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Grosse Pointe News

VOL. 85, NO. 52, 28 PAGES
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DECEMBER 26, 2024
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2024 IN REVIEW

A year of investment

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — As Pier Park's new pickleball courts opened, fundraising began this year for an aquatic complex including three pools and a lazy river.

The year also saw the conclusion of major court cases, the start of a restoration project for The War Memorial's historic Alger House and The Hill become a social district.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ The city announces its next major parks project will be a multi-million-dollar renovation of the Pier Park aquatic area.

◆ Conrad Koski is honored with a mayoral proclamation for serving 22 years on the public safety pension board.

◆ The War Memorial introduces a new veterans' committee and bi-monthly seminars, with the aim of bringing the organization back to its roots.

See FARMS, page 2A

GPPSS, teachers union at odds over special education pay

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System and the Grosse Pointe Education Association continue to disagree on how best to pay special

education teachers and attract new ones.

"There is currently a severe professional educator staffing shortage throughout our state and country. This shortage is most acute in the area of special education," according to a statement

from GPEA Co-Presidents Taryn Loughlin and Jackie Shelton. "As for GPPSS, the GPEA is deeply concerned about this crisis and the direct impact it has on our most vulnerable students and their families."

There currently are

four vacant special education teaching positions listed on the district's employment page, as well as multiple paraprofessional roles.

"The best way to recruit and retain professional

See PAY, page 9A

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Mack/Vernier project set for June

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Work is expected to start mid-June on a project three years in the making to revamp the intersection of Mack and Vernier.

Total cost is around \$2.6 million, although the city won't be spending any of that.

"We're not paying anything out of pocket when everything is done," City Administrator Frank Schulte said. "We'll lay out the money initially, but everything will be reimbursed."

What started as an idea to spruce up the intersection evolved into a complete redo as more studies were completed. That moved forward after an offer from Wayne County

See MACK, page 5A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

With social media still abuzz about Detroit Lions wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown's headstand celebration, Grosse Pointe Woods employees Elise Coyle and Heather Goff put a spin on "art imitating life" and dressed their Grinch as St. Brown repeating his headstand in the front window of city hall.

Hunt the Pointes for the Grinch

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Grinch Scavenger Hunt, which kicked off with the chamber's Santa Claus Parade and runs until the end of the year at participating businesses.

Participants chose and brought their own Grinches to life to create holiday displays.

Members of the community are invited to check out the Grinch displays and post photos to social media for a chance to win Grosse Pointe Gift Cards from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

"We've loved seeing the participants get creative with where the

See GRINCH, page 5A

2024 IN REVIEW

City has year of fiscal responsibility

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Following a continued influx of new businesses, the year concluded with a 3 percent vacancy rate in the City's downtown district — evidence the high tide of empty storefronts from just a few years ago has turned.

City officials also spent the year focused on shoring up the budget by identifying new ways to cut costs, achieving several grants and accepting community donations.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ City council considers seeking a voter-approved millage to cover the match amount of a \$21.6 million federal grant for a major storm-water separation project.

◆ Moosejaw closes after being a staple in The Village nearly three decades.

◆ Mere months after it was constructed, the decorative entrance arch to the CVS parking lot is hit by a Panera Bread delivery truck.

◆ Poke Poke — Sushi Unrolled opens at 17045

See CITY, page 3A

License plate readers presented to council

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "We're behind, if anything, (on implementation) and I fully support the idea of it," Public Safety Director John Alcorn said, while presenting to council last Monday a donation of five license plate readers, LPRs, from the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation. "... If I had

the ability and the money for it, I'd like to put a camera everywhere all the time, because it's literally the first thing that we do when we fight crime, is we're looking for cameras."

Just this month, an LPR in Detroit picked up a suspect vehicle from a porch pirate incident in the City of Grosse Pointe and led to the criminal's

See READERS, page 5A

Puzzles and Award Winning Comics



Every Week In

LIFE & LEISURE SECTION C

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2024 Pointers of INTEREST

The Grosse Pointe News congratulates our 2024 Pointers of Interest. Page 4A



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Mid-year interest income nears half million

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Interest income is on track to generate million-dollar smiles at city hall.

Returns on municipal deposits total \$485,000 and the fiscal year isn't halfway through.

Interest income has been a topic in the Park since the hiring of new Finance Director Ginger Moriarty.

Upon beginning work early last year, Moriarty discovered municipal

funds had been banked in non-interest-bearing accounts. She quickly made changes which generated \$47,000 in two months.

"We are professionalizing the city," said Councilman Tom Caulfield, head of the finance committee.

If this year's trend continues, the city's interest income will approach \$1 million by the end of the fiscal year, which runs July 1 to June 30.

City Manager Nick

Sizeland said the funds are secured with the Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System, or CLASS, an investment pool.

"They're safe investments, not risky," he said. "This is something we're not going to see a loss on. We have sets of fund reserves and money we know we're not going to be touching for a significant amount of time."

Returns on what he characterized as sure-fire investments equal

nearly 5 percent of the Downtown Development Authority's annual budget.

"Even though we have a small budget, anything we can get from investing, let's try to grab it," said Sizeland, director of the DDA.

Interest generated so far this fiscal year on the authority's account totals \$5,700. The figure represents 4.65 percent of the group's \$122,500 budget passed last April.

"That's \$5,700 we didn't have before,"

Sizeland said.

The authority's fiscal year will thereby end with an additional \$10,000 it never had before.

Authority boundaries encompass commercial and public property on both sides of Jefferson from the Detroit border to Somerset. DDA funding comes from property taxes generated within the district that must be spent within the same area.

"This is something new, not just for the

DDA, but also for the city, Tax Increment Finance Authority and water-sewer fund," Sizeland said.

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

Funds are to be spent for the benefit of the district, boarded by the city limits to the north and west, the northern boundary of the Park Downtown Development Authority near East

See INCOME, page 7A

FARMS:

Continued from page 1A

◆ The Farms public safety department hosts its first ever ice-rescue training off Pier Park's docks.

February

◆ While stealing alcohol from Village Market, a 53-year-old homeless man points a realistic-looking fake gun at the head of an employee. The incident results in soft lockdowns at Brownell Middle School, Kerby, Maire and Richard elementary schools and Grosse Pointe South High School. The man is identified and arrested for armed robbery three days later.



Several Grosse Pointe Farms public safety officers received awards.

March

◆ No less than 14 Farms public safety personnel are honored with merit awards during a ceremony before city council.

◆ Officer Charity Vanover is named the

Farms' first public safety employee of the year.

◆ A 17-year-old Grosse Pointe boy is charged with second-degree murder in connection with a Ridge Road single-car accident in November 2023, which resulted in the death of passenger Flynn MacKrell, an 18-year-old also from Grosse Pointe.

April

◆ Farms fire inspectors offer free smoke alarms and installation to residents.

◆ Officer Frank Zielinski is promoted to lieutenant and Officer Veronica Cashion is promoted to sergeant.

◆ The War Memorial partners with Food Rescue US-Detroit to collect leftover food from events and distribute it to local social service agencies.

May

◆ The "Grosse Pointe Farms Community and Conversation" Facebook group helps reunite a 2-year-old boy with the "lovey" he lost during a walk around the neighborhood.

◆ A multi-phase restoration project commences with the historic Alger House, aiming to preserve the aging structure and reconnect it with its 1910 origins.

◆ A Revolutionary War Patriots marker is dedicated during The War Memorial's annual Memorial Day service.

◆ Farms dispatcher Paige Thomas is sworn in as a public safety officer.

◆ Farms resident Mary Lamparter presents Sgt. Tim Harris with a quilt made by nonprofit Quilts of Honor in remembrance of the officer's former K-9 partner, Duke.

June

◆ Council votes to place a 0.35-mill proposal for senior services on the November ballot.

◆ Village Market proposes adding a second-floor restaurant and reconfiguring the Mack and McKinley intersection, connecting the parking lot to the business.

◆ The public safety department designs a challenge coin to present to officers in recognition of achievements and to civilians to show appreciation.

July

◆ GFL Environmental sells its Pointe recycling services to Priority Waste.

◆ Rite Aid on The Hill closes.



Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch had a blender bike on the plaza in August. The owner of Fresh Food is Fun, Hether Jonna Frayer, who also owns the blender bike, cheers as Ansel Whelan pedals to make a smoothie.

◆ Following a six-year career with the Lathrup Village Police Department, Amanda McNeill is sworn in as a public safety officer.

◆ Four new pickleball courts open at Pier Park.

◆ Both cases in Wayne County court alleging embezzlement from trusts by Farms attorney David Sutherland are dismissed by prosecutors with the Michigan Attorney General's Office.

August

◆ The first iCRYO location in the state is set to open on The Hill at 96 Kercheval.

◆ A local marriage counselor who operated a private practice out of his Grosse Pointe Farms home pleads guilty to two counts of attempted fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct by a mental health professional.

◆ Public safety and vehicle body camera footage transitions to cloud-based storage.

◆ A historical plaque commemorating a French explorer's discovery of Lac Ste. Claire Aug. 12, 1697, is donated by Judge Charles Berschback and wife, Suzy, and unveiled on Pier Park's observation deck.

◆ After two years with the Detroit Police Department, Kevin

Khoury joins the Farms department.

◆ A \$71,114 Assistance to Firefighters Grant is awarded to fund the replacement of outdated fire hoses.

September

◆ Longtime Farms resident Dr. L. Carl Sultzman celebrates his 100th birthday with 65 of his closest family and friends.

October

◆ The second bi-annual public safety open house is held at the station.

◆ The homes of Mayor Louis Theros and former director of public safety Dan Jensen are among those honored with beautification awards.

◆ Chase Bank at 460 Moross plans a refresh of its landscaping, parking lot and stormwater management system.

November

◆ The 6-year, 0.35-mill senior services ballot proposal passes in all but the Shores.

◆ Voters renew the 5-year, 2-mill road improvement levy.

December

◆ The Hill becomes a social district.

◆ Pearl funds free two-hour parking on The Hill for the holidays.

◆ Council passes a sports court ordinance amendment requiring site plan approval for pickleball courts in residential districts.

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PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Rob and Anna Cardoze, part owners of the company Craft Standard Cocktails on Draft, donated margaritas on tap and loaned their giant pink flamingo to the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park pool fundraiser.

Lead line verification doubles

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The city's consulting engineers submitted a fee schedule this month for carrying out nearly twice as many lead service line verifications as originally planned.

"The total number of water service verifications was increased from 360 to 690 due to favorable bid prices," according to a report by Patrick Droze, principal

of OHM Advisors engineering firm.

Work complies with a statewide mandate prompted by the Flint water crisis of 2014. Although the mandate is unfunded, verifying locations of lead delivery lines within the Park's up to 100-year-old municipal drinking water network is paid by a \$600,000 Community Technical Managerial and Financial Support for Lead Line Replacements grant.

The grant was issued by the Michigan Department of Energy, Great Lakes and Environment (EGLE).

Droze submitted to Park officials on Dec. 5 a three-part, 19-point scope of work for a construction contractor to carry out the mandate. The contractor was retained earlier this year.

"This is the formal engineering proposal from OHM to help us with those services,"

said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Members of the city council in September contracted low-bidder Super Construction of Bay City to physically verify lead service lines.

"Verification will enhance the city's understanding of existing water line materials and allow for informed planning around lead service line replacement," Sizeland wrote in a memo to the council. "Following verification,

information and outreach will be provided to residents regarding potential lead exposure and recommended precautions."

OHM's scope of work is divided into service line verification, community outreach and project planning.

"Water suppliers are not expected to physically verify every service line, but rather a statistically sound subset," according to a portion of the website outlining the

Minimum Service Line Material Verification Program contained on the state website, michigan.gov. "To effectively evaluate the accuracy of service line records and predict service line material, a representative, uniformly random number of service lines must be physically verified."

Verification in the Park will thereby occur at 690 locations selected randomly.

Engineers will map findings to assist Super Construction's crews,

See LEAD, page 7A

CITY:

Continued from page 1A

Kercheval in The Village.

February

◆ Nothing Bundt Cakes opens at 17021 Kercheval in The Village.

◆ The city receives a \$569,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation to resurface St. Clair between St. Paul and Waterloo in 2025.

March

◆ The City and Woods public safety departments spearhead a sting operation that results in the arrest of a 44-year-old Detroit man who confesses to committing 12 home invasions throughout metro Detroit by scoping out obituaries and estate sale notices.

◆ City council unanimously votes to place a 20-year, 1.88-mill levy request and corresponding \$15 million bond proposal for stormwater separation on the August ballot.

◆ The city receives a \$600,000 grant for lead service line investigation work from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

◆ A \$6,375 donation from first-term City Councilman David Fries will cover the full repair of the Neff Park clock tower.

◆ The Grosse Pointe Foundation funds five sets of firefighting turnout gear for \$22,100.

April

◆ The Urban Forestry Commission offers the inaugural All Pointes Tree Sale for residents at wholesale prices.

◆ Officer Austin Giarmo is the City's 2023 officer of the year.

◆ Licavoli's Cucina opens at 16888 Kercheval Place in The Village.

◆ In recognition of



New Grosse Pointe Public School System Superintendent Andrea Tuttle practices throwing the first pitch at Farms-City Little League opening day.

Arbor Day, Maire Elementary School Green Team students plant a Bur oak tree near the school along Notre Dame.

May

◆ Main Street Grosse Pointe hosts its first major fundraising event, a Monopoly-themed evening in The Village.

◆ The city loans itself a \$400,000, 10-year loan from the general fund to the parking enterprise fund to circumvent a deficit.

June

◆ The city identifies nearly \$4 million in critical sewer repairs needed.

◆ After 28 years as the cobbler and owner of Grosse Pointe Shoe Repair at 365 Fisher, Ralf Maky sets down his tools and retires. The shop is passed down to his longtime friend and fishing buddy, Nick Raymond.

July

◆ GFL Environmental sells its Pointe recycling services to Priority Waste.

◆ Pastaio, an authentic Italian pasta restaurant, is set to open in the former Koi Nu Asian space.

◆ The city engages a consulting group to review its utility charges and identify potential savings.

◆ Nine Eaton Rapids city officials — including Mayor Pamela Colestock, City Manager Yvonne Ridge, council members and the police and fire chiefs — visit the City of Grosse Pointe for a mayor/community exchange day.

◆ Inoperable because of a broken pump, Kressbach Fountain transforms into a community art installation.

◆ Ten-year-old Oliver Scott is honored before city council as a future firefighter for his quick thinking and bravery during a fire that broke out in the middle of the night in his home.

◆ High Pointe Burger Joint will open across from Grosse Pointe South High School in the former Extreme Pizza space.

August

◆ The 21-year, 1.8894-

mill stormwater sewer separation and improvements bond proposal passes by an overwhelming majority, solidifying a \$332 annual tax increase for the average taxpayer.

◆ City officials visit Eaton Rapids for the second community exchange day.

September

◆ New LED light fixtures are installed at the Elworthy Field platform tennis courts thanks to a \$12,330 donation drive led by the Grosse Pointe Paddle League in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Foundation.

◆ The city announces next summer's road construction plan will include Notre Dame and St. Clair.

◆ A free Narcan vending machine is installed in the lobby of the public safety station.

October

◆ Alongside the annual

beautification awards, the city doles out its first ever architectural awards.

◆ Susan Hartz is honored for nearly 20 years of service to the beautification commission.

◆ Fresh Farms Market is honored with a certificate of appreciation for donating 66,664 pounds of food to Food Rescue US-Detroit.

◆ The Spice and Tea Exchange opens in The Village in the former Moosejaw space.

November

◆ Following market trends, Ridge Crest rebrands, dropping 'outfitters' from its name.

◆ Half-Moon Outfitters opens its first Michigan location in the long-vacant Scott Shuptine space.

◆ The 6-year, 0.35-mill senior services ballot proposal passes in all but the Shores.

◆ The findings of a utility audit engaged by the City in June led it to leave

DTE for a new natural energy supplier at lesser cost.

◆ The city's audit for fiscal year 2023-24 shows a \$532,951 deficit in the parking fund.

◆ Starbucks opens in the former Jos A. Bank space.

December

◆ Lucky Detroit Coffee & Espresso opens in The Village in the former Starbucks space.

◆ Though the list is short in its inaugural year, the first organized Grosse Pointes and St. Clair Shores Self-Guided Holiday Light Tour goes live.

◆ City officials make the call to permanently shut down the Neff Park ice rink, citing declining usage and exorbitant repair costs.

◆ FEMA approves phase one — designing the system — of the city's stormwater separation project, which is receiving \$21.6 million in federal grant funding.



A Narcan vending machine was installed in the lobby at the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety station.

