

Grosse Pointe News

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2024 IN REVIEW

Park kept focus on infrastructure

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Another year and another focus on infrastructure improvements.

For the third consecutive year, infrastructure upgrades rated highly among municipal goals and accomplishments for 2024. Included were installing the extreme emergency relief valve to divert unmanageable volumes of rainwater into Lake St. Clair, plus development of a five-year capital improvement plan.

Also concluded during the year was passage of a completely rewritten and updated zoning ordinance, including first-ever regulations of short-term rental property.

This is the year in review:

January

◆ Frustration shows in the grimaces of some Park council members listening to an auditor explain why the city's financial statements were out of whack.

The main problem is the since-discontinued practice of debiting revenue accounts, namely nearly \$1 million worth of promised but unreceived federal grant money to offset stormwater flooding cleanup costs during the summer of 2021.

◆ Jurists with the Michigan Court of Appeals reverse a Wayne County Circuit Court judge and agree to address suits prompted by flooding during the summer of 2021.

"It's a procedural victory, but the Court of Appeals recognized that

See PARK, page 2A

2024 IN REVIEW

Lower taxes a high point in the Shores

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Lower taxes and reduced utility bills were the highlights of 2024.

This is the year in review.

January

◆ Council receives an

unmodified opinion, the best available, on its audit for the 2022-23 fiscal year budget. Revenue increased from \$5.6 million to \$6.2 million over the previous year and fund balance grew 13.5 percent, to \$2.8 million.

February

◆ Five public safety officers are honored at

the February council meeting. Sgt. Zef Bojaj receives the Director's Award, which is given to the officer who "consistently exceeds the job description and performs at a level not bound by what is expected, but is required for the efficient operation of the department," Director Ken Werenski said. Lt. Ron

Coste and Officers Paul Morang and Dan Kolar receive the Life Saving Award, while Officer Jeff Roybal, the 2021 recipient of the Director's Award, receives a Certificate of Merit.

March

◆ Deputy Clerk Tom

See SHORES, page 9A



Christina and Michael McAlinden with daughters Ella, Kaitlyn and Molly.

COURTESY PHOTO

Community rallies around family devastated by fire, mom's death

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — The McAlinden family already was facing an uphill battle when their Grosse Pointe Woods home burned down Nov. 2.

"There's just bad news coming from every direction," Michael McAlinden told the Grosse Pointe News at the time. "This is the last thing I thought would happen."

Weeks later, on Thanksgiving Day, his wife and the mother of their three daughters, Christina, passed away from breast cancer.

"The community has done so much for us, I'm at a loss for words," McAlinden said.

It was determined the

fire was caused by dryer lint, even though McAlinden made sure it was off before leaving the rental home on Brys before going to see Christina in the hospital.

Daughters Ella, 15,

on our backs, literally."

Because of the cost associated with Christina's treatment, the family had foregone renter's insurance.

Neighbor Liz Priebe, who discovered the fire

"I'd like to thank everyone," said McAlinden, a plumber at Wayne State University, "but there are no addresses on GoFundMe and most of the donations were anonymous."

Other donations poured in as well.

"People were dropping off clothes, food, everything," McAlinden said. "We also got a ton of help from the schools and the teachers."

Christina had worked as a paraprofessional at Grosse Pointe North High School before her diagnosis. Emily DeBets, a fellow paraprofessional at North, had been driving the girls to and from school — Ella at North and Kaitlyn and Molly at

See RALLIES, page 3A

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in Section C

Farms sees steady annual audit

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — Though the Farms again received an unmodified audit opinion for fiscal year 2023-24, it also got a blip on its record with one minor finding needing to be brought back into compliance.

One report related to a \$1.1 million sewer separation FEMA grant, a Plante Moran representative explained, was based on estimates rather than actual numbers, which made it not equal to the books and records.

"It was the final quarter of the last fiscal year and typically at the end of the year we know there's expenses coming in," City Manager Shane Reeside explained. "... So it was an estimate that went through that last quarter because we were toward the end of the fiscal year."

"We know that in the

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Pointer of INTEREST

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Andrea Krausmann

Home: Grosse Pointe Park
Rescuing and rehoming golden retrievers for 18 years.



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PARK:

Continued from page 1A

these need to be heard,” says Paul Doherty, an attorney representing plaintiffs.

◆ City council meetings are known to drone on, but officials quickly accept a nearly \$26,000 donation for the public safety department to own and operate an unmanned aerial vehicle.

The \$25,794 donation is the latest from the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Foundation.

◆ Crime-fighting automotive license plate readers could be installed throughout the Park and sister suburbs by summer.

A campaign to privately finance a network of license plate recognition cameras is the latest project of the newly formed Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Public Safety Foundation.

“We have locations where we’d like to place them if and when we get the funds to do so,” says Dan Jensen, foundation executive director and retired Farms public safety director.

◆ Contract negotiations with two public safety unions bear fruit without labor pains.

The council ratifies five-year contracts with patrol and command officers unions. Terms are the same: a 20 percent pay increase over the life of the agreements and the implementation of defined contribution retirement plans for new hires.

“I think we’ve achieved our goals in making sure we are moving forward in the right direction on multiple fronts,” Mayor Michele Hodges says.

February

◆ Among the city manager’s goals for the year are bringing online the flood-fighting extreme emergency relief valve, which is installed at Patterson Park and awaiting testing; completing a multi-year capital improvement plan and adopting a new zon-



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Auggie Mascianica with his mom, Patty and sister Thea on a ride during Kercheval After 6 in July.

ing code that includes rules and regulations for short-term rentals.

◆ Housekeeping by the city’s new clerks uncovers nearly 500 registered voters who are on their way to being purged.

“The inbox for the Qualified Voter File hadn’t been touched for a while,” says Danielle Caudill, assistant city clerk, hired the previous fall in tandem with new city Clerk Bridgette Bowdler. “Basically, I took on the role of catching that up.”

“We want to make sure everyone’s registered as legit,” Bowdler says.

◆ Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson tours the early voting site at Grosse Pointe Park City Hall. This election cycle is the first having nine consecutive days of statewide early voting, which voters sanctioned by passing Proposal 2 in 2022.

March

◆ The regional water authority’s rate hike for the upcoming fiscal year will trickle down to individual customers.

The Park is among 128 Southeast Michigan communities in eight counties buying drinking water from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), which announced a 3.25 per-

cent water rate increase starting July 1.

GLWA also announces a 3 percent rate increase to handle wastewater for its 75 member jurisdictions, among which are all the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

◆ Comprehensive maintenance of the municipal marina consists of removing wood dock risers, replacing rub rails, replacing the marina-wide dockside non-potable water distribution system and repainting the inside of the outer breakwall above the main walkway.

◆ Solutions, not a recitation of problems, are what the new city council liaison wants from the recreation commission.

“I am really adamant about this commission moving forward,” Councilman Tom Caulfield tells the group during a public meeting.

April

◆ Three sycamore trees freshly planted at the head of Windmill Pointe Drive are only the beginning.

“We have 97 more to go,” says Brian Colter, city forester.

Some 100 sycamores are due for planting in the Park this year, courtesy of resident Paul VanTol and the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation.

VanTol is donating the trees. They are among 300 he planted six years ago in Macomb County with the intention of giving them to the city.

◆ Civil action against the group constructing a performing arts center straddling the Park-Detroit border demands a portion of the partially-built, 49,000-square-foot structure be removed because it blocks access to a Wayne County storm drain.

Litigants allege the center, on Jefferson between Maryland and Alter, encroaches more than 80 percent into the Fox Creek Drain’s 100-foot easement.

◆ Nearly a half-decade of inconsistent, hit-or-miss, is-it-open-or-not, do-you-feel-lucky concession stand operations at Windmill Pointe Park is over — either that or chuck the whole mess.

“We’ve had four years of terrible results at that place,” Caulfield says.

“If we have another season full of no communication, unclear expectations and frustration, my recommendation will be a perfectly consistent no concession stand,” Commissioner Howard Bouton says.

Commissioners begin greater oversight of the recreation department’s operations and planning.

◆ Grosse Pointe’s Congressman Shri Thanedar, D-Detroit, announces approval of a \$1,666,279 federal grant to assist the city in constructing an extreme emergency relief valve.

The grant is nearly 70 percent more than the \$1,050,000 Thanedar forecast in February.

“This is the result of relationships and working collaboratively,” Hodges says. “The congressman was willing to listen to us. He acted in a very impactful way on our behalf.”

May

◆ Adding to the little growing things at Defer Elementary School is a white flowering crabapple.

Five student members of the school’s Green Team help plant the six-foot sapling on the front lawn near the greenhouse.

◆ A remote-control gizmo is being made part of the electric grid to reduce power outages and fix them quickly when they happen.

“It’s a device attached to a utility pole that opens and closes a circuit from DTE’s headquarters instead of somebody manually having to go up on a pole,” Sizeland says.

The equipment operates as an industrial-strength circuit breaker.

◆ Catherine Palmer fidgets, thinks hard and tells the city council why she included a quote about shade in her poster that won this year’s Arbor Week Poster Contest among Park third and fourth graders. “When it’s really hot in the summer, you need a lot of shade,” Palmer says.

She and fellow classmates, Maria Bourdane and Cicily Filippone, from Christine Bergeron’s combined grades three-four magnet class at Defer Elementary School received mayoral resolutions for sweeping the 41st annual poster contest.

June



From left, Dylan McGovern, Carter Hutchcraft, Lucas Wagner and Jack Campbell act out a scene during a summer theater program for youth in the community.

◆ City officials won’t let windows broken by vandals at Trombly Elementary School, closed since 2020 due to declining enrollment, represent decay in the neighborhood.

