Operators must establish a nuisance response plan outlining

STR fees & fines

Notwithstanding a city council member’s opposition to regulating short-term rentals and imposing fines on law-breaking operators, rules regarding both passed by majority vote Dec. 9.

Fees range from \$20 to \$100.

Fines start at \$100 and escalate to \$500 for a third and final offense. A third offense results in revocation of a license to operate a short-term rental property.

Setting of fees and fines accompanied council’s passage of Ordinances Nos. 244 and 245, the municipal zoning ordinance and a licensing ordinance for short-term rentals.

Both ordinances, fees and fines passed 5-1 in separate votes. Councilwoman Christine Gallagher opposed all three.

STRs are defined in the new zoning ordinance as “the rental or subletting of any dwelling on a premises for a term of 28 days or less.”

A schedule of fees for short-term rental operations consists of:

- ◆ Non-refundable application fee, \$25.
- ◆ Licensing, \$50.
- ◆ Inspection fee, including a certificate of occupancy, \$100.
- ◆ Amended nuisance response plan, \$20.

Fines for the first, second and third violations of the following offenses are:

- ◆ Operating without a license, \$300, \$400 and \$500.
- ◆ Exceeding maximum STR occupancy, \$200, \$350 and \$500.
- ◆ Failure to remedy a violation, \$150, \$250 and \$500.
- ◆ All other violations, \$100, \$300 and \$500.

— Brad Lindberg

how complaints will be addressed.

Three rules violations result in revocation of the operating license.

“This is a reasonable, strong compromise,” Wiener said of the ordinance. “This is dealing with an issue that exists, that we have to address because there’s nothing in place currently.”

Councilwoman Christine Gallagher voted against the regulations.

Mayor Michele Hodges was absent from the vote. She left the meeting early to address the Grosse Pointe school board about maintaining Trombly Elementary School as a place of education or in a fashion advantageous to the city.

LIBRARY:

Continued from page 3A

sures in place. “They said really to continue enforcing multi-factor authentication for all of our systems, which we currently do have in place. So really just making sure that we’re following our own best practices.”

The library system was without internet until a little after 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, caus-

ing it to fall back on its offline mode for circulation.

“The biggest challenge on that end was that we weren’t able to see when items had holds on them and deliver those holds,” Keyser said, “so people who were waiting for their items had to wait a little bit longer. And then obviously our public computers and our public Wi-Fi was down.”

Mobile hotspots were used for limited func-

tions, while the library cracked on with its regular hours and scheduled programming.

“We still were able to

serve the community as best as we could, but obviously not to full capacity,” Keyser said. “... After COVID and all

of the different changes that we had to make throughout those closures and reopenings and then with construc-

tion, I feel like our team has really learned how to pivot and just adapt and continue to operate as best as we can.”

READER:

Continued from page 3A

rable structures and existing infrastructure at strategic locations.

“Based on our information and crime trends, we’ll put them in certain areas and see how it goes,” Bostock said. “We can always move them later.”

“All a license plate reader does is scan an image (of a license plate) and run it through the National Crime Information Center,” Detective Pittman said. “If the images get any kind of hits regarding a stolen vehicle; a wanted, missing or endangered person or wanted vehicle, they send us a message and we react.”

“After they capture and catalog license plate information, (license plate reader) systems can compare these data against various databases, including what are known as hot lists, which contain license plates linked to vehicles of interest,” according to “Law Enforcement and Technology: Use of Automated License Plate

Readers,” an Aug. 19, 2024, article posted on the Congressional Research Service website, crsreports.congress.gov. “If there is a match to a hot list license plate, the (license plate reader) system can alert a police officer in real time.”

The donation is for \$57,300 worth of hardware and installation. Long-term upkeep is the city’s responsibility.

“There’s a yearly cost to each city,” Jensen said.

Park officials approved spending \$9,500 per year for maintenance, fees and related operational costs.

“If after year two we don’t want them, we stop paying,” Councilman Marty McMillan said.

Pittman said license plate readers help solve and deter crime.

“When we’re arresting people, they’re telling us they know where these cameras are and are avoiding them,” Pittman said. “The only place they’re not right now is Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods. So, (criminals) are avoiding everywhere else and coming to our commu-

nity.”

“LPRs may also help provide investigative leads so police can intervene in suspicious situations before criminal or harmful activity occurs,” according to “Law Enforcement and Technology: Use of Automated License Plate Readers.”

“I don’t want us being a soft target,” Councilman Brent Dreaver said. “This is a step in the right direction.”

Alicia Carlisle, a resident serving on the Park Public Safety Committee, is concerned about excess surveillance infringing on privacy rights.

“It can be Big Brotherish,” she said.

“Our policies and directives are going to mirror those of the state police, similar to what we already have regarding access to LEIN, which is the Law Enforcement Information Network,” Bostock said. “It will be 100 percent law enforcement use only. They will be documented. In any deviation, (the transgressor) will be charged and fired.”

“They don’t read anything that isn’t readable to the general public anyway,” Pittman said. “There’s no reasonable expectation of privacy when it comes to a license plate. That’s why they’re displayed where they are.”

“License plate readers are a super useful tool,” said Park Detective Paul Pionk, recent recipient of a department citation for solving a four-month identity theft investigation.

The Park and its suburban mutual-aid partners benefit from receiving evidence and crime leads provided by license plate readers in other jurisdictions.

“They have helped us, whether locating a stolen car or locating suspects of a crime,” Bostock said. “They can be used for finding somebody who is elderly and has dementia that gets in their car at 2 o’clock in the morning and goes for a ride. It’s a great tool to find somebody who may be in danger.”

People in vehicles with license plates that trigger reports are in bad company.

The central file contains databases about stolen vehicles, wanted persons, gang members, known and suspected terrorists, offenders under supervised release, sex offenders and immigration violators, according to information provided by the Michigan Law Enforcement Information Network.

“It’s an investigative tool we’re going to use daily,” Pittman said.

“It’s going to help all our investigative agencies,” Bostock said. “We work together so much as it is because crime doesn’t know borders.”

Grosse Pointe News owner Sean Cotton belongs to the foundation.

Focus on WCCC

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Denis Karic, associate provost at Wayne County Community College, at the club’s Nov. 19 meeting at Ford House. Karic discussed the surprising number of educational opportunities at WCCC, from no-cost continuing education courses for seniors to short-term certificate programs, or STCPs. STCPs offer a variety of opportunities to earn a certificate that give enrollees an edge in today’s global job market. WCCC offers eight



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT GRAMBO

locations in Wayne County for these learning opportunities.

For information about Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary meetings, email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com.

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Richard teacher wins ASD award

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — All parents know the birth of a child changes their lives, but for Richard Elementary School's Amy Wilson, the birth of her second son did so in a unique way.

That son, Dylan Krieger, was born with autism, and Wilson recently was named ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Teacher of the Year by the Fredi the Pizzaman Foundation.

The Detroit native was living in New York with her then-husband at the time of Krieger's birth.

"My undergraduate degree was in English literature, so I was working in retail at Macy's," she

laughed. "We decided to move back to the area and did some research and found Grosse Pointe schools had a great early intervention program for students with autism."

She started working as an assistant in the ASD program at Barnes Early Childhood Center in 2002.

"I loved it and the director told me I had a knack for it," she said. "I started as a long-term sub and got my certificate and endorsement at Wayne State."

Wilson said Dylan recently aged out of the Grosse Pointe Public School System and is living in a group home in the Pointes.

"It was an amazing experience for him and



COURTESY PHOTO

Amy Wilson, second from left with her ASD Teacher of the Year Award, with, from left, paraprofessionals Kristina Junga, Elizabeth Snella and Lindsay Mitchell.

he's doing really well," she added. "He completely changed my trajectory."

She was nominated for the award by Richard

Principal John Kernan.

"Amy is one of the most caring, compassionate educators I have had the chance to work with,"

Kernan said. "She and

her team continually support our students with autism, helping them navigate their day and interact with their peers around Richard."

Wilson said the award was presented last month at an all-school assembly.

"Mr. Kernan said the assembly was going to be about lunchroom behavior, but my students don't even go to the lunchroom so I was a little annoyed," she said. "If I had known, I'd have worn something nicer that day."

The Fredi the Pizzaman Foundation has donated funds to equip sensory rooms at schools all over metro Detroit, including Richard, Mason and Monteith elementary schools, as well as at Ford Field and Michigan

State University's Breslin Center.

Wilson said she is honored by the award, but it's not just her award.

"It's a little hard to accept because it takes a whole team," she noted. "We have amazing paraprofessionals, speech therapists, occupational therapists, and we collaborate with the gen ed teachers. It's all about forming a culture of inclusion and a loving, caring atmosphere."

Wilson said her experience with Dylan made her a better teacher.

"It really helps me relate to the parents of my students," she said. "It helps put them at ease because they know I understand what they are going through."

Pointers for Academic Excellence names executive director

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — A group aimed at helping the Grosse Pointe Public School System focus on academic rigor has named its first executive director.

Kevin Nugent, a 1990 Grosse Pointe South High School graduate, started in the position last month with Pointers for Academic Excellence.

"I hit the ground running," Nugent said. "My goal is to move toward more community outreach to support academics overall and individual programs."

PfAE was started by GPPSS Board of Education President Sean Cotton, who also owns the Grosse Pointe News, shortly after his election in November 2022, although he is not actively involved with the organization. It went live in January of this year.

A mission statement on its website reads: "To promote community engagement and maximize opportunities for the students and staff of the Grosse Pointe Public School System to reach their full potential for individual success and community contribution."

Nugent previously was a member of the group's advisory committee.

"We've been thinking about this for three or four months now," said Joe Muzingo, who chairs the committee. "We're still developing exactly what the role will look like."

Nugent, who lives in Grosse Pointe Farms, is in his fifth year teaching history and Spanish at Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores. He previously taught for 21 years in Eastpointe Community Schools.

"Kevin is a perfect fit given his background," Muzingo said.

Glen Hipple, a former GPPSS teacher, is academic director for the group and writes a regular column for the Grosse Pointe News titled "Academic Pointers."

"One of the first things I want to do is reach out to the community and get us more involved with various nonprofits," Nugent said. "We want to create more visibility and



Kevin Nugent

be right there supporting our public schools."

Nugent said PfAE also is interested in establishing scholarships for students.

"When and how that happens depends on cooperating with the various groups," he said. "Our greater goal is to have the most impact on academics."

Learn more at pf-ae.org.

North senior gets a perfect 36 on ACT

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Grosse Pointe North High School senior Jack Rabaut said he "felt pretty good" after taking the ACT in September.

"I thought I did well, but I never expected to get a perfect score," he said. "I was pretty shocked when I got the results a few weeks later."

For the graduating class of 2024, the last year for which final numbers are available, just over 3,000 test takers out of almost 1.4 million achieved a perfect score. That's 0.22 percent, meaning it's roughly three times as hard to get a 36 than a 35 (0.67 percent).

Jill Davenport, Rabaut's counselor, said she thinks his involvement in Quiz Bowl played a part in the perfect score.

"They give you these multi-sentence questions, almost like a paragraph,



Jack Rabaut

and you have just seconds to answer," Davenport said. "He does an awesome job."

Rabaut agreed.

"Although Quiz Bowl is fact-based and the ACT is skill-based, it forces you

to recall information," he noted. "I think it has improved my critical thinking and overall academic skills."

Davenport said there are students at North who score a 36 "every handful of years" and they all share something in common.

"They are curious learners," she said. "They study to learn, rather than memorizing information for a test."

His mother, Sarah Rabaut, a special education teacher at Parcels Middle School, was at fifth grade camp when she got the news.

"I was very, very proud when he texted me," she

said. "It was exciting, but he's always been a very good student and enjoys learning new things, even on his own."

Jack Rabaut said the fact his mom is an educator played a part in his love of learning.

"That had an impact and I can definitely say I attribute my personality to my parents," he said.

Vince, his dad, works in robotics in the automotive industry.

Davenport added the test preparation programs the Grosse Pointe Public School System uses are a big plus.

"They help students

See ACT, page 10A

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10A | SCHOOLS



Second grader Briya Byrd runs to the finish line.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Turkey Trot

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School held its annual Turkey Trot Friday, Nov. 8. Every student in the school ran in groups consisting of two grades each. Depending on their ages, students ran different distances.

The Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department assisted with the event and at times an officer or two ran with the children, who were decked out in Turkey Trot T-shirts.

While the Turkey Trot has been a longstanding tradition at St. Clare, the fundraiser portion has only been in existence since 2020. Money raised has helped fund enrichment activities, field



First grader Aiden Bean runs with Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Officer Korrine Farmer, who ran with many of the groups of students.

trips, assemblies and the new preschool playground. The school's goal this year was \$12,000. Students met and exceeded the challenge, bringing in \$12,810.

Turkeys were given to

eight Turkey Trot winners — the first-place girl and first-place boy runners for each age division: first and second grades, third and fourth grades, fifth and sixth grades, and seventh and eighth grades.



Sixth grader DJ Thomas high-fives students along the street as he runs to the finish line.



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South varsity hockey team and coaches stand with the 27 bags of food they helped pack so local families would have something for Thanksgiving dinner.

Maire hosts food drive

Maire Elementary School had a successful Thanksgiving food drive, collecting all the side dishes families need for a Thanksgiving dinner. The food was collected and donated to The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods.

Jessica Zann, Harper Woods High School social worker, enlisted the help of the Grosse Pointe South High School boys hockey team, who sorted and bagged all the food so each bag contained veggies, macaroni and cheese, stuffing mix, cornbread mix and a mashed potato mix.

The Family Center staff delivered the bags to local schools for distribution to families.

"We are so thankful for our wonderful school community," said MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration for The Family Center.



Maire 2/3 split teacher Danielle Miller, left, coordinated the food drive with the student council. Also pictured is MaryJo Harris with The Family Center.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Grosse Pointe South's varsity hockey team went through the line to bag items for individual families.

ACT:

Continued from page 9A

understand the strategy of the test," she said. "It's like a decision tree, so it puts more emphasis on the answers you get wrong because it's human nature to gravitate toward what you know and not the things you struggle with."

North Principal Sara Delgado said the same preparation tests played a big part in the large improvement the school saw among SAT scores

two months ago.

"A perfect ACT score is extremely rare and serves to highlight the hard work and dedication of Jack, his teachers and his family," she said.

Despite his achievement, Jack Rabaut said his favorite subject is history, even though that is not part of the ACT. He wants to study political science or public policy in college.

"I've thought about law school, but I'm not dead set on it," he said. "It's on the table."

Rabaut said he has

applied to Michigan State University and University of Michigan so far.

"I'm going to apply to Yale because of my score and maybe some other Ivy League schools," he said.