PHOTOS BY RENE LANDUYT

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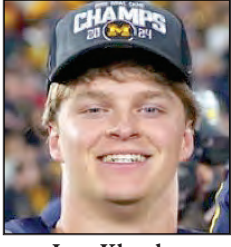
Rita Shemmai
February 1



Erin Johnson
February 9



Eugene Casazza
February 15



Joey Klunder
February 22



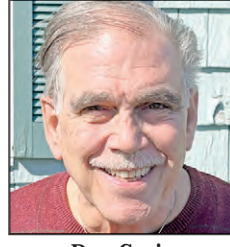
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February 29



Tom Fraser
March 7



Christina Danieli
March 14



Dan Curis
March 21



Kourtney Thalgot
March 28



James Biery
April 4



Pete Loch
April 11



James Cooper
April 18



Jack Webber
April 25



Sarah Lewicki
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Melissa Champine
May 16



Dean Therriault
May 23



Howard Bouton
May 30



Walt Fitzpatrick
June 6



Randi Chylinski
June 13



Jodi McKay
June 20



Sorin Koszyk
June 27



Sebastien Gouin-Davis
July 4



Chris McCarver
July 11



Ted Ryan
July 18



Deann Newman
July 25



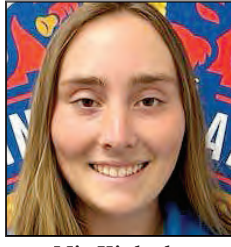
Allison Mattes
August 1



Jim Ellis
August 8



Michael Karwowski
August 15



Mia Kinkade
August 22



Jackie Joseph
August 29



Abbey Schuetze
September 5



Joey & Vincent Scoglio
September 12



Paul Sahadi
September 19



Scott Forster
September 26



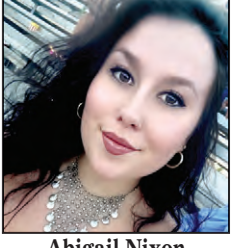
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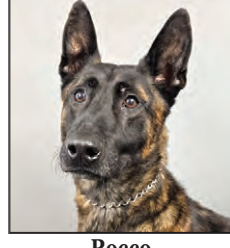
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November 7



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November 28



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Phil Kozlowski
December 12



Ben Wixson
December 19

Nominate someone you know as a Pointer of Interest by emailing jmcveigh@grossepointenews.com with your nominee's name, the Pointe in which they live and a brief description of why you think they would make an interesting Pointer.



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Here's to 2025.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Grinch

Detectives suspect the Grinch may be responsible for cutting the holiday lights at five houses in the 300 and 400 blocks of Lakeland over the last week.

99 bottles of beer

A man stole 11 bottles of various liquors from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval by placing them in a bag and then in his coat before walking out at 9:25 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17.

He returned 24 hours later, almost exactly to the minute, and used the same method to steal an additional 12 bottles of liquor at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18.

The suspect is described as a thin, white

man in his 60s and wearing a black Detroit Lions hat, dark coat and white shoes.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Porch pirate

A package containing REI clothing items was stolen from a Briarwood porch between 3:10 and 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16.

Another house on Briarwood was targeted by porch pirates the

week prior.

Clear conscience

After being pulled over on Moross for a disabled headlight at 9:29 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, a 27-year-old Warren woman informed the officer of a warrant for her arrest for assault and battery out of Detroit. For her honesty, she was arrested and turned over to Detroit.

Ticket scam

After sending \$500 via Apple Pay to an unknown person claiming to be selling four

Detroit Lions tickets on Facebook Marketplace, a 65-year-old Farms woman and her friend realized it was a scam.

Conspiring contractor

After a \$9,803 deposit was paid in advance for work in the Pier Park community center in late November, the contractor informed city administration he would not be able to start the project until next fall and would like to keep the money as a down payment.

The city requested the money back, as he could not complete the job as contracted, but the man

stopped responding to calls and emails.

Upon police advising him charges could be sought for fraud, he said he wished to speak with his lawyer before proceeding.

— Laurel Kraus

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil

Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public

Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Ted O'Neil

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Nothing to report per dispatch.

— Brad Lindberg

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

GRINCH:

Continued from page 1A

Grinch is enjoying the holidays in their business," said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and event coordi-

nator. "We are happy to have people like Donna O'Keefe recruit eight colleagues to participate and take up every window in their building and creative Lions fans like Sue Como with the city of Grosse Pointe Woods

who have Grinchy-Ra St. Brown keeping a watchful eye on Mack Avenue from his headstand."

To find a map of participating businesses, visit the chamber website, grossepointechamber.com.

MACK:

Continued from page 1A

to improve county roads, which Mack is, using its American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

The biggest chunk of money is \$980,000, which state Sen. Kevin Hertel, D-St. Clair Shores, secured in Michigan's 2024-25 fiscal year budget.

Another \$720,000 is coming from the Michigan Department of Transportation. The city and the Grosse Pointe Public School System partnered to get \$600,000 from the Safe Routes to School Foundation, \$300,000 each for Parcels Middle School and Mason Elementary School. Another \$380,000 is com-

ing from the county.

The main feature of the redesign will be traffic signals placed on black mast arms rather than strung across the intersection overhead. That's also the largest expense for the project at \$1.8 million. Council at its meeting Monday, Dec. 2, approved a contract to have that work performed by Motor City Electric Co.

The intersection currently allows for direct left turns in three directions, with traffic southbound on Mack required to make a Michigan left to access eastbound Vernier. In the redesign, all left turns will be eliminated. Public Safety Director John Kosanke said the intersection consistently sees the most accidents in the city.

Easements will allow the city to install a new crosswalk on Vernier at Sunningdale Park. The turnaround at Sunningdale Park also will be eliminated and crosswalks with flashing yellow lights on Mack will be added at Anita, Hampton and Brys.

Schulte said everything has been ordered and much of the equipment is on site.

Motorists should expect lane closures and delays, although a total shutdown of the intersection has not been discussed.

"Our goal is to be done by Labor Day, before school starts," he added. "There might be some outstanding restoration work after that, but most of the work will be completed."

READERS:

Continued from page 1A

arrest.

St. Clair Shores is aiming to implement LPRs in 2025, while the GPPSF's effort is a collaboration between all five Pointes and Harper Woods — supplying each city with five cameras, to start.

"What they're trying to do is introduce that technology into the Grosse Pointes, collectively, and Harper Woods," City Manager Joe Valentine said, "so that our area — which (currently) none of us have cameras — is able to leverage each other's information and help in all these cases that could be solved by identifying potential criminals so they could be pulled over and assessed."

The cameras will be placed in fixed locations in collaboration with the other cities to create maximum coverage.

They won't capture photos of drivers or the surrounding area, only of the rear of vehicles and the license plate.

"It doesn't run the plate through the criminal justice information system," said Jason Bernard, with Motorola. "That's a violation. All it's doing is capturing and storing that information."

"What it does is it allows for future investigations, if you're looking for a person or vehicle, you can search that. Or it checks the backend system to see if that plate has been put on the list and is of a person of interest."

The public safety

department owns the data — which will be stored at Motorola data storage facilities in the U.S. for up to 90 days — and singularly has access to it.

To search the information, officers must have an incident number.

"So officers can't sit there and just — for lack of a better example — search where their ex-girlfriend might be driving," Bernard said. "You have to say, 'I'm searching for this plate. This is why I'm searching.' OK, here's your results."

For those concerned with being recorded, "the ship has sailed," Alcorn said during the council meeting. "We're recorded all the time. ... If you walked into this building, there were three cameras not associated with Grosse Pointe City that you were probably captured (on) from residences."

In the U.S., a person is likely to be captured on camera 75 to 100 times daily, he added.

"But LPRs just take body cameras to the next level," he said. "If I go stand at the corner of Cadieux and Kercheval, and I read out license plates on my radio, and call them in, or take pic-

tures of them, I'm doing what an LPR does. LPRs just do it much better. So I think that kind of puts people's minds at ease."

The initial cost of installation and one year of operation is approximately \$56,000 and will be fully covered by the foundation. Moving forward, the city expects recurring costs around \$8,000.

"The intention with this, giving the five cameras to each community, is to really get something set up, set up quickly, and then leverage that for additional fundraising by the foundation, trying to gain more funding for more cameras over time," Valentine said.

The donation is expected to be brought back before council for a vote of approval in January, with March set as a rough estimate for implementation.

Thus far, Grosse Pointe Park and Woods city councils have formally accepted the LPR donation. The Farms and Shores will not be bringing the item before their respective councils, because initiation of the program already has been included in their fiscal year budgets.





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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Merry Christmas

The famous line, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," is taken from an editorial that first appeared in the now-defunct newspaper The New York Sun titled "Is there a Santa Claus?"

Oddly enough, however, the editorial did not run during the holiday season. It originally was published Sept. 21, 1897. It was written in response to a letter from a girl named Virginia O'Hanlon, who was 8 years old at the time.

According to historical accounts, O'Hanlon first posed the question to her father, but was unhappy with his answer and decided to write to the paper. Her letter states her father told her, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

The paper's response has been called "the most famous editorial in history," and has been translated into more than 20 languages and spurred at least two movies.

O'Hanlon told interviewers later in life the moment had a positive impact on her future. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate in education, teaching in New York City schools from 1912 until her retirement in 1959. She passed away in 1971 at age 81.

She was known to respond to any and all correspondence, always including a copy of the editorial in her reply. She also did plenty of interviews, although once remarked she was "anonymous" from January through November.

The Sun also mailed out copies when requested, at one time sending 200,000 per year.

But what about the author of the editorial? It was written by lifelong reporter, editor and publisher Francis Pharcellus Church. As is the nature of editorials, like this weekly Our View, it was published uncredited, since editorials are the voice of the newspaper rather than the writer's personal opinion.

The Sun revealed Church as the author after his death in 1906, after which other New York papers began reprinting the piece during the holiday season. The Sun followed suit, reprinting it yearly from 1924 until it closed in 1950.

It has become the most reprinted editorial in the English language and is widely reprinted by newspapers across the country during the holidays. For your enjoyment:

Is there a Santa Claus?

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

"Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says 'If you see it in the Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"
Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West Ninety-fifth Street
Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of



ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP



Dressed festively Tuesday, Dec. 17, for "Wear a Silly Holiday Outfit Day" during spirit week, Will Schlaff plays the saxophone in front of Pierce Middle School to entertain people and get a bit of practice.

PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

Pierce Middle School fifth grader Will Schlaff started playing saxophone this September, during music class. He also is in the band at Pierce.

When asked how difficult it was to learn the sax, he replied, "Once you get the right airflow, then the notes get easier and you understand that the notes have different highs and lows and emotion depending on the airflow."

Friday, Dec. 13, while Schlaff was waiting to be picked up after school, he began playing the sax in front of Pierce because, "Why not?" he said.

He loves to play and practice and is getting really good. He plays music because, he said, he loves it and wants to make people happy.

Schlaff received a lot of great comments from passersby. Tuesday, Dec. 17, he played again in front of Pierce. On both occasions, Schlaff played "Careless Whispers," by George Michael.

ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof

that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of children.

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.

True meaning

To the Editor:
The column on your opinion page, "Rethinking the Christmas Story," by Lisa Brown (published Dec. 19) was a beautifully written piece just in time to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you!

TISH COLETT
City of Grosse Pointe

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

December 26 - January 1

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
42° 36°	36° 34°	40° 35°	44° 35°	46° 37°	44° 35°	42° 31°
Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Snow	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
0%	20%	10%	10%	25%	0%	25%
SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:06 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:07 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:07 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:08 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:09 pm	SUNRISE 8:01 am SUNSET 5:10 pm

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

I SAY By Jody McVeigh



Make the most of all moments

I met Michelle in high school, many, many moons ago. She sat next to me in French class and we ate lunch together. She was a grade younger than me and knew how to make me laugh.

Michelle had that gift — spreading joy and sunshine to those around her. I remember her being a shining ray of light in an often drab high school experience. Her laugh was contagious and she often burst into song, her beautiful voice booming from one end of the hallway to the other.

And then I graduated and lost touch with my friend.

Until around a year

ago. September 2023, I was minding my own business when I entered a room and made eye contact with a woman. Both of us smiled politely and turned away before we each did a double take. I said, “I know you.”

She said, “We went to high school together.”

We sat and chatted and eventually parted ways with wide smiles and each other’s phone numbers, with the promise of getting together soon.

We started meeting for dinner monthly, getting to know each other all over again. It wasn’t long before I learned about her grown-up life and all that she loved: most importantly her husband, two daughters and sister, but also teaching, being on the water, Snoopy and The Grinch. That light from all those years ago still shone

brightly in Michelle.

In March, as I waited for her at what had become “our restaurant,” on a random Wednesday night, I tried not to take it personally when she was late. My texts unanswered, I assumed she left her phone at the elementary school where she taught. I grew concerned when five minutes grew to 10, then 20.

Eventually, I figured she had forgotten and shrugged it off.

More texts went unanswered until I got a call the next morning: Michelle had been killed the afternoon before in a head-on collision with an intoxicated driver.

Flashing forward through the shock, her standing-room-only funeral and months of grieving, two weeks ago I attended a Christmas concert her elementary students dedicated to Michelle’s memory, on

what would have been her 50th birthday. Kids were dressed in red and green Grinch- and Snoopy-themed outfits. Several staff members wore clothes from a line designed in Michelle’s honor, bearing her mantra, “Live and let live,” as well as her signature.

After rousing renditions of “Hip Hop Reindeer” and “I Want to be an Elf,” among many others, the student body sang by candlelight an original song written for Michelle. There were no dry eyes in the standing-room-only gymnasium at Marine City High School while children sang the words:

Snow is falling lights aglow

Snoopy’s dancing in the snow

Underneath the Christmas tree

I miss you Mrs. D— you see

You’re my star in the silent night

In my thoughts you shine so bright

Grinch can’t steal these tears from me

Wishing you were here to see

Candy canes and cookies baked

Holiday spirit we create

But there’s a void I can’t pretend

Wish you were here my dear friend

You’re my star in the silent night

In my thoughts you shine so bright

Grinch can’t steal these tears from me

Wishing you were here to see

Snoopy’s cheer won’t fill this gap

Memories wrapped within a wrap

Every laugh and every smile

Missing Mrs. D— by a mile

You’re my star in the silent night

In my thoughts you shine so bright

Grinch can’t steal these tears from me

Wishing you were here to see

I am missing Michelle, too. Her shining light. Her spark, her joy. Her boisterous laugh, positive outlook and genuine concern for others.

I wish I’d had more than six paltry months to know her as an adult.

But, since she died, I do hold my loved ones a bit closer. I don’t hesitate to tell family or friends that I love them. I try to make the most of moments with loved ones.

Life is too short for anything less.

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1949

75 years ago this week

CONNOLLY FIRST MAYOR OF NEW CITY:

The election of the first mayor of the City of Grosse Pointe Farms at the first meeting of the City Council was a brief affair. William F. Connolly Jr., who was the president of the village before its conversion to a city, was elected.

SPECTACULAR FIRE LEAVES AL GREEN’S RESTAURANT A RUIN:

The Al Green Restaurant at Beaconsfield and E. Jefferson, one of the best known eating places in Michigan, was gutted by a fire that broke out at 10:26 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. The loss of the contents and furnishings, which were owned by Green, is total.

MACHINERY TO

CONVERT PARK INTO CITY GOES INTO ACTION:

The petitions asking for a referendum vote by the Park citizens on conversion of the Park to a city form of government have been filed with William J. Stamman, the Village Clerk. The petitions carry more names than the one percent of the population, as required by law.

1974

50 years ago this week

SNOWFALL BREAKS RECORD:

The normal snowfall for December in the Pointe area is 2 1/2 inches, but as of Monday, Dec. 23, the area has seen an accumulation of a total of 20 inches. The rainfall this month totaled 1.2 inches when the days were warm, which means that there would

have been another 12 inches, or an overall total of 32 inches of the fluffy stuff if the weather had been colder.

NEW LAW PASSED BY SHORES:

A general misdemeanor ordinance was approved by unanimous vote at the Shores Council meeting Dec. 17. The ordinance is designed to enable the Shores Department of Public Safety to prosecute misdemeanor cases that occur in the village. Shores Village Counsel William Killebrew said the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office is “so snowed under with cases that they will not consider any misdemeanors, only felonies.”

START FUND AS TRIBUTE TO

LOWTHER: Friends of Jesse R. Lowther, recently retired principal of Defer Elementary School, have established a tribute fund in his name, to be administered by the Grosse Pointe Foundation for

Academic Enrichment. At his request, money donated to the Jesse R. Lowther Fund will be directed toward a program of outdoor education in Grosse Pointe elementary schools.

1999

25 years ago this week

Y2K: PREPARE AS IF IT WERE A SNOW STORM:

Whether predictions come true about how Y2K computer-related shutdowns could send the world into the high-tech dark ages, experts in emergency management advise people to take a series of small but effective precautions in case things go wrong. Sandy Altschul, head of the Wayne County emergency management team that coordinates the county’s handling of major disasters, such as a tornado, doesn’t expect anything to go wrong

when the clock hits the year 2000. He said people should channel their concerns about Y2K into stocking up on everyday emergency items.