Councilman Caulfield says opportunities to reopen the school brightened with the Board of Education’s unanimous hiring six months ago of Superintendent Andrea Tuttle.

School officials fixed the windows within days.

◆ A Saturday in late August is the next big opportunity for volunteers to continue restoring the more than 30-year-old wooden playscape at Patterson Park.

“That will be our sealing day,” says James Ceuninck, co-chair of the recreation commission’s playscape subcommittee.

“One hundred people signed petitions (to save the playscape),” says Caulfield, liaison to the commission.

Some 1,200 residents volunteered in one way or another to build the playscape in 1991.

◆ The city’s new playscape at Windmill Pointe Park comes with a prescription for fun.

Two consultants from the world of child kinesiology — one, a health system professional; the other, a community center youth activities director — helped plan the structure which, since its unofficial installation last winter, begins fulfilling its donors’ goal.

The roughly \$400,000 playscape was the latest of nearly 30 privately-funded foundation gifts to the city since the group kicked off in 1986 with the Tompkins Center, also at Windmill.

July

◆ TIFA representatives chart a course to land a Charlevoix streetscape grant \$400,000 greater than hoped.

“The key is to have a good strategy and plan,” says John Hughes, chairman of the Tax Increment Finance Authority during planning the streetscape and federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant opportunities. “It was not difficult to include things the grantors were looking for because those were things we wanted anyway.”

City officials hoped to receive up to \$1.4 million toward the \$4 million forecasted cost of streetscape construction. Instead, Sizeland announces receiving not only the full amount requested, but an extra \$400,000.

The total figure of \$1.8 million is \$200,000 shy of the city’s goal of funding at least half of the Charlevoix project through grants.

◆ A garage fire in the 1400 block of Lakepointe spreads to a neighboring house, destroying both. Losses are blamed

See PARK, page 8A

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15139 KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE PARK

Authorities share tips on how to prevent lithium-ion battery fires

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTE AND DETROIT — Inside Detroit’s Engine House 32 on Jefferson just outside the Park, local and state fire authorities last month met with the aim to preempt lithium-ion battery fire safety risks through and beyond the holidays.

“The Detroit Fire Department wants to make sure no Christmas gift leads to disaster for any of our residents,” Executive Fire Commissioner Chuck Simms said in a release. “We want to ensure residents have the information they need to make good decisions to keep their families safe.”

Lithium-ion batteries are increasingly being used and commonly can be found in laptops, cell phones, electric scooters and bikes, onewheels and yard tools.

Because the batteries store significant energy in a small amount of space, when that energy is released in an uncon-



PHOTO BY LAUREL KRAUS

Local fire authorities present on lithium-ion battery safety at Detroit’s Engine House 32 Monday, Dec. 9. From left, City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Director John Alcorn, Detroit Executive Fire Commissioner Chuck Simms, Detroit Fire Marshal Don Thomas, State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier and Ferndale Fire Chief Teresa Robinson.

trolled manner, it generates heat, which can turn certain internal battery components into flammable and toxic gases.

This is known as thermal runaway — when the battery overheats, starts

to give off gases and spontaneously combusts into fire.

“These devices are part of our everyday lives and they’ve been a part of our everyday lives for decades, so inherently

they are safe,” Detroit Fire Marshal Don Thomas said. “But during this time of year — more specifically any time of year and every season — we

See FIRES, page 9A

AUDIT:

Continued from page 1A

future it will be the actual number. And the second part of it is that that report will be reviewed separately by our assistant accountant in the finance department, so we have an extra check.”

The audit also reported, in the city’s general fund, its total fund balance increased by \$266,925 over the prior fiscal year to \$6,922,499.

The city brought in \$19.1 million in general fund revenue, 74 percent of which was from property taxes. Equating to 6.7 percent, state revenue sharing saw a minor increase and the city also received state grants for sending public safety officers to the police academy.

At 0.1 percent, the city received \$16,800 in federal grants for bullet-proof vests and election operations.

Expenditures for the fiscal year totaled \$18.8 million, with the largest chunk, 40 percent, going toward public safety costs.

Capital investment clocked in at \$6.3 million, split between:

- ◆ \$2.8 million in road improvements;
- ◆ \$1.1 million in water main and lead surface

line replacements;

- ◆ just south of \$1.1 million in seawall repairs funded by a state grant;
- ◆ \$423,000 in Pier Park projects, including the pickleball courts and a new roof on the pavilion;
- ◆ \$291,000 for a new tractor, tire balancer and two rubbish carts for public works;
- ◆ \$177,000 in city hall investments, including the final payments on a court entryway remodel, second-floor bathroom remodel and HVAC upgrades in the dispatch center;
- ◆ \$132,475 for LED lighting in the municipal lot on The Hill, as well as Hill planter box rebuilds;
- ◆ \$60,000 in technology improvements for integration of a new phone system with dispatch;
- ◆ and \$50,000 for police equipment, including body cameras, turnout gear, breakroom equipment and a thermal camera.

Although water usage was down roughly 8.4 percent from the prior fiscal year, the water and sewer fund saw its net position increase by \$1.7 million because of increased investment in capital assets with water mains, lower pension and retiree healthcare liability and paying down long-term debt.

The city’s pension and retiree healthcare funding levels continue to increase, with general pension 95 percent funded, public safety pension 113 percent funded, general retiree healthcare 78 percent funded and public safety healthcare 89 percent funded.

“The state wants you to be at least 60 percent on pension, 40 percent on healthcare, so we’re well exceeding those amounts,” Finance Director Tim Rowland said, “and we’re probably, as the mayor said prior to the meeting, even top 0.3 percent of all cities in the state of Michigan with our funding levels here.”

For its audit, the city received a certificate of achievement for excel-

lence in financial planning from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 31st consecutive year.

“In the report that Plante Moran gave us, they noted the city has maintained a strong financial position as a result of cost-cutting measures, consolidating services with surrounding communities and management’s prudent budgeting practices,” said Lev Wood, councilman and chair of the budget and audit committee. “And those prudent budget practices have meant low debt for us, (as well as) strong public safety and general employee retirement funds. Our AAA bond rating reflects all of this, of course, too.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELE HODGES

Even at low tide, the tidal basin surrounding Mont St. Michel is a soggy place.

Time, tides in France

MONT ST. MICHEL, FRANCE — In a medieval abbey described as being trapped by tides and time, tourists sometimes get swept up in the moment.

Getting swept up in French history is fine. It’s getting swept away that people have to worry about at Mont St. Michel.

It almost happened to Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges.

During her family vacation to France this holiday season, she and a daughter found themselves in a rented car stranded in the tidal pool surrounding 1,300-year-old Mont St. Michel on the northwest coast of Normandy.

Access to the abbey, built on an island in a bay, is by foot or shuttle bus, le Passeur. Visitors must time their transits across a 2,450-foot

bridge that floods twice-per-day during high tides — up to 45 feet — cutting off access from the mainland.

“Thank goodness we are safe now,” Hodges said mid-morning Tuesday, Jan. 7, mid-afternoon in France. “They were able to get us out. It was pretty scary for a while.”

Upon being towed to dry land, Hodges planned to continue sightseeing.

“We will be at ‘Les Braves’ either yet today or tomorrow,” she said.

“Les Braves” is a sculpture honoring Allied soldiers that landed on Omaha Beach during D Day.

A twin sculpture, “Les Braves II,” was installed in 2023 on the back lawn of The War Memorial in Grosse Pointe Farms.

— Brad Lindberg

The Week Ahead

MONDAY, JAN. 13

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Tree Board meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Finance Committee meeting, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Citizens’ Recreation Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

- ◆ Grosse Pointe Park Tax Increment Finance Authority meeting, 7 p.m.

RALLIES:

Continued from page 1A

Parcells Middle School — during Christina’s frequent hospital stays.

At the same time Jack Bruce, DeBets’s father and former executive director of the Neighborhood Club, was able to coordinate further efforts.

“I didn’t know Michael, but his father and I graduated together from Austin (Catholic Preparatory High School) in 1961,” Bruce said. “I told Michael, ‘let me be your assistant.’”

Bruce, president of the board of Motor City Mitten Mission, was able

to use one of the group’s trucks to move donated furniture and other home goods to an apartment on Vernier the family was able to secure.

“It’s nice,” McAlinden said. “It has three bedrooms, so we don’t have all the girls in one room fighting over things. It’s also a great location near the schools.”

Bruce called the experience, “a tribute to humanity.”

“The generosity of this loving community always comes through,” he said.

McAlinden said he’s still amazed.

“We’re forever grateful,” he said. “I just want to thank everyone.”

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Golden hearts in action

Grosse Pointe woman’s dedication to rescuing, rehoming golden retrievers

By Anne Gryzenia
Publisher

When Andrea Krausmann and her husband, Jim, adopted their first golden retriever puppies years ago, they had no idea how profoundly these dogs would shape their lives. From the moment they brought home their first rescue dogs, Dodge and Sassy Sierra, in 2006, their passion for these loyal, loving companions grew into a lifelong mission. Her involvement with GRRoM began with a startling discovery: the number of golden retrievers in need of

rescue. “After adopting two puppies from breeders and one from a shelter, Jim and I found GRRoM and were amazed at how many goldens

“I always say that goldens are the unofficial mascot of Grosse Pointe.”

ANDREA KRAUSMANN
Grosse Pointe Park

needed homes,” she said. “We were equally impressed by the work GRRoM volunteers do, from fostering and medical care to ensur-

ing each dog finds the right home.”

That initial connection with GRRoM led to a full-fledged commitment. The Krausmanns began volunteering at adoption awareness events, walking in parades and participating in fundraisers. Over time, Krausmann took on increasingly active roles, transporting surrendered dogs, conducting interviews and home visits with potential adopters and fostering golden retrievers at her home.