Rabaut was recognized at the GPPSS Board of Education meeting last month, along with the district's National Merit scholars. Those are:

Grosse Pointe South High School semi-finalists:

- ◆ Sophie A. Coats
- ◆ Tess Hodges
- ◆ Adelina E. Parikh

Grosse Pointe South High School commended:

- ◆ Lucas M. Bower
- ◆ Jack D. Bullo
- ◆ Ian K. Davis
- ◆ Omar N. Siddiqui
- ◆ Maryn J. Smith
- ◆ Lauren E. Winiarski

Grosse Pointe North High School commended:

- ◆ Michael R. Abood
- ◆ Kaden S. Connell
- ◆ Xavier S. Sarnaik
- ◆ Gruhith Yerramalli

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Grosse Pointe News

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Military family welcomes home deployed dad

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Last month, trees lining the 500 block of Washington in the City of Grosse Pointe were wrapped in yellow ribbons, welcoming home Lt. Col. Bart Ward, who was deployed overseas and away from his family for three months.

Ward, an instructor and evaluator pilot with the A-10 squadron at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, served in Jordan and Qatar before returning home Nov. 3.

His deployment was a month longer than anticipated. He was told of the extension just days before he was to return home.

"This block of Washington is amazing and supportive," Ward said. "It's great to see it in the morning when we walk to school. Everyone has been warm and welcoming me back. It's great to have a strong community here."

"... Coming home is always great, but there was something about this trip coming home that was much better," he added. "There's a very strong sense of belonging."

His wife, Amanda Ward, agreed.

"It's so great to live in the community we live in," she said. "The outpouring of support with our neighbors and the community has been huge."

This isn't the first time Amanda Ward has lined a street with yellow ribbons. After her husband was deployed in 2015, when they lived on Severn in Grosse Pointe Woods, she thought it was a great opportunity to show support.

"And to get the kids involved," she added, "to really give a mechanism for the neighbors to show their support as well."

The tight-knit community is what drew the Wards to return to the Pointes; they lived in Grosse Pointe Woods, then moved out of state before calling the City home.

"I've lived around the world, in different cultures, and around the United States," Bart Ward said. "I've learned what the priorities are in each location. ... I may be old-fashioned, but the school is close and the community-focused life is really nice. There are lots of children the same age (as mine) in the neighborhood."

Ward and his wife, who have been married 17 years, have five children — including two sets of twins — ranging in age from 9 to 13.

Now home, time with family is top priority.

"I've been on leave (since returning home), but now I'm back to full-time work," he said. "The adjustment takes time. The hardest is meals. There you



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Lt. Col. Bart Ward returned home from deployment in time to attend the Veterans Day Breakfast at The War Memorial with his wife, Col. Amanda Ward.

have a dining facility — you go and get food. Now it's what food? Who's cooking? What do we need? We have to plan a menu. If you don't plan ahead it can catch you off guard.

"Reintegration is one of the most difficult parts of the deployment process," he added.

This was Ward's sixth flying deployment.

He said he makes the most of every trip by sightseeing, learning the culture and shopping at local markets. In other words, he said, "making the best of not being home."

"The best part," he added, "is bringing what you've learned back and sharing it."

Among the highlights of Qatar were the local culture, people and soups — traditional shops. In Jordan, Ward enjoyed learning the topography and geography of the country, "and how it directly shaped history," he said. "So much history has taken place in that part of the world. When I'm flying, I see the landscape, where there's water, where there's food. I enjoy learning about the history of where I go. Being a steward of history is important to national defense and protecting the troops."

The hardest part about being deployed is finding ways to keep in touch with family.

"We can FaceTime, so we talk often," he said. "Twenty years ago you had to stand in line four hours for a 10-minute phone call. They make

it easier now, but it doesn't replace the distance — or the time change. My shift was late night and through the evening here."

His shift involved long days, starting with being briefed, then flying four to six hours and being debriefed. He does something similar with his children now that he's home.

"I ask what was tough about the time I wasn't here," he said, "what

we can focus on to change it."

Ward said he plans to spend as much time with his family and community as possible, though at the time of his late-November interview, his wife was at a conference in Morocco.

Amanda Ward also is a member of the military. They met in Qatar, though they were on different deployments, at Al Udeid Air Base.

"And we were both stationed in Arizona at different bases at the same time," he added, noting his wife, a colonel, was the commander of the 217th Air Component Operations Squadron in Battle Creek and now is chief of joint staff at Joint Force Headquarters Michigan.

"I'm so proud of Amanda," he said. "To have a relationship where we both can work in this profession and raise a family just speaks volumes."

He said he recognizes the challenges his family faced without him.

"Over there, I have a regimented schedule," he said. "I go through the day doing my job. I'm missing home, missing my family, but the hardest fight is back home. They have to live their lives just the same, but they're down a member."

"It's a big cost to families, to children," Amanda Ward added, noting their children "don't know any different. They've been doing this their whole lives. Being a military kid is hard and this is part of the reason it's hard. Everything we do is focused on keeping their lives steady and stable."

Though he's been given "dwell time," a respite from being vulnerable to deployment for a set amount of time, there's always the possibility he'll be deployed again.

"Knowing he's home and he's safe is the biggest relief," Amanda Ward said of his recent return.

Ward, who joined the Air Force Academy in 1996, and graduated as a second lieutenant in 2000, said he served more than 13 years on active duty. He was

inspired to join by his family.

"Especially my father," he noted. "He served in Vietnam. Service seemed like a very rewarding path and it has been."

When he's not flying jets, Ward works in Lansing with the Michigan Air National Guard Active Guard Reserve. He also is a senior director for the Michigan National Guard's Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center.

"We take new technology and existing technology and operationalize innovations," he said. "We put things in the hands of war fighters or troops that are usable as fast as possible."

Flying A-10, Ward has more than 3,600 hours of single-seat fighter time and more than 1,100 hours of combat time.

"I love what I do," he said. "I grew up flying. The fact I can continue to do it is absolutely amazing. Parts of serving are sheer terror. It's hours of boredom and seconds of sheer terror. But the camaraderie — this is where veterans groups come in. Those who serve find camaraderie, then it's ripped away. That's why veterans organizations are important."

When he's not working, Ward puts his hobbies to use to help others through the Fins and Feathers Foundation, a hunting and fishing group for veterans.

"Every time you spend time together, if you're in public, you don't talk about what you've done in the military, but when you're out in the field hunting or fishing, you might talk about it because you're not surrounded by people."



Amanda Ward, her children and neighbors decorated trees on Washington Road in the City of Grosse Pointe with yellow ribbons to welcome home Bart Ward, who was deployed to Jordan and Qatar for three months.

2B | FEATURES

Kids on the Go celebrates successful gala

Nonprofit still in search of new home

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Attendees of Kids on the Go's Nov. 9 gala, "Forever Young," partied to the max during the 1980s-themed event. Neon suits, shoulder pads, big hair and Don Johnson lookalikes packed the Sound Board at Motor City Casino for the nonprofit's most bodacious gala to date.

"It was the best we've ever had," founder and Executive Director Kristy Schena said post-gala. "We sold out five weeks before the event."

In addition to 400 dinner patrons, dessert-glow tickets allowed admission after the meal for dessert, a live auction and dancing. The event also included "Material Girl" and "Gnarly" raffles, as well as a silent auction of more than 100 righteous items.

The gala was emceed by Darien Harris, assistant athletic director at Michigan State University and a former MSU linebacker and Cincinnati Bengal.

Matt Holiday served as auctioneer and Boogie Dynamite! provided live music.

Making the event especially rad were awards presented to three advocates for children and families served by Kids on the Go, which provides year-round camps and activities for children with special needs ages 3 to 17.



John George of Clarity Counseling & Wellness, left, and J.B. Peabody wiggled out at the gala.

Receiving the John W. George Sr. Award of Excellence was Grosse Pointe Farms resident J.T. Mestdagh.

"J.T., your remarkable spirit has touched the lives of many," Schena said while presenting the award. "This evening, we recognize you for your tireless efforts to advocate for and empower those facing challenges. Your work is not just about overcoming obstacles; it's about showing others that they can, too. Through your own experiences, you have shared the raw, real truths about what it means to struggle — and in doing so, you have given a voice to so many who might otherwise feel unheard. Your courage, vulnerability and resilience inspire us all to keep pushing forward, even when the road seems steep."

Mestdagh, the author of "Tether: Inspiration

for Living Free and Strong No Matter What the Challenge" and "No Bad Days: How to Find Joy in Any Circumstance," was born with both VATER/VACTERL syndrome, severe dyslexia and learning differences. Through faith, a positive attitude, empathy and the spiritual, emotional and practical help of his family and many others, he is now an entrepreneur, outdoorsman and encourager committed to giving back.

"You have gifted us more than just words," Schena told him at the gala. "You have shared a message of hope, of possibility and of perseverance. Your words fuel our efforts to inspire children, teens and families we serve. When they face their own challenges, we encourage them to look to you as a model of strength and determination."

While Mestdagh's award was highlighted in the gala booklet, two additional awards were surprises to the honorees.

The Russell Agosta



Left, J.T. Mestdagh accepts the John W. George Sr. Award of Excellence. Right, Regan Wright, left, and Katie Lubera also received awards during the gala.

Award, honoring an individual for their unwavering advocacy and tireless volunteerism in supporting individuals with special needs, was presented to Grosse Pointe Farms resident Regan Wright.

"As a board member, volunteer and parent advocate, Regan Wright has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the lives of children and adults with disabilities, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are met," Schena said. "Her compassionate approach and dedication to fostering inclusion and empowerment for all individuals, regardless of ability, are truly deserving of this recognition."

New this year, the Founder's Circle Award will be presented annually to an individual on the Kids on the Go therapy or administration team "whose dedication, passion and impact have truly embodied the mis-

sion and vision of this organization. This award will honor those who go above and beyond, who make a significant difference in the lives of the children and families we serve and who contribute to the culture of excellence that defines everything we do," Schena noted.

Longtime Kids on the Go staffer Katie Lubera of Grosse Pointe Woods received the inaugural award.

"Katie has been a vital part of the Kids on the Go family for 24 years and during that time has consistently gone above and beyond in every aspect of her role," Schena said. "She has been instrumental in the continued growth of our multidisciplinary program and by introducing new programs, Social Skills and Teens to Work.

"Katie also mentors graduate students and has brought valuable

staff to our therapy team and serves as a pillar of support to her colleagues," she added. "More than just an employee, Katie is a true leader, a mentor and a friend to all of us here."

Despite the totally tubular atmosphere, there was a heavy undertone to the night, Schena said.

"The big part is that we need a new home," she said. "Forty-eight hours before the gala, the school district told us they want to tear down" the Nonprofit Center at Pare, where Kids on the Go and other nonprofits have been housed since 2018. "The people (at the gala) were so supportive in helping us. We raised just over \$300,000 — and we raised \$100,000 in dedicated giving to help us find a new home."

"It's not easy to find space," she added. "Commercial is so expensive. It's a critical need right now, but we're not going to stop. Kids on the Go will keep going."

Schena said while she's looking for space, she has asked the South Lake School District to give the nonprofit nine to 12 months to relocate. In the meantime, she's grateful to the hundreds who came out and supported the organization.

"I offer a heartfelt thank-you to all the donors and sponsors and supporters and attendees," she said. "They're the reason Kids on the Go keeps going. We've been providing services for 26 years now. We do this gala on a biennial basis, so this supports us for two years. In light of our need for a home, the success of this event means more than ever to all of us and provides hope for the future."



COURTESY PHOTOS

Gala emcee and Michigan State University Assistant Athletic Director Darien Harris, left, and Anthony Schena of Schena Roofing & Sheet Metal.



Left, from left, Michelle Agosta, Dennis Loughlin and Laura Peabody were totally out of sight. Right, Kim Schena and Nicholas Avouris lit up the room.



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AREA ACTIVITIES

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, through 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.

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.

Blood drives
The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:
◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, Roseville

See EVENTS, page 4B

NEWPORT BY VILLAGE PALM

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OBITUARIES

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

Bettina H. Kesteloot

Bettina "Tina" Hoot Kesteloot, 79, passed away Friday, Nov. 22, 2024. She was known for her beautiful quilts, delicious applesauce cake and ability to trace a family genealogy tree.

Born Oct. 12, 1945, in Ferndale, Tina's zest for life and love for history were evident from her earliest days. Tina's journey through life was as vibrant and intricate as one of her award-winning quilts. She stitched together a legacy of love, laughter and an uncanny knack for knowing the stories of her ancestors. Her wit was as sharp as her quilting needles, and she often quipped that she was so good at genealogy because she needed to confirm that her sense of humor was indeed hereditary. In recent years, Tina knitted well over 200 colorful and unique scarves, hats and blankets for the layette and homeless ministries that benefited the poor.

Tina's role as a noted genealogist was not just a job — it was a calling. She often could be found with her glasses perched on her nose, unearthing the roots of her next friend's family tree. A proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, a lifelong Mayflower Society member and former Michigan Secretary, Tina was a fixture in historical circles. Her contributions were as legendary as the ancestors she so loved to discover.

Tina's sense of humor was only matched by her devotion to her family. She is survived by her sons, Arthur Kesteloot Jr. and Andrew Kesteloot (Tricia); and beloved grandchildren, Kate and Ben.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St.

Paul on the Lake, stpaulonthelake.org/donate. Contributions will support the layette, sewing and charitable ministries.

Kathleen "Kitty" Kennary Montagne

Kathleen "Kitty" Kennary Montagne, 87, died peacefully and surrounded by her children Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Born June 21, 1937, in Detroit, Kitty was one of seven children born to Dr. James M. and Rosemary G. Kennary. Her early years were marked by great family experiences growing up in Indian Village and swimming competitively at various local venues, including the Detroit Yacht Club and Detroit Women's City Club.

A participant in the 1956 Olympic trials, Kitty was one of the premier swimmers in Michigan during the 1950s. She was selected to join the 1954 All-American Swim Team and at one point held every freestyle record in Michigan. Kitty's accomplishments, including becoming the first woman to break the one-minute mark for the 100-yard freestyle in Michigan, are noted in the International Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

After her distinguished swimming career, she married and started a family. She eventually became a single parent to her six children, embracing this role with an unrelenting spirit and selflessness. Kitty approached the challenge through faith, grit, determination and what could only be described as a mother's love. She often credited the many angels in her life — family and friends alike — for their enduring love and support.

Kitty channeled her creativity and entrepreneurial spirit into building a small business as a seamstress, creating customized swimwear for swimmers and swim

teams throughout the state during the 1970s, '80s and '90s. She ran her business while also working seasonally at the Country Club of Detroit as pool director and swim coach, forming lasting relationships with her beloved lifeguard staff and club families.

Later in her adult years, she returned to the pool for fitness, demonstrating her beautiful swimming stroke at local pools. She also developed her lifelong passion of knitting, creating beautiful scarves, hats, sweaters, blankets and Christmas stockings for her loved ones. Her greatest source of pride and joy were her 17 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. "Nana" took great pleasure in rocking her many grandbabies to sleep, singing countless lullabies to them through the years.

Kitty is survived by brothers, Timothy P. Kennary of Detroit and Dr. William G. Kennary of Johnson City, Tenn.; sister, Sheila Kennary of Ludington; children, Mickey Shield (Bill), Megan Pandy (John), Marty Montagne (Annie), Mary Ann O'Leary (Patrick), Matt Montagne and Mike Montagne (Ruby); grandchildren, Trey, Timothy, Tucker, Tenley, Tommy, Ella, Lily, Maryl, Isabelle, Mac, Quinn, Jack, Patrick, Morgan, Meadow, Brooks and Star; and great-grandchildren, Paulina, Lula, Cleo, Emory, Margot, Hunter, Stella, Leo and Magnolia. Kitty was predeceased by her parents, Dr. James M. and Rosemary G. Kennary; brothers, Dr. James M. Kennary Jr. and Thomas M. Kennary; and sister, Patricia Ann Kennary.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation begins at 10 a.m.