CANCER CENTER AT ST. JOHN NAMED AFTER VAN

ELSLANDER: The new St. John cancer center has been named after one of its largest benefactors. The announcement came during a ground-breaking ceremony for what now is the Van Elslander Cancer Center. Named after the family of Art Van Elslander of Grosse Pointe Shores, the facility is scheduled to open in late 2001.

2014

10 years ago this week

BASHARA FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER:

Bob Bashara has been

found guilty on all five counts against him in the January 2012 murder of his wife, Jane. Two of the counts, murder in the first degree and conspiracy to commit murder, carry mandatory sentences of life in prison without parole.

DEEPLANDS GARDEN CLUB REEACHES MILESTONE:

For 50 years, Deeplands Garden Club has identified needs in the community, conserved and improved environments, built skills and talents with its membership. Mrs. Allen R. Whittington was the club’s founder and first president in 1964. Recognized by the Federated Garden Club of Michigan in 1965, its focus was to invite foreign students to describe the gardens in their respective countries and understand the international gardening differences.

INCOME:

Continued from page 2A

Jefferson to the south and, to the east, the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham.

Participation in CLASS is open to any level of government in the state.

“Investments are made in accordance with Michigan law and include U.S. agencies and treasuries, repurchase agreements, collateralized bank deposits, money market funds and more,” according to the organization’s website, michiganclass.org. “There are no limits on transactions and no transaction fees.”

Investments are rated AAAM, the highest from Standard & Poor’s for principal safety, according to the site.

“We’ll continue to do those investments,” Sizeland said. “They are a significant help for the budgets.”

Caufield said budget-minders also are watching expenses.

“That parlays into looking at overruns, cost controls — it’s everything,” he said.

LEAD:

Continued from page 3A

draft and mail notification letters to residents in selected areas and integrate data into existing water system projects.

Compliance with the

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

Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee, said last spring it costs up to \$20,000 to replace a lead service

line. Fulfilling the 2018 mandate, prompted by the 2014 Flint water crisis, is expected to involve 800 lead lines at a combined cost of \$16 million.

Sizeland said he plans to time lead service line replacements with water main upgrades to avoid duplicating work.

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Together Women's Health opens new imaging center

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

His stepmother's experience as an OB-GYN — her selfless dedication to patients and strong relationships with women in the community she served — helped steer Anthony Ahee onto the path of healthcare.

"The OB-GYN community is under-compensated and demanding, physically and emotionally," he said. "It always stuck with me. In the type of care she provides — she was in a specialty — she went to medical school to provide this service, but the administrative burden it provides sometimes is a distraction from what she's trained to do."

To preserve the elements of private practice and bring resources and development to those practices so they thrive, Ahee formed Together Women's Health, a management service organization headquartered in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"Our job is to provide providers, HR support, marketing support, accounting," he said. "We've got the easy job. Providers are the ones driving relationships and care plans, improving outcomes for patients throughout the country."

Since its start in 2021, TWH has partnered with leading physicians to



Above, Anthony Ahee addresses attendees of the ribbon-cutting event. Left, the clinic's staff, from left, Stephanie Mathews, ultrasound technician; Shannon McCaig, practice coordinator; Linda Longo, vice president of operations; Dr. Zeynep Yilmaz-Saab, lead radiologist; Lisa Cooper, mammogram technician; and Lisa Christenson, nurse navigator.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN MARTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

become a premier network of women's health services in the U.S. Its affiliate network consists of 17 practices with more than 160 providers — 75 of them in Michigan — delivering women's health services at more than 35 locations, including in Grosse Pointe,

Roseville, Royal Oak, Birmingham and Dearborn.

"We're now in six states with two more coming," Ahee said. "We're just shy of 200 healthcare providers in the Together Women's Health family."

"... We spend time building out practices

from an administrative perspective," he said, noting the goal is to support practices by bringing in new services and technology, while providing better patient services and better care. "... We're big on what creates an enduring sustainable private practice. We invest in

team members and physicians."

Locally the service is expanding, as TWH recently opened a diagnostic imaging center on Main Street in Royal Oak. A ribbon-cutting and open house were hosted Nov. 13, at the new facility, which was chosen for its central location among TWH practice locations.

"It's got state-of-the-art equipment, a nice job-creating environment and is very patient friendly," Ahee said. "It caters toward the patient experience."

TWH's new imaging center offers comprehensive preventive mammogram screenings, breast ultrasounds, diagnostic imaging and breast biopsies, led by a team of fellowship-trained radiologists specializing in breast imaging. The physician team includes Dr. Zeynep Yilmaz-Saab and Dr. Kelly McAleese.

Yilmaz-Saab earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, completed a Doctor of Medicine degree at Wayne State University and returned to U-M for her residency in radiology and breast imaging fellowship.

McAleese is the founder and medical director of The Women's Imaging Center, a TWH affiliate practice, which has five locations throughout metropolitan

Denver. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Stanford, completed a Doctor of Medicine degree at Dartmouth Medical School and her residency in radiology at the University of Arizona.

"The Women's Imaging Center is our partner in Denver," Ahee said. "The lead doctor built a model based on service and serving the community. We took her best practices to launch this in the community, so we're delivering the best care and the best patient experience."

"We are committed to advancing women's health by offering innovative and comprehensive care using the latest imaging technology, ensuring timely and accurate diagnoses," Yilmaz-Saab said. "Our dedicated team of radiologists, technologists and nurse navigators work closely with patients, offering support and expertise to make the imaging process as comfortable as possible."

Part of that process means not only promoting the importance of screening mammograms, but also cutting down on wait time following a screening.

"Having to wait a substantial amount of time is a disservice," Ahee said. "We're creating access to screening mammograms, which is important to us. As we launch the center in a highly populated area, we're sharing the importance of getting that screening done."

"... If you get an abnormal mammogram, you don't want to wait weeks or months," he added. "How can we solve this? Let's bring in the best radiologists and have a central diagnostics center that practices can send their patients to for same-day or next-day diagnostics within the community. It's important because we're thinking of the entire healthcare journey for women. ... Whether it's preventative care or diagnostic, there might be fear. We're making them feel comfortable at a time that's so important."

Patients also will be reminded of their next visit, as well as able to schedule annual visits and mammograms at one time.

Of course, he added, keeping costs low also is front of mind.

"When we're providing care in office, diagnostic is at a fraction of the price for that care in more traditional settings. You get a better experience, better outcomes in that setting that doesn't cost as much in total cost of care."

The imaging center is not restricted to patients of TWH-affiliated practices.

"Anyone can come in off the street for preventative care," Ahee said. "Mammograms don't need a referral. We want to appeal to the community at large so they can be supported and served."

"... Early detection is the best defense against breast cancer and expanding access to women's imaging services supports our philosophy of investing in preventive care," he added.

For more information, visit togetherwomenshealth.com or email partner@togetherwomenshealth.com.

High Pointe Burger Jointe opens on Fisher

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — While Jennifer Bierkle was preparing to open High Pointe Burger Jointe at 369 Fisher across from Grosse Pointe South High School, her daughter was diagnosed with celiac disease, leading the new business owner to make the restaurant a gluten-free facility in addition to its normal menu.

"That really was eye-opening, not having any place for her in town to really eat," Bierkle said. "... I was always going to have one gluten-free wrap, just so we had some options, but having this diagnosis come along (made me) realize now that I'm in the restaurant business, this is a really important thing



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

High Pointe Burger Jointe is the labor of love of fifth-generation Grosse Pointer Jennifer Bierkle.

to offer the community."

With a dedicated gluten-free fryer and space on the grill, High Pointe offers gluten-free chicken tenders and smasher buns and Bierkle is working on finding a good wrap. It also will offer a vegan falafel smasher.

The restaurant opened

Saturday, Dec. 14, with a menu focused on 2-ounce smashers, using a black Angus beef blend from Fairway Packing.

Though it currently is offering a pared-down menu as it gets up and running, a taste of the options includes a Classic Smasher; Coney Smasher — coney, chili,

onions and mustard on a patty; and Patty Melt Smasher — an inside-out bun with onions and Swiss cheese on a patty.

Chicken smashers include the classic and a Detroit Spicy Chicken Smasher.

Sides feature parmesan truffle fries, fried cheese curds and fried pickles — and not to be overlooked is a slushie machine with Coke, cherry and cotton candy flavors.

"The kids are pairing the burgers with the slushies and the adults are pairing burgers with the martinis," Bierkle said.

Its adult offerings include espresso and Christmas martinis, beer on tap and wine.

High Pointe Burger Jointe currently is open 4 to 10 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday,

though Bierkle hopes to add hours and days as the restaurant moves into the new year.

"Our main goal is to be open for the students at lunch," she said, "so we will be working toward that."

A High Pointe branded app also is on the way in the new year.

"We want to make sure that the kids have enough time to enjoy their lunch from us in their short lunch period," Bierkle said. "So the app will allow them to place their order and pay before they hit our door."

In need of additional staff, Bierkle still is looking to hire for all positions.

Those interested in applying may email highpointeburgerjointe@gmail.com or stop in the restaurant and fill out an application.

Grosse Pointe News



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Donation drive

The student associations at Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South high schools have been collaborating to give local families a merry Christmas for 55 years. This year, the two schools adopted 50 families — with 130 children — from within the district. Multiple fundraisers were planned during Charity Week to raise money.

The schools hosted a gift drop-off area where the community donated gently used or new clothes and toys. Schools also partnered with the Library Connection Club to run a book drive.

Classes, leadership groups, staff members and outside groups participated this year, including North's Fashion and Fabrics classes, which made hand-sewn blankets and stockings for each family, as well as a gingerbread house kit.

Trader Joe's donated food bags, which were included with the gifts, along with cookies to make sure each family had some holiday treats.

All donated gifts were wrapped by students. Volunteer student drivers delivered them to the families.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Top, Grosse Pointe North's Jhimil Chhaya, Cara Kaslatas, Alexandria Noyd and Lauren Loper stand with some of the presents collected and wrapped for delivery to the families. Above, Grosse Pointe South's Adopt-a-Family committee chairs, Elle Petz, Delaney Meyers, Grace Vollmer and Ella Brennan stand in front of the wrapped gifts.

School board considers asking for a bond extension

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education could ask voters next year to extend a facilities and security bond originally approved in 2018.

"Next year is the last year we can ask for an extension and keep the current rate," Superintendent Andrea Tuttle said. "The board will determine the number of years to ask for an extension, but I'm recommending 20 years."

The issue was discussed at the district's Facilities and Finance Committee meeting Thursday, Dec. 12.

The \$111 million bond originally was approved by 55 percent of voters in November 2018. The district can collect up to 3.14 mills if the debt service schedule justifies that amount. A mill is \$1 in taxes for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value.

Tuttle said bond elections across Michigan that do not include a millage increase have an 84 percent chance of passing, on average, while those that include a millage increase pass at a 51 percent average.

If approved, the bond would bring in \$120 million to use on facility upgrades. Asking for a 24-year extension would net \$124 million, but would increase interest payments by \$20 million.

"That's just not reasonable," Tuttle said. The sinking fund millage, approved by 66 percent of voters in November, will bring in \$111 million over the next

decade.

Consultants at Plante Moran two years ago said GPPSS had \$252 million in maintenance needs over the next 10 years, including \$150 million in critical needs that should be addressed in three years.

"We'll be asking them to update that list," Tuttle said, "including details about work that's already been done."

Tuttle said she expects the board to begin discussing the issue at its second meeting in January, as the organizational meeting Jan. 7 will focus on the election of new officers.

Board President Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, said he expects the board to have a "robust conversation" on the matter.

"This should be a heavy focus for the board," he said. "It's going to be a large lift and the entire board has to be for it."

Cotton added the board must make "very strong statements" that it will not reconfigure the district or close any additional schools.

"In my opinion, we have incredible support from the community, which we saw with the operating millage and sinking fund millage passing," he said. "This community wants all buildings open. There can't be any strategic plan talking about closing buildings and we have to tell the community that. We all saw what happened with Trombly (Elementary School) and it still hurts them."

The board voted to close Trombly and Poupard elementary schools not long after the 2018 bond passed.

PAY:

Continued from page 1A

staff, including special education staff, is to provide competitive wages, benefits and good working conditions," the GPEA continued. "The current GPPSS/GPEA contract is not competitive and, as a result, GPPSS is unable to recruit and retain professional staff."

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle, however, disagreed.

"Competitive wages and benefits are one manner in which the district works to recruit and retain staff members," she said in a statement. "To that end, the district agreed to a multi-year contract with the education association for the first time in several years. The contract provides for step increases each year, in addition to a 2 percent raise in each of the two years of the agreement. The wages and benefits that are available for teachers in Grosse Pointe are competitive, and we no doubt believe the GPEA would not have agreed to such a two-year

contract if it was not competitive."

Step increases are equal to about a 4 percent pay raise and the contract eliminated three teacher work days, equivalent to a 1.5 percent pay increase, added two paid time off days and increased paternity leave by five days.

"Moreover, competitive wages and benefits are not the only manner in which to recruit and retain staff members," Tuttle added. "Grosse Pointe provides a tremendous culture in which to teach, one that is unmatched throughout the state of Michigan. The district recognizes that work-life balance is important for recruitment and retention, and has demonstrated its recognition by reducing the number of work days and expanding its leave policies."

The district added 27 new teachers for the 2024-25 academic year, only three of whom are in their first year teaching.

The GPEA said it is "ready and willing" to improve pay scales for special education staff.

"The GPEA also stands

ready and willing to improve the pay scales for all GPPSS professional staff," Loughlin and Shelson added. "Any such hopeful change must be negotiated between GPPSS and GPEA and then presented to the GPEA membership for approval. Let's return GPPSS to a destination district by recruiting and retaining the best."

Tuttle said she agrees the matter must be bargained.

"We believe it is best to allow the bargaining process for such compensation to take place at the bargaining table, not in the public," she said. "Grosse Pointe is a destination district in which to work and we are excited to continue to work with and recruit the brightest minds in education."

Board of Education President Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, said the district has provided the GPEA a Letter of Agreement on the matter and that pay increases for special education teachers would come from Wayne County, rather than the district's general fund.

Grosse Pointe News

THE NOSH

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2-3B OBITUARIES | 3&6B AREA ACTIVITIES | 4-5B BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS | 6B CHURCHES

From Battle of the Bands to Off-Broadway Former Pointers partner up for 'Music City'

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

"To think, it all started in a basement in Grosse Pointe, Michigan."

So says JT Harding, who formed a friendship with Peter Zinn decades ago, as classmates at Pierce Middle School.

Now the pair are seeing success with their Off-Broadway production, "Music City," which has received rave reviews from the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and TheaterMania, among others.

"TheaterMania said it was one of the top shows to see in New York right now," said Harding, who wrote the show's music.

Added Zinn, the show's playwright, "They've all been raves. I didn't think we'd get that, to be honest. We're coming in to this at a disadvantage. New York critics will say, 'Oh my god, a country jukebox musical? This is going to be terrible.' They're all ready to come in and see singing horses. ... For them to have a completely different response, I was nervous about what kind of reviews we were going to get. They keep coming and every one seems to be better than the last."

Critics are excited about "Music City," which opened late October, and childhood friends Harding and Zinn



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JT HARDING

JT Harding, front, and Peter Zinn, third from left, share a moment with the cast of "Music City."

are excited to share it. They've spent years piecing it together.

Growing up Grosse Pointe

There's an excitement to Harding that can be described as youthful and exuberant. The songwriter has fond memories of his childhood in Grosse

Pointe and his enthusiasm for making music.

"I was with my favorite babysitter; MTV is her name," he said. "I wanted to crawl inside MTV and write songs and have them come bursting out of the radio. I met Peter Zinn and we would ride our bikes up to Village Records and Tapes."

Harding and his band, Dirty Trixx, won the Battle of the Bands in 1984; Zinn was in the audience.

"We went from Battle of the Bands to Off-Broadway," Harding said. "How many buddies can say that?"

"He did take me to my first rock concert ever," Zinn said. "I'd never been to a real rock concert before. It was KISS at Cobo Hall. A requirement to go on this outing with him was we did have to wear KISS makeup. He was Gene Simmons and he painted the star on my face to be Paul Stanley. It was an amazing experience. I had never seen

people rock out like that.

"I remember watching the concert and was blown away by it and JT's enthusiasm for it was infectious," he continued. "I see that today when he gets up onstage for an open mike and performs one of his hits. He still has that same energy and excitement and can capture an audience the way he could when we were 12, 13 years old."

In his youth, Zinn preferred acting to music. He described himself as a theater geek, even before he attended Grosse Pointe South High School.

"I performed in a lot of plays," he said. "That's where it all started. I played Tom Sawyer at Trombly Elementary School and was bitten by the bug of theater. I went on to study it in college and ultimately realized I liked creating the story as opposed to performing the story."