Eighteen years later, her dedication remains unwavering. In January 2024, she joined the

GRRoM board as its director of foster training, continuing her hands-on work with interviews, home visits and dog transports.

“Volunteering with GRRoM is incredibly fulfilling,” she said. “Placing a dog into the perfect home and seeing the joy it brings both the dog and their new family — it never fails to melt my heart.”

Over the years, the Krausmanns have adopted five golden retrievers from GRRoM, including their current companions, Lexi and Molly. Each dog comes with a story, but Lexi’s is particularly poignant. “Her owner passed

away during the pandemic and she was named in the obituary as her companion,” Krausmann said. “We feel so blessed to have adopted her. She’s a gem.”

Founded in 1991 as a committee within the Fort Detroit Golden Retriever Club, GRRoM became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in 2000. Today, the rescue is run entirely by volunteers — roughly 250 strong — spread across Michigan. In 2024 alone, GRRoM rescued 99 golden retrievers and found loving homes for 95, while spending nearly \$100,000 on medical care.

“Our average cost per dog is \$1,500,” Krausmann said. “Every dog is vetted and many have medical or behavioral issues that need to be addressed before adoption. We’re proud that so much of our funding goes directly to the care of these dogs, thanks to our incredible network of volunteers.”

Volunteers handle every aspect of the rescue process, from reviewing applications to transporting dogs and fostering them. Krausmann emphasized the critical role foster families play in GRRoM’s success. “They’re our angels,” she said. “Fosters provide love, patience and care while learning everything they can about the dog to ensure



COURTESY PHOTOS

Andrea Krausmann with Molly in her lap and Lexi looking at her.

the best possible placement.”

While the work is rewarding, it’s not without its challenges. Krausmann recalled transporting a surrendered dog on Christmas Eve 2023. The owner had lost his home and could not bring the dog to the shelter with him.

“I cried the entire drive to the foster home,” she said. “But I knew the dog would be safe and loved.”

For Krausmann, the emotional moments are outweighed by the joy of successful adoptions. One standout story is that of Casey, a GRRoM rescue that was adopted by Grosse Pointe residents Mollie and Dave Keuten.

“Casey went on to become a therapy dog at Grosse Pointe North High School,” Krausmann said. “Seeing him bring comfort and happiness to students is a testament to the incredible potential these dogs have when given a second chance.”

As GRRoM continues to grow, the organization remains focused on raising awareness and funds through events like its annual golf outing and winery fundraisers.

“We’re always looking for more volunteers and donations,” Krausmann said. “Every little bit helps us rescue, restore and re-home these beautiful goldens.”

For those considering adoption, she offered a

reminder: “Our process may seem strict, but it’s all about ensuring the best match for the dog and the adopter. Every dog deserves a loving, permanent home where they can thrive.”

She also said sometimes adopting an older dog is a beautiful thing, as not having to train a puppy and knowing about the history and personality of the dog can be extremely valuable.

When Krausmann isn’t working with GRRoM, she enjoys scrapbooking, baking and walking her dogs around the Pointes. A Grosse Pointe resident since her marriage in 1990, she said she treasures the close-knit community and the convenience of living in a small town. Many of her husband’s extended family — there are 34 cousins — live in the Pointes and they enjoy spending time together.

Reflecting on her nearly two decades of rescue work, Krausmann credits her fellow volunteers for making it all possible.

“I’ve never encountered a more passionate, dedicated group of people,” she said. “We all speak the same language: the language of love for these incredible dogs. It’s what keeps us going.”

For more information on Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan, including how to volunteer, donate or adopt, visit grrom.com.



The Golden Retriever Rescue of Michigan was well-represented during the 2024 Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Santa Claus Parade.

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Unlocked cars invite thieves

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Criminals had a field day breaking into parked cars during the closing nights of last year.

Although breaking into cars is the colloquial classification for larceny from a motor vehicle, most cases reported in the city toward the end of 2024 can be grammatically rated as entering parked cars. No breaking was needed. All but one of the entered vehicles were unlocked.

Incidents began the night of Dec. 23 or early

Christmas Eve. They ended one week later with the arrest of a 61-year-old Detroit man shortly before 10 p.m. Dec. 30, in the 1300 block of Maryland.

“Officers responded to a report of a suspect going through vehicles,” according to police. “After a brief pursuit, the suspect was arrested. (He was) in possession of stolen property from multiple vehicles.”

The alleged perpetrator hasn’t been arraigned. Nor was he on the docket for this week’s session of munic-

City of Grosse Pointe

Lululemon threat

When a Lululemon employee inquired to a group about a skirt that was in their shopping bag but not paid for at 4:15 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, one woman among the group made threats. The suspect is described as a black woman in her mid 40s.

Porch pirate

A package containing an electric bike basket worth \$79 was stolen from a front porch in the 700 block of Notre Dame at 1:40 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, approximately 20 minutes after it was delivered.

Domestic

Officers broke up a fight on Neff between family members arguing over money after drinking alcohol at 12:01 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30.

Fraud

An unknown person fraudulently used a Panera Bread account and attached debit card to order three deliveries to Detroit addresses at 11:20 a.m. Monday, Dec. 30.

Intoxication

A 29-year-old Detroit man was arrested for operating while intoxicated after being stopped for speeding at Mack and Notre Dame at 3 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5.

— Laurel Kraus
Report information

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Stolen Kia

A white Kia Optima was stolen from the 100 block of Lakeview between 4 and 8:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27. The owner is unsure whether it was locked.

Cut lights

Christmas lights on a home on Stanton were cut overnight Thursday, Dec. 27.

Resisting

Refusing to accept there was a felonious assault warrant for his arrest out of Detroit, a 69-year-old Detroit man had resisting and obstructing officers added to his charges after he was pulled over at Mack and Moross for having multiple tabs on his license plate at 2:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28.

Small reward

A Kia Optima parked in a driveway in the 400 block of Allard had its window broken overnight into Sunday, Dec. 29. Pry marks also appeared to be on the window frame, though the only thing missing

from the vehicle was approximately \$2.50 in change.

Shattered

After hearing a loud bang at 12:49 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 1, a neighbor discovered the back window of a vehicle in the 300 block of Merriweather had been shattered. The police report noted the damage was consistent with a bullet, but no bullet was located. The vehicle was locked and the remainder of it appeared unbothered.

Stolen iPad

An iPad was stolen from an American House Grosse Pointe resident around 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2. An unknown person asked the blind resident for her password because her phone was ringing, which she did not hear, and for her birthday.

Country Club

One vehicle was stolen, three others were entered and three unsuccessful attempts to enter vehicles were made at the Country Club of Detroit’s main parking lot around 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3. The stolen vehicle was located several hours later, abandoned near East Eight Mile and Schoenherr. The suspects are

described as three individuals in a red Honda Civic. — Laurel Kraus
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety, (313) 885-2100.

Grosse Pointe Park

Failed car theft

Two unknown subjects, possibly juveniles wearing all-black outfits, tried to steal a Chrysler Pacifica at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, a resident of the 1400 block of Lakepointe had started in 30-degree weather and left unattended to warm up. “Surveillance video shows the suspects approach the vehicle on foot and attempt to break in,” an investigating officer said. “(The) victim discovered damage to the driver-side window.”

Loud argument

Police responded to a complaint at 7:07 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, about a 37-year-old Detroit man banging on the door of his former girlfriend’s residence in the 1200 block of Wayburn. Police said they know the man. “The caller stated her ex-boyfriend caused damage to the door while banging on it during an argument,” police

said. “(He) was gone upon officers’ arrival.”

Window broken

Someone smashed the rear window of a 2015 Ford Transit parked overnight Friday, Jan. 3, in the 800 block of Bishop. Nothing was reported stolen.

Vandalism

A can of soup on the ground near a car with a damaged windshield added up to a case of malicious destruction of property overnight Tuesday, Dec. 31, in the 1300 block of Lakepointe. — Brad Lindberg
Report information about these and other crimes to the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department, (313) 822-7400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Nothing to report per dispatch. — Ted O’Neil
Report information about crime to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Stolen vehicles

Three vehicles stolen recently were recovered

in Harper Woods. The first was taken around 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, in the 800 block of South Renaud. A debit card was taken from the Chevy Blazer. A Jeep Wagoneer, unlocked with the key fob inside, was taken sometime overnight Thursday, Jan. 2, in the 2100 block of Hawthorne. A stroller, uncashed checks, camera equipment, a jacket and iPad were taken. One of two Jeeps parked in a driveway in the 2000 block of Lennon was stolen overnight Monday, Jan. 6, after someone broke into one Jeep and found the key fob for the other one.

Not a happy New Year’s Eve

More than \$2,000 in items, including a laptop, iPad, Apple airpods and perfume, were stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the 600 block of North Renaud sometime before 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. A check for \$9,100 also was taken and the thief attempted to make several small withdrawals from the victim’s bank account. — Ted O’Neil
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

CARS:

Continued from page 4A

ipal court. “He’s on parole,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. “We tried to get a parole detainer, but because of the holiday, his parole agent wasn’t available.” More than seven cars were entered during the final few nights of the year. Larcenies from autos were reported in the 1000 block of Maryland; 900 and 1300 blocks of Beaconsfield; at what police described as “several” spots on Lakepointe, Balfour and Bedford; and, finally, the 1300 block of Maryland. All but the initial theft overnight Dec. 23 in the 1000 block of Maryland were from unlocked vehicles. In that case, the “vehicle’s window (was) pried open to gain entry” and steal returnable cans and bottles, according to police. At 2:59 a.m. Dec. 31, in the 1300 block of Beaconsfield, surveil-

lance video recorded two unknown suspects wearing masks and gloves entering unlocked vehicles parked in driveways. Losses reportedly were limited to about \$6 in loose change. In the hours shortly before and after sunup Dec. 27, on Lakepointe, Balfour and Bedford, a suspect was described as wearing a hood and using a pickup truck of unknown manufacture. “Several unlocked vehicles (were) entered and miscellaneous personal items taken,” according to police. Officers gathered evidence partly from home surveillance video. Park public safety officers spent considerable time last summer advising residents of the best way to avoid being victims of larceny from auto and car theft: lock parked vehicles. During a month-long period starting mid-July, 11 of 13 cars stolen in the city were unlocked, some with ignition keys or fobs within. “Such behavior steam-rolls because criminals

tell colleagues about neighborhoods where there are high-return pickings due to effortless access to unsecured cars and their contents,” it was reported at the time.