The family expresses gratitude to the many loving caregivers and staff at American House Grosse Pointe for the



Bettina H. Kesteloot



Kathleen K. Montagne



Kathleen Mary Clor

care they provided to Kitty, as well as to her American House friends who provided support and comfort during her time there.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit, MI 48207 or cskdetroit.org/more-than-about-food/.

As Christmas was Kitty's favorite holiday, the family would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Arrangements were entrusted to verheyden.org.

Kathleen Mary Clor

Kathleen Mary (nee Rayburn) Clor, 81, of Sun City Center, Fla., passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024, after a long and difficult battle with dementia.

Kathleen was born Dec. 22, 1942, in Detroit, to Russell J. Rayburn and Mary E. (nee Norton) Rayburn. Growing up with her older sister, Dolores, much of her youth was spent at Bethesda Missionary Temple Church. She attended Wayne Elementary School and was a member of the Denby High School Class of 1960. Many of her lifelong friendships came from

her involvement in Girl Scouts and the Dee Shan Yons sorority. She began her first job at Hudson's department store during her senior year of high school and continued throughout college serving as a buyer's clerk. She met James L. Clor at a Notre Dame High School dance and the two were married Aug. 1, 1964.

Kathleen attended Wayne State University, from which she received bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education. After graduating from Wayne State, she went to work for East Detroit Public Schools, briefly as a fifth-grade teacher and then as a kindergarten teacher for the remainder of her 38-year career. She retired in 2004.

Kathleen lived in Grosse Pointe more than 30 years. Her hobbies included embroidery, reading, collecting, playing video games and traveling. She was an active member of Grosse Pointe Baptist Church and volunteered as a secretary for Awana. She later served as a Bible study fellowship leader.

After purchasing a second home in Sun City Center, Fla., in 2000, she split time between Michigan and Florida until she

became a permanent Sun City Center resident in 2009. She joined Trinity Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday school teacher, deaconess and church council secretary. In retirement, she enjoyed spending time with her family and traveling within the U.S., including Alaska, and to the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle East.

Kathleen is survived by her husband of 60 years, James L. Clor; son, James R. Clor (Michele); daughter, Rebecca L. Cauffman (Greg); and grandchildren, Hayley Clor, Hannah Clor, Natalie Cauffman and Joey Clor.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3, at Trinity Baptist Church in Sun City Center, Fla., with Dr. Tom Townsend presiding. A graveside service will be held at White Chapel Cemetery (Garden of Peace) in Troy at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to LifePath Hospice Sun City Center Hospice House, 3723 Upper Creek Dr., Ruskin, FL 33573, chaptershealth.org/foundation/lifepath. The family is grateful to LifePath for the excellent care Kathleen received in her final days.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Paul Lutheran

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts an American Red Cross blood drive noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Sign up online at redcross.org.

United Methodist

Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church's annual Cookie Mart takes place 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 14, at the church, 211 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms. This holiday tradition features thousands of homemade cookies and other treats. Cookies are \$10 per pound. Proceeds support the

mission work of United Methodist Women. Parking is behind the church.

St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, welcomes The Judelaires chorus, who will perform their holiday program at the next Lunch, Laugh and Learn at noon Thursday, Dec. 19. A chili and cornbread lunch follows the concert. A free-will offering is collected at the door. Space is limited; call (313) 884-4820 to reserve a seat by Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
15020 Hampton
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Masses
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Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Mass
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — St. Francis Day —
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9:30 a.m. - Worship Service
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WEDNESDAY
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6:30 p.m. - Worship Service

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WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

4B | FEATURES

Plaque unveiling event is Dec. 14

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, hosts a gathering from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, to celebrate a more than two-year collaboration between Provencal Weir House curator Leslie Wagner, Ph.D., and Fox Creek Quester President Lynn Detwiler.

Members will unveil a plaque designating the PW House's Memorial Gardens, as well as honoring the restoration of the house following four years of storage during the pandemic.

The house museum during the pandemic was replete with fluorescent lights and stuffed to the gills with steel cabinets, but now is back to being a full-fledged house museum. With the completion of the society's History Center — under the leadership of the building committee consisting of Stuart Grigg, Patricia O'Brien and the late Mason Ferry — items that took over the historic house now are safely in secure waterproof archives across the street.

At the PW House, restoration efforts have been plentiful. Fluorescent light fixtures were taken down and replaced with period-appropriate lights donated from the Manoogian home and from Wagner's Cadieux-Wagner Farmhouse. The floors were re-stained and refinished. Peeling paint on the walls and ceilings

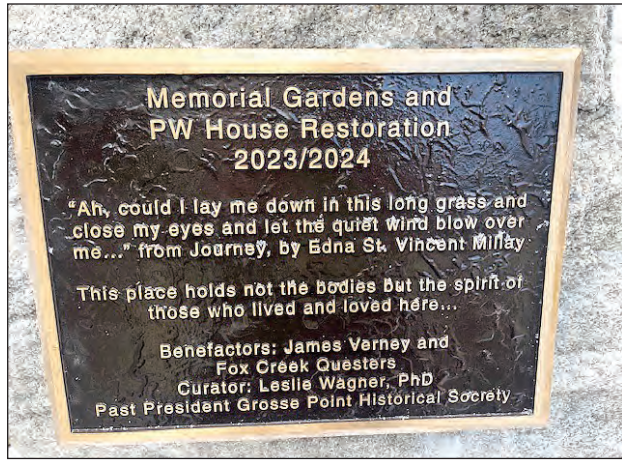


PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE WAGNER

This plaque will be officially unveiled during the Dec. 14 event.

was removed and the areas repainted with like colors. Areas of the roof were repaired by the same company that installed it. The gutters were cleaned. Nine windows were painted and reglazed, while broken windows were replaced. A rotted exterior porch post also was replaced. Leaks in the basement were fixed and broken shelving repaired by Alan Wagner. A leaking dishwasher was replaced by board member Mike Skinner and faulty garage doors were repaired and secured.

Now that the home is in good shape, society members look forward to strategic planning meetings to revise many of the rooms that have remained untouched for 40 years.

"We are lucky to have Lisa Worley of Ford House on our board, as well as Ann Loshaw, who has held many distinguished positions in

museums," Wagner said. "Add to that our Grosse Pointe Historical Society archivist Gina Tecos, who was instrumental at the Hellenic Museum, with our other museum professionals. We expect to begin reimagining the PW House with its structure in good stead to begin that work."

"One of the main jobs of a curator of a house museum is the preservation and restoration of the historic building," she continued. "Because the PW House museum was in disrepair over the four years of the pandemic, that became my primary goal. With the help of \$15,000 from Mr. James Verney and \$20,000 from the Fox Creek Questers, we are in a great position to move forward."

Wagner went on to say, "I love our Second Saturdays. For example, this Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

Grosse Pointe Historical Society Vice President of Education Kay Burt-Willson will teach French lessons to children and adults. In addition, Fox Creek Questers will display holiday centerpieces during our complementary tea and cookies. And I should add, this will be your final opportunity to make purchases at the vintage store as it closes. We are making space in the annex room to host exhibits. So get your holiday bargains and shop."

Purchases go toward seed money for Quester grants to continue preservation efforts at the PW House.

"The special relationship between Fox Creek Questers and the Grosse Pointe Historical Society remains strong," Wagner said. "They are there as docents every second Saturday to support our museum and work in the garden when it's warm enough."

The public is welcome to propose showing private collections of antique items related to the Grosse Pointes. Those interested should contact Wagner at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, (313) 884-7010.

Those interested in a private shopping experience at the vintage store before it closes, or who want to become a Fox Creek Quester docent to the PW House, should contact Fox Creek President Lynn Detwiler at (313) 719-9146.

Holiday fundraiser benefits Carstens Literacy Project

Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms, is hosting its Gifts & Greens fundraiser and parish Christmas party from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13.

The event includes a range of engaging activities designed to raise funds for the Carstens Literacy Initiative. Among them are:

- ◆ Sponsor a Carstens student: From a donation of \$25 to sponsoring a child for an entire year for \$600, every donation helps. Donate online at cbo.io/d/giftsgreens2024

- ◆ Text to give: Text "giftsgreens2024" to 56651 and follow the prompts to donate.

- ◆ Silent auction: A curated selection of experiences, trips and gifts already are up for bid at giftsgreens2024.cbo.io

- ◆ Wine pull: Guests are invited to try their luck to take home a bottle of wine.

- ◆ Gift card tree: Gift cards to local establishments are up for grabs.

- ◆ Tin can raffle: Tickets are 20 for \$25 and guests may choose from a selection of gift baskets and other items.

A marketplace featuring homemade goodies will be available during the party in the under-

croft. A selection of wreaths, greens and trees are among the items for sale.

All proceeds directly support the Carstens Literacy Initiative, dedicated to empowering children and families through education and literacy. With a mission to create brighter futures, the programs provide essential resources and opportunities to learners in the Detroit area.

"We are thrilled to bring the community together for such an important cause," said the Rev. Maureen L. Martin, associate for parish life and school community engagement. "By supporting literacy programs, we're giving children the tools they need to succeed."

While Gifts & Greens is an adult party, children are invited to dress in their most festive pajamas for the St. Nicholas Celebration, which takes place at the same time. Youngsters will be treated to pizza, cookie decorating, a Christmas movie and other festivities.

Admission is free, though reservations are requested. Email cfztzgerald@christchurchgp.org.

For more information, visit christchurchgp.org/giftsandgreens.

EVENTS:

Continued from page 2B

Public Library, 29777 Gratiot, Roseville.

- ◆ Noon to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, Neighborhood Club community room, 17150 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe. This is a Versiti Blood Center drive. Walk-ins are welcome or make an appointment by visiting versiti.org/mi.

- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, Roseville.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

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

- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Second Saturdays at The War Memorial: Holiday Magic, 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. A variety of crafts, games and activities are available. Cost is \$10.

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 fol-

lowing:

- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Holiday Karaoke Party, noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18. Cost is \$22 for members, \$26 for nonmembers, and includes lunch catered by Andiamo.

- ◆ The movie "A Rainy Day in New York" is shown at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and includes snacks.

Lauren Radke art

Grosse Pointe Woods artist Lauren Radke hosts a Christmas open studio 2 to 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13; 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 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 holiday floral workshop 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.

Library

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

- ◆ 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.

- ◆ Craft-To-Go, all day Monday, Dec. 16, at all three branches.

- ◆ Girls Reading, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Dream Lab: Adults Only, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

- ◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ 1,000 Hours Year-End Solstice Celebration,

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ Detroit: An Illustrated Timeline, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Ford House

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

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

- ◆ 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.

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

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Model tether boat racing in Detroit, circa 1930s

Author/collector seeks more information

By Kent Lund
Guest Writer

Around 1925, the Rev. H.C. Field was sent from the United Kingdom to open a parish in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Upon his arrival — the trip took 30 days — he was informed by telegram that the parish and church were canceled and would not be opening.

He was left on his own. Field was a resourceful man and talented machinist. He was able in short order to find gainful employment with the new Chrysler Corp., in Windsor. When he was not using his skills at Chrysler, he was working on his hobby. Before he left the U.K., he was actively participating in model tether boat racing at a pond in England's Victoria Park, the epicenter of the sport at the time.

In America and missing his boat-building and competition days, he set about forming a small group of capable, like-minded co-workers and introduced them to model

tether boat building and racing. To be a member and competitor, one needed to be able to build a gasoline or steam engine along with a wooden boat of one's own design.

The group was formed and began racing home-built model speedboats on the pond at Detroit's Water Works Park, located on Jefferson Avenue, a stone's throw from the Detroit River.

In the early 1930s, the group organized as the Detroit Model Power Boat Club. Formal rules were adopted, the hobby soon spread and additional clubs formed in other cities, including New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Toronto. As with any motorized sport, the clubs decided to have a race to see just whose boat could go the fastest around the circular course.

Over the July 4, 1939, weekend, the Detroit Model Power Boat Club hosted the annual International Model Power Boat Regatta at Water Works Park. From

many clubs around the country, model boatmen traveled to enter America's biggest model powerboat racing event.

Water Works Park had as its principle feature a shallow children's wading pool, which the model boat club used. The pond was ideal for the 1939 regatta and, as expected, the boat race attracted a crowd of spectators.

The gatherings included persons who had no interest in the races, aside from the sheer pleasure of seeing the boats run the circle course. They came early and stayed late, watching the races while enjoying a poolside picnic.

The audience, along with the boat builders themselves, were kept informed of the contestants, speeds and general race information by a public address system. Speakers were mounted on a "sound truck" loaned to the club courtesy of the American Automobile Association.

There were four classifications of racing boats — A, B, C and D. The boats in



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT LUND

The Rev. H.C. Field's tether boat, "Gadfly," and the trophy it won in 1924.

class A, B and C had a home-built power source: gas or steam. Class D used store-bought motors. Class A and B were the most popular.

Boats were run one at a time for speed, according to their racing class.

The course was a 105-foot diameter circle with a center pole anchored at a maximum of 36 inches above the water level. The bridle had to withstand a 250-pound pull test before it was permitted to compete. Once the boat was fired up and running wide open, it was hand-launched with the help of a person manning the center pole. This official held the running line off the water temporarily until the boat reached top speed and full centrifugal force. The boat had to make four laps to be timed; four laps of the 52 1/2-foot radius were timed by three judges using stop watches. The final time was the average time of the three

watches used. Calculations were made to determine miles per hour.

Competition was stiff among the proud owners of their custom scratch-built boats and hand-built steam or gas engines.

By 1940, the annual racing event was held at the Belle Isle Model Boat Basin, a newly constructed pond built specifically for model sail and tether boat racing.

This hobby of tether boat racing grew in Detroit and southeast Michigan because the craftsmanship and talent necessary to build the boats and engines was in Detroit. The Detroit automobile industry had for years been attracting and training machinists, tool makers and pattern makers — the perfect combination necessary for this sophisticated hobby to thrive.

Also at this time in the southeast corner of Michigan, three important boat manufacturers were

creating and building important mahogany speedboats: The Chris-Craft Co., in Algonac; John L. Hacker in St. Clair; and Gregory Boat Co., on the Detroit River and which built the Belle Isle Bear Cat boat.

Concurrently, full-size speedboat racing was in full swing on the Detroit River. Arthur 'Gar' Wood brought the Gold Cup trophy back to Detroit in 1917, winning five straight races 1917-21.

Building, designing and engineering tether boats was one thing. Racing them created a whole new exciting dimension and truly a new spectator sport.

Kent Lund is the host of "The Collectors," on Bloomfield Community Television. He acquired one of the Rev. H.C. Field's model tether boats — "Gadfly," which won the race in 1924 — from a Grosse Pointe estate sale approximately 10 years ago and has been in search of information about the boat, as well as its owner, who lived in Grosse Pointe, ever since.