After South, Zinn earned a Master of Fine

Arts degree in dramatic writing from New York University Tisch School of the Arts.

"Grosse Pointe South had, and I'm sure they still do, a tremendous theater program," he noted. "A lot of kids were playing sports, JT was trying to be the next David Lee Roth and I found my home with the theater program at South."

Added Harding, "While he was playing Tom Sawyer, at the same time I was trying to figure out how to play 'Tom Sawyer' by Rush for Battle of Bands."

Reconnected

While Zinn moved to New York to pursue his education, Harding tried his hand at songwriting and moved first to Los Angeles, then to Nashville, where he eventually found success.

"We have this mutual friend (Dr. Jake Rowan) who's also from Grosse Pointe," Zinn said. "He provided me with a CD that JT created with his old band. It had some songs on there about his experience performing for the troops in Afghanistan — a song called 'How Did I Get Here?' I listened to that song and it was like a punch to the gut in the best way. It felt so primed for theater; it's a theatrical song. I immediately called our mutual friend."

While Zinn suggested Harding write a musical, Harding threw the ball back in Zinn's court. The two eventually met in New York to discuss a script.

"He would provide me with so many great songs," Zinn said. "He's a prolific songwriter. He writes a song a day. I would say, 'I need a song that does this' and he'd give me three examples. Then I realized we could

use his hits in the musical."

Several hits — all of them written by Harding — are featured in "Music City," including Blake Shelton's "Sangria," Keith Urban's "Somewhere in My Car," Darius Rucker's "Beers and Sunshine," Kenny Chesney's "Somewhere with You" and Dierks Bentley's "Different for Girls."

"I'm just super inspired by the music," Zinn said. "I challenge anyone to not love JT Harding songs; it's impossible not to love his music. I'm convinced of it now even more that I've watched armies of very highly critical, snobby New York theatergoers, kind of watch their hearts melt as they watch the show and listen to his music."

The show

"Music City" is being performed at Bedlam, a nonprofit theater in New York. Its popularity was evident when, shortly after speaking with the Grosse Pointe News, Harding and Zinn confirmed the show's run has been extended to Feb. 2.

"Peter wrote this musical using all my songs and his story is unbelievable," Harding said. "The story and the cast will break and heal your heart in the same night."

Directed by Eric Tucker, "Music City" was written by Zinn, inspired by Harding's music, to pay homage to struggling songwriters.

"These are not wealthy people," Zinn said. "They are people who live on the other side of the tracks, in the drug-ridden neighborhood of East Nashville. They're struggling to get by but have this gift of the ability to write songs."

"... One of hardest things anyone can possibly do is to write a really good song that captures so many people," he added. "JT has that gift. He works hard. It's interesting for audiences to observe artists who have that specific unique gift of songwriting — to shine a light on them, what their process is, how they take their own personal lives and infuse it into their music and their songs and how they use their songs in a cathartic way. I never grow tired of working on this show."

"Peter's writing is so great," Harding said. "He has such empathy for people on the fringes of society — people who are just aching to make it."

"... For every Uncle Kracker and Kenny Chesney and Carrie Underwood, there are millions of people that will never make it and they're very talented and they never get a break," he added. "Peter shows that in the show. It's absolutely beautifully heartbreaking."

Harding said the best thing about "Music City" is its present-day setting. "It's not singing horses; it's not people with funny buckteeth," he said. "I've

See PARTNER, page 6B



Stephen Michael Spencer and Casey Schuler.



Casey Schuler and Andy Rothenberg perform during the play.

2B | OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

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

Janette Hyslop Bellamy

Janette Hyslop Bellamy, 85, passed away peacefully Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024, in Grosse Pointe Park.

She was born Sept. 7, 1939, in Douglas, Scotland, to Samuel and Sarah Yates. Janette lived with her mother and grandmother in Douglas until she was 8 years old. She then immigrated to Detroit to join her father, meeting him for the first time in her young life. She grew up on Alma Avenue in Detroit and graduated from Denby High School. Janette continued her education at Wayne State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in education, and began working at National Bank of Detroit, where she reconnected with her high school sweetheart, Fred Bellamy.

Fred and Janette married Dec. 3, 1966. The pair spent 50 years together before Fred passed away in June 2019. Janette was an avid gardener, baker and traveler and worked numerous years as a volunteer with local garden clubs and Bon Secours Hospital. Janette often was regarded as having "Snow White-like" tendencies, finding value in the sanctity of any living thing. A woman of few words, she made her love known through the eloquence of action by showing understanding, care and appreciation for those who mattered most. She was a tremendously loyal woman to her husband, children, grandchildren and the friends she kept. Her dedication never wavered and her subtle selflessness was of the purest form.

She is survived by her

sons, James (Melissa) and John (Joanie Conlan). She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren, Lucas, Bryan, Millicent, Tyler, Jack, Yates, Avalon, Iris and Penelope; and her longtime childhood best friend, Joan Sparschu.

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

William Shepard

William Edward Shepard, 78, of Grosse Pointe, died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, with his family by his side.

Born May 3, 1946, in Detroit, he was the only child of Edward and Agnes Shepard. He graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1964, and Michigan State University in 1968, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration. After college, he worked as a salesman for Uniroyal and finished his career in sales at Unisys Corp. He enjoyed going to northern Michigan, boating, golfing and reading — but most of all, he loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Karen; children, Bill (Sara), Michael (Sharon) and Stephanie (Kushtrim); and grandchildren, Nash, Scarlett, Ava, Anna, James and Benjamin.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 20338 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

To honor William, his love for animals and his battle with dementia, his family welcomes memorial donations to the Michigan Humane Society, bit.ly/4ghyZ6j, or Alzheimer's Association, bit.ly/3ZGAELq.

Agnes M. Guastella

Agnes "Aggie" M. Guastella, 74, passed away Monday, Dec. 16, 2024.

Aggie was born Aug. 2, 1950. She was a tennis professional who taught the game she loved so much for more than 50 years. She had students of all ages, but her favorites were the young players who she affectionately called "munchkins."

Her tennis life began at Lakeshore Tennis House on Marter. She started working at the front desk and then fell in love with the game. The bulk of her teaching career took place at the Wimbledon Racquet Club on Nine Mile Road. One of her career highlights was coaching some of the best young lady players to the Junior Wightman Cup Championship in 1979. She also taught at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club and Eastside Tennis & Fitness Club. During the summer months, she could be found giving lessons at Grosse Pointe Woods Park, South Lake High School and just about any place that had a tennis court and people wanting instruction. Teaching tennis was always a labor of love for Aggie.

When she wasn't teaching, she loved traveling to New York City, especially when the U.S. Tennis Open was being held around Labor Day. Aggie liked going down to Florida once or twice a year to visit friends and play tennis. She also enjoyed listening to classical music, usually while sipping on her drink of choice: an ice-cold Coca-Cola. The last few years, she discovered the pleasures of food trucks and had a "Fat Bob's" that would call her whenever



Janette Hyslop Bellamy



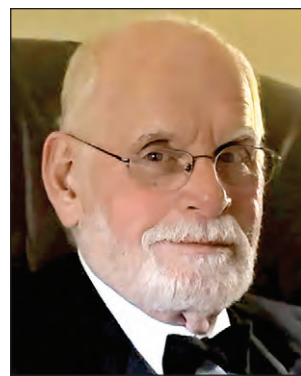
William Shepard



Agnes M. Guastella



Anna Marie Johnston



James Allen Barber



Robert Gillooly

they were in her area.

She will be missed by all those whose lives she touched in such a positive way.

Aggie was the loving sister of Phil Guastella (Sandy); dear aunt of Brian Hayner (Jamie) and Ashley Vereecke (Benjamin); and great-aunt to Aubrey, Bryce, Hannah and Hudson. She also is survived by many cousins and friends.

Visitation occurred at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods. Her funeral Mass took place at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in St. Clair Shores.

Share a memory at ahpeters.com.

Anna Marie Johnston

Anna Marie Johnston, 84, of Grosse Pointe Shores, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, with her family by her side.

She was born May 5, 1940, in Detroit, to Thomas and Helen Piche. She graduated from St. Anthony's Catholic School, which she attended from elementary through high school. She was very proud of her Catholic upbringing and embraced her family values of hard work and devotion to her faith.

She was predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Thomas George Johnston. They met on St. Patrick's Day and were married less than a year later. They lovingly spent years traveling the world, enjoying their card clubs and spending time at their homes in Harbor Springs, Mich., and Estero, Fla. Family was everything to them and they enjoyed years of supporting their five grandchildren in everything from sporting events to Christmas concerts. She was the ultimate "Nana" to them and the true meaning of unconditional support in everything they did.

She loved her daughters, Trisha Stander (Jeff) and Tammy Eugenio (Greg). She adored her grandchildren, Olivia Dallaire (Mike), Jack Stander (Faith), Annie Eugenio, Ava Stander and Nick Eugenio; and great-grandchildren, Vivienne and Michael Dallaire. She will be missed by her siblings, Judy Wheatley (Jim) and Ronald Piche. She leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews and lifelong friendships made as parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

Services were held at Our Lady Star of the Sea

Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Woods.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, solanuscassey.org/help-us-serve/donate/.

James Allen Barber

James Allen Barber, 83, of St. Clair Shores, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, following a heroic battle with cancer.

Jim was born Nov. 10, 1941, in Detroit, the only child of Elizabeth Audrey (nee Tossy) and James Robert Barber. For 24 years, he — and later, with his wife and sons — assisted running Tossy's Flower House, the family business in Detroit. He obtained a business degree in 1969, from the Detroit Institute of Technology and used his accounting skills in several businesses. He concluded his career as executive director of the Masonic Temple in Detroit.

Jim was a passionate 60-year member of the Masons. He served as commander of Detroit Commandery No. 1 and was a member of the Detroit York Rite College No. 1. He was honored to receive the Order of the Purple Cross in 2000.

When his sons were young, Jim was the assistant scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America in South Lyon. These formative years in his sons' lives included weekend troop outings, winter polar bear campouts and years of weeklong summer camps, including returning to summer camp with his grandsons and leading two troop trips to Isle Royale National Park, which entailed an impressive 50-plus miles of wilderness backpacking. Later, he returned for a nostalgic trip to Isle Royale with his future wife, Patty.

In his retirement, Jim enjoyed fly fishing, collecting tools, travel and classic cars, especially his 1929 Ford Model A, which he drove on errands around his Grosse Pointe Farms neighborhood. He adored his grandchildren and was thrilled to surprise them during their visits with ice cream for dinner after a day of fishing from the pontoon boat at the cottage.

Jim's legacy lives on in his sons, who both embraced his powerful work ethic and knack for problem-solving, as well as his insatiable appetite

for puns, dad jokes, stories and offbeat humor.

Jim was predeceased by his parents; and his first wife and precious mother of his sons, Norma Mae Barber.

Remaining to cherish his memory are his wife of 25 years, Patricia (nee Claycomb); sons, Robert Norman Barber (Jackie) of Sparta and David Allen Barber (Marge) of Hixson, Tenn.; grandchildren, RJ Barber, Daniel John Barber, Christina Hope Barber, Bethany DeLayne Barber, Christen Danae Harper (Brandon) and Grace DeAnne Barber; and four great-grandchildren, Jordyn and William Barber and August and Matilda Harper.

Visitation will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, 20705 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, with a Masonic funeral service to follow at noon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society, gpaas.org/donate, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Robert "Bob" Gillooly

Robert "Bob" Gillooly, 96, of St. Pete Beach's Pass-a-Grille, Fla., and Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024.

Bob was born May 2, 1928, in St. Petersburg, Fla., to John and Agnes Gillooly. Bob was a U.S. Army paratrooper, writer, tennis player and business executive, but most of all he was a loving father. He took great pride in his successful 35-year career with Ford Motor Co., which culminated in being named the national advertising manager. He also enjoyed retirement in St. Pete Beach, where he played tennis daily and walked the beach at sunset until the age of 85.

More than anything, Bob cherished time spent with his four children and their spouses, John (Ebony), Anyes (Hugh), Jamie and Bob (Erin); and 11 grandchildren, Connor, Evan, Morgan, Madison, Nick, Nate, Ben, Esme, Jack, Maile and Jacki. He was predeceased by his beloved sister, Barbara.

The family is deeply grateful to Hospice of Michigan and the many loving caregivers at Beechwood Manor in St. Clair Shores for the extraordinary care and comfort provided to Bob in the last year of his life.

See OBITS, page 3B

Bonnie Randolph Gibson

June 26, 1939 - December 6, 2024

Our beloved wife, mother and grandmother passed from this life to the next on December 6, 2024 after several months of illness.

While we grieve Bonnie's passing, we also joyfully celebrate her life fully lived, and whose life was a blessing to many — to her family and to her many friends and those with whom she had contact.

Bonnie (nee Randolph) was born and grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, to Gladys Gabel Randolph and Clifford Randolph. She was raised with siblings Richard Randolph and Don Randolph, now all deceased. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Charles Gibson; daughter, Lynn; son, David, and his wife, Anna; and granddaughters, Emma Rose Gibson and Evelyn Rose Gibson.

Bonnie was a talented singer and composer, entertaining people since the age of three, and later produced two CDs. She also had a terrific sense of humor and a profound intuition.

Her accomplishments were many: Bonnie was educated and trained as a social worker, obtaining her undergraduate degree at University of Detroit



Mercy and MSW at St. Louis University, where she met her husband, Charles.

Bonnie made many friends and contributed her talents to the non-profit organizations to which she belonged in the many places she lived — Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan; Los Altos, California; Rio Verde and Scottsdale, Arizona; and ending up in Auburn in 2010, where she was only a few minutes from David and his family.

Bonnie was a deeply spiritual person and a devout Roman Catholic (but also an active church reformer). She was a Carmelite nun for two years in the earlier part of her life. She received great joy passing out angel coins as a blessing to people, especially those who struggled with the challenges of life.

We miss you dear one, but we rejoice in your being with the Lord.

Bonnie's funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, at St. Teresa of Avila Parish in Auburn, California. There will be a reception afterward, location to be determined. Instead of flowers, please donate to your favorite charity.

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Christine Collins

Christine Collins, 77, passed away peacefully at her home and surrounded by family Friday, Dec. 13, 2024.

Born April 11, 1947, in Detroit, to Joseph and Elizabeth Collins (nee Bevington), Chris grew up in Grosse Pointe, where she made her earliest of many treasured friendships. After losing both parents at early ages, Chris and her brother, Joe, went to live with their beloved Aunt Joanie. The fulfilling life Chris went on to build after this tumultuous period was a testament to her quiet but fierce resilience, innate inner strength and resourcefulness.

She continued to build lifelong friendships during her early adulthood and career as a mediator in Detroit. During this period she met the love of her life, Ron, and became a beloved and cherished member of the large Reosti family, into which she eventually married. She and Ron shared more than 46 years of love, mutual respect and support. Together they raised four children and made their home an inviting haven for countless gatherings filled with great food, family and friends.

Chris forged deep connections wherever she lived, worked, swam or her children went to school. People were drawn to her warmth, openness, sense of humor and great laugh. She could talk to anyone and instinctively made people feel comfortable with her easy approachability and genuine interest in what they shared. Once you became close to her, she delighted in spending time with you.

Her wide-ranging intellect was evident to anyone who saw her breeze through a Sunday crossword, listened to her dis-



Christine Collins

cuss a book she loved or witnessed her rewire an antique light fixture. She shared her love of reading with young people working in school libraries, where students were drawn to the way she cared for them with empathy. She savored her retirement years after an initial cancer diagnosis by traveling to Cuba, Italy, Spain, Mexico and Costa Rica and meeting friends regularly in New York and Florida. She reveled in being a grandmother. Throughout her most recent battle with cancer, she showed tremendous strength and drew great fulfillment from her connections with family and friends.

She leaves behind loved ones to cherish her memory and carry on her love, including her husband, Ronald Reosti; brother, Joseph Collins (Janet Brandon); stepdaughter, Georgia Hallinan (Sean); son, Marco Reosti (Vanessa Arnold); daughters, Elizabeth Reosti (Andrew Sim) and Anna Reosti (Lee Fiorio); five adored grandchildren and dozens of nieces, nephews and friends. She eagerly anticipated her sixth grandchild's arrival in spring 2025.

A celebration of her life will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 4 Ridge Rd., Pleasant Ridge.

Memorial donations may be made to Lighthouse Youth Sanctuary, 751 Hendrie Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48067, lighthousemi.org/donate/.

Chamber seeks applicants for small business, youth entrepreneur awards

Annual breakfast is Jan. 25

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Chamber Membership Breakfast at 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 30.

During the program, which takes place at The War Memorial, the chamber will award several small businesses and young entrepreneurs through its grant and scholarship programs.