“We don’t want to be known as a soft target,” Pittman said. “Most of the time, if a car’s locked and the door won’t open, they’ll move to the next one. They want something quick and easy.”



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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Special ed teachers deserve more

“All men are created equal, some just work harder in the preseason.” That quote is from Emmitt Smith, the former Dallas Cowboys running back and pro football hall of famer who also happens to be the NFL’s all-time rushing leader.

We believe all Grosse Pointe Public School System teachers work hard, but we also believe some — meaning special education teachers — endure more challenges.

And they should be compensated as such.

While general education teachers might take home tests and other assignments to grade, special education teachers also are known to take home bruises, scratches and bite marks.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 54 percent of school districts nationwide report they struggle to fill special education teaching positions. That is despite the fact the Bureau of Labor Statistics says 155,000 more people were working in K-12 public schools during the 2023-24 school year compared to 2022-23.

NCES also reports that in the last two decades, the number of students receiving special education services has risen by 16 percent, while the number of special education teachers has increased by 59 percent, nearly a 4-to-1 ratio.

Some districts have taken to paying bonuses to attract and or retain special education teachers. Detroit Public Schools, for example, since 2021, has been giving annual bonuses of \$15,000 to teachers who teach in classrooms for:

- ◆ emotional impairment,
- ◆ cognitive impairment,
- ◆ autism spectrum disorder and
- ◆ deaf and hard of hearing.

To that end, the GPPSS Board of Education has submitted a letter of agreement — sometimes referred to as a memorandum of understanding — to the Grosse Pointe Education Association that would provide a \$10,000 bonus for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years to certain special education teachers in the district. The LOA was given to the union Dec. 17, 2024.

The offer would apply to 30 teachers who are in classrooms that deal with autism spectrum disorder and moderate cognitive impairment. It also would apply to teachers who would potentially fill four vacant positions in those two specialties.

The approach in Detroit Public Schools apparently is working. The employment page of the district’s website shows four vacant positions that would qualify for the bonus, the same as GPPSS, despite the fact Detroit has nearly nine times as many students as our district.

The GPEA, however, has been hesitant to address this specific matter. The union’s co-presidents, Taryn Loughlin and Jackie Shelson, gave a statement to the Grosse Pointe News for a story on this issue late last year that began, “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.”

The pair also stated the union is “deeply concerned” about the shortage and the impact it has on special education students and their families.

“The best way to recruit and retain professional staff, including special education staff, is to provide



Pure Grosse Pointe

When the seasons merge and snow covers flowers still in bloom, it makes for a pretty picture. Flowers near the Fisher door entrance at Grosse Pointe South High School were covered after a recent snowfall.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

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, at the time, 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 around a 4 percent pay raise and the contract eliminated three teacher work days, equivalent to an effective 1.5 percent pay increase. It also added two paid time off days and increased paternity leave by five days.

Of the 70 percent of GPEA members who voted on the new contract last August, 97 percent were in favor. In addition, of the 27 new teachers who joined GPPSS this year, only three are in their first year on the job.

There has been some speculation that the union is waiting to address the issue until after the new board of education is seated, which includes four candidates the GPEA endorsed: Colleen Worden, Clint Derringer, Laura Hull and Tim Klepp.

(Editor’s note: The board’s first meeting of 2025 was scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 7, after press time, although the topic was not listed on the initial agenda.)

We certainly hope the GPEA would not use such an approach in order to score political points for its favored candidates.

We also hope the union truly is “deeply concerned” about the impact this situation has on special education students and their families.

In her heartfelt and eloquent Guest View last week, Julie Moe, the mother of a special needs student, pointed out this is a civil rights issue, noting that the shortage of special education teachers should not be used as an excuse, but rather a call to action.

The board’s letter of agreement is just that, a call to action. Frankly, a no-brainer at that, since the additional pay would come from the state via Wayne RESA, the county’s intermediate school district.

That means no general fund dollars would be spent. We fail to see how the GPEA could object.

The board went so far as to hold a special meeting the day after Christmas to pass a resolution directing the administration to negotiate with the union to get the agreement signed. It passed 5-0, with Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, Ahmed Ismail, Ginny Jeup, Lisa Papas and Terry Collins voting yes. Only Cotton and Jeup remain on the board. Trustees Valarie St. John and Worden were absent.

A letter the union sent to its members late last year, however, sheds some light on its approach. It makes specific mention of the \$1 million budget surplus the district had to close out the 2023-24 fiscal year and said the GPEA would be “amenable” to reopening the contract. The letter of agreement, on the other hand, would simply amend the contract rather than reopening it to bargain on a host of other issues.

That sounds as if the union wants a slice of that \$1 million pie. The district, however — and rightly so — put the surplus toward its fund equity, the first time it has grown in three years after poor fiscal planning led to overspending.

Ironically, the GPEA letter ended by saying the district is “responsible for special education staffing problems” and students and staff deserve better.

We agree and call on the GPEA to sign the LOA since the district is taking steps to address the problem, rather than fighting over a contract a vast majority of its members supported.

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.

Grateful in the Farms

To the Editor:

I’d like to acknowledge the incredible city manager, public safety director and the public works supervisor in Grosse Pointe Farms. Every one of them was extremely helpful after we found water gushing in our basement on Sunday, Dec. 29. First call was to John Hutchins, who reached out to Shane Reeside, who reached out to Tom Joy. Within an hour Tom was investigating the issue, several public safety officers stopped by to see if they could help and calls/texts kept coming in from Shane and John.

I don’t think there’s a better place to live than Grosse Pointe and particularly the

See LETTERS, page 7A

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

January 9 – 15



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Partly Cloudy	Snow Showers	Snow Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Snow	Snow Showers	Cloudy
0%	50%	60%	20%	50%	0%	10%
SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:17 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:18 pm	SUNRISE 8:00 am SUNSET 5:19 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:20 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:21 pm	SUNRISE 7:59 am SUNSET 5:23 pm	SUNRISE 7:58 am SUNSET 5:24 pm

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

I SAY By Brad Lindberg



Weakness inspires nation’s enemies

Sen. Lindsey Graham takes the open-borders crowd seriously. “There’s an element that believes this will tilt the balance of power in the country,” Graham said. “They tell me that if you count illegal immigrants as part of the Census, 15 Congressional seats would be changed based on the number of illegal immigrants in America right now.” Graham, a Republican representing South Carolina since 2003, headlined a panel of conservatives discussing

national security issues last May at The War Memorial. The event was moderated by Morgan Ortagus, founder of Polaris National Security and the state department’s spokeswoman toward the end of the Donald Trump administration. “On average over the last several months, somewhere between 6,000 and 8,000 (illegals) come across the border each and every day,” said panelist Chad Wolf, former acting deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security during Trump’s presidency. “The Biden administration does this.” “Part of it is changing the internal dynamics of America politically,” Graham said. “Some peo-

ple have that as their goal. The other reason is Biden’s just afraid of the open-borders radical left, of pissing them off.” One week following the discussion, President Joe Biden seemed to validate Sen. Graham’s suspicions. Biden referred to Hispanic migrants as “voters” while being interviewed on the Spanish-language radio show “Chiguibaby,” He immediately corrected himself, the context being: “It’s a large influx. It’s an even bigger influx now in terms of Hispanic voters — Hispanic citizens.” About 100 people listened to and asked questions of panelists during a 1 1/2-hour sitting presented by Polaris

National Security, an advocacy group and political action committee in Washington D.C. “In southeast Michigan, we have a sophisticated criminal cartel gang from Chile,” said former FBI agent and Michigan Republican Congressman Mike Rogers, who was then a Senate candidate. “They all came across the border illegally. Venezuelan gangs released from prison are starting to organize in Chicago and New York. Drug cartel gangs operating on our southern border are becoming enriched and more powerful by the day. They are moving in fentanyl and human trafficking. All of that is on the uptick because there are no consequences.”

“The bad guys feel emboldened,” Graham said. “Nobody sees America as somebody you don’t want to screw with.” “One hundred thousand Americans are dying every year because of fentanyl from Mexican cartels,” Wolf said. “You know why they’re bringing so much fentanyl in?” Graham said. “Because the cost is not high enough to not bring it in. You know why the cartels are so enriched? Nobody’s going after them.” “If we shut the border down the day after the (Presidential) election, we are going to have to recalibrate how we go after these cartels working in the United States,” Wolf said. “We’re going

to have to refocus the FBI from writing memos about how Catholics are bad and showing up at school board meetings, to go after these fentanyl networks, dismantle them and go after cartels in a way we haven’t seen.” An hour into the discussion there abruptly sounded loud but muted voices from the building’s lobby. Everyone assumed pro-Hamas protesters showed up. Instead, according to two Farms public safety officers on scene, it was five women excited about planning an upcoming wedding. *This story was revised from one for which there was no space in the May 9, 2024, edition.*

YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

SCHWEIKART TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF GROSSE POINTE PARK: Carl Schweikart filed petitions yesterday for the office of President of Grosse Pointe Park. At the same time Ray J. Dierickx, Gilbert W. Groehn and Erwin G. Alfes filed for Village Commissioners. **PARK BALLOT TO CONVERSION ISSUE EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN:** At the meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners on Jan. 23, the board will take action on the petitions which have been filed with the Village Clerk asking for an election on the proposed change to city form of government.