Anyone with additional information is invited to contact Lund at kent_lund@gmail.com.

Read up on Lund's research and learn more about tether boats at tetherboat.com.

ASK THE EXPERTS By All Things Possible Wellness

Avoiding holiday burnout

Managing holiday stress, expectations

The holiday season can bring a sense of warmth and joy, but it's also a time when stress and burnout can sneak up on us. Between planning gatherings, shopping, traveling and managing family expectations, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Holiday burnout is real, but with a few intentional practices, you can preserve your energy and enjoy this special time of year.

Here are some tips to help you avoid burnout and make the most of the holiday season with peace and joy.

1. Set realistic expectations
◆ Manage your calendar: Limit how many events you commit to and make sure to leave space for downtime. Communicate with family and friends about what you can realistically manage.

◆ Embrace imperfection: Give yourself permission to let go of the need for everything to be "perfect." Remember, it's the shared moments that matter most — not the flawless decorations or gourmet meals.

2. Prioritize self-care
◆ Take breaks: When things get busy, remember to pause and rest. Taking just 10 to 15 minutes to recharge can reduce stress and help you return to tasks with a clear mind.

◆ Maintain healthy habits: The holiday season often involves indulgent treats, but try to balance with nutritious meals, hydration and regular physical activity. A short walk, some deep breathing or even a quick yoga session can boost your mood and energy.

3. Create boundaries around giving
◆ Be thoughtful with gift-giving: Holiday expenses can add up quickly. Consider setting a budget to avoid financial strain and exploring alternative gifts like homemade items or experience-based gifts that focus on shared memories.

◆ Set emotional boundaries: While spending time with family and friends is a highlight of the season, it also can be draining. Be mindful of your emotional limits and know that it's OK to step back if you need space or if certain conversations feel overwhelming.

4. Manage family dynamics with care
◆ Prepare for emotional triggers: The holidays can bring up unresolved family dynamics or old tensions. If you anticipate challenging interactions, practice calming techniques like deep

breathing or grounding exercises in advance and remember to approach each moment with compassion and patience.

◆ Connect meaningfully: Focus on connecting with the people who support and uplift you. Strengthening these relationships can provide a valuable emotional buffer if things get tense.

5. Plan for quiet moments
◆ Schedule "me time": Setting aside time for yourself during the holidays can be rejuvenating. Whether it's reading a book, journaling or enjoying a cup of tea, small quiet moments can provide a reset in the midst of holiday hustle.

◆ Practice gratitude: Reflect on the people, moments or things that bring you joy. Starting or ending the day with a few notes of gratitude can help keep your focus on what truly matters.

6. Let go of "should's"
◆ Redefine holiday success: It's easy to feel pressured by what we "should" do, based on traditions or societal expectations. Remind yourself that it's OK to create your own holiday experience based on what feels right for you and your family.

◆ Accept help: You don't have to do it all. Allow others to pitch in where possible, whether that means asking for help with cooking, cleaning or errands. Collaborating can make holiday preparations easier and even more enjoyable.

The holiday season is a time for joy, connection and peace. By setting boundaries, embracing self-care and focusing on what truly matters, you can find balance and avoid the feeling of holiday burnout. Remember that it's perfectly OK to say "no" when you need to, take breaks when things get hectic and savor each moment without pressure.

Wishing you a restful and joy-filled holiday season.

The therapists at All Things Possible Wellness Center can provide additional strategies and guidance to help people cope during the holiday season. For more information, allthingspossiblewlc.com/

The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

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GROSSE POINTE *Gabby*

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Hoping for a more laid-back holiday this year

Dear Gabby: How do I tell my friends I don't want to do a gift exchange this year without seeming like a grinch?

It's not the money as much as the hassle. I was hoping for a more laidback holiday this year so I can focus on my family. — Grinchy in the Park

Dear Grinchy,

Be honest and be upbeat. How about suggesting to your friend group a fun cookie exchange or a night out every other year? This way, you can keep it a tradition, but make it that much more special if it's biannual rather than every December.

If someone insists on gifting, maybe a theme and a dollar limit would make it fun and keep it light.

— Gabby

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



Dealing with difficult exes during the holidays

DEAR ANNIE:

How do I convey to my adult married children that I do not like being around my ex for the holidays? My son lives several states away, and he invited my daughter and her family, my ex, and my wife and me for Thanksgiving together. This will be the first time in close to seven years that I will see both of my children together for a holiday.

My daughter has had Christmas at her home every year since my granddaughter was born. We are invited, but my ex is always there. I think holidays should be happy occasions, at a minimum, so maybe we could rotate years. But that does not happen. I am dreading Thanksgiving and being around her. She puts in digs at me or, in my opinion, wants to start a fight when everyone else is out of earshot. I consider her a lying, cheating, adulterous witch.

I want to spend time with my kids, just not



with her around. My daughter-in-law and son-in-law have had disagreements with her in the past. My letter is long enough; I could go on and on. — Avoiding Ex

DEAR AVOIDING

EX: The best way to convey to your adult children that you would not like to be around your ex for the holidays is to tell them that. But understand that might mean less time with your kids.

You really have two choices: Ignore the chatter and negativity that is your ex-wife for the sake of spending more (quantity) time, or spend less time -- but quality time -- with your kids without your ex making rude remarks.

Regardless of what you decide, she is going to be in your life. It's best to try to let go and forgive some of the anger you have toward her for her adultery. Not for her sake, but for yours.

DEAR ANNIE: My wife of 44 years passed away after a nine-day bout with cancer.

We started dating at 16, went to college together, married at 20 and graduated at 21, when we started our life together for real.

"Sally" passed away two months after her 65th birthday. I will turn 65 in a month. I was to retire in three months, while Sally was already retired. Our house is paid for and sits by a beautiful creek in small-town Georgia, and moving has been suggested. I like it here.

All our plans for traveling and having a life together in retirement disappeared in a matter of days.

We had saved a pile of money to do all we couldn't do until we retired. Now I don't know what to do. I was her George Bailey, and she was my Mary Hatch. I never had a wandering eye. I don't have a long-lost girlfriend from high school. Our circle of close friends is small and mostly live out of town.

My daughter and son are grown and pretty much have their own lives. I refuse to spend the last 20 years alone without female companionship. I liked being married. Single life is not my cup of tea. I know I can't replace my wife. Some accuse me of that.

She was educated, a retired teacher. She knew who Emily Post was and watched Julia Child. Together, we watched "Jeopardy" nightly. She loved to travel, saying, "Travel feeds the soul." She played bridge, volunteered at the hospital and church, and sent food to shut-ins. She would watch football with me and enjoy it if I would watch Hallmark movies with her.

During the pandemic, I began teaching myself guitar, and she would let me practice in the bedroom while she sat in bed reading. She remarked, "I would rather have you

with me making a racket than somewhere else causing a racket."

Should I try to forget her now that she is gone and look for another type of person to spend my life with? Should I look for another woman like her? Should I pursue her first cousin with similar qualities who lost her husband last year? Are there women out there like her who are good-hearted and looking for a stable, educated man with whom to have a good time?

How do I connect with them? I can't go back to the neighborhood front-yard football game again, be tackled by her, injure my shoulder and have her be the first girl to come to my house worried about me, which is how our love affair began. Help! — Lost at Potato Creek

DEAR LOST: Your love affair sounds like something out of the movies. I am so sorry for your loss. Of course you are lost and confused, and that is understandable. You are not supposed to have all the answers to what the future will look like right now. Find other widowers who can understand what you are going through and help you work through your grief. The healthier you get with your own emotions, the healthier your next relationship will be.

You will never replace your wife. You will now have a new normal, which will look different from your old normal, and that is perfectly natural. Instead of trying to find a replacement for your wife, try to remember all of your beautiful memories, which will live inside you for a lifetime.

DEAR ANNIE: I broke up with the mother of my children two years ago. We have had a very rocky past. I treated her badly for the first couple of years, and we separated for two years after our first child was born. We got back together 18 months later.

We were together for seven years on our second stint, and we had another child. We eventually didn't work out when my job took me away and she refused to leave her mother.

Now I am treated like a criminal. I don't get to see them and am only



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

allowed to talk to the youngest one, and that's only once a week. The mother refuses to work with me on a fair schedule, and the courts are so backed up it may be another six months before I can get a court date.

The mother isn't a good person, and I fear for the way my kids are being raised and what they are being told. I'm at a loss on what to do while I wait for the court date. — Concerned Father

DEAR CONCERNED

FATHER: At least you're honest, admitting that your treatment of her was not good, so you can understand why she is keeping you away. But if you have really changed, why not write her a letter explaining what was going on in your life? Send her flowers; send the kids gifts. You might even try to have a calm, quiet conversation with her mother as well. Try courting them a little, rather than waiting for your day in court. If you are successful, you won't need it.

DEAR ANNIE: I have read the letters from the grandmothers who are feeling left out. I am in the same situation. My mother always told me that when your son marries, he will be more connected with the wife's family. I have found that it is true. They have not forgotten us. We get our share of holidays and are acknowledged on birthdays, anniversaries, etc. But while their house has a wide selection of photos of her parents, nieces and nephews, etc., and all the events and trips they take together, there's none of my son's side of the family. I have had everyone at photo shoots and paid for pictures for everyone. but they are nowhere to be seen. Perhaps they are hanging in a closet.

I love my son, daughter-in-law and grandson but do feel we are not equal to the other side. I am glad my mother warned me, and I just love them and take what we get. I did bring him up to be independent, and we don't interfere but are always there

when needed. I am glad they are happy and will never bring this up for fear of causing them a problem. — A Son's Mother

DEAR SON'S

MOTHER: You sound like a wonderful mother, and I want to share your letter to remind sons to reach out to their moms. It's not just the responsibility of their wives. Below is a letter that highlights what a daughter-in-law might be thinking.

DEAR ANNIE: I've

seen several letters from grandmothers who feel hurt because they don't see their grandchildren as much as they'd like. Often, the daughters-in-law are blamed for this, but the sons are rarely mentioned.

As a daughter-in-law, here's something I wish I could share:

Your son is not always making plans or staying in touch. I understand that you may feel left out, but putting the blame on your daughter-in-law can strain things further.

Your son is an adult, and while I love and support him, it's important to remember that he is fully capable of managing his own relationships, including the one with you. Expecting me to handle it on his behalf not only creates unnecessary tension but also diminishes his role in the relationship.

I value my in-laws and encourage my husband to stay connected. I often suggest visiting for the holidays, but ultimately, the decision is his. If he took the initiative, I would be more than happy to go along. But it's important that he takes the lead when it comes to his family.

Like many, I juggle work, household duties and children, and it can be overwhelming at times. Please know it's not a lack of care on my part, but it's difficult to maintain everything. If you're feeling hurt, the best person to talk to is your son.

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

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Clue

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(subject: CLUE)

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



As someone with naturally dark hair who colors it blonde, keeping it soft and manageable can feel like a full-time job. Despite my lineup of hair products, from heat protectants to premium shampoos and leave-in conditioners, my hair still tends to look dry and frizzy from regular bleaching.

So when a friend recommended L'Oreal Nature's Therapy Mega Moisture Crème, I was curious to see if it could

finally give my hair that extra boost.

The Mega Moisture Crème promises to tame unruly hair with intense hydration, leaving it flexible and easy to manage, even after color treatments. It's designed specifically for hair that's been through the works: color, chemical treat-

ments, you name it. At only \$22 for a sizable



container, I decided to give it a try.

In the shower, I used this as a deep conditioner, swapping it in for my regular conditioner once a week. After shampooing, I applied a generous amount, let it sit for 5 to 10 minutes, then rinsed it out.

Right away, I could feel the difference. My

hair was noticeably softer and felt deeply conditioned. After styling, my hair looked healthier and had less frizz than usual, which was a welcome change.

I'd give L'Oreal's Mega Moisture Crème a solid 5 out of 5 alligators. If you're looking for a reliable, affordable way to bring moisture back to your hair, this product is absolutely worth a try.

It's gentle enough for color-treated hair and delivers noticeable

results, all in a generously sized container that lasts.

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

Spiced up side Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

Green beans are always a staple at our family holiday table. A while back, I was tasked with bringing them.

I was aghast that I would be asked because I thought it was a testament to my cooking ability. Give the simply steamed green beans to the one with the five kids, she has enough going on. So naturally, I set out to find some elaborate way to present them. I had the "I'll show you" mentality!

I ended up bringing braised green beans with tomatoes, onions and spices that I cooked for hours. To be honest, it was a complete waste of my time. Nobody much ate them.

By the time a green bean simmers for two hours on the stove, it starts to not look like a green bean, more like a stewed mess. The taste of the dish was good. But people eat with their eyes, especially during the holidays. They want to eat something that they recognize at first glance.

I learned a good lesson that holiday, which was to stick to the basics.

This year however, I'm going for something a bit outside of the box but still easily identifiable as a green bean

dish. These green beans are quickly blanched and then tossed in a brown butter with warming cumin, cinnamon and pistachios.

They lay on top of a lemon and creamy feta mixture that acts as a sauce. For extra festive flair and crunch, I added pomegranate seeds.

This really is a beautiful and easy dish to make this season.

Blanch the beans beforehand along with the whipped feta and pull together the final platter five minutes before serving.

Trust me, a crisp and fresh approach will go over much better than stewing.

Cheers, Mombeau

Brown Butter Green Beans with Lemony Feta

1 cup salted, shelled pistachios

2 tbsp everything bagel seasoning

½ tsp cinnamon

½ tsp cumin

1½ lbs green beans, trimmed

¼ stick of butter

¾ cups pomegranate seeds (garnish)

Whipped Lemon Feta

8 oz feta cheese, crumbled

1 cup plain greek yogurt

1 lemon, juiced

2 tbsp olive oil

2 cloves garlic

Roughly chop pistachios and place in a small bowl with the everything bagel seasoning, cinnamon and cumin. Set aside.

To make the whipped feta, add all ingredients to a food processor and process until smooth. If it is too thick, add in a tablespoon of water at a time until you get a smooth, ribbony consistency.

Next work on the green beans. Bring salted water to a boil in a large pot and cook the green beans for about four minutes or until crisp tender and bright green. Remove the beans and add them to a bowl of ice water to stop the cooking process.

Once cooled, place them on a clean kitchen towel to dry.



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat until it darkens just a bit and smells nutty. Add ¾ of the pistachio mixture to the pan, reserving ¼ for the top-

ping. Add in the green beans and saute together until the beans are heated through, about two to three minutes.

To plate, spread the lemony, whipped feta

onto a plate and place the beans in a pretty row over the top. Top them with the remaining pistachio mixture and pomegranate seeds for color, sweetness and crunch.



New Zealand primer

At a dinner party a few weeks ago, a couple told me they were planning to travel to New Zealand next summer, and they wanted to know if I had any suggestions about what to see.

Since I have been to New Zealand eight or nine times (I've lost count), I can say that wine lovers who do it correctly may have the finest experience with wine they could ever imagine. However, 25 years ago, such a statement would've been unthinkable.