Applications for both can be found at grossepointechamber.com and are accepted until Friday, Jan. 17.

"Eligible young entrepreneurs are high school juniors or seniors that live in Grosse Pointe or attend a Grosse Pointe school," said Abigail Turnbull, chamber membership and event coordinator. "The chamber created this scholarship to provide an opportunity to grow your business as a young person, or get the financial support to start the business of your dreams, so applicants can either have a business or a vision that we can support from the ground up. Aside from those stipulations out-

lined, the application covers some general questions on the applicant and their entrepreneurial journey."

For small business applicants, businesses must have less than 50 employees, be in at least the third year of ownership and be members of the Grosse Pointe Chamber.

"We also like to see applicants that are active in the community," Turnbull said. "Our first winner in 2024 was Part of Your World Princess Company and owner Sofia Kirkman not only has an impressive resume being a young woman who started a successful business at a young age, but she works with many organizations in the community and never misses a chamber event."

During last year's ceremony, four scholarships to students and five small business grants were awarded. Turnbull said she hopes to hand out the same — if not more — for 2025.

"The scholarships will vary based on the committee that will be reviewing the applicants," she said. "Funding for these

2024 winners

Young Entrepreneurs Scholarships:

- ◆ Troy Lipscomb — Lipscomb Landscaping
- ◆ Helen Wujek — Butter & Stuff
- ◆ Avery Slanec — Home Base Real Estate
- ◆ Askask Nagori — EmployConnect

Small Business Grants:

- ◆ Back to You Osteopractic Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation
- ◆ Building Better Learners
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Moving & Storage
- ◆ LaLonde Jewelers & Gemologists
- ◆ Part of Your World Princess Co.

scholarships and grants come from support of the Grosse Pointe Chamber Foundation through donations, our Legacy on the Lake event and, new to 2025, Community Impact Day.

"The scholarship winners will be selected by a committee of chamber board members," she continued, "and small business grant winners will be selected during the event after each applicant presents and shares how the grant would help them get to the next level of their business. Upon closing of the votes, winners will be announced live."

The public is welcome to attend the event. Early-bird tickets are \$55 until Jan. 3. After Jan. 3, tickets are \$65 for chamber

members and \$80 for nonmembers.

"It is important for the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce to provide small business grants and young entrepreneur scholarships to foster economic growth and innovation within our community," Chamber President and Executive Director Jennifer Boettcher said. "The small business grants are designed to help businesses thrive and the young entrepreneur scholarships allow us to invest in the future of the community by empowering driven individuals with resources to succeed."

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit grossepointechamber.com.

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.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, St. Clair Shores Senior Center, 20100 Stephens, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.
- ◆ 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, Grosse Pointe Woods Presbyterian Church, 19950 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, Bethel

Baptist Church, 24600 Little Mack, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcrossblood.org.

Library

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

- ◆ GGPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Afternoon Drop-In Kids Craft, 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Teen "Back to December," 3 to 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Silent Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Saturday Drop-In

Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Ford House

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

- ◆ Holiday Main Residence Guided Tour, 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. Tuesdays and Sundays, through Dec. 31. Admission costs vary.
 - ◆ Nooks & Crannies Behind the Scenes Guided Tour, 10 a.m. noon and 2 p.m. through Dec. 31. Admission costs vary.
 - ◆ All About Eleanor Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in January. Admission costs vary.
 - ◆ Storytime: "The Snow Thief," 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in January.
 - ◆ Trivia Night, 6 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 13.
 - ◆ Lecture: Rhythms of Resilience and Change with Rod Arroyo, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmembers.
- For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

GPPSS

The Grosse Pointe Public School System offers a series of informational nights for various grade levels. The schedule is:

- ◆ Rising Fifth Grade Info Night, all GPPSS middle schools — 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6.
- ◆ Rising Freshman Info Night, Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South — 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.
- ◆ Kindergarten & Young Fives Info Night, all GPPSS elementary schools — 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

The Helm

The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms, offers a variety of classes and programs. Registration is required at (313) 882-9600 for the following:

- ◆ Indoor Walking Club, 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Jan. 7.
- ◆ Watercolor Painting, 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, with instructor Linda Boyle. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for

See EVENTS, page 6B



PHOTO COURTESY OF DENNIS HYDUK

New member

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb, second from right, stands with Rotary District Gov. Nick Krayacich, left, and Rotary Assistant District Gov. Ted Everingham, right, as new Sunrise member Kate Trost is inducted Nov. 5, at Ford House. Krayacich also accepted a donation from the Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club in support of World Polio Eradication Day.

Krayacich addressed attendees, reiterated core club values and emphasized that Rotary is a "movement" that offers everyday people a chance to be and do something more than they can do alone. Rotary member service projects change lives locally and connect with other clubs to work on international projects that address today's most pressing challenges like drug addiction, the environment and worldwide polio eradication.

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an open invitation to their Tuesday breakfast and presentation at 7 a.m. at Ford House. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for more information.

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A *fresh* TAKE ON TRADITION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAI DAVIS PHOTOGRAPHY

The Old Club wedding on Harsens Island full of glamour and gorgeous water views

By Grosse Pointe News Staff

Take one secluded island escape. Add one glamorous, fun-loving couple. Sprinkle generously with September sunshine. What does it create? The elegant and beautifully eclectic wedding of John Meldrum and Toni Parkes, of course!

The Old Club proved to be the ideal venue for this adventurous and attractive couple, fans of grand fashion, yachting, classic cars, motorcycles, art — and living their best lives. Their late-summer nuptials came to vibrant life On Sept. 14 this year at the historic resort, which features its own ballroom, hotel, golf course, boardwalk, tennis courts, harbor and so much more.

The Harsens Island getaway is truly a rare gem, where cherished traditions are lovingly preserved, yet creative innovation is always evolving. It's a perfect balance of history, heart, and forward-thinking sophistication that delights members and guests.

The Meldrums made the most of this choice wedding atmosphere with their touching waterside vows, picturesque photo opportunities and breathtaking indoor decor.

The celebration's amazing extras included two gorgeous jeweled wedding gowns for the bride, a graceful ballet dance down the aisle and a handsome cream-colored vintage car for the couple's end-of-day escape.

With such a spectacular first day as a married couple, the Meldrum's future looks stellar indeed.



The smiles couldn't be any brighter for newlyweds John Meldrum, top left, and his lovely bride, Toni. The Meldrums said their "I do's" at the gazebo of Harsens Island's The Old Club.

Above, a familiar sign welcomes the wedding party and guests as they enter the grounds of The Old Club.

BEAUTIFUL BEGINNINGS | 5B



The groom and his crew, left, enjoy a view from the yacht. The gazebo area, above, is staged and ready for the ceremony. Reception place settings, right, await guests for a night of luxe celebration. The gold-toned placements matched the elegant thank you cards atop each setting.



The stylish couple pose with a vintage cream-color Packard automobile. The stately car transported the new Mr. and Mrs. from the wedding venue off to their new life together.



The bride's dazzling ceremony dress and gloves, above, complemented her crown headpiece.



Above: Bride Toni cuts each ribbon attached to her bouquet, one by one. The single women each hold one of those ribbons. The last ribbon cut is the bachelorette who gets the bouquet.



The groom atop a beautiful mint green Indian Thunderstroke 111, above.



At left: Guests are treated to a lovely ballet dance preceding the entrance of the bride.



A live-action artist creates a painting of the joyful bride and groom in real time, as they take to the dance floor.



The groom and his family, above.



The bride and her family, above.



The Old Club, above.

6B | CHURCHES

Holidays are a time to check on older adults

While enjoying the sights, sounds and tastes of this holiday season, The Helm urges families to pay special attention to the older adults in their lives. When adult children return home for the holidays, they tend to notice changes with family members they might not notice in regular phone conversations.

"You can't always pick up on changes over the telephone or even FaceTime," said Allie Short, licensed social worker and case coordinator at The Helm. "We receive more calls at The Helm during and right after the holidays from children concerned about their loved one. You recognize so much more when you are physically in the same environment."

How does one determine if a loved one may need additional assistance?

Short encourages family members to pay attention to details. Is the home more unkempt than previously? Is there less or expired food in the cupboards or refrigerator? Are there burned-out light

bulbs? Are there working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors? Is the grass longer than typical? Has shrubbery been trimmed? Are there weeds and leaves on the lawn or in the flower beds? Has their personal hygiene or appearance changed?

"It could just be that a little extra help is needed, which is typical as we age," Short said. "The Helm has a variety of programs that can help. If someone is having difficulty getting to the grocery store, Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Service can drive them there. If they are having difficulty preparing meals, Meals on Wheels might be more appropriate. If they have burned-out light bulbs or a non-working smoke detector, the free home safety program can help. If they need spring and fall yard clean up, The Helm has volunteers to help."

Short added that other factors could be at play and to pay special attention to signs like memory loss, confusion, difficulty communicating, personality changes and trou-

ble accomplishing daily tasks.

"These could be signs of dementia and a consultation with a medical professional may be in order," she said. "And, if it is early onset Alzheimer's or dementia, the SHARE program at The Helm can help all parties involved create a care program. I'd love to have a conversation to understand what you're seeing, what your concerns are, and go from there."

"We are the area's expert on aging-related issues," The Helm Executive Director Krista Siddall said. "We can help you figure out what your loved one may need and have many programs and services available that can help that person. We also know when something more is needed and can help direct you to those resources. It's much easier to make one phone call to The Helm to help get you started than trying by yourself to find all the resources out there for you."

"So while you're home for the holidays," she added, "take special notice and know we are here."

EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

guests.

◆ Restorative Evening Yoga, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the first and third Thursdays, Jan. 9 to March 20, with instructor Allie Short. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests.

◆ The movie "Jane Austen's Persuasion" is shown at noon Friday, Jan. 10. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

◆ Spanish for Beginners, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 15 to Feb. 19, with instructor Randi Lou Franklin, J.D. Cost is \$35 for members, \$40 for guests.

◆ Taking the Mystery out of Balance and Posture, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, with instructor Paul Clark. The program takes place at the Harper Woods

Public Library and is free to members, \$5 for guests.

GPAA

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

◆ Venturing into Abstract and Nonrepresentational Art with Marcia Hales, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9.

◆ Portraits in the Style of Berthe Morisot, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30.

◆ The Art and Science of Color: Understanding and Applying Color Interaction with Mihir Sharma, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 16, 23 and 30.

PARTNER:

Continued from page 1B

seen a lot of musicals like that and they're all great, but this is edgy, current Nashville today. The biggest compliment to Peter is a lot of the crowd doesn't know what songs are for the musical and what songs are already hits. That's hard to do. Peter has crafted it perfectly.

"I'm so proud when people from Nashville come up, like the band members in the huge country band Old Dominion came up, and when they see it say, 'Wow, this is really us.' It's not someone's fake version of Nashville. Peter's made it very authentic."

The set

The audience is part of the set in the Bedlam production, as viewers are immersed in the program just by taking their seats.

"It's a small theater above a church that they've turned into a Nashville honky tonk," Harding said. "You can get a PBR at the bar. There's popcorn. The chairs are a little bit falling apart. I've covered it in posters from a Nashville record store. When people walk in, you literally feel like you're in Nashville."

"It's not overly interactive, but there are moments where the cast are coming in and out of the audience," Zinn added. "The audience is truly part of the action of the play. They're not sit-



PHOTO COURTESY OF JT HARDING

JT Harding, left, and Peter Zinn pose in front of a Detroit-style pizzeria in New York.

ting in theater seats apart from the stage. They're literally part of the entire set, which is this dive bar in East Nashville and they're sitting at dirty cocktail tables drinking Pabst Blue Ribbon while actors are performing around them."

As director, Tucker was particular about his cast. Each actor also is musically inclined.

"There's not a band under the stage or a karaoke machine up in the balcony," Harding said. "Every person in the cast plays mandolin, banjo, piano, bass. There's not a

band; they are the band."

"One woman in the cast plays four different instruments, two major roles and sings her head off," Zinn added. "All the cast is swapping instruments. It's kind of a roller coaster ride. Once it starts, it just takes off and keeps going."

The inspiration

While not directly autobiographical, there are elements to the story and songs that were inspired by Zinn's and Harding's experiences. Zinn's script features two brothers inspired by Harding and

his brother, Lance.

"I observed JT and Lance for years and how they interact with one another and that inspired me to create this relationship between the two brothers," he said.

Zinn also studied Harding's songwriting process so he could incorporate it in "Music City."

There's a touch of the autobiographical in Harding's songs, too. "One of standout songs the main character sings is 'Somewhere With You' that Kenny Chesney made famous, that I wrote," Harding said. "I

went through a really bad breakup and wrote that song. No one in Nashville wanted it for years. Kenny Chesney put it out and it was a gigantic hit. In the show, (main character) TJ sings it to the girl he wishes he was with. All my songs start with a seed of the truth and I try to load them up with personal details. Another real big song in the show is 'Smile' that I wrote with Uncle Kracker."

In a nod to his childhood, Zinn also planted a few Grosse Pointe names in the script.

"I haven't talked to him in decades, but there's a guy named Danny Gibney that we went to high school with," he said. "There's a part of the play where a mother and daughter have no money, the brakes went out on their car and they're arguing about where to get the brakes fixed. They talk about going to Danny over at Gibney Auto."

"It started as a little wink to JT," he continued. "I'd write a new draft and plant these names in, then look over at him and he'd get a big smile."

Full circle

Harding recalls the excitement all those years ago: saving up for KISS tickets, getting permission from their parents, sleeping outside Village Records and Tapes to buy the tickets and then waiting months for the concert date.

"The lights go down, we're ready for the concert," he said. "I will never forget this. Peter looks over at me and he says, 'We did it! We did it!' And he high-fives me."

"Rewind to about three weeks ago," he continued. "We come in to the theater. The New York Times had just come out. The lights go out in the theater and Peter is just high-fiving me and saying, 'We did it! We did it!'"

Harding and Zinn encouraged interested theatergoers to visit New York and check out "Music City" at Bedlam. For tickets, visit bedlam.org.

Worship Service



St. Matthew Catholic Church
Harper at 6021 Whittier
Detroit, MI 48224
313-884-4470

Holiday Mass Schedule
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
Christmas Eve Mass ~ 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Christmas Day Mass ~ 10:00 am

Wednesday, January 1, 2025
Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
New Year's Day ~ 10:00 am

Saturday, January 4, 2025: Vigil Mass
Feast of the Epiphany ~ 4:30 pm

Sunday, January 5, 2025
Feast of the Epiphany ~ 10:00 am

Sunday, January 5, 2025
Feast of the Epiphany

Christmas Carol Sing-along ~ 3:30 pm • Vespers Service ~ 4:00 pm

Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
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Masses
Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. ☞
Sunday — 8:50 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Mass
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — St. Francis Day —
Blessing of Pets — Noon Mass

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Homes for the holidays

Photos by Renee Landuyt



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ASK THE EXPERTS By Page Heenan

'Tis the season

It's the holiday season — a time of joy, gathering, merry making and gift giving. But our world is a study in contrasts. Bad news does not stop for the holidays. Life happens. People get sick and plans fall through. All it takes is a glance at the news to see suffering in the world. Days can be filled with tumult and challenge, but also moments of magnificent joy. We can and should seek joy. This is not a suggestion that you deny or ignore hardships. It is important to be clear-eyed in the face of difficulties to make proper assessments and choices. Joy doesn't have to be a big wow moment. It can be found in the familiar softness of your favorite blanket, the surprise of a cardinal out-



side your window or even in your favorite article of clothing — the one you reach for fresh out of the dryer. As you go about your days this holiday season, see if you can notice the small ways joy already is present. Actively look for it. Create it. Wear a colorful hat. Smile at people. Volunteer your time. It's not always easy to be a human experiencing a range of emotions. A consistent meditation practice helps us learn to hold joy and despair together. As you sit down to meditate and slow your busy mind and body, difficult emotions, disruptive thoughts or physical discomfort might be present. If meditation feels challenging,

remember to look for more joy or ease. Have gratitude for your body breathing and the time and space to care for yourself. When something difficult comes up, don't rush to avoid it. Let it be just as it is and see where you can find concurrent joy. It's always right there for you. You can find a free audio meditation on joy and subscribe for weekly posts on Substack at innerspacestudio.substack.com/ Page Heenan is a yoga and meditation teacher with more than 20 years of experience. She is the founder of Inner Space Studio, a wellness resource. The Family Center provides free programs and resources that help build happier, healthier families. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org.

Happy New Year and the best to you and yours in 2025

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GROSSE POINTE Gabby



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

Avoiding uncomfortable holiday family gatherings

Dear Gabby: Every year my family gatherings are so awkward. It's either painful silence after dinner or arguments about Putin and politics. How can I avoid this other than canceling it altogether? — Fearful in the Farms

Dear Fearful,

Sometimes families and friend groups do better with some thoughtful planning. How about coming up

with a really simple game immediately following the meal? From charades to dice games to these tested and approved games reviewed by our very own Anna Lyzer — grossepointenews.com/articles/we-tried-it-55/ — you will be surprised how quickly the mood can turn festive and fun.