1975

50 years ago this week

SCHOOL CROSSING STUDY BY AAA SUBSTANTIATES REDUCTION: One of the concerns of

some residents during the school crossing guard controversy in the Woods last fall focused upon the number of guards at four Mack Avenue crossings and the safety of children at those locations. In an effort to eliminate any fears over the safety of youngsters, the city requested the AAA to conduct a safety study of the Mack-Anita Avenue, Mack-Cook Road, Mack-Vernier Road and Vernier-Mack crossings. **POINTE TEACHERS WILL NOT STRIKE:** According to Al Gaiss, executive director of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, Pointe teachers will not be striking this week in response to the situation in the Crestwood School District. Crestwood is one of 17 school districts belonging to a coordinated bargaining movement and those districts which are threatening to strike are the other members of this movement. **POINTE’S FIRST BABY OF 1975:** Eric Terence Vermeersch does not know it yet, but he was the first baby born in The Pointe in 1975. Little Eric was born at 9:58 a.m. January 1, in Bon Secours Hospital, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vermeersch. Dr. Herbert Hagermoser delivered the baby.

2000

25 years ago this week

SOUTH DIVERSITY COUNCIL STRIVES TO TEACH, HELP STUDENTS UNDERSTAND: Last May, DeJesus Totty, a black student at Grosse Pointe South High School, had his car etched and spray painted with racial epithets while he was parked on Fisher Road during school hours. “We were never able to resolve that,” said interim principal Ben Walker. “I came up with an idea that we had to give reassurance to that family that it would never happen again.” Walker is confident that at least 21 other students can give that same reassurance. Those 21 students are members of South’s Diversity Council. The students, who were selected by Walker, attended four two-hour workshops led by Gail Parker, a psychologist and university professor who specializes in diversity issues. **STATE TITLE PUTS SEVEN KNIGHTS ON ALL-STATE SOCCER TEAM:** When a team wins a state championship it usually reaps a load of postseason honors. That’s what happened with University Liggett School’s boys soccer team after it won

its Division IV title. Named to the All-State team were seniors Dan Ferrin, Mark Gotfredson, Phil Leaman and Eric Krauss, and juniors Steve Buhalis, Scott Vallee and Andrew Yee.

2015

10 years ago this week

REWARDS FOR INFO GROW: Rewards totaling \$112,250 are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who killed Paige Stalker. The 16-year-old University Liggett School junior was shot and killed about 9 p.m. Dec. 22, when a gunman opened fire on five teenagers sitting in a car at Philip and Charlevoix in Detroit. **WORLD-CLASS CHEF:** When Grosse Pointe Yacht Club Executive Chef David L. Daniot traveled to Luxembourg, he took his own food. Daniot wanted to make sure all his ingredients — smoked salmon, Yukon gold potatoes, quail, plums and venison — for the Villeroy & Boch Culinary World Cup competition were on hand. The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club chef came home a winner — a silver medal winner, in his category.

LETTERS:

Continued from page 6A

Farms! Thank you all for the outstanding service and care that’s always exhibited to our residents. From a very grateful Farms resident. **MARY LAMPARTER**
Grosse Pointe Farms

A community of love and connection
Dear Grosse Pointe News readers:

As we step into this new year, I am filled with a vision of the highest good for our beloved

Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods community. This vision begins within myself and radiates outward to my neighbors, city government, schools, organizations and businesses. At its core is the transformative power of divine love — a force that fosters harmonious relationships and fuels our aspirations. The Michigan Municipal League’s motto, “We Love Where You Live,” deeply resonates with me. I, too, love where I live. This love is more than geography; it is a heartfelt connection that inspires everything I do. Our collective com-

munities are rich with opportunities to share our unique talents, time and resources for the greatest good of all. Each issue of the Grosse Pointe News reveals stories of a thriving community — stories of resilience, creativity and generosity. Even the obituary section pays tribute to those who have left a legacy of love and service, some of whom have touched lives far beyond our borders. These reflections remind us of the impact one life can have on many. The year 2025 carries the spiritual significance

of universal love. This inspires me to believe that the highest good for Grosse Pointes-Harper Woods is already being magnified through acts of kindness, unity and shared purpose. Together, we can continue to build a community where love and connection flourish. In service and with love,
THE REV. SIERRA LEONE DONAVEN
Councilwoman, Grosse Pointe Farms

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PARK:

Continued from page 2A

partly on problems with fire apparatus, equipment and logistics, plus falling electrical lines that forced firefighters to back off due to risk of electrocution.

◆ Admitted felon Essence Lefaye Cross, 34, of Detroit, accepts a deal to serve seven to 30 years in prison instead of facing trial in Wayne Court Circuit Court for the May 2023 nighttime home invasion, robbery and pistol whipping of 81-year-old widow, Jane Yamazaki, in the 1000 block of Berkshire.

◆ The extreme emergency relief valve at Patterson Park is rated functional and ready to fight sewer backups during big rains by diverting excess flow into Lake St. Clair.

“We have a safety valve in place,” says Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee. “We’ll be monitoring it as it comes. We’re going to be doing everything we can to be as proactive and preventative as possible.”

August
◆ Private donors and volunteers restore the Fox Indian Massacre state historical marker site on Windmill Pointe Drive with new landscaping and paving stones.

“We are making great progress on the site,” says Jamie Rae Turnbull, a Park resident and member of the Friends of the Fox Creek Massacre.

Project partners also include the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission and Junior League of Detroit.

◆ Scores of people who petitioned to save the Patterson Park playscape aren’t matching their signatures with muscle.

Only a few volunteers show up this summer to help restore the sprawling wood structure.

◆ A public safety department fire risk reduction plan cites sections of the city where fire hydrants are prone to being undersupplied with low water pressure. Another aspect of the plan is identifying houses, commercial buildings and more made vulnerable due to neighborhood density or being in hard-to-reach locations.

Mayor Hodges instructs Chief Bostock



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson stands in front of a sign welcoming her to Grosse Pointe Park when she visited city hall to talk about early voting.

to develop a risk reduction plan to prevent circumstances contributing to a fire destroying a garage and house last month in the 1400 block of Lakepointe.

◆ Security glass to be installed on public counters at city hall doesn’t reflect well on citizen conduct.

“There have been a couple of incidents during the year,” says Sizeland, not elaborating.

Sizeland said employees request the barriers. He goes further by recommending installation of limited-access doors.

September
◆ A lawsuit that is more of a speed-bump than roadblock to completion of the A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for the Performing Arts and the Richard and Jane Manoogian Art Gallery is kicked to the curb.

Court-ordered dismissal of the suit in Wayne County Circuit Court means construction of the 424-seat facility continues at the Park-Detroit border on Jefferson Avenue. Wrap-up is expected in July 2025.

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

Sizeland says an update is needed of the \$5,000 threshold above which he is allowed to approve purchases and contracts without waiting in advance for city council approval.

“With the current threshold, it has become very difficult for city departments to effi-

ciently complete purchases, repair city equipment and maintain city buildings and grounds,” Sizeland tells council.

He suggests quadrupling the purchasing limit to \$20,000.

Changes require an ordinance amendment and multiple public meetings before a final vote can take place.

◆ The city manager is authorized to execute the sale of two Park-owned residential properties in the 1200 block of Alter in Detroit for \$17,000.

Park officials last month approve the sale of two other residential properties in the 1500 block of Alter for about \$12,000 after paying a broker’s commission.

October
◆ Proponents of improved water service gush over a new main on a section of Maumee.

Pipe installed recently as part of a multi-year campaign of citywide water system improvements has about 16 times the capacity of the one it replaced.

The degree of improvement comes as a surprise to city officials. They didn’t know the 8-inch plastic pipe they contracted for installation was going to replace a 2-inch cast iron main set down so long ago its dimensions weren’t specified on old infrastructure documents.

◆ The shape of things to come is shaping up on upper Beaconsfield.

Replacement of lead water service lines on a two-block stretch between Vernor and Mack Avenue is nearly finished. So is swapping an old, internally corroded, 6-inch cast iron water pipe with an 8-inch,

smooth-surface pipe made of plastic composite.

Work is among the first in a multi-year effort to replace or improve the city’s 30 miles of old, and in some cases undersized, case iron water pipes. Some pipes date back nearly 100 years, according to municipal officials.

◆ The gazebo at Patterson Park is relieved from a death sentence never imposed.

Despite a ratty appearance due to slack maintenance, the gazebo will continue standing for lovers of lakeside serenity if it gets the TLC it warrants, commissioners agreed.

◆ A real, tactile copy of the city’s new newsletter is delivered to households.

“The Park Scene,” a magazine-style publication, replaces the “Communicator,” a pulpy, desktop production suspended for more than a year while contents were shifted online.

November
◆ A majority of Park voters maintained their nearly generation-old habit of supporting Democrat candidates in presidential elections.

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

◆ The hiring of another patrolman ends the city’s officer shortage. The public safety department is now fully staffed.

“We’re not stopping here,” Hodges says. “The more we grow our tax base, the more we can improve services. Those things go hand-in-hand and that’s what we’re working toward.”

◆ A developer agrees to buy six neighboring properties on Alter Road in Detroit that Park officials bought nearly a decade ago to forestall unwanted development.

“It is our understanding (the buyer) wants to close quickly,” says Morgan McAtamney, Park assistant city attorney.

Members of the Park’s prior administration and council approved the purchase in 2016 for \$392,000 to block potential uses considered incompatible with constituents living on adjacent Wayburn. The Alter property had been used for years as a landscaping company storage yard.