The reasons for this boil down to the fact that New Zealand is making some of the world's most fascinating wines today, but its ascension into the highest levels of quality has only been over the last 20 years or so.

Indeed, on my first visit to New Zealand around 1995, my wife and I could barely find a decent place to eat, even in the little towns just outside of the finest wine regions. Wine and food grew up about the same time; today both are superb.

Touring New Zealand does not require wine, of course. The culture is simply amazing all on its own. But people who love wine and have toured New Zealand tell me what I discovered on my own: It's a totally interesting place.

On the North Island, the primary location for grape growing is Waiheke Island, where a dozen wineries deliver some most exciting wines. It's easy getting there from Auckland.

Driving south of

Auckland, many people find fascination with the town of Rotorua, home to the Maori cultural center as well as dozens of geothermal eruptions. Sheep shearing trials as well as demonstrations of local sheepdog herders are amazing to watch.

Further south on the North Island are the twin towns of Hastings and Napier, the latter second only to Miami as home to a huge art deco movement that was spawned by a damaging earthquake in 1931.

The nearby wines of Hawke's Bay are brilliant!

At the southern tip of the North Island lies Wellington, the capital city, just north of which is Martinborough, where dozens of small wineries produce remarkably fine pinot noir, chardonnay and shiraz.

Wellington is home to a museum, the Te Papa, a cultural experience that's one of the most fascinating I have ever seen. It explains the remarkable history of the Maori culture and how it has become essential in New Zealand life.

Ferrying across the strait to the South Island,

visitors usually visit Marlborough wineries, which gave birth to the greatest wine development in the country's history, sauvignon blanc. Today, pinot noir flourishes there as well.

Also on the northern tip of the South Island is the small but gorgeous town of Nelson, off to the west, with a laid-back personality and some of the nicest people I've ever met! And the wines are sensational.

Christchurch on the eastern coast of the South Island is a beautiful city situated near several wine country areas. The most famous is Central Otago, where you can try some of the finest chardonnays and pinot noirs.

One of the more important cities in Central Otago is Queenstown, which becomes home to multitudes of skiers during the winter, so if you're planning to visit New Zealand then, book hotel rooms and restaurant reservations well in advance.

No brief synopsis like this can possibly do justice to an entire nation that seems dedicated to being among the friendli-

est and most accommodating I have ever visited. But, of course, I'm prejudiced. I love the wines.

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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PHOTOS BY ANNE GRYZENIA

Michigan Design Center gets creative for Gleaners

By Donna Zetterlund
Special Writer

It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Michigan Design Center's Gather event last month on November 8. Interior designers enthusiastically created 26 creative displays to incite visitors' imaginations and raise funds for Gleaners Community Food Bank to help feed hungry neighbors in Southeast Michigan. The five hour event was full of fun and inspiration just in time for the upcoming holiday entertaining season. Beyond the generous donations that raised over \$4000 and collected 1,057 pounds of food for the charity, the artistic interior design genius was simply overflowing.

Awards in several categories were given to three exceptional efforts among the totality of breathtaking displays. The "Divine Dining" vignette won the "One in a Million" award for most imaginative display. It was designed by Sharon Gamblin and featured dramatic contrasting dark and light elements accented with gold, resourced from Decoroom and her personal collection.

"Divine dining is more than just hosting," said Gamblin of her creation. "It's an experience that delights the senses, tugs at the heart, and strengthens the bonds of friendship and family," she added. Celebrating the warmth of shared moments, Gamblin's vignette poured attention into every detail. The dramatic display highlighted the joy of delicious food, drinks, and meaningful conversations that create unforgettable experiences.

"Around the Tuscan Table," within the E.W. Kitchens showroom, won the show's Design Inspiration Award — created by Debi Hollis of Interior Lifestyle. Hollis designed a scene that visually transported attendees to a patio in Tuscany "where everyone is welcome and where the guests can envision themselves with friends and family." Her entry description said it all: "Sit back, relax, break bread together and enjoy an affogato — welcome to the Tuscan Table!"



Crowd pleaser

“Family Table” in The Ghiordes Knot showroom, right and far right, brought a touch of the Orient and won the “Crowd Pleaser” award for overall favorite display. It was created by Joel Baird of Baird Design Group. With its bright complementary colors and welcoming fruits and greenery, it’s easy to see why guests enjoyed this beautiful display.



Setting the style

“Botanical Gardens,” right, by Anita Sneideraitis of Gunnar Olivier Design depicts the scene of a beautiful dinner party, surrounded by nature, friends, and family. It’s inspired by all things botanical, fall colors and outdoor spaces.



“Mediterranean Garden Soiree: An Evening of Essence,” far right, by Ellwood Interiors unfolds in earthy greens, illuminated by the soft glow of lanterns. With timeless elegance and shared tranquility, each moment is thoughtfully curated for enjoyment.



Dishy designs

The “Enchanted Forest” display by Anna Versaci of Anna Versaci Design, right, draws inspiration from the simplicity of nature, evoking a crisp autumn walk in Michigan. This vignette brings the outdoors in with rich forest greens and earthy textures.



It was a night to remember with “A Swanky Soiree” by designers Lauren Guidry, Cynthia Hahn and Susie Kapadia of GHK Design Collaborative, far right. The warm glow of candlelight, and old Hollywood glamour makes this display a standout.



PHOTOS BY ANNE GRYZENIA

Tasty tableau

Opposite page: The Design Inspiration Award went to “Around the Tuscan Table,” designed by Debi Hollis of Interior Lifestyle, in the E.W. Kitchens display showroom. The award was given to the vignette that visitors would most like to re-create in their own homes.

The Crowd Pleaser Award went to “Family Table” in The Ghiordes Knot showroom, by Joel Baird of Baird Design Group. His unique table setting combined exotic blue and white Asian-inspired china with rustic wood for eclectic contrast. Custom napkins and pillows in luxury fabrics added elegance and unified the look of the table. Original hand-drawn place cards brought in a sweet personal element for warmth. A beautiful hand-knotted rug in autumnal tones reflected the brightly colored fall fruits and vegetables that accented the table design. Guests were drawn to the upbeat look and feel of this pretty display.

The event also offered a noptional keynote feature presentation by designer Arthur White, of A & E Decor and author of “Distinctive Decor: The Art of Tablescaping.” The renowned designer discussed his new book, shared a few design secrets and gave attendees an exclusive glimpse at several of his show-stopping tablescapes in his own unique themes. White is well-known for hosting dazzling gatherings at his historic Palmer Woods home where he can exercise new ideas and dazzle friends and colleagues with his own inimitable style.

White held a book signing reception open to all attendees after his presentation. Guests had the opportunity to purchase his book, personally chat with him and share thoughts on design.

See GATHER, page 7C



A detail from an interior display, above, has a nice holiday touch.

Personality plus shines through each design



Fun time

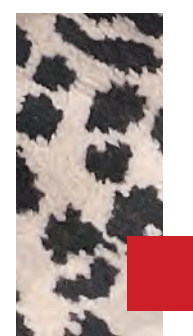
"Never Lose Your Sense of Fun," top left, by Theresa Sullivan and Victoria Strickler, of Sullivan-Strickler Design, is definitely a happy place. The bold mix of modern and classic elements is a tribute to celebratory fun. Each place setting was curated for the individual guest's delight. The entire vignette was designed to provide an entertaining communal experience that evokes camaraderie and revelry.

Cool kids

"The Cool Kids Table," above and top right, celebrates the joy of childhood and even has a special space for the family dog. The vignette by Dayna Rasschaert, of Dayna Flory Interiors.

Broadway bound

Step into the vibrant world of "Broadway Rave," above, where the energy of musical theater ignites the spirit of celebration. Designers Rita O'Brien and Colleen O'Brien Seitz of Rita O'Brien Interiors created a dynamic display that invites you to grab a drink and join fellow drama lovers in a lively gathering space. It's a place to sing, dance, and revel in the "show biz" joy of Broadway.





Great style in any language

Top and inset: “Lekka Jol” (which translates to “cool party” in one of South Africa’s 13 native languages) was created with designated areas for dining and games. Designer Alexis Elley of Textures Design made a space that embodies a true South African-style home. It features low-profile seating as well as a cozy nook for cocktails and conversation.



Holiday-inspired

The dramatic yet homey room design, left, has the right touch when it comes to holiday feels. From warm lighting to gold accents and Scandinavian greenery, this room looks ready to house the family for a cozy and happy celebration.

GATHER:

Continued from page 5C

The building-wide event had something for everyone, from kid-themed displays — that even featured a place for the family pet — to luxurious living rooms with chic holiday touches. From whimsical to elegant, decorating talent was present in full force throughout the venue.

“Gather” was a success in every way. Guests walked away with plenty of design inspiration for the holidays and beyond. Designers had the opportunity to showcase their best work. And Gleaners Community Food Bank will be stocked with a few more resources to help feed Southeast Michigan neighbors in need.

It was a win-win event that everyone was happy to gather around.

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Daisy Ridley as Trudy Ederle perseveres in the 2024 movie "Young Woman and the Sea," directed by Joachim Rønning.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Young Woman and the Sea"
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 2 hr 9 min
 ★★★★★

I begrudgingly have to admit, no one does sports biopics quite like Disney. Here they've produced a rousing, classic film that ranks right up there with "Hoosiers," "Rocky," "Chariots of Fire," and "Field of Dreams." It's an inspiring, family-friendly masterpiece that tells the true story of Trudy Ederle, the first woman to swim across the English Channel. The primary takeaway is one of empowering women in an era when blatant sexism was the norm. Although women have made a great deal of progress, the theme still resonates a hundred years later.

The title "Young Woman and the Sea" is an obvious reference to Hemingway's "Old Man and the Sea." (It's a coincidence that I just reviewed a movie made from another one of his novels last week.) The movie is based on the biography of the same title by sportswriter Glenn Stout. The director is Norwegian Joachim Rønning ("Kon-Tiki") and the phenomenal camerawork is courtesy of cinematographer Oscar Faura ("The Imitation Game"). And I should also mention the stirring soundtrack by Amelia Warner.

We first encounter the Ederle family in the midst of a crisis. Young Trudy (Olive Abercrombie) is stricken with the measles, which in the early part of the 20th century was a very serious disease. The doctor tells her parents she doesn't have long to live and when he goes upstairs to check on her one last time, he'll be coming down with dreadful news. They wait apprehensively and then hear someone descending the stairs. It turns out to be Trudy, looking for something to eat because she's starving! It's just one of the numerous times this old softie choked up during the film.

The pivotal point occurs early on in the movie. When word gets out that a ferry has sunk in the New York harbor, it's revealed that a large number of women drowned because they couldn't swim. At dinner, Trudy's mom, Gertrude (Jeanette Hain) announces that her three children are going to take swimming lessons. Father Henry (Kim Bodnia, "Killing Eve"), starts to laugh and initially says no. But Gertrude is a force to be reckoned with and simply won't take no for an answer. So Trudy (Daisy



The Ederle family.

Ridley), her sister Meg (Tilda Cobham-Hervey, "I am Woman"), and brother Henry Jr. (Ethan Rouse), all learn to swim. Because Trudy isn't allowed in the pool due to her bout with the measles, Henry Sr. teaches her to swim off the pier. He tethers her with a rope and walks alongside her. It's certainly an unconventional method, but it definitely did the trick.

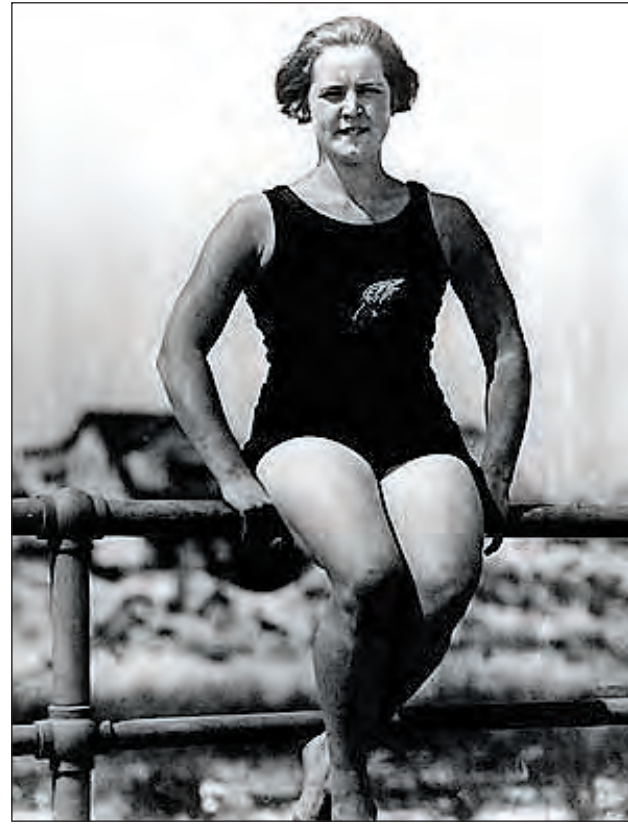
Both Trudy and Meg prove to be outstanding swimmers, however, it's Trudy who really shines. She's soon winning local



The formidable Trudy Ederle (Daisy Ridley).

national and then world records. Both Ridley and Cobham-Hervey do outstanding jobs playing sis-

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



The real Trudy Ederle.



She simply embodies the spirit of Trudy Ederle and exudes strength and determination throughout the film. You know she'll succeed at every step of the way. Nothing is going to stop her.

Trudy doesn't have as much luck at the 1924 Olympics in Paris, and neither do her teammates. This is largely due to blatant sexism at the time, whereby the young women weren't allowed to practice in the pool on the ship during their Atlantic crossing to the Olympic Games. However, it did put a bug in her ear when she finds out about the formidable challenge of swimming the English Channel — a 21-mile trek that's a mind-boggling feat.

The rest of the film is focused on her rising to the occasion in spite of the numerous obstacles she faced. The movie is so engaging, you're right there with her every step (or stroke) of the way, rooting for her to succeed. I thought the camerawork was captivating — you feel like you're in the water, practically freezing to death the entire time. It's especially harrowing when Trudy swims through a huge school of bright red jellyfish, getting stung the whole way but still somehow persevering.

You know the outcome going into the movie — they wouldn't make a film about failure now would they? But that doesn't make the journey any less exciting. This is one of the best sports-related biopics I've seen in quite a while. And it's one the whole family will enjoy!

If you like "Young Woman and the Sea" you might want to check out "Nyad," a film I reviewed a short while ago.

Currently streaming on Disney, Hulu, and Max.

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.



Movie Poster.

Hollyfest ushers in the holidays

Photo story by Renee Landuyt

The Family Center's annual fundraiser, Hollyfest, took place Thursday, Nov. 14, at The War Memorial and was its most successful to date.



The Family Center's MaryJo Harris, director of programs and administration; Diane Strickland, founder; and Jennifer Bingaman, executive director.

From left, The Family Center board member Gary Colett, Trish Colett, board President Roger Hull and Jean Hull.



From left, Mike Huellmantel; Julie Huellmantel, board secretary, Megan Gunnell, board member; and Freeman Gunnell.

From left, Tim Reinman, Marie Rienman, Pam Montgomery and Bob Montgomery.