Another idea is for everyone to have a task post-dinner: maybe a few dish washers and dryers, a few dessert platters,

coffee makers, etc.

Turn on some music, get to work and enjoy each other while working together. Worst case, you will have a lot of chores tackled before the fights break out.

Best of luck to you and yours!

— Gabby

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



Merry Christmas to all

DEAR READERS: Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas. Please enjoy the following poem.



“A Visit from St. Nicholas”
by Clement Clarke Moore.

“Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;

And mamma in her ‘kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter’s nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow

Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

‘Now, Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Dunder and Blitzen!

To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!’

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.



As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a pedler just opening his pack.

His eyes — how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself;

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose;

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, And away they all flew like the down of a thistle,

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, ‘Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night.’”

*Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.
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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



With a new car and a steady rotation of pets, tween hockey players and other passengers, I knew I'd need serious seat protection to keep the leather looking good long-term.

After some searching, I ordered a two-pack of faux-leather car seat protectors from the Sunny Color Store on Amazon.

They're designed for the two captain's chairs in the second row, which are the seats that see the most use by kids, and I couldn't be happier with how they turned out.

Each protector comes with three pieces, one for the headrest, one for the seat back and one for the seat bottom. They attach easily with metal hooks at the bottom, keeping them snug and secure. Unlike the canvas seat protectors I've used before, which tend to get baggy and dirty, these sit smoothly against the seat and look high-quality.

They're made of soft, high-grade faux leather, which not only feels nice but is incredibly easy to wipe clean.



The protectors are black, matching the upholstery in my car perfectly, and installation was a breeze. At \$66 for a pack of two, they're worth every penny. Now, I feel confident my seats are protected and the car looks as polished as ever.

Overall, I'd give these seat protectors a solid 5 out of 5 alligators. They look great, feel durable and make it easy to maintain a clean, protected interior, which is exactly

what I was hoping for.

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

End of year snacks Courtesy of Mombeau's Table

This time of year I always bring out my favorite cookbook; "The Key to Kappa Cookery" by the Detroit East Suburban Alumnae Association of Kappa Kappa Gamma, 2000. I purchased this cookbook at The League Shop in the Village all the way back in 2000.

This book has so many familiar recipes from growing up. It's filled with recipe contributions from Michigan Kappa Kappa Gamma members that are tried and true, decades old and many, I can imagine, submitted by Grosse Pointe residents themselves.

It's one of those books that I always go to for comfort food cooking ideas.

I've included three below for you to enjoy and have on hand. I'll be making these in bulk this week for New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

They are all mostly make-ahead, easy to throw together and best for snacking.

Cheers to a flavorful New Year,

Mombeau

Hot Crab Appetizers

- 1 can crab meat
- 4 c. grated cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp chopped green pepper
- ¼ c. chopped green pepper
- ¼ c. mayo
- ½ tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 3 drops red pepper sauce (opt.)

1 loaf party rye bread, or 1 pkg. Butterflake dinner rolls

Mix all (but bread) together. Top each slice of bread with 1 tablespoon of crab mix. Bake in a preheated 375 degree oven for eight to 10

If using butterflake rolls, separate into thin sections and place on a greased baking sheet. Top with crab mix and bake for 12 minutes in a 375 degree oven.

Irene D. Cameron

Cucumber-Rye Sandwiches

- 1 pkg. party rye (pumpernickel)
- 1 (8oz.) pkg. fat-free cream cheese
- 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch party dip mix
- 1 cucumber
- Dill

Combine the cream cheese and Hidden Valley Party Dip mix. Spread the cream cheese mixture on pumpernickel bread.

Slice cucumber very thin and lay on cream cheese. Sprinkle with dill.

Sharon Mertz

Swedish Nuts

- 1 lb. pecan halves
- ½ c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 egg whites
- Dash of salt



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

Toast nuts in a 325 degree oven until light brown (20 to 25 minutes), stirring often. Melt butter in a shallow pan (10 ½ x 15 x 1-inch). Beat egg whites until

stiff, in a large bowl; then fold in sugar and salt and beat until stiff. Fold in the nuts and spread over butter.

Bake at 325 degrees, stirring every 10 minutes, until nuts are coated with brown

covering and no butter remains in pan. (About 25 to 30 mins). Cool. Don't panic; it will look like a mess until it is done!

Mary Leigh Herdegen

Orange wine, boxed wine and more

As the year comes to a close, a few wine topics should be addressed. Each could be examined in more detail, but here are my thoughts in brief.

"Orange wine?"

This relatively recent development is really a white wine in which the grape skins have been left in contact with the liquid. So instead of the wine being bright yellow or even white, it takes on an orange hue.

Orange wine originated in France's Jura wine region. There producers make wines called "vin jaune," yellow wine. Intentional oxidation creates a light sherry aroma.

A number of California wineries have explored this concept in the last few years, mostly with varying degrees of what I call non-success. But orange wines are improving. Such wines are different from what we are used to.

The best example of orange wine that I have tasted is from Bonny Doon winery in the Santa Cruz area. Winemaker Randall Gramh pioneered a novel approach to these wines. The best of them

sell for reasonable prices and are fascinating because they're almost red but still define white wine.

Boxed wines

Mostly these are good values, especially when you can buy three liters of sound wine for about \$6 per 750 milliliters. In general, the quality of wines in some of the more upscale boxes is higher than anything you can reliably find in large glass bottles.

Many companies now offer virtually foolproof bag-in-box packaging systems that carry better quality wine than ever.

Quality depends on which company made the wine. To determine the quality, ideally you should purchase four or five of them of the same varietal and do a blind tasting.

Since no one does this, let's look at the varietals.

The best value thus far is riesling, because there is plenty of good riesling fruit and the wine doesn't have to be aged in barrels.

I'm usually not a fan of chardonnay in these containers, but some red wines can be relatively good value. In general, the more

you spend for a boxed wine, the better the quality.

Alternatives to traditional wines

Barbera from the Sierra foothills can be downright fantastic, especially when paired with tomato-sauced pastas. Dozens of producers have so successfully made barbera that there is now a festival dedicated to the grape that sells out every year!

Gruner veltliner, though relatively new in this country, has an affinity for cool climates. The best versions are from Reustle Prayer Rock in Umpqua Valley. But at least a dozen more are being produced that are excellent.

Petite sirah is not a new variety, but it has become something of a cult wine, partially as a result of the decline in zinfandel sales. Sonoma County's Miro and Foppiano and a dozen producers in Mendocino County all are making phenomenal petite sirah wines.

"Holiday Wines"

Of course, sparkling wine is always festive, but I also look to offer guests

dry and off-dry rose wines. By the end of the year, many of these "summer wines" will have evolved into something more substantial, and some are like light reds.

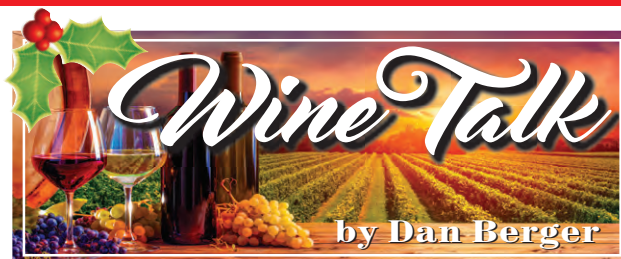
I also adore Beaujolais from France because of their lower tannins.

For a delightful medium-weight red, try grenache wines, notably those with lower alcohols (under 14%). At their best, decant them for an hour before pouring.

Alternative whites that are broadly appealing include Chenin Blanc, tropical-fruity albarino, riesling, gewurztraminer, and Italian whites such as vermentino, grillo, Arneis, and Verdicchio.

Wine of the Week: 2023 Bonny Doon Le Cigare Orange, Central Coast (\$16) — This fresh and appealing orange wine has an aroma of apricot and tangerine blossoms. The delicate citrusy taste is balanced by good fruit and has more substance to work nicely with seafood dishes. It can often be found discounted.

Dan Berger lives in Sonoma County, California,



by Dan Berger

where he publishes "Vintage Experiences," a weekly wine newsletter. Write to him at

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Roberto Urbina as Angel Waters in the 2023 movie "Deadland," directed by Lance Larson.

MOVIE REVIEW
 "Deadland"
 2023 - Not Rated
 1 hr 32 min
 ★★★★★

"Deadland" is a difficult film to classify and that's the beauty of it. It deals with immigration and border issues. It's also about family and estranged parents. However at its heart, it's really a haunting ghost tale. What I especially enjoyed about it is, not only does it keep you guessing about where it's going, you'll find yourself pondering just what actually transpired, long after you've seen it.

This is the directorial debut for Lance Larson who co-wrote the screenplay with the Director of Photography Jas Shelton. It's somewhat rare for a DOP to write, but it does explain why the visuals in the movie are so striking. What's more, the film features a cast of relatively unknown actors, who all turn in remarkably strong performances

here.

"Deadland" takes place in a small town on the Mexico-U.S. border, not far from El Paso, Texas. Border patrol agent Angel Waters (Roberto Urbina) is not your stereotypical enforcer. He's Mexican-American and his heart is in the right place. We first encounter him and his sidekick Ray Hitchcock (McCaul Lombardi) patrolling the border. One day they encounter a young Mexican teen with a truck-full of contraband. Instead of being a tough guy and arresting him, he advises the kid to go back home and stay out of trouble.

A while later, he's sent to investigate someone on the banks of the river, attempting to cross into the U.S. Angel warns The Stranger (Luis Chavez) not to go in the water because the current is dangerous. He's ignored and the stranger ends up drowning. Angel fishes him out of the river and puts him in a



Movie Poster.

body bag. While driving him back to the office, The Stranger shockingly comes back to life and tells him he needs to get

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

to El Paso where his family is expecting him. It's the beginning of a series of creepy encounters he and his fellow agents will have with The Stranger.

Angel drops The Stranger off at headquarters and is called home where his pregnant wife Hannah (Kendal Rae)

get a search warrant to check out Angel's home.

Like most good thrillers, there are a number of plot twists that will keep you on your toes. I don't think it's a coincidence that one of the characters is named Hitchcock. There are a couple of subtle nods to the great master of mystery. It all adds up to a beautifully crafted film that I found endlessly entertaining. I'll be keeping my eye out for more films by Mr. Larson. I must say he's certainly off to an impressive start!

Currently streaming for free with your library card on Kanopy. Also on Prime Video, The Roku Channel, and to rent on Apple TV.

Note to parents: The film is not rated but I'd probably give it a PG-13 for one bloody scene.



★★ 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.

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.



Angel (Urbina) questioned by ICE officials.



Angel's dream.



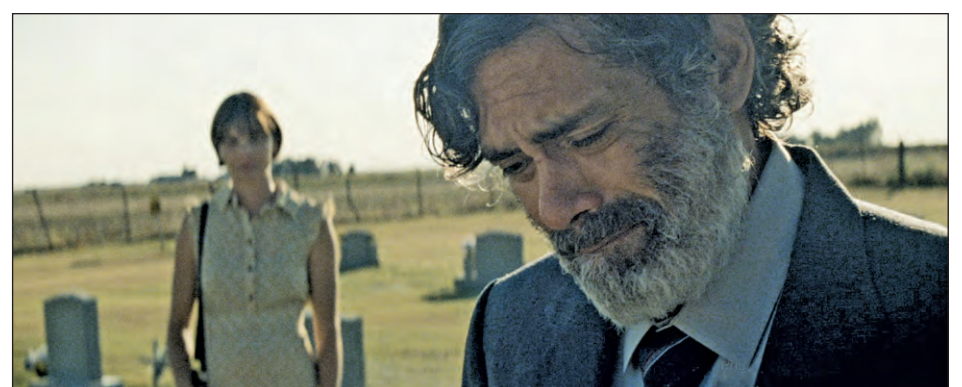
Ray Hitchcock (McCaul Lombardi).



Salome Veracruz (Julieth Restrepo).



The Stranger (Luis Chavez) back from the dead.



Hannah (Rae) and Angel's father Tito (Manuel Urtiza) at his wife's gravesite.

Start the new year with our gift to you



ONLY IN YOUR JANUARY 2nd GROSSE POINTE NEWS!

Enjoy stunning shots of home in this glossy gift calendar, our thank you for your subscription. Curated from the very best reader-submitted photographs taken by your neighbors and friends in the community — this useful gift will be a year-round tool that makes life a little more beautiful every day.

The calendar will be inside the 1/2/25 edition of the Grosse Pointe News with our best wishes for a great year ahead.

Grosse Pointe News

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Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, December 26, 2024: You are strong, reassuring and hardworking. You like to be busy. People rely on you. This year has been a time of fresh beginnings for you. Next year will be more laid-back and focused on meaningful relationships. Seek out people who have your best interests at heart.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)
This is a curious day, because in one way, you're eager to make travel plans and full of big ideas! However, an older authority figure, a parent or someone for whom you are responsible could make these plans impossible at the moment. Be patient. It will happen eventually. **Tonight:** Discouraged.

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)
This is a tricky day to discuss financial matters, because two opposing influences are at play. On one hand, you feel flush, especially because support from someone else or from your partner encourages you to think big! However, an old friend or a member of a group does not agree. **Tonight:** Check your finances.

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)
Today you might get mixed messages from others. A partner or close friend will be enthusiastic about what you want to do. This pleases you. Nevertheless, parents, bosses and authority figures are not on board. While you see what you can do, they see reasons that you can't. (Bummer.) **Tonight:** Patience.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)
Work-related travel is a possibility today. If so, do be aware of rules and regulations, which might put a crimp in your plans. Likewise, if you want to help someone, be aware of their belief system and their habits, which might be different from yours. (No biggie.) **Tonight:** Work.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)
Social plans, sports events and fun activities with kids will be a source of pleasure for you today. Nevertheless, responsibilities related to travel, the law or medicine might interfere with your plans to have a good time. Fortunately, relations with others are smooth. **Tonight:** Practice.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
This is a good day to talk to bosses, supervisors, parents and the authority figures in your world. By contrast, relations with a spouse, partner or close friend might be challenging. Perhaps someone is jealous. For some reason, someone doesn't approve. (Oh well.) **Tonight:** Compromise.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You're eager to communicate to others today. You feel friendly and enthusiastic! In fact, short trips or travel of any kind will give you a boost. Nevertheless, responsibilities related to work, your health or a pet can't be ignored. (You can handle this.) **Tonight:** Listen.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You might be shopping today, because the cash is flowing! This also might be due to the fact that someone could be generous to you either directly or indirectly through a

partner or someone else's wealth or assets. **Tonight:** Be thrifty.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
This is a great day to chat with close friends, partners and spouses, because you are happy with your world. Furthermore, you have something you are looking forward to. (Sagittarians always need to think something better is around the corner.) Don't ignore responsibilities at home. **Tonight:** Cooperate.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Be careful, because you might fall into worry mode today, even though issues related to your health and your job are positive. Nevertheless, you feel anxious. Remember: "Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but gets you nowhere." (But you knew that.) **Tonight:** Research.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
It's a popular day! People notice you, plus your interactions with young people as well as your own kids will be positive and high energy! The only downside is that whatever happens might cost you money and put a dent in your wallet. Actually, this goes with the territory, doesn't it? **Tonight:** Tolerance.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)
Discussions with parents, bosses, supervisors, authority figures as well as older family members will go well today. People are enthusiastic and ready to endorse your plans. Ironically, you might be the one who raises objections, primarily due to self-doubt and uncertainty about what is possible. Lighten up! **Tonight:** Show respect.

BORN TODAY
Actor Kit Harington (1986), actor Jared Leto (1971), drummer Lars Ulrich (1963).

Find 6 Differences In The Pictures



How Many Santas Do You See?



Find 8 Differences In The Pictures



Contract Bridge

TO COVER OR NOT TO COVER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 6 3
♥ 9 4 2
♦ 9 3
♣ 7 5 2

EAST
♠ 9 7 5 2
♥ Q 8 6 5
♦ J 6 4
♣ Q 9

WEST
♠ K 8
♥ J 7 3
♦ Q 10 8 5 2
♣ K 10 4

SOUTH
♠ J 4
♥ A K 10
♦ A K 7
♣ A J 8 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 NT
Opening lead — five of diamonds.

There is no magic rule that tells a defender when to cover an honor with an honor. The fact is that while it is usually best to cover an honor when declarer seems about to finesse, there are times when it is better not to do so.

Basically, the governing principle is to cover when it seems advantageous to do so, and to play low when it seems disadvantageous, but this advice is not very helpful because it leaves a great

deal to the discretion of the player.

Consider this deal where South wins the diamond lead with the ace and returns the jack of spades. Should West cover with the king or not? Clearly, the answer is yes. First, let's assume West ducks. Declarer wins, leads another spade and makes five spade tricks as well as four notrump.