Its agreed-upon sale price this month for \$375,000 represented a \$17,000 loss.

Despite the loss, the transaction accomplished the goal of Park officials to put the properties in the hands of a developer with complementary visions.

◆ Municipal officials anticipate good things to come from putting two more city-owned residential lots up for sale.

Both lots are vacant, located at the southwest corner of Wayburn and Vernor, and often referred to as a single unit.

The property is located behind Park-owned land on Alter Road in Detroit. A buyer is expected to close on the Alter property by Thanksgiving with intentions of developing a combination of commercial and residential structures.

December
◆ Mayor Hodges introduces a resolution demanding the school system revive dormant Trombly Elementary School as a place of elementary education or something else that benefits the city.

“I also intend to ask the Board of Education this

evening to commit to a process that produces a decision regarding Trombly in time for the 2026 school year and that Grosse Pointe Park be substantively at the table for the decision-making process,” Hodges says.

◆ Council members accept the equivalent of a \$57,300 donation from the Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods Public Safety Foundation to install license plate readers at strategic locations around the city.

Foundation members also are offering the same to the other Pointes and Harper Woods.

Part Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman says license plate readers help solve and deter crime.

◆ Two years of work by the planning commission and council results in passage of a new, updated, comprehensive zoning ordinance.

First-time provisions of the ordinance address the operation, licensing and regulation of short-term rentals.

◆ Forward-thinkers on the Downtown Development Authority board flip their year-end, look-back meeting into a futuring session, eying area prosperity that could benefit the east side for generations.

Prompting discussion and setting the first of what are expected to be a series of incremental benchmarks for achieving a series of goals is board member Hodges.

Ears perk up when she points out a way for the board to achieve the difficult goal of growing the nearly built-out municipal tax base.

“One endeavor that has the potential to have the multiplier effect would be to stabilize the borders (with Detroit),” she says. “That’s a rational solution for a lot of reasons. It could be a way to propel our property values and probably the most meaningful one.”



Grosse Pointe Parks Director of Parks and Recreation Chad Craig enlisted three people to help push a bed down Kercheval as a demonstration to promote the bed races during Chilly Fest.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

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Grosse Pointe News

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Client review; Zillow- 11/2024

Ice-carving demonstrations take place at Winterfest.



PHOTO BY
RENEE
LANDUYT

Pier Park Winterfest next Saturday, Jan. 18

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The annual Winterfest in Grosse Pointe Farms is set for noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Pier Park. Residents are invited to enjoy live ice-carving demonstrations along with ice sculptures throughout the park to walk around and view, live music by The Onders in the festival tent, the S'mores and Coffee food

truck, a magician walking the grounds doing tricks, putt-putt golf and other games around the park. The ice rink also will be open and a second food truck was awaiting confirmation as of press time. Farms residents, and up to two guests per park pass, can attend Winterfest at no charge. — *Laurel Kraus*

FIRES:

Continued from page 3A

want to make sure that we're doing best practices as it relates to storage and charging and taking care of these devices and lithium-ion batteries." One of the best ways to protect against a lithium-ion battery fire is by only using devices, chargers and batteries that are compatible with each other, such as of the same brand. "We have the ability to buy stuff — e-commerce is very important, right? — but I want to buy the battery that goes with (the device)," State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmeier said. "Not looking to buy a knockoff and that's where we see a lot of fires. We've historically seen that across the country. "... It's not buying the cheapest battery. It's not buying the knockoff. It's

buying the original equipment." Another main risk is when devices are left continually charging once they're fully charged. "Most of these batteries will charge in about an hour or two or so," Sehlmeier said. "So an hour from now maybe I set an alarm on my cell phone so I go back and unplug it. Leaving something continuously on charge is not the way we should be moving forward with these types of devices." In case of a fire, electric bikes and scooters should not be stored near entrances where they could block an escape route. Use of a device also should be stopped if the battery shows signs of damage, such as an unusual odor, excessive heat, popping sounds, swelling or changing of color. Users should pay extra attention for signs

of a problem if the device is dropped. "What we're seeing is, and we've seen across the country, fires where folks are bringing these in, the battery's damaged, they're having to wiggle the cord to even get it to charge," Sehlmeier said. "Folks, if you're wiggling the cord to get it to charge, you have either an issue with the charger or you have an issue with that battery and to protect your family, you need to replace one or both of those devices." Though there currently is no structure in place to track the amount of lithium-ion battery fires in the state, Sehlmeier and his team in January will travel to the National Fire Academy for onboarding into a system that will do so. "By the end of 2026, all fire departments across the country and across the state of Michigan will

have to be on this new NERIS system," he said. "... Is our ability to report stuff where we want it to be? No. Will we get there in the next two years? Yes, we will." Simms, Thomas and Sehlmeier were joined at Engine House 32 by Ferndale Fire Chief Teresa Robinson and City of Grosse Pointe Director of Public Safety John Alcorn. The Grosse Pointe director said there haven't been any lithium-ion battery fires in the City in recent history, nor can he recall any throughout the Pointes. "We are grateful for Detroit Fire Department's efforts in spreading the message about lithium-ion battery safety," Alcorn added. "I encourage everyone to follow their safety advice and make sure you have working smoke detectors in your homes."

SHORES:

Continued from page 1A

Krolczyk retires after 25 years of service.

May ♦ Native Steffi Roche, a reporter and anchor at KHQ-TV News in Spokane, Wash., is nominated for an Emmy. ♦ Connie Ahee discusses her faith journey in the wake of the death of her husband during the Mayors' Prayer Breakfast at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club.

June ♦ Council passes the 2024-25 fiscal year budget as City Manager Steve Poloni announces a millage reduction and lower fees for water and sewer use.

July ♦ New resident Mike Hulway uses a professional metal-detecting specialist to locate his missing wedding ring, which slipped off his finger while cutting the grass. The ring is special because it contains in-



Above, the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club hosted the Great Lakes Boating Festival in May. Below, a vintage 1966 Ford Mustang was on display during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's summer gala.

laid gems that once belonged to the grandfather of his wife, Becky. ♦ The Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation celebrates its 40th anniversary by placing yard signs identifying major projects it has funded in Osius Park and around city hall.

August ♦ The city and improvement foundation dedicated a tree in Osius Park to former resident, businessman and philanthro-



pist John A. Boll Sr., who passed away at 93 in 2022. ♦ Resident Katie

Morgan relaunches her YouTube show, "Don't Burn Dinner" with a new emphasis on healthy meals for children. ♦ Council approves spending \$369,000 on a new ambulance. ♦ Resident Carol Klenow is named to the Utica Community Schools Legacy of Excellence inaugural class after serving 23 years on the district's board of education.

October ♦ The cost of a new



Ford House, in partnership with Grosse Pointe Theatre, hosted Shakespeare in the Park, which featured scenes from six of The Bard's plays, including "MacBeth," which was performed by Bridget Hillyer and Kristina Mardlin.

pool and community center at Osius Park is pegged at \$11 million. The impetus for the project is a gift of \$1.2 million the city received in 2023 from the estate of a former resident. Carole Ann Williams passed away in May 2023 at age 84. She was a graduate of Grosse Pointe University School — now University Liggett School — and her father, Jack Williams, was Shores mayor from 1954

to 1964. ♦ Council lowers costs for non-residents to rent boat slips at the marina inside Osius Park in hopes of preventing some slips from sitting empty. **December** ♦ Ford House finishes in fifth place in USA Today's readers' choice awards for 10Best Holiday Historic Home Tours.



Grosse Pointe Shores Mayor Ted Kedzierski, Marlene Boll, Kris Mestdagh, JT Mestdagh, Jim Mestdagh and Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation President Rob Sattler stand with the tulip magnolia tree dedicated in memory of philanthropist John Boll.

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Inspired Your Old Mansion lecture looks at artwork inspired by Kilimanjaro

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Patrick and Melissa Stieber will travel from Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada, to present the next lecture of the Grosse Pointe Artists Association’s Your Old Mansion series, but their journey to the United States is nothing compared to where they traveled last year around this time.

The couple will report about their trip to Tanzania — during which they summited Mt. Kilimanjaro — as well as share artwork from their experience, during the program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12.

“We’ll be talking from a critical lens and trying to figure out exactly what it meant to us,” Patrick Stieber said. “On one hand, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. On the other hand, there’s an element to those experiences that, once it’s finished, you look back and think what did we really do there?”

He said the journey opened a lot of questions and he and his wife will “talk it out” at the lecture. They’ll discuss how they prepared for the climb, the challenges they faced and the excitement of their journey.

Their story will be illustrated by artwork they created that was inspired by the adventure.

“The way I relate to the world is through photographs,” Stieber said. “I unpack ideas and concepts through photographs. That’s how I mediate experiences in life. I’m going to use pho-

tography to try to understand how I feel, to sort it out. Melissa uses painting in the same way.

“... In my art practice, I look at ordinary experiences in life, everyday aspects where I look at an everyday object or landscape and find an extraordinary aspect of that,” he added. “Mt. Kilimanjaro was an extraordinary experience, but there were elements of it that were ordinary.”

Stieber, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography from Toronto Metropolitan University, is a professional photographer. His wife is a self-taught painter. Both were inspired by their trip to Africa — a first for them both — the end of last January.

“It was supposed to be the dry season; that’s why we went at that time and that’s when it was suggested we go,” he said. “But it rained constantly. Everyone was saying how unusual it was to have weather like that. It rained until we got high enough that it started to snow.”

The weather, he noted, added to his photography, some of which will be displayed at the lecture.

“There will be pieces on display that are supposed to be of iconic views of the mountain, but there’s no view there,” he said. “But it’s almost more interesting to have that than to have that postcard view.”