Sierra Donaven, left, and Andre Moore.



One table had so much fun when the Sweet Caroline song was sung by entertainer Pat Brown that they sang along with the words and danced in their seats.

Royal Stars Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 12, 2024: You like harmony in your surroundings. You're a good listener and an excellent counselor. You appreciate the finer things in life. This is a year of change, which will bring you increased personal freedom. Stay flexible so you can grab new opportunities and act fast. Expect to travel.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

This is a good day to wrap up writing projects, especially related to colleges and universities or manuscripts. It's also an excellent day to study history and subjects about the past. You might enjoy doing this in conjunction with someone or with a group. Tonight: Guard your possessions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You might feel restless and impulsive today. Nevertheless, you can wrap up old business related to shared property, taxes, debt and insurance issues. People in authority will smile on you. In fact, someone might have advice for you! Tonight: Stay flexible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Today you will welcome a chance to be alone with your thoughts so that you can reflect on matters or contemplate your navel. In particular, you might wonder how to best approach an authority figure. You also might revisit travel plans with a romantic partner. Tonight: Be alert.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Someone older might have excellent advice for you. In fact, it's a good day to ask professors and instructors for their opinion. You also might be successful in negotiating a payment from someone, especially if they owe you money. Tonight: New friend?



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. You'll create a solid impression on others because you will look thrifty, careful, reliable and responsible. (Even if you don't feel this way.) Meanwhile, discussions with partners and old flames might be interesting. Tonight: Pay attention.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Do what you can to satisfy your urge for some adventure and a change of scenery. Obviously, travel would be the first choice. However, you can also be a tourist in your own city. You can talk to new people and see different places. Tonight: Ideas!



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You might talk to relatives and acquaintances from the past who you haven't seen for a while. Allow extra time for delays today, especially related to transportation. Meanwhile, stay on top of banking details and anything to do with insurance and shared property. Tonight: Check your finances.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Be prepared for a few surprises from partners, spouses and close friends today. They might be minor; they might be major. Meanwhile, it's a good time to finish family discussions, home repairs or a project that makes your home look

more attractive. Tonight: A surprise.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your work routine might be interrupted today. Pet owners should be vigilant about their pets to avoid mishaps. Equipment breakdowns (including computers) might occur. Meanwhile, you're a smooth talker today! You might impress someone from your past. Tonight: Interruptions.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You should be extra vigilant today, because this could be an accident-prone day for your kids. Sports related accidents also might occur. Meanwhile, social appointments might be canceled, delayed or changed. You might have a breakthrough or an epiphany with a creative project. Tonight: Be resourceful.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Something unexpected might occur at home today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Surprise company? It could be a friend from your past. Whatever happens, you will be charming and diplomatic as you deal with the unexpected. Tonight: Stock the fridge.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Pay attention to everything you say and do, because this is an accident-prone day for you. However, you also might have a brilliant idea or an epiphany about something. This is a particularly good day to talk to bosses and people in authority about an issue that might not have succeeded before. Tonight: Listen.

BORN TODAY

Singer, actress Dionne Warwick (1940), singer Connie Francis (1937), actor Bill Nighy (1949).

Contract Bridge

POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 5 3
♥ —
♦ A 10 9 6
♣ A Q J 10 9 4

WEST
♠ 10 9 2
♥ 10 8 6 5 2
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ 5

EAST
♠ A J 8 7 4
♥ A J 3
♦ 5 4
♣ 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ K 6
♥ K Q 9 7 4
♦ J 8 2
♣ K 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♥ Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — ten of spades.

Assume you reach three notrump as shown and West leads the ten of spades. When you play low from dummy, East signals with the eight, and you win the trick with the king. This gives you eight sure winners, and the question is what to play at trick two (remembering, of course, that you can see only the North-South cards).

There are two lines of play that stand out. One is to lead the queen of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy; the other is to lead the eight of diamonds, planning to finesse.

Actually, one of these plays is demonstrably right, and the other is demonstrably wrong. Nevertheless, it's easy to make the wrong play -- which is to lead a diamond instead of a heart at trick two.

The great attraction of the diamond lead is that you plan to finesse into the nondangerous hand, East, who cannot advantageously return a spade. However, this reasoning is unsound, since if the diamond loses to East, he will presumably return a heart. If West has the ace, he will win and return a spade through dummy's Q-5, and down you go.

You should conclude, therefore, that the contract cannot be made unless East has the heart ace, and on that basis, you should simply lead the heart queen at trick two.

In the actual deal, if you lead a diamond at trick two, West plays the queen, and the contract is defeated whatever you do next.

The bottom line is that no matter how the diamonds are divided, the contract fails if West has the ace of hearts, and you should proceed accordingly.

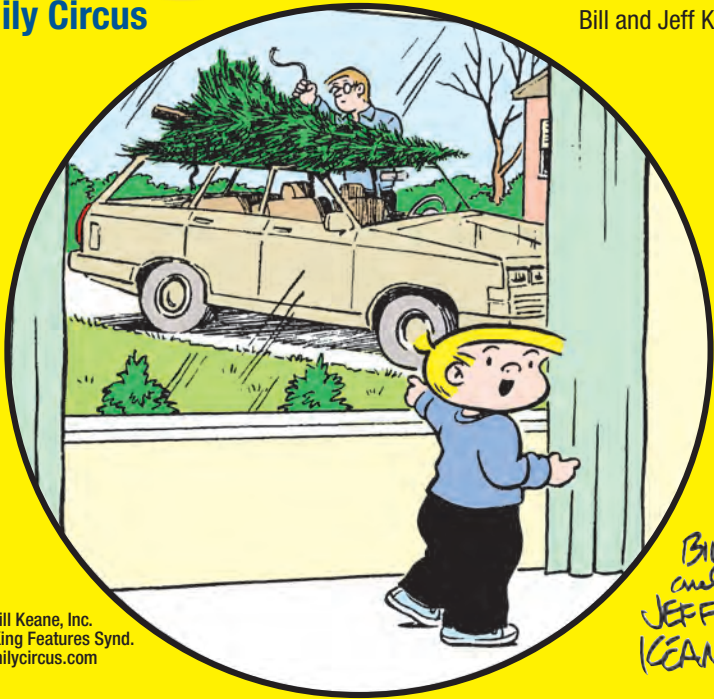
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"Mommy! How'd you like to see a real car under our Christmas tree?"

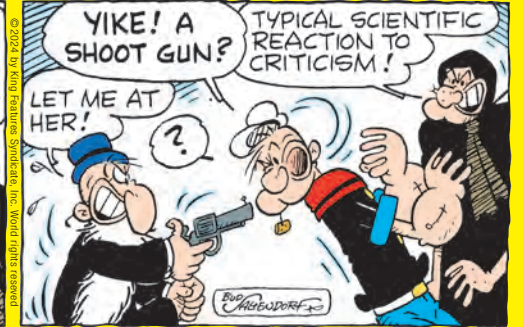
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



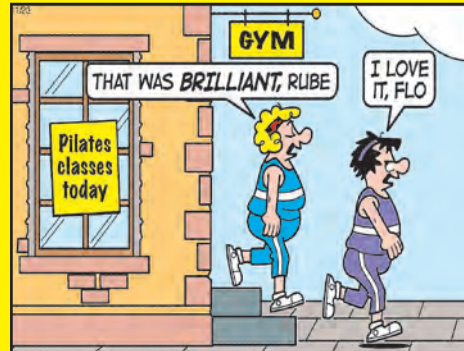
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



Andy Capp

Reg Smythe



Wizard of Id

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



F Minus

Tony Carrilo

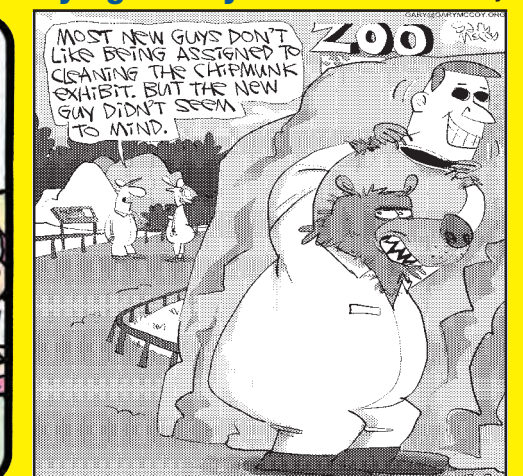


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/12

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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12/5 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 12, 2024

ACROSS

- Glossary item
- Manu Raju's channel
- Phantom, or an airline
- Trendy berry
- Sticky substance
- MLB player Shohei
- Event often involving Lego collections?
- With 67-Across, source of gossip
- Crosby, Stills, & Young
- "That's so last"
- Useful hint
- It makes a big bang, briefly
- The "S" of iOS: Abbr.
- "I've got it!"
- About 78% of air
- *Smartphone component
- Parenthetical comment
- Cookie with creme
- Lightning and Bolt, for two: Abbr.
- "Scooby-Doo" guy
- Sealy competitor
- *Seat that new parents might buy
- "Can totally relate"
- Pig's home

DOWN

- Body image, briefly?
- MBA subject
- Disney's "and the Last Dragon"
- Center
- Film FX in "Dune"
- Star that gets very bright
- Holiday song
- "See ya!"
- Letter before chi
- Wee, cutely
- Reviews, as an Uber driver
- Embedded decoration
- Org. with a racket in its logo
- Baggage-scanning org.
- Square root of 57-Across
- On the mark
- Theme park transport
- "First" or "last" handle
- See 19-Across
- Sport with windmills, or a hint to understanding both parts of the starred clues' answers
- Scrape away
- Overdone
- Disney's Queen of Arendelle
- Kid's polite (or sarcastic) affirmative
- Mauna
- Marsh stalk
- Stadium sections
- Horned herbivore
- Drops in
- Insta upload
- Tazo drink
- "Famous" cookie maker
- Add to the payroll
- Asus competitor
- FX series with Ayo Edebiri
- Opponent
- Warning by a risque link
- Atta-based bread
- Ring behind the cornea
- Fender
- Impression
- Daringly innovative
- Back, to a seafarer
- hoo (chocolatey drink)
- Branch of Islam
- Highly admire
- Unable to come any closer
- Cree or Creek
- Sounds from kittens or rabbits
- All fired up
- Wax-wrapped cheese
- Run berserk (go berserk)
- About 1.61 kilometers
- Chocolatey, spicy sauce
- "Anyone
- Swear words?
- Leak-preventing doc
- Trend that comes and goes

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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12/12

Not-So-Big Game by Brian Keller

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				15				16				
			18					19				
	20				21		22			23		
			24		25		26			27		28
29	30	31		32		33	34			35		
36		37						38		39	40	41
42								43				44
45				46				47		48	49	
				50				51				52
53	54	55		56				57		58		
59		60		61		62	63		64	65	66	
67			68			69		70				71
72						73				74		
75						76				77		

Comics



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne

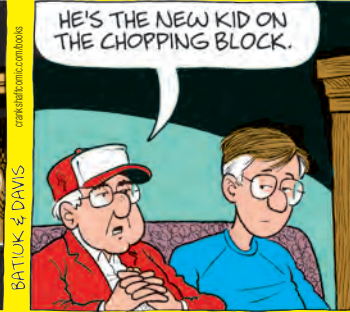
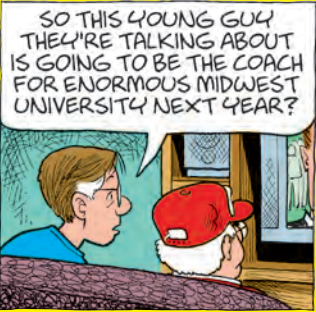
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



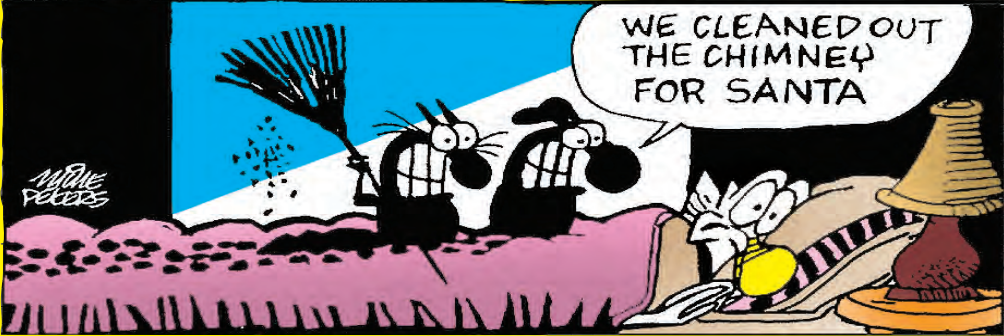
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



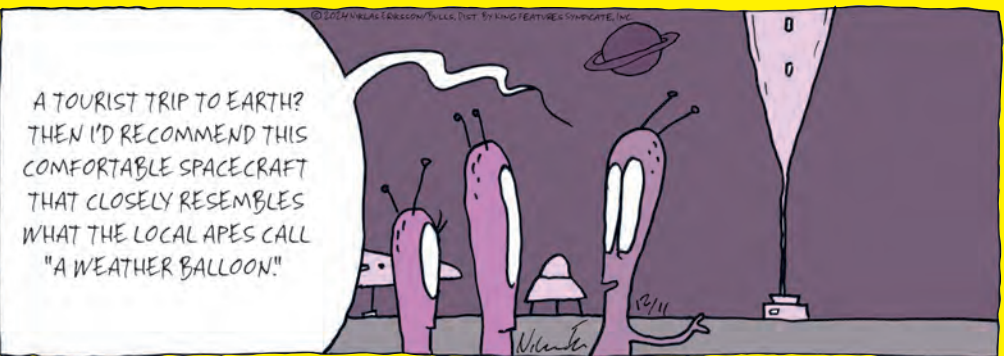
Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



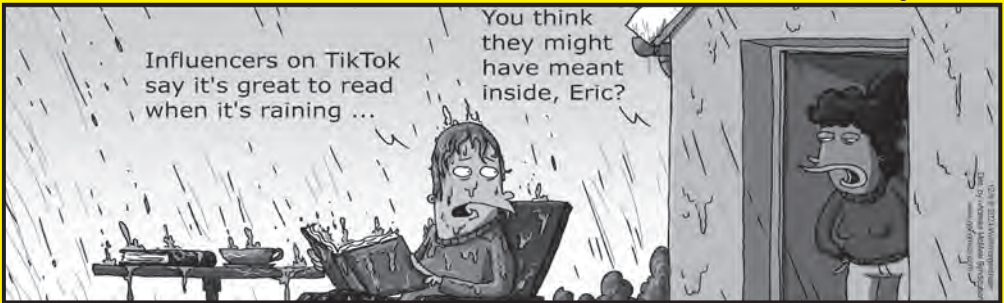
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

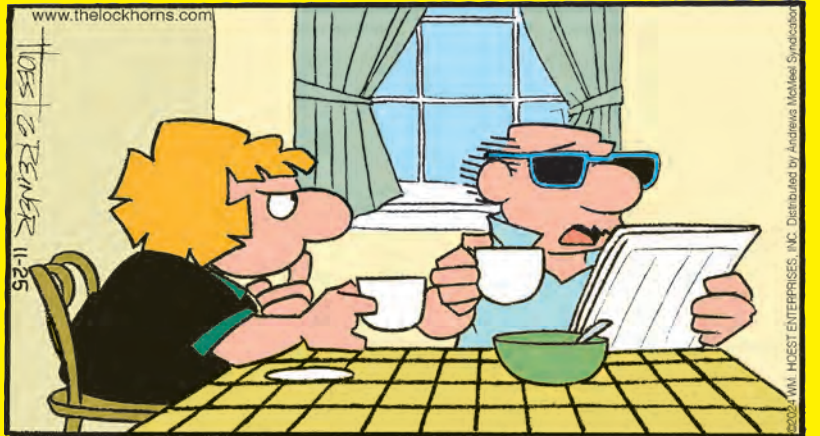
Dan Piraro and Wayno



"AT LEAST THAT LITTLE MONSTER DOESN'T LIVE UNDER OUR BED!"