Now let's suppose West covers the jack and that declarer wins with the ace and continues with the Q-10, hoping for a 3-3 division. When this fails to materialize, South scores only three spade tricks and winds up down one. The outcome is directly traceable to West's covering with the king, which in turn promotes East's nine into a stopper.

West covers because he cannot benefit in any way by ducking but is sure to gain at least one trick if he covers and East has any four spades.

It should of course be mentioned that if West covers the jack as he should, South has an effective countermeasure available. He simply allows West's king to hold the trick, refusing to stake the outcome solely on a 3-3 division. Allowing the king to hold guards against the more likely 4-2 break and enables South to score the four spade tricks he needs to make the contract.

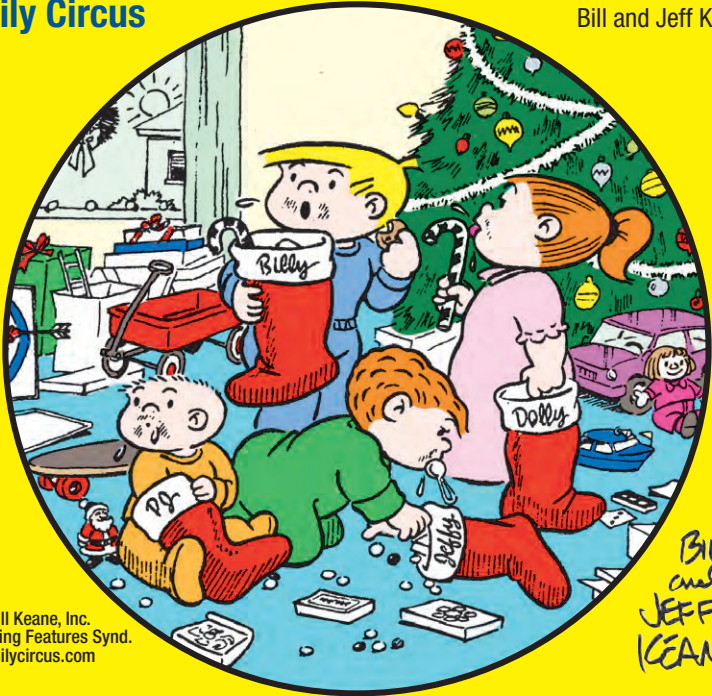
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

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Bill and Jeff Keane



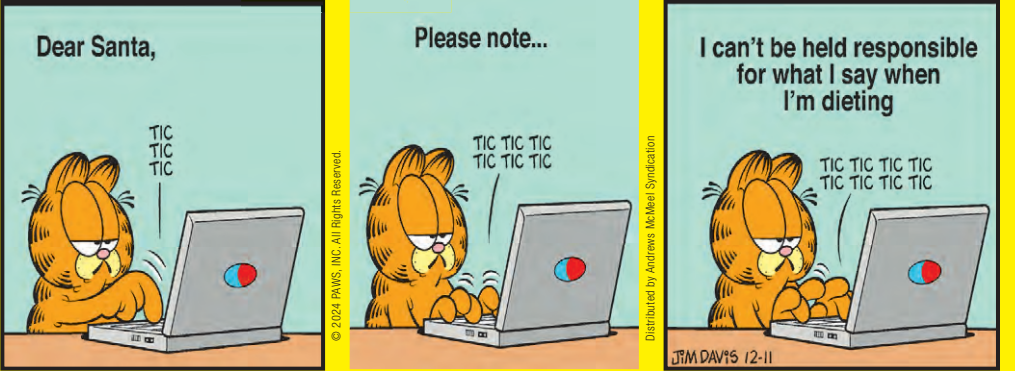
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Bill and Jeff Keane

"Aw, Mommy! We're not ready for breakfast yet!"

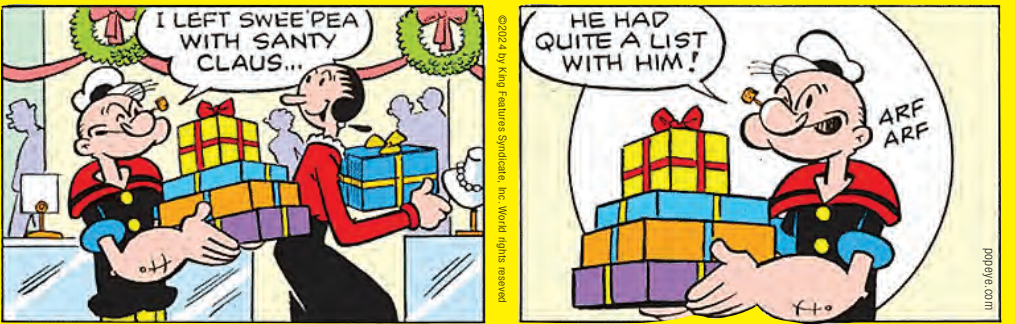
Garfield

Jim Davis



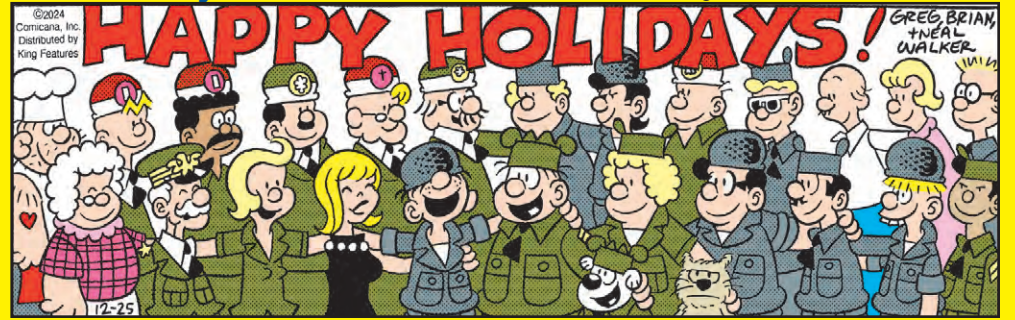
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



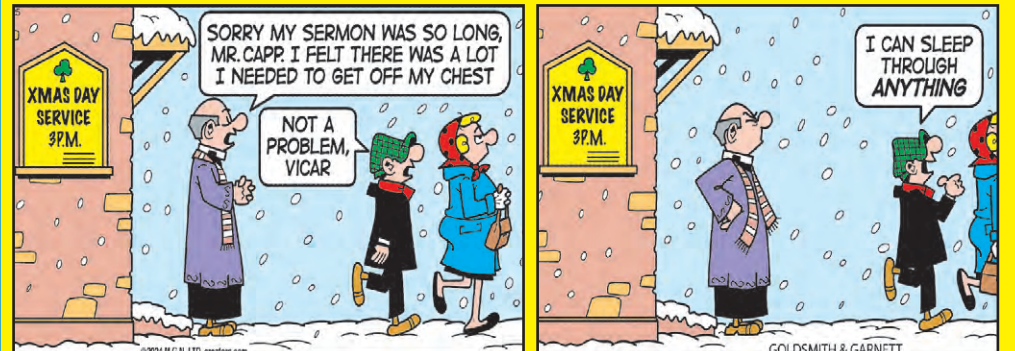
Over The Hedge

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

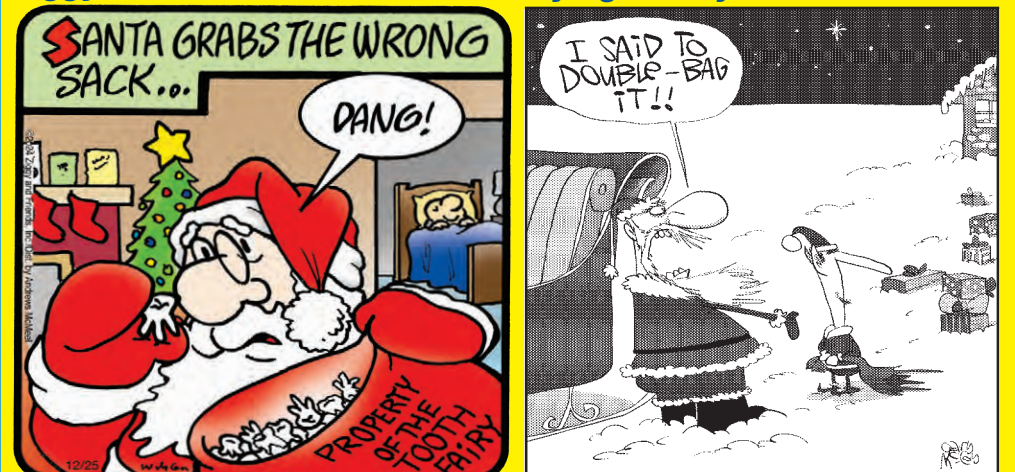


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

12/26

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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12/19 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg December 26, 2024

ACROSS

- Gala garb
- Against the Machine (funk metal band)
- Blackjack declaration
- Bowl berry
- Missing, briefly
- Impromptu, as a committee
- Underworld river
- San Diego's NWSL team, or an ocean motion
- "I love you," in Spanish
- "Nativity scene figure
- Break the rules
- What the Fountain of Youth combats
- Late Jackson 5 member
- Drag to court
- Roll of grass
- "They're far from harbors
- Patella's place
- Tattletale
- Deliverable for DIY genetic testing
- "2018 film featuring a prehistoric shark
- Japanese dogs
- Without delay
- A pop
- "Like a boring party
- Bathroom, in London

DOWN

- Graffiti artist's face covering
- MMA cage shape
- Fall by the
- Cynthia of "Sex and the City"
- Cutesy growl
- Basketball players that travel?
- State official: Abbr.
- Chooses, as a state official
- Loathe
- Concept
- "Don't worry about it"
- A parent
- Prefix with 51-Down
- Engineers Without Borders, e.g., briefly
- Where to do the do-si-do
- Drama-filled
- Aussie's college
- Balpark fig.
- Gift
- Journalist
- Curry
- Herb in stuffing
- Kitchen extension?
- 9000 ("2001" character)
- Like the most grimy chimney
- Pub brew
- "Lost" actor Daniel Dae
- "In my opinion ..."
- Alphabetical-first state
- Fill with crayons
- Pope's jurisdiction
- Network
- New bro's big sib, perhaps
- Group of plotters
- At any time
- Robin's construction
- Pegs on golf courses
- Impeccable service?
- Cereal container
- "Barbie" actress

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

12/19 Solution

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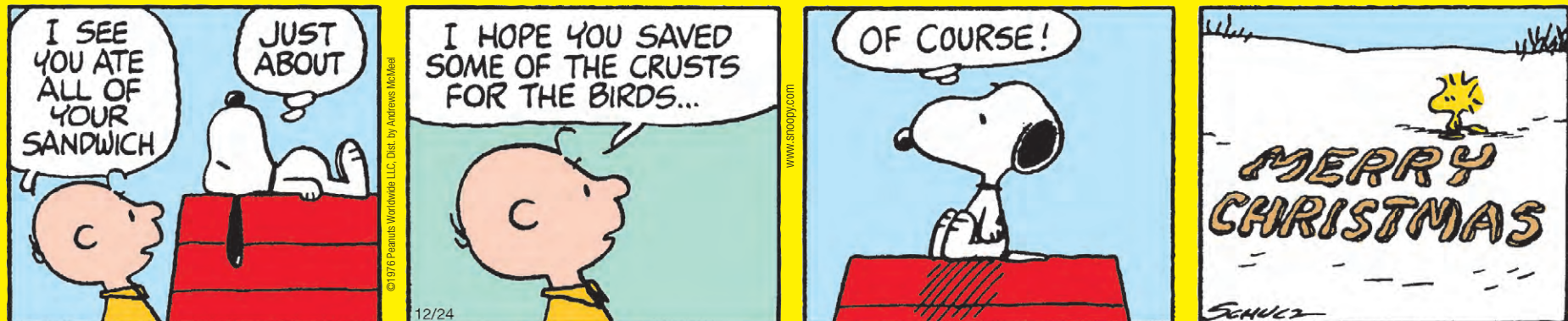
Special Delivery by Sam Acker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
					15				16				
14					18				19				
				21			22	23					
24					25	26			27	28	29		
				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		
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Comics

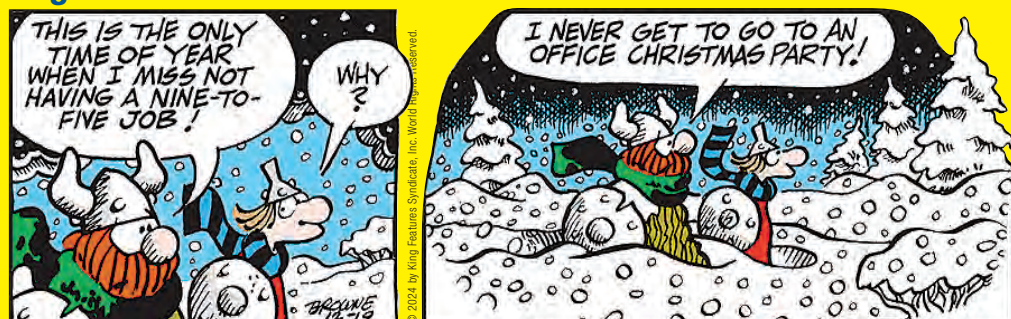
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



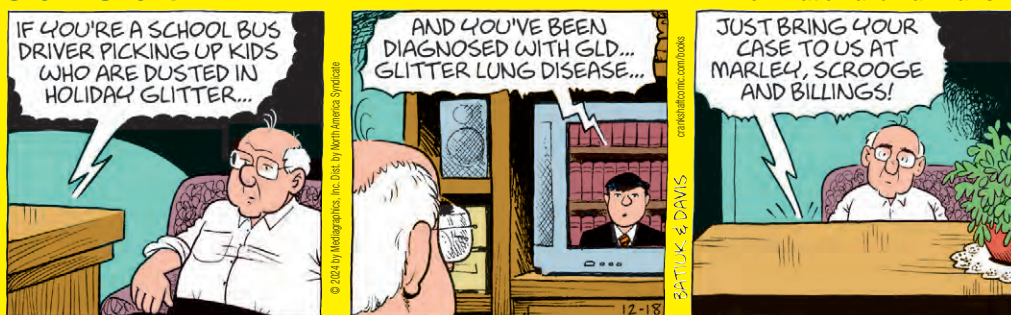
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



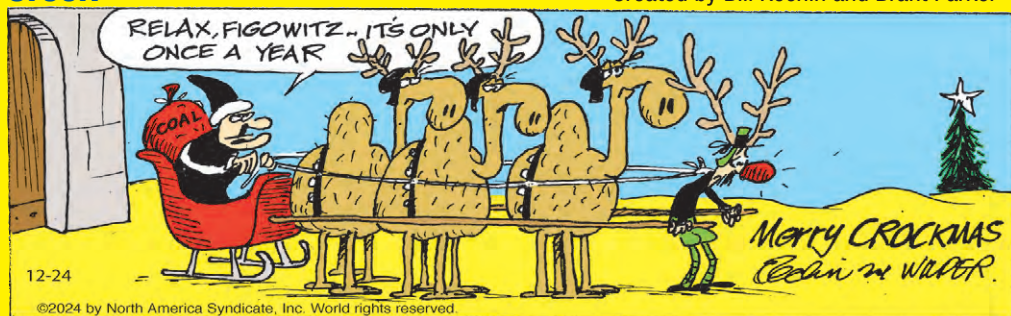
Crankshaft

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Dan Piraro and Wayno



Marmaduke

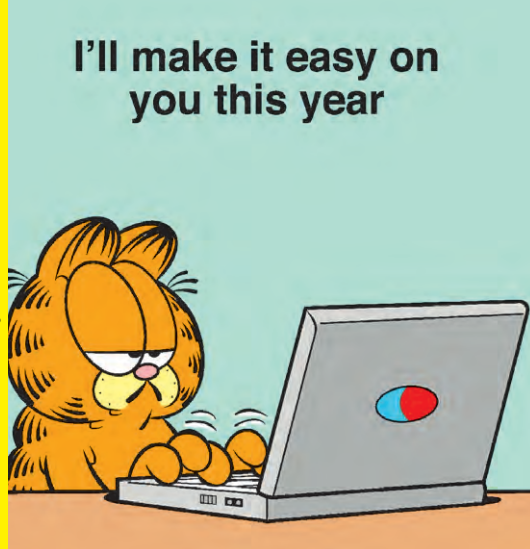
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Fast start helps propel North boys basketball over South in rivalry classic

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Dec. 16, 2021. Before Thursday, Dec. 19, that was the last time the Grosse Pointe North varsity boys basketball team beat crosstown rival

Grosse Pointe South. After back-to-back seasons where the Blue Devils had the upper hand, the Norsemen were able to use a fast start in last Thursday's action-packed rivalry game to ultimately come

away with a 56-50 win.