Stieber said their journey led to a first-time collaborative effort between the couple. While each of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATRICK STIEBER

Patrick and Melissa Stieber combined their skills — his photography and her painting — to create pieces together.

them will display some of their separate works, “We also combine some of our art,” he said. “There are a few pieces where I’ve printed over one of her paintings or she’s painted over one of my photographs. It’s the first time we’ve ever done something like that — physically worked on the same surfaces. ... Once I started working, I was drawn into working with Melissa and seeing how she responded to my photos.”

Stieber is no stranger to the GPAA. His work was exhibited last year as part of a joint exhibition with another artist.

He shared photographs he had taken of Lake Erie.

“We do a fair amount of traveling,” he said, noting the Americas, Europe and the U.S. as their most frequent destinations.

He encouraged anyone who’s thought of undertaking a big adventure like Tanzania to attend the lecture.

“Or anyone interested in exploring what it means to fulfill bucket list items or who is ticking off bucket list items,” he added.

The Your Old Mansion lecture takes place at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets are \$30 for GPAA members, \$35 for nonmembers, and may be purchased online at grossepointeartcenter.org.



One of Melissa Stieber’s paintings.



They’ll discuss their collaboration during the lecture.



Patrick and Melissa Stieber will share about their trip to Tanzania, which included summiting Mt. Kilimanjaro.

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.

Margot H. Ness

Margot H. Ness, 84, passed away peacefully Friday, Dec. 20, 2024, in Grosse Pointe.

Margot is survived by her adoring niece, Laura Ness; nephew, Karl Ness; and treasured great-niece and great-nephew, Samantha and Benjamin Ness.

Services for Margot have already taken place. Arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc., in Grosse Pointe Park.

Sharon Sule Francese

Sharon Sule Francese, 77, of Bonita Springs, Fla., and previously of Bethlehem, Pa., and Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, after a long and courageous battle with debilitating lung issues.

Sharon was born to John and Francis Sule in Bethlehem, Pa. She met Ken, her husband of 57 years, at Bethlehem Steel. Together they raised two children, Melissa and Mark.

Sharon was known for her friendly nature and beautiful blue eyes. A natural athlete who didn't try sports until her late 20s, she enjoyed running, walking, golf and tennis. She played golf into her mid-70s with her husband and friends. She volunteered throughout her life for her children's activities and schools, as well as the Junior League of Detroit and Detroit Institute of Ophthalmology.

In addition to being a fantastic cook, Sharon loved to read and rarely lost playing gin rummy. She recently learned mahjong and enjoyed spending time with her friends. Sharon and Ken loved to travel and explore the world through work and personal trips. The entire family visited one of their favorite spots, Rhode Island, for a week in August 2024.

When she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in 2005, Sharon's brother, Charlie, was a donor match. He generously agreed to be her stem cell donor, which, along with the loving care of Ken, allowed Sharon to celebrate 19 additional birthdays. She was grateful to have those extra years to spend with her family and become a grandmother "Nina" to Marla and Dominic, whom she deeply loved.

Sharon was predeceased by her parents and her brother, John Sule. She is survived by her husband, Ken; daughter, Melissa; son, Mark (Sonja); grandchildren, Marla and Dominic; brothers, Charlie Sule (Joanie) and Dave Sule (Nancy); nephew, Justin Sule (Jamie); niece, Kelsey Sule; as well as many close friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, bit.ly/47PrHTz; Karmanos Cancer Institute, bit.ly/40iGAvR;

Salvation Army, bit.ly/4fXWkZP; or a charity of the donor's choice.

Stanley Albert Prokop

Stanley "Stan" Albert Prokop, 82, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024.

Stan was born June 17, 1942, in Detroit, to Rita and Stanley C. Prokop. His family also included two siblings — his younger sister, Sharon, and younger brother, Robert "Bob."

Stan attended De La Salle Collegiate High School, where he excelled both academically and athletically. In high school and throughout his childhood, Stan made many close friends whom he cherished throughout his life. He went on to study at the University of Detroit and University of Michigan-Dearborn, graduating in the school's inaugural class.

After completing a co-op with Ford Motor Co., Stan enrolled at Wayne State University Law School. Stan spent his distinguished career as an attorney at the Detroit office of Plunkett Cooney, where he also made several lifelong friends. Stan's legal expertise was in the area of insurance law. He published and lectured on the topic. He was a mentor to many young attorneys, as well as head of the insurance law section of the firm. In 2019, he was honored as a 50-year member of the State Bar of Michigan.

In 1969, Stan married his dear Margaret Nowicki, and together they raised three children, Adam, Emily and Max. Stan was an avid golfer and music lover. He also had a deep appreciation for art and Detroit sports. He often could be found watching the Detroit Tigers, Red Wings and Lions and University of Michigan Wolverines. Margie and Stan traveled frequently, including many trips to England and Poland. As a couple, they spent many happy summers with family and friends at their former cottage in Port Austin.

Stan is survived by his wife of nearly 55 years, Margaret; their children, Adam, Emily and Max; four grandsons, Teddy, George Stanley, Gabriel and Elliott; son-in-law, Adam; and close-knit extended family, including nephew David Nowicki, with whom he was especially close.

Known for his warmth, generosity and great sense of humor, Stan remained young at heart throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Ambrose Parish in Grosse Pointe Park, where Margie and Stan Sule were parishioners, 15020 Hampton, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230, stambrosechurch.net/donate; or the Elliott Deedler ECMO Scholar Fund at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, victors.us/elliottdeedlerfund.

Mona E. Gualtieri

Mona E. Gualtieri, 81, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at home in St. Clair Shores, after a brave fight with lung cancer.

Mona was a beloved grandmother, mother, wife and friend. She was born June 3, 1943, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, to Grant and Marion (nee Maynard) Mills. She was one of five children. She moved to Dearborn from Ontario in 1952, and graduated from Dearborn High School in 1960. She entered the workforce immediately, embarking on a 50-year career. In 1965, she married Joseph Gualtieri, who passed away in 1997. They raised two boys in their homes in Detroit and Grosse Pointe Farms.

Mona and Joe provided a fun, loving environment for their sons and their friends, who considered the Gualtieri house a second home and enjoyed movie nights, card games, free life advice and Mona's famous chicken wings.

Mona was a pioneer in automotive sales, rising from a secretary at General Motors to fleet and leasing manager at several dealerships, to owning her own successful sales and leasing companies. In a hard-knock business, especially for a woman in the 1970s and '80s, she excelled through grit, grace and determination. Known throughout the metro area as "the car lady," Mona provided dedicated service to many of the Detroit area's major utilities, police departments and trade associations. She retired in 2010.

Mona also was active in her community and generously gave her time and talents to many charities and organizations, including Bon Secours Hospital and St. John Hospital, Eyes on the Classics and as president of the Windwood Pointe condo association. Mona surrounded herself with countless friends and enjoyed their company as an avid card and game player and restaurant-goer. With Joe and her friends, Mona also became an enthusiastic golfer.

Mona was predeceased by her husband, Joe; and brother, Archibald. She is survived by her son, David (Wendy) and their children, Mia and Maxwell of Washington, D.C.; and her son, Douglas (Maureen) of Talkeetna, Alaska. She also is survived by her brother, Grant; sisters, Joelle and Gail; and many other family members and dear friends.

Memorial donations may be made to Wigs4Kids of Michigan, bit.ly/4fKBnBp. The family thanks the many caregivers and wonderful friends for the love and attention they showed Mona. A celebration of life will be held later this year.

Share memories with the family and check for service updates at wujukcalcaterra.com.



Margot H. Ness



Mona E. Gualtieri

Dr. Nicholas T. Moisesides

Dr. Nicholas T. Moisesides, 86, of Grosse Pointe Shores, passed away Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

Nick was born July 23, 1938, to Greek immigrant parents, Helen and Thomas Moisesides. He graduated from Mt. Clemens High School in 1957, and was a proud "Battling Bather." He sang the school's fight song with enthusiasm until the end of his life.

After high school graduation, Nick attended Eastern Michigan University, where he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. Being an only child, Nick loved the friendships he formed at EMU. His Delta Sig brothers remained his lifelong friends.

In 1961, Nick was accepted by the University of Detroit School of Dentistry, where he became not only an excellent dentist but honed his sense of humor drawing caricatures of some of his professors for the school newspaper.

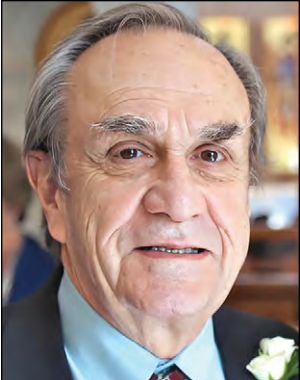
After dental school, Nick was invited by one of his professors, Dr. Don Pokorny, to join his dental practice in Grosse Pointe in 1965. Later joined by Dr. James Cooper, Nick had a very successful dental practice for 38 years. Filled with friends, family and a great staff, the practice on Mack and Littlestone was a warm and friendly atmosphere. In fact, that's where his wife, Sandy, entered his life, walking into the office during summer 1967. They were married Feb. 23, 1969. In December 1971, Nick and Sandy welcomed their first son, Thomas, and later, Christos in June 1974.

Nick loved to play tennis and could be seen every Thursday with three other dentist friends at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club (now Grosse Pointe Equestrian). Winters meant skiing and trips to Aspen, Colo., and Salt Lake City, Utah, with Sandy, the boys and extended family.

With the birth of their first grandchild, Bella, Nick and Sandy bought a place near Birchwood Farms Golf and Country Club in Harbor Springs. Christmas was the time to ski or snowshoe, and summer was for golfing and watching the Fourth of July parade. It became the place for many happy family memories. Nick is survived by his



Sharon Sule Francese



Dr. Nicholas T. Moisesides

Sean Patrick Schaeffner

Sean Patrick Schaeffner, 85, of Ridgeway, S.C., died Monday, Dec. 23, 2024.