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME ROLL MY EYES AT YOU AGAIN."

Close To Home

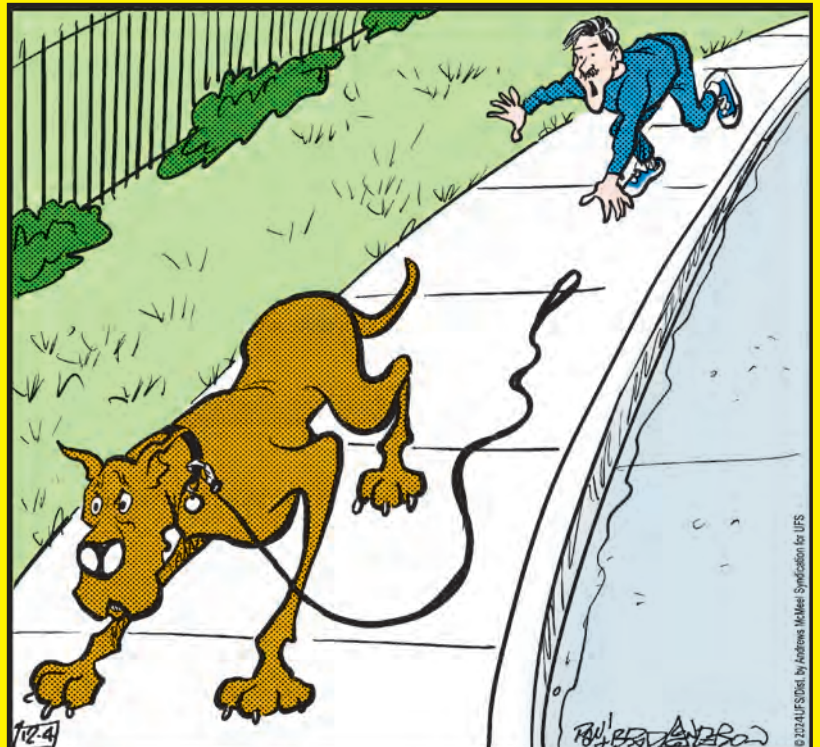
John McPherson



"What do you MEAN you forgot the hot sauce?!"

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"Please don't start running as soon as I touch the leash."

Kid Scoop

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Kid Scoop FIT & FUN

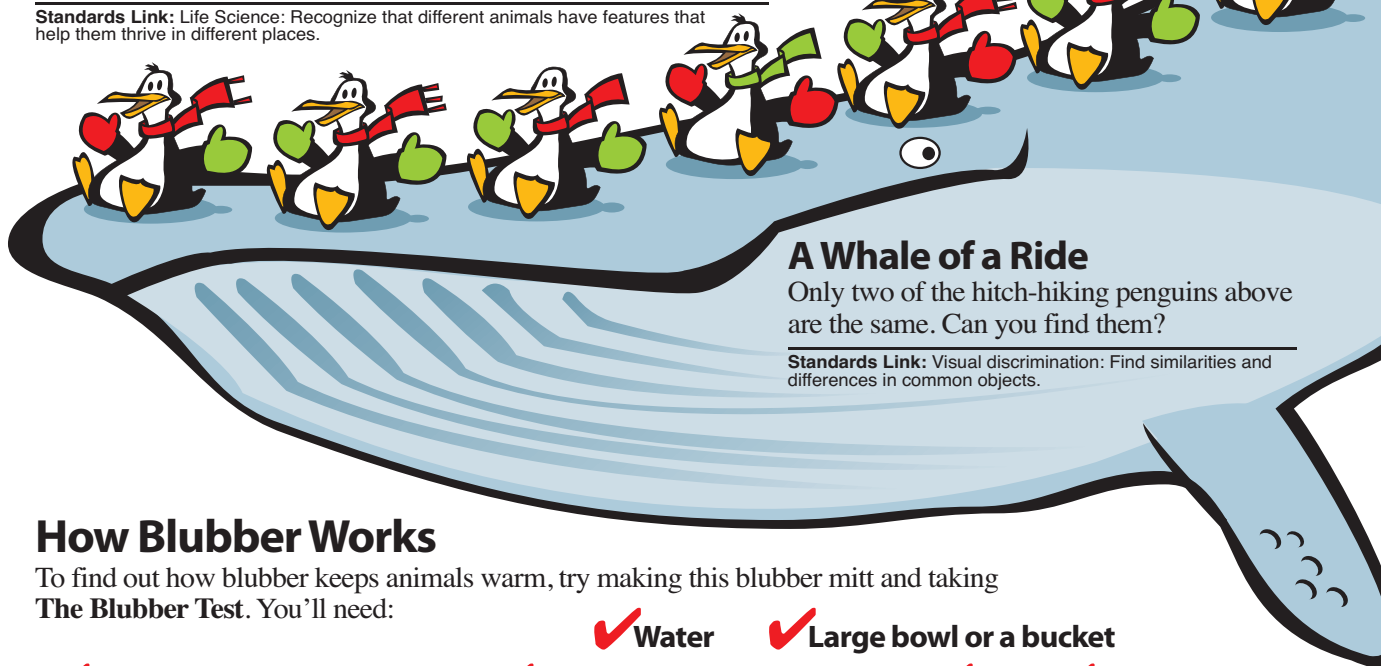
Penguin Fitness

THE BEAUTY OF BLUBBER

Some places are very cold in the winter. Icy winds blow. Water freezes and snow covers the ground. What do animals do to survive these freezing months?

Whales, penguins and seals have a thick layer of body fat, called **blubber**, to keep them warm. The blubber on a large whale can be very thick. It is almost impossible for the cold to go through the blubber and chill the whale.

Standards Link: Life Science: Recognize that different animals have features that help them thrive in different places.



A Whale of a Ride

Only two of the hitch-hiking penguins above are the same. Can you find them?

Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Find similarities and differences in common objects.



Q: How thick is whale blubber? To find out, add the numbers along the correct path that leads the seal to the iceberg.

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums.

How Blubber Works

To find out how blubber keeps animals warm, try making this blubber mitt and taking **The Blubber Test**. You'll need:

- ✓ 1 cup of solid shortening
- ✓ 3 zip-lock sandwich bags
- ✓ Ice
- ✓ Duct tape
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Large bowl or a bucket

- 1** Put the shortening in a zip-lock bag.
- 2** Put your hand in the empty bag.
- 3** With your hand in the bag, put it into the bag with the shortening.
- 4** Seal the tops of the bags together with duct tape.
- 5** Squish the shortening around until it surrounds your hand.
- 6** Fill a large bowl or bucket with ice and water.
- 7** Slip your other hand into an empty plastic bag and tape the top of the bag to your wrist.
- 8** Stick both hands into the water at the same time. Which hand can stay in the water longer?

A: Whale blubber can be inches thick.

Blubber experiment courtesy of The New England Aquarium. www.neaq.org

Standard Link: Science: Follow a set of written instructions for a simple investigation.

Now try: THE BLUBBER TEST

Extra! Extra! Hot Hunt

Look through the newspaper for:

- 3 ways to stay warm
- 4 words that describe the weather
- 5 numbers that add up to 100

Standards Links: Reading: Skim and scan reading. Science: Classification by common attributes. Math: Finding sums to 100.



Tummy Time

Penguins slide on their tummies to move across snow and ice.

Try holding this pose for 10 seconds at a time. It's not as easy as penguins make it seem!

Iceberg Hop

Pretend you are a penguin and hop like a penguin does from one chunk of (pretend) ice to another.

Jump back and forth 20 times.



Snow Angels

Lie on the floor and make imaginary snow angels by moving your feet and flippers—er, um, arms!

Balance

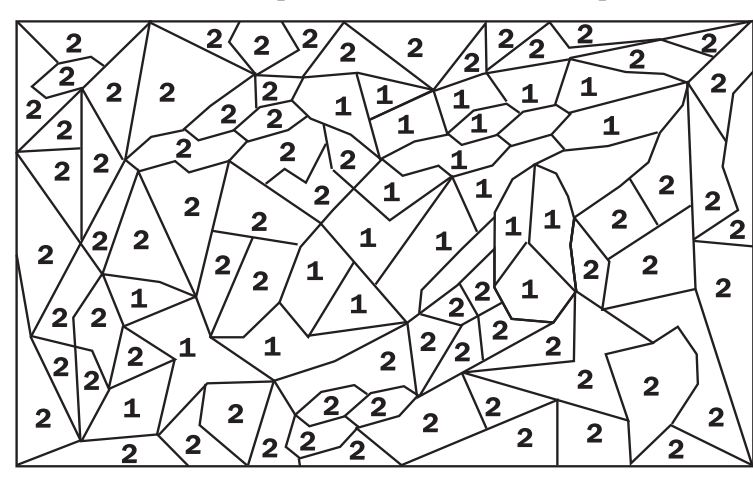
Penguins don't stand on just one foot very often, but pretend penguins can!



Standards Link: Physical Education: Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

I'm found in oceans all over the world, but especially in the coldest ones. To find out what I am, color each space that has a 1 in it **black** and each 2 space **blue**. Leave the blank spaces white.



Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

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

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

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Hot and Cold
Students can work in pairs to play this game. Have one partner secretly select a picture in the newspaper. The other player then asks questions that can be answered "Yes" or "No" to determine the secret picture.

Standards Link: Cooperative Learning: Make predictions based on patterns of listening and observation.



Why don't fish swim near computers?

ANSWER: They don't want to get caught in the internet!

Write On!

Wonderful Wiggly Walrus

Alliteration is when you use the same letter to start every word in a sentence. Write your own alliterations.

Your Neighborhood

It's what's most important to you, to your kids, to your family. It's easy to stay on top of what is happening around you with the

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North boys basketball working its way through early tests

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North varsity boys basketball team had some high expectations before the season tipped off, but also knew that every game would be a challenge. Some of the biggest challenges the Norsemen have either already faced or will face in the next few games and the team is using these early tests to see where it stands.

The Norsemen are 2-2 through their first four games of the season, three of which were played last week. On Wednesday, Dec. 4, North lost a close game to Lake Shore, 54-52.

The team bounced back Friday, Dec. 6, with a dominant 61-29 win over Lakeview. North started the game on a 13-0 run and never looked back, leading by 14 at halftime and eventually winning by over 30 points. Senior Leo Perettie led the team in the blowout victory with 17 points.

Points were not as easy to come by for North in its next game Sunday, Dec. 8. The Norsemen battled Oxford in The D Zone Rising Team Tip-Off Classic and suffered a 46-32 loss in a low-scoring affair.

"We're still trying to find



North varsity boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson talks to the team during a timeout in a game against Lake Shore on Dec. 4.

PHOTOS BY COLIN SMITH

kind of a rhythm offensively," North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said. "We're getting pretty good shots and low-contact layup shots at the rim. ... Our shots aren't necessarily falling right now, but I like the quality of looks that we're getting."

One of the biggest advantages the Norsemen have on the court this season is experience. North has 10 seniors on the roster this winter and, so far, Johnson has felt like his senior leaders have been doing their job well.

However, there is room for improvement, especially early on in the season. With tough matchups in the coming weeks, the Norsemen are looking to the seniors to build more confidence and trust in themselves and each other to boost the team's performance.

"A lot of the seniors have been challenged to step up on both sides of the floor," Johnson said. "... We just need to get these guys to continue to trust them on offense and get good looks and make sure they're being confident when they do get those looks."

This week, the Norsemen will take on another slate of non-league games that are sure to be challenging. The team faced Utica after press time Tuesday, Dec. 10. On



North senior Ben Dragich had seven points in the Norsemen's win over Lakeview on Friday, Dec. 6.

Thursday, Dec. 12, North travels to face Roseville and then has a neutral-site game against Canton hosted at Northville High School on Saturday, Dec.

See NORTH, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Lemanski a determined winner for South on gridiron and the wrestling mat

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

One word that has become popular throughout Michigan recently, thanks to the Detroit Lions, is "grit." Grosse Pointe South senior Josh Lemanski has perhaps as much grit as any high school athlete.

On the gridiron, he just completed his senior season as a varsity starting linebacker with South's football team. Now, he is back to competing on the mat with South's varsity wrestling team. He was an All-State wrestler last season, but football was his first love. However, wrestling has grown into another sport Lemanski loves because of his competitive drive as an athlete.

"I was always playing football and then waiting for the football season to come again through the winter and spring," Lemanski said.

"My dad wrestled at Purdue, so he was always trying to get me into it. I thought it was kind of weird and I didn't like the singlets they had to wear. ... I thought that was kind of tacky. In middle school, I joined the Grosse Pointe wrestling club run by Tony Cimmarusti. ... I wrestled for a year in middle school and still didn't like it, but I loved winning. I'm super competitive, so

winning a match just felt incredible."

Lemanski has become used to winning over the years. Last wrestling season, he advanced to the Division 1 state finals at Ford Field and finished eighth overall

in the 165-pound weight class.

He also is used to winning on the football field. This fall, while helping the Blue Devils achieve a historic 10-win season, Lemanski finished second on the team in tackles with 101, while recording two sacks and two interceptions.

Even though the season ended earlier than Lemanski and his football teammates wanted with a district final loss in the playoffs, it still was a special fall. As he starts to focus on wrestling, Lemanski already knows his senior football season will be one he remembers forever, especially since he had the opportunity to be one of the team's leaders alongside some of his best friends.

"There's a few who I'd been playing with since like fourth grade back on the Red Barons," he said. "To have that chemistry and the way

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Josh Lemanski
School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Football, wrestling
Sponsored by Oasis Heating & Cooling

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Josh The Man

- Finished 2024 season with 101 total tackles for South football
- Recorded 2 sacks and 2 interceptions at linebacker
- Division 1 All-State wrestler in 2023-24

we clicked, we didn't get the outcome we wanted, but it was a phenomenal

season. Being in a leadership position and having a great group of guys looking up to me was very motivating and kind of made me realize that I always have to be on top of things because people look up to me now."

Lemanski's presence was felt in every football game he played in this season. Now he wants it to be the same with wrestling. Some may say the two sports go hand-in-hand and Lemanski is far from the only wrestler at South who also is a football player. The techniques Lemanski learns in one

See ATHLETE, page 2D



COURTESY PHOTO

South senior Josh Lemanski finished the 2024 season as one of South football's defensive leaders, recording the second most tackles on the team.