The game started with North jumping out to an 11-0 run. The early flurry of points for the Norsemen ended up being key, especially when playing on the road against their rival. The first quarter was dominated by North, leading 11-2 after the first eight minutes.

"As the first quarter progressed, something we did differently was we wanted to attack and not let them set up," North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said. "...We wanted to go at them and press them and we got a few turnovers off of that early and got a few buckets out of it...We tried to play fast all night."

The slow start at home for South did not keep them down too long. After not making a field goal in the first quarter, the Blue Devils bounced back in the second quarter trying to catch up and close the deficit. Both teams traded buckets in



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

The Norsemen Tide student section storms the court at Grosse Pointe South to celebrate North's rivalry win over the Blue Devils 56-50 on Thursday, Dec. 19.



North's Leo Perettie brings the ball up the court guarded by Nolan Gross from South.

the second quarter as South tried to narrow the gap before halftime. Going into the break, North still had the lead 25-18.

The Blue Devils came out in the second half and continued to move closer. The Norsemen were able to do enough to barely stay ahead, but

South hit key shots to continue shrinking the deficit, ultimately making it just 37-34 still in

See RIVALRY, page 2D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Cueter showcases speed, skill on ice for North girls hockey

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When she entered high school a few years ago, Josie Cueter was at a crossroads regarding hockey. She could either continue playing high-level travel hockey and prepare herself for a potential future playing in college and beyond, or join her friends on the varsity girls hockey team at Grosse Pointe North.

She chose the latter, joining the Norsemen as a freshman and never looking back. Now during her senior season, Cueter can reflect on her choice and be confident it was the right one for her.

"Playing on a travel team, it was a lot more about your future and

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Josie Cueter
School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Hockey
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doing all of these things and spending hours and hours to make it so that you can go somewhere in college and after," Cueter said. "Playing for a high school team, it's more about having fun in the moment and preparing for the next game and making sure that everyone on the team is

sistently has been at the top of the stat sheet for the Norsemen and among the top players in the entire state. Through 10 games so far this season, she has 34 points including 24 goals and 10 assists.

Cueter also is one of three senior captains along with defenseman Leanna Phillip and goalie Maddie Pflaum. They are some of the few veterans on this year's North team, but know how strong their chemistry is with how long they have been on the ice together. That bond is so strong that Cueter knows her out-

more included. ... During the high school season, it's more about the actual season and coming together as a team and playing well."

Since her freshman year, Cueter con-



PHOTO BY ELLIOTT JARVI

Senior Josie Cueter is serving as a captain of the North varsity girls hockey team this year and is the team's leading scorer through 10 games so far this season.

standing performances would not be possible without it.

"We always know where each other is going to be on the ice and know each other's speeds and what hand

everyone is," she said. "It's fun to work with them and it's more about how can we have fun out there and work with each other."

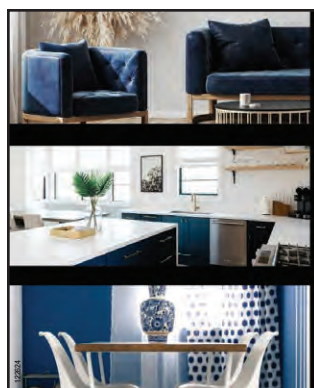
Cueter and her fellow captains have been

tasked this winter with leading a team made up of almost a majority of new players. While the veterans have been playing together a long time,

See ATHLETE, page 3D

Natural Born Scorer

- Leads North girls hockey with 34 points this season
- Has scored 24 goals and tallied 10 assists in 10 games
- Named Division 1 First Team All-State for girls hockey in 2023-24



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2D | SPORTS

South wrestling wins close 'Battle of the Pointes'

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Wednesday, Dec. 18, was a day the wrestling community in Grosse Pointe looks forward to every year. The Grosse Pointe South varsity wrestling team welcomed its crosstown rivals from Grosse Pointe North in what has come to be known annually as the Battle of the Pointes.

The match last Wednesday was as close as perhaps it ever has been. In the end, South emerged victorious with only a slight edge in points, beating the Norsemen 36-34.

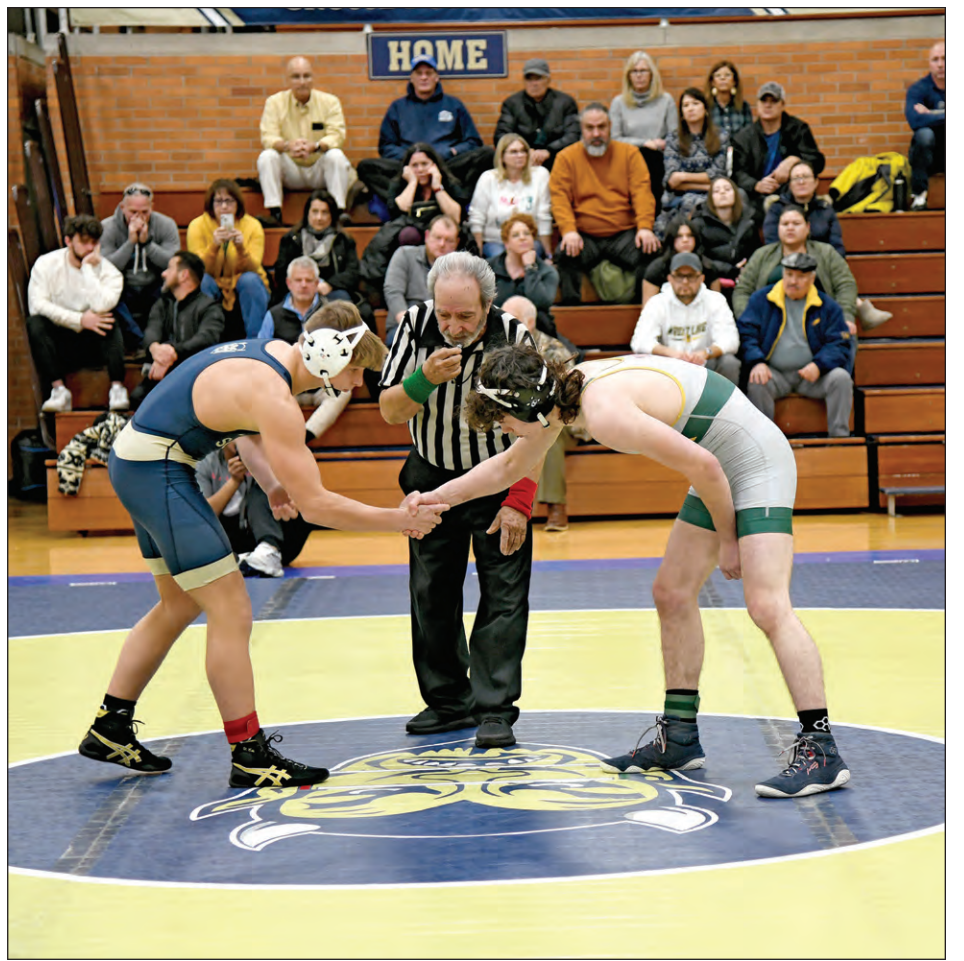
"My brother and I, we were North alumni and so it's kind of fun to coach against our old school and we know all

the coaches and kids on their team and when we're not competing, we're great friends," South wrestling head coach Dave Salazar said. "... This was probably the closest one we've had in several years because they have a lot of good wrestlers and we have a lot of good wrestlers. They match up in a way where we're strong, they're strong and it leads to a lot of excitement."

Veteran leadership was key for the Blue Devils in the win. On the winning side for South were Josh Lemanski, Lex Wilson, Mats Duffy, Dave Sutton, Peter Howlett, Mason Zentz and Wyatt Hepner. "Our seniors really stepped up and took care of business," Salazar

said. "Wyatt Hepner, Josh Lemanski and Lex Willson all had some great matches. Mason Zentz also had an outstanding match and was able to get us a pin as well. Those pins were huge because those two points ended up being the difference in the whole meet."

Both South and North wrestled in the Macomb County Tournament Saturday, Dec. 21, after press time. The Blue Devils take the mats again Friday, Dec. 27, in the Holiday Tournament at Stevenson High School. The Norsemen return to action in the new year, wrestling in the Individual Tournament at St. Clair High School Friday, Jan. 3.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

South's Wyatt Hepner, left, and Grady Mead from North shake hands ahead of their match in the Battle of the Pointes on Wednesday, Dec. 18.



Josh Lemanski from South stares down his opponent Derand Sako from the Norsemen.



North's Derrick Carter battles for position against David Sutts from the Blue Devils.

RIVALRY:

Continued from page 1D

favor of North at the start of the fourth quarter.

The drama continued in the fourth quarter as both teams continued trading blows. South kept the game close and trailed by a single possession a few times down the final stretch. The Blue Devils had chances to hit three-pointers late in the game, trying to tie or take the lead, but were unable to knock them down as the Norsemen hung on for the win.

"It meant a lot to these guys and I'm so happy and proud of them and my seniors," Johnson

said. "They've been working their tails off since the end of last March and this was one of the goals you set for your team at the beginning of every season. Beat your rival, try to win a league title and play your best ball at the end of the season. I'm proud of all the guys because they put a lot of time into it and they cashed in on the fruits of their labor."

Senior Dequan Howell led North in scoring with 12 points. R.J. Williams also reached double-digits with 10 points and fellow senior Leo Perettie had eight.

South sophomore Kooper Richards led all scorers with 22 points.

Senior James Michelotti had 15 for the Blue Devils in the loss.

Last Thursday was a clean sweep for the Norsemen in the rivalry showdown, as North's freshman and junior varsity teams won their games against South as well.

The win helped North improve to 5-3 this season. The Norsemen go on a break for the holidays before resuming action Friday, Jan. 3, hosting DeWitt at 2 p.m.

The loss for the Blue Devils was their second of the season. South faces Bloomfield Hills in the Motor City Roundball Classic Friday, Dec. 27, at Ferndale High School.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Kooper Richards steps up to the free-throw line in South's showdown against North on Thursday, Dec. 19. Richards was the game's leading scorer with 22 points.

Have a safe & happy holiday season!



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GO SOUTH!

South girls basketball unable to stave off Fraser comeback

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe South girls varsity basketball team is finding its footing in the season's first month. The Blue Devils entered their game Thursday, Dec. 19, 2-2 so far on the season, facing a matchup against an unbeaten Fraser team.

While South got out to a strong start and led for much of the first half, the Ramblers bounced back after halftime and ultimately kept their winning streak alive, taking down the Blue Devils 56-43.

Unlike some games, where teams might be flat on offense to start, South and Fraser came out swinging in last

Thursday's game. The teams combined for nearly 40 points in the first quarter and South ended up with the upper hand 20-16 after the first eight minutes.

The flurry of offense slowed down a bit in the second quarter, but South managed to stay ahead. A four-point lead for the Blue Devils after the first quarter

also was a four-point lead at the end of the first half, with South going into halftime up 30-26.

Things then started to change once both teams came out of the half-time locker room. South struggled offensively to begin the second half, which led to Fraser taking advantage. The Blue Devils managed only four points in the third quarter and what was a four-point lead at half-time turned into a five-point deficit going into the final eight minutes, with Fraser leading 39-34.

South was unable to regain the lead. Fraser continued to outpace the Blue Devils in the second half and ultimately pulled away to win by 13, improving the Ramblers' record to 4-0 so far this season.

Maddy Benard led South in the loss with 10 points. Catherine Patti had eight points and Ciara Pongratz scored seven.

The Blue Devils fell to 2-3 on the season after the loss to Fraser. South hosted Detroit Edison



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Maddy Benard had ten points for South in the team's loss to Fraser last Thursday, Dec. 19.



Madelyn Schwesinger looks to make a pass for the Blue Devils.

Monday, Dec. 23, after in the Motor City Roundball Classic at Ferndale High School. Tip-off is set for 4:30 p.m.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

they also must lead a group of underclassmen who are new to the game of hockey but will form the foundation for the future of North's program.

A task like that might be challenging at times. However, it also is something Cueter has seen as a blessing, giving her a new perspective on the game she has loved for so long.

"I've learned a lot that I've never seen in the sport of hockey before," Cueter said. "I've learned a lot of leadership and how to commu-

nicate, but having these new girls on the team has given me a new sense of hockey. It's helped me understand the game more because of how much I've explained to them. ...

'Scoring is a lot of fun, but I like to work with my teammates and getting assists is just as fun as getting goals.'

JOSIE CUETER, SENIOR, GP NORTH VARSITY GIRLS HOCKEY

It's made me a better player by being able to teach them and watch them."

Those new players

certainly can learn a lot from watching Cueter, who is among the top five in scoring in the state this season. The skill and style she brings to the ice have been a game-changer for the

Norsemen since she joined the team as a freshman. It helps that she is never intimidated by any moment or opponent and is able to stay focused and collected no matter what happens in a game.

"The thing I love to do most is just skating fast," Cueter said. "No matter where the puck is or what's happening on the ice, I just like to be skating. ... If we get scored on, I'm not one of those players who gets all mad or down. I think about how we can get it back and work together to score. I've never been too aggressive. ... Scoring is a lot of fun, but I like to work with



PHOTO BY ELLIOTT JARVI

Cueter has scored 24 goals and recorded 10 assists through 10 games so far this season. She was also named Division 1 First Team All-State in 2023-24 for her performance for the Norsemen last winter.

my teammates and getting assists is just as fun as getting goals."

With a few months left in her senior season, Cueter is focused on helping the Norsemen make a successful run this winter and also building the foundation for the future. Her legacy with North girls hockey will be remembered, but the leader-

ship she has been tasked with this season is going to make it even more important.

Cueter does not doubt she can help leave the program in a better place than when she joined as a freshman. She is not the only one striving toward that goal, as her fellow captains, seniors and coaches are trying to do

the same. Cueter is one of the biggest pieces in that movement and has proven invaluable with her leadership so far. Those at the helm of the program know Cueter will always be part of the history of North girls hockey for what she has helped the team build and achieve.

"She leads by example, inspiring her teammates with her hockey IQ and ability to rise to the occasion in critical moments, making her an invaluable asset to our team," North girls hockey head coach Taylor Shaheen said. "We were very slim on numbers with only eight returning players and no incoming freshmen, so Josie rose to the challenge and helped build the team with classmates who were interested in being part of a winter sport, especially a sport where Josie is the captain. Everyone loves Josie and if you ever have the chance to watch her play hockey, it is mesmerizing."

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE TO BIDDERS – GHESQUIERE PARK WALKING PATH – AEW PROJECT NUMBER 0160-0482. Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. For the base bid, work consists of approximately 0.5 miles of walking path construction as well as sidewalk ramp reconstruction and other related work. For the alternate bid, work consists of the placement of new HMA pavement on top of the existing tennis court surface and other related work. Plans and specifications must be obtained through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com. Plans will be available beginning Tuesday, November 26, 2024. An electronic, public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

G.P.N.:12/26/24

City of **Grosse Pointe Park**, Michigan

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VARIANCE REQUEST FOR ASIDE-YARD POOL AT 15450 WINDMILL POINTE DRIVE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Grosse Pointe Park will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall, Fourth Floor, 15115 E. Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230 on the following matter:

An application to the Grosse Pointe Park Zoning Board of Appeals requesting a variance to the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, Section 3.05(a) Swimming Pools by the owners of real property located at 15450 Windmill Pointe Drive, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230. The following variance is being requested:

Allow for construction of a swimming pool in a side yard.

Information concerning this request may be obtained from the Public Service Department during regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by calling (313)-822-4365. Written comments concerning this request will be received by the Public Service Department prior to the public hearing or by the Zoning Board of Appeals at the public hearing. Comments can be submitted via email at clerk@grossepointepark.org.

Bridgette Bowdler,
City Clerk

GPN: 12/26/24

City of **Grosse Pointe Woods**, Michigan

NOTICE TO BIDDERS – LAKE FRONT PARK BOAT LAUNCH PARKING LOT AND WEDGEWOOD RESURFACING – AEW PROJECT NUMBER 0160-0480.

Sealed bids will be received by the City at the office of the City Clerk, 20025 Mack Plaza Dr., Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. For Lake Front Park, the project consists of HMA pavement removal, earth excavation, storm drainage structures adjustments, HMA placement, pavement markings and miscellaneous related items of work. For Wedgewood, the project consists of 0.1 miles of road resurfacing. The resurfacing work involves HMA removal and resurfacing along the entire road width and other miscellaneous related items of work. This project also includes asphalt patching and concrete joint repair at various locations in the City. Plans and specifications must be obtained through BidNet Direct at www.bidnetdirect.com. Plans will be available beginning Wednesday, December 4, 2024. An electronic, public viewing copy is available on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website. Bids may be rejected unless made on the forms included with the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities in the bidding and to accept any proposals it deems to be in the best interest of the City.

Paul P. Antolin
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