He was born April 29, 1939, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Victor Joseph Schaeffner and Jane Claire Fitzpatrick Schaeffner Tankersley. The family spent most of Sean's childhood in Grosse Pointe Shores, where Sean attended St. Paul Catholic School.

Sean grew up with his sisters, Sheila (Daniel O'Loughlin) and Mary Patrick (Michael Denton), and brother, Kerry (Cathy Whyte). He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting from the University of Notre Dame in 1962, and served in the U.S. Army. He became a certified public accountant in 1966, and graduated from the University of Detroit School of Law with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1971.

Sean was predeceased by his parents, Victor and Jane; his first wife, Christine (nee Cook); and his parents-in-law, William and Alice Cook and William and Virginia Gillette. He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary (nee Gillette); children, Kevin (Karen Yocis), Kathleen (Karen Argueta), Sean Jr., Michael and Timothy (Carolyn Holtz); grandchildren, Keegan, Brynn, Brittany, Kevin Jr. and Victoria; and many, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.



Stanley Albert Prokop



Sean Patrick Schaeffner

Sean's professional life led him down many different paths. He spent most of his working life in banking and corporate finance in Chicago and New York. He was heavily involved in the leveraged lease industry and worked as a stock trader, CPA, attorney, partner at SMHC Research LLC, real estate broker and entrepreneur. After retiring from banking and moving to South Carolina, Sean and Mary purchased United Country/Carolina Real Estate Co., LLC, where Sean was the broker-in-charge.

He was an active member in the parish community of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Camden, S.C. He was involved in the church for many years as a member of the choir, a cantor and an usher. He was very strong in his faith and led others to embrace Jesus Christ. His faith and goodness were displayed every day by the way he carried himself. He led by example by simply being a good man.

While in South Carolina, Sean also was active in community service. He was director and chairman of the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the VFW Auxiliary, treasurer and secretary of the Lake Wateree Homeowners Association, director of the historical society, a member of the Knights of Columbus and more.

Sean was very well-liked and respected by all who knew him. He was an avid reader, loved good red wine and The Kingston Trio and was a die-hard Notre Dame football fan. He was the best of all "good guys" and will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

There will be a private Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Camden, S.C., followed by another funeral Mass and interment this spring at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Bonaventure Capuchin Monastery, 1740 Mt. Elliott, Detroit, MI 48207, thecapuchins.org/donate, or Men of the Sacred Hearts, 1130 Tienken Ste. 212, Rochester Hills, MI 48306, menofthesacredhearts.org/donations.

See OBITS, page 3B

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Geraldine K. Paddock

Geraldine K. Paddock, 84, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024.

Geraldine, known to her close family and friends as Gerri, was a woman who embraced life with open arms and a radiant spirit. She was born Jan. 24, 1940. She was a vibrant soul known for her creativity, boundless energy and zest for adventure. Her life was a masterpiece painted with vivid colors, from the places she traveled to the memories she crafted with those she cherished.

Whether exploring the world or creating something beautiful at home, she lived with passion and purpose, inspiring everyone she met. She lived fully and generously, reminding those who knew her of the beauty of a well-lived life. Her presence lit up every room and her absence leaves a void. She is reunited in peace with her mother, Olive; father, John; aunt, Estelle Smith; as well as many other special family members.

The memories Gerri leaves behind with her loved ones will forever be a source of comfort and inspiration.



Geraldine K. Paddock



Betty M. Nelson



Philip Edward Ganem



Robert A. Zink, M.D.



Loretta Mink

and great-grandmother of Alexandria, Carter, Charlotte, Alexander and Emma. She was the dearest sister of Caroline Henzie, the late Norman Setter, the late Bill Setter and the late Doris Larsen. She also is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, until a 2 p.m. memorial service at Wujek-Calcaterra & Sons, Inc., 36900 Schoenherr, Sterling Heights.

Memorial donations may be made to Gilda's Club Detroit, 3517 Rochester, Royal Oak, MI 48073, bit.ly/3DSSQKs.

Share memories with the family at wujekcalcaterra.com.

Philip Edward Ganem

Philip Edward Ganem, 93, of Naples, Fla., and Cayuga Lake, N.Y., passed away peacefully Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, with his family at his side.

Phil was born Oct. 22, 1931. He lived in Grosse Pointe before retiring to Naples. He attended Assumption College Catholic High School in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and then the University of Detroit. He helped manage the family restaurant, The Sheik, which was the first Lebanese restaurant in Detroit. He then began a 30-year career at Ford Motor Co.

While at Ford, Phil was a leader and supported the launches of new Ford and Lincoln cars and trucks at various assembly plants, with substantial time spent in Atlanta, Chicago and Wixom.

Throughout his life, Phil enjoyed traveling with his wife, Charlotte, as well as playing endless card games with family and friends and completing crossword puzzles. He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and quick wit. Most of all, Phil was a man of faith and he treasured time with his family.

Phil was predeceased by his parents, Fadel Moussa and Samha Sfeir Ganem; and sisters, Esther Michael, Janet Ganem and Isabel Saigh. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte Tracy Ganem; sister, Leila Fuher; children, Phyllis (Holger), Claudia, David, Paul (Jennifer), Damian and Tracy (Aaron); nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial Mass was held at St. William Catholic Church in Naples. There will be a celebration of life for Phil on the western shore of Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes of New York in June.

Robert A. Zink, M.D.

Robert A. "Bob" Zink, M.D., of Grosse Pointe Woods, passed away Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital in Detroit, surrounded by his family.

Bob was born Sept. 24, 1936, in Detroit, to Arthur Zink and Rita Mueller Zink, both now deceased. He is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Nancy Goldsworthy Zink; their children, Alison Swan (David), Robert A. Zink Jr. (Molly), Stephen K. Zink (Dawn) and David A. Zink (Wendy); grandchildren, Robert Zink III, Sophia Swan, Kate Zink, Kathleen Zink, Bennett Zink, James Zink, Brady Zink, Charles Zink and Clara Zink; and his siblings, Philip Zink, Judith Rauch and Mark Zink.

After Bob graduated from De La Salle Collegiate High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Detroit. He then achieved his childhood dream of becoming a pediatrician by earning a Doctor of Medicine degree at Wayne State University School of Medicine, from which he was awarded the Julius Grodzin Award for excellence in pediatrics. He then was an intern in Traverse City.

While married to

Nancy with one child and another on the way, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served as the medical officer-in-charge of the dispensary division for two years at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. The family returned to Detroit where he completed his pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan. He joined Lakeview Pediatrics in St. Clair Shores, which eventually expanded to three locations. He was recognized by his peers with a Top Doc Award and was named to the Wall of Honor at St. John Hospital, where he served on many committees and touched countless lives from 1967 to 2005.

Bob's family is grateful for the extraordinarily compassionate care he and they received at Henry Ford St. John Hospital during his passing.

Community was important to Bob. He volunteered through Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church and The Helm at the Boll Life Center. He enjoyed Lochmoor Club, The Huntsman Hunt Club and his "Up North" retreats to The Pinery on Little Bear Lake and Lake Independence, where he met Nancy.

Bob will be remembered for his devotion to family, friends, colleagues and patients, as well as for his love of bird hunting, books, choco-

late and sweets of all kinds. He called his children and grandchildren his blessings and his wife, Nancy, his treasure.

A memorial Mass for Bob will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. The family will receive guests from 9:30 a.m. until Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are appreciated in Bob's honor to Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, olsos.org/give, or a charity of the giver's choice.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Chas. Verheyden Inc. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Loretta Mink

Loretta Mink, 85, passed away peacefully Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, surrounded by her family.

Loretta was born March 25, 1939, in Detroit. She was the beloved wife of the late Harold Mink; mother of Harold, Leah and Christopher (Alison); grandmother of Kristyn, Eva, Ali, Connor and Caroline; great-grandmother of Kaiden, Calla and Cambrie; and aunt of Christine and Hollis.

Loretta had a passion for cooking, which she turned into a very successful gourmet catering company known throughout the Grosse

Pointes in the 1980s and '90s. During that time, she was the lead caterer for the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and operated the tea room there. She also co-owned My Sister's Place consignment shop with her sister, Marlene, in Harper Woods.

In her retirement, she enjoyed spending time with her family and the occasional trip to Las Vegas.

Laurie Pytell

Laurie Pytell, 94, died peacefully Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024.

Laurie was predeceased by her husband, Robert H. Pytell. She is the loving mother of Mary Beth Agase (Paul), Mark Pytell (Ann) and Robert Pytell (Danielle). She also was a devoted grandmother of 10 grandchildren.

A memorial gathering will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, with a memorial service at 6:30 p.m. at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park. Laurie will be inurned at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church Columbarium this spring.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Crescent Sailing Association Junior Sailing Program, bit.ly/4fHdHh6, or the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, bit.ly/4gQ8GEc.

Three new programs debuting at The Helm

The new year brings three new programs to The Helm at the Boll Life Center, 158 Ridge, Grosse Pointe Farms.

First up is an indoor walking club, which takes place 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, through March, and provides an opportunity for folks to maintain a walk-

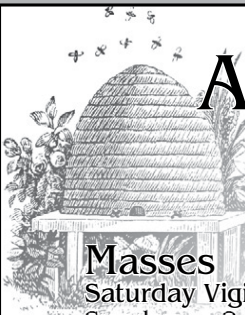
ing regimen without the worry of cold temperatures and icy or snowy conditions. Participants may walk by themselves or with friends at The Helm. They may sign up for any or all days and walk for any time period, from