See ATHLETE, page 2D

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2D | SPORTS

Boys hockey teams find positives and lessons in mixed results

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The boys high school hockey season is heating up on the ice, with the varsity teams from Grosse Pointe North, Grosse Pointe South and University Liggett School in action over the past week. While the teams found mixed results of wins and losses, there were plenty of lessons to be learned from the tests they faced early on.

Grosse Pointe North

The Norsemen took the ice three times last week, coming away with two losses and one thrilling overtime win.

The first loss came Tuesday, Dec. 3, when the Norsemen fell 8-4 to Utica Ford Unified. Charlie Mueller had a hat trick in the loss for the Norsemen, while Levi Olsey added a goal as well. Thursday, Dec. 5, North traveled to Port Huron and lost 7-1, with the lone goal scored by Olsey.

Saturday, Dec. 7, North returned home to host Woodhaven. Mueller and Patrick Thomas scored in regulation for North as the game went into overtime tied 2-2. In the extra period, freshman Ben Clor was the hero for the Norsemen as he found the back of the net to give North its second win of the season.

"It was nice to see the boys respond with a win," North boys hockey head coach Rob Blum said. "A freshman was able to score the game-winner. ... All the goals



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

After defeating rival Grosse Pointe South on Nov. 27, the University Liggett School varsity boys hockey team suffered its first loss of the season on Dec. 7, losing 2-1 to Flint Powers Catholic.

in the game were scored by either freshmen or sophomores, so the young kids are starting to figure it out."

The win brought North's record to 2-6 this season and was the team's first victory since defeating New Boston United 9-7 Nov. 23. The Norsemen have a largely young team this year and still are figuring out some things on the fly through the first month of the season, but have shown encouraging signs in the eyes of the coaching staff with how they have persevered so

far.

"They're skating hard and that's what we've been preaching," Blum said. "When we go up against teams with a lot of juniors and seniors, they're usually bigger, faster and stronger. Our boys have been doing a good job skating and just finishing the games. ... They do a nice job of not quitting and we've been able to bounce back at times."

North is back on the ice Saturday, Dec. 14, for a road game against New Boston United. The game is scheduled for 3 p.m. at

the Mike Modano Ice Arena in Westland.

University Liggett

The Knights received a long break after defeating crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South Nov. 27, getting eight days off before taking the ice again Saturday, Dec. 7. The Knights made the trip to Flint to face off against Flint Powers Catholic, currently ranked as the No. 2 team in the state for Division 2 by Michigan High School Hockey Hub.

The Knights gave the Chargers a tough fight,

but ultimately came out on the losing end of a close 2-1 battle.

"There's a willingness for these boys to block shots and take hits to make plays," Liggett boys hockey head coach Colin Smith said. "It was a tough loss, but that's a good team and we're trending in the right direction and need to build off it. ... It was definitely a game to build off of and not hang our heads."

Liggett's lone goal in the loss was scored by Luke Slanec in the first period. The biggest

standout in the game was the Knights' goaltending, as Ben Wehrmann finished the game with 55 saves after facing 57 shots on goal.

"He stood on his head for us and I'm very proud of where Ben is at and can't say enough good things about him right now," Smith said about his senior goaltender.

The Knights hosted De La Salle Collegiate Wednesday, Dec. 11, after press time. Liggett's next game is on the road, traveling to face Jackson Lumen Christi Saturday, Dec. 14, with puck drop at 4 p.m. at Jackson's Optimist Ice Arena.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils have been working to find their footing amidst a difficult start to the season. After winning its opening game, South has been on a five-game skid to go 1-5 through its first six games.

After losing to University Liggett Nov. 27, South had a week off before taking the ice again. The Blue Devils were in action Wednesday, Dec. 4, in an MIHL league game against Trenton. South struggled in the road battle with the Trojans and ended the night with an 8-0 loss.

South went up against Brother Rice Tuesday, Dec. 10, after press time. The Blue Devils take the ice again Saturday, Dec. 14, in the KLA/MIHL Showcase at Eddie Edgar Ice Arena in Livonia. South faces off against Novi at 10:30 a.m.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

sport often translate to the other. Being a wrestler has helped him become a better football player and being a football player has helped him win matches on the wrestling mat.

"From a defensive standpoint, wrestling is going to get you so prepared to play defense," Lemanski said. "... Wrestling, you're going out there trying to tackle the guy and

they're doing their best to not get tackled. Now, when I go up against a running back and I have three years of wrestling and all he's done is football, I'm going to know how to tackle him. ... Wrestling adds a discipline to your life that can permeate through other parts of your life and to other sports."

The last few seasons, Lemanski feels like the effort he has put into becoming a better wrestler has increased tremendously. It was

largely sparked by watching his wrestling and football teammate Wyatt Hepner become the first Blue Devil to ever compete for a wrestling state title in 2023. Seeing his friend and teammate help take South's wrestling program to new heights inspired Lemanski to work to do the same.

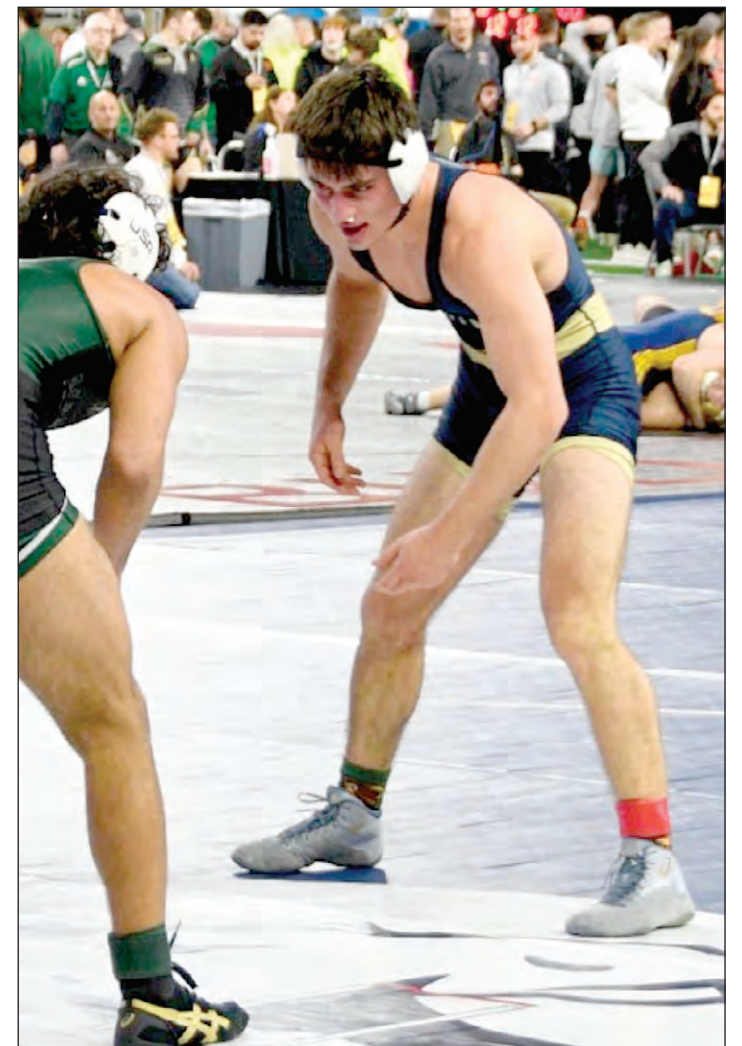
"Leading up to my junior year, we got a wrestling mat in my basement and my dad and I did drills and I was staying in shape

during the summer and football season to get ready for wrestling," he said.

That work paid off his junior season when Lemanski reached the state finals at Ford Field. As he begins his senior season, all of his focus is on getting back there and this time reaching the podium. There is belief in everyone around him from his teammates and his coaches that he can make it there.

"(Josh) is a stellar leader and teammate always leading by example," South varsity wrestling coach Dave Salazar said. "His perseverance through adversity is tremendous and his will to win is unmatched."

While his athleticism will help him get there, a part of it also is confidence. Lemanski feels he has become much more confident in himself as an athlete in the past couple of years. Especially coming off what he achieved last season, Lemanski



COURTESY PHOTO

Last wrestling season, Lemanski made it to the Division 1 state finals at Ford Field where he finished in eighth place overall in the 165-pound class.

knows what he is capable of and that he has the ability to go above and beyond that now.

"My freshman and sophomore years, I was a bit timid and nervous about going out on the mat," he said. "I still get some pre-match jitters, but having last season under my belt and

knowing that I'm one of the best guys in the state is super encouraging. I go onto the mat with a lot more confidence and having the idea that I'm out there to win and have put in the work for the past three years and will keep working until I get to where I want to be."

Grosse Pointe News



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Grosse Pointe News

Blue Devils girls hockey off to hot start in state title defense

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Coming into a season with high expectations after winning a state championship, things could not be going much better for the Grosse Pointe South varsity girls hockey team. The Blue Devils took the ice twice last week and collected a couple of wins to continue their hot streak over the first month of the season, improving to 8-0 so far this winter.

"Initially, there was a little bit of an adjustment period of getting the new players acclimated," South girls hockey head coach Lexi Bohlinger said. "... Everything has really started to click and everyone's on the same page now in terms of our work ethic and our goals. It's been fun watching it all come together now and I feel like we're a pretty well-oiled machine."

The first game South played last week was Wednesday, Dec. 4, as the team captured a 6-0 win over Walled Lake on the road. Sophia Husek and Charlie Harr

had a pair of goals each for the Blue Devils in the win. Molly Reynolds and Bella Peruski each found the back of the net as well.

The win last Wednesday also was the second shutout of the season for senior goaltender Rosie Smith. Smith has allowed just seven goals through eight games this season and has proven why she is one of the Blue Devils' most prolific leaders on and off the ice.

"Rosie is just a great goalie and has put in the work to continue to get better," Bohlinger said. "... As a captain, she's just really matured over the last year and a half that she's been wearing the 'C' and has become almost like part of the coaching staff. ... She's become someone we lean on heavily to keep everyone really focused."

South was in action Saturday, Dec. 7, hosting Traverse City. The Blue Devils once again came away with the victory, able to protect an early lead and win 3-1. Tinley Gram got South on the board first with a goal in the open-



PHOTOS BY LEON HALIP

Defending Division 1 state champion Grosse Pointe South varsity girls hockey has started the season undefeated with an 8-0 record over the first month.

ing period. Peruski extended the Blue Devils' lead to 2-0 in the second period, but Traverse City was able

to pull closer with a goal in the third period. However, Abby Evans helped South secure the win with a late goal.

There are still challenges ahead for the Blue Devils, but the strong start to the season has been an encouraging sign that not much has slowed down after last year's state championship win. A big part of that has been the players pushing each other to play harder. The team believes accountability could be a major key in repeating as champions.

"They're pushing each other to make the in-game adjustments that are necessary to be successful," Bohlinger said. "They're forcing each

other to play at a higher level with more communication and cycling. ... That's something that's been really nice to see this season — just the higher expectations from one another."

South hosted Ann Arbor Skyline-Huron Wednesday, Dec. 11, after press time. The Blue Devils will take part in a tournament at University Liggett School this coming weekend, with their first game scheduled at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, against Grosse Pointe North at McCann Ice Arena.



South senior goalie Rosie Smith has allowed only seven goals through the team's first eight games this season.

South baseball announces new Hall of Fame class

Grosse Pointe South baseball is getting ready to welcome a new class of distinguished alumni to be enshrined in the program's legacy forever. The Blue Devils recently announced that six former players will be honored during the second annual South Baseball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

The six honorees in the 2025 Hall of Fame class include Mark Saber (1971), Sean Bruce (1987), Dan



Cimini (1987), Charlie Braun (1999), Ben Jenzen (2004) and Carmen Benedetti (2013). All six inductees played varsity baseball

for the Blue Devils and went on to play Division I collegiate baseball.

The ceremony honoring this year's class will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Pier Park Community Building. Former South athlete and current Fox 2 News personality Ryan Ermanni will serve as the master of ceremonies.

Tickets for the event may be purchased online at grossepointesouthbaseball.com/purchase.

— Mike Adzima

Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 9 a.m., on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 before the Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission, Council Chambers at 795 Lake Shore Rd.

- The petitioner at 51 Putnam is requesting the following:
 - A variance request for increased lot coverage
- The petitioner at 82 Blairmoor is requesting the following:
 - A variance request for a six-foot side-yard fence

Plans of the proposed projects are available for your viewing at the Office of the City Clerk, 795 Lake Shore Road, during normal business hours Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Bruce Nichols,
City Clerk

Published: Grosse Pointe News: 12/12/24

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Grosse Pointe News Yard & Estate Sale Map

THIS WEEK

1. 1376 Kercheval Grosse Pointe Farms	2. 1232 Whittier Grosse Pointe Park	3. 19034 Dijon Eastpointe	4. 20100 Cornillie Dr. Roseville
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6D | SPORTS



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT



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Four football stars make All-State lists

On Friday, Dec. 6, the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association announced its All-State teams for the 2024 season. Four players from the Pointes received All-State honors in their respective divisions. From South, linebacker Lex Willson (top left) and quarterback Jack Lupu were named first team All-State in Division 2. North linebacker Daylon Doe (bottom left) and receiver Leo Perettie (bottom right) both made the first team All-State list in Division 3.

NORTH:

Continued from page 1D

14. The Norsemen have their work cut out for them, but the message from the coaching staff has been made clear: keep consistently improving on what has been working well so far this season and approach every game with tough-

ness. "My message to the guys is we need to find a little bit more consistency," Johnson said. "... Our intensity was really awesome (against Oxford) and our defense was great. If we continue to play with intensity and be physical, I think we should be able to string a few together here even if it should be a tough week."



PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH

North senior Ben Rickerman brings the ball up the court in a game against Lake Shore on Dec. 4.

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school fall sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The University Liggett School varsity girls basketball team earned its first win of the season on Monday, Dec. 9, defeating Lake Shore 37-33. Earlier in the week, the Knights lost 53-47 to Plymouth Christian Academy on Thursday, Dec. 5, and lost their season opener on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 40-29 to Grosse Pointe North.

In addition to defeating Liggett to open the season, the Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball team got its second win of the new campaign on Thursday, Dec. 5, getting a close 46-44 win over Utica.

Grosse Pointe South's varsity girls basketball team opened the season with a win on Thursday, Dec. 5, defeating Romeo 45-36. The Blue Devils were in action again on Saturday, Dec. 7, suffering a 38-30 loss to Ypsilanti Arbor Prep.

PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA



BOYS BASKETBALL

Grosse Pointe South's varsity boys basketball team took the court twice last week. The first game saw the Blue Devils earn a blowout 64-33 victory over Eisenhower on Wednesday, Dec. 4. South then went on the road to face Notre Dame Prep on Friday, Dec. 6, where the team lost 46-40.

University Liggett School boys varsity basketball began the new season last Tuesday, Dec. 3, with a 77-56 win against Oakland Christian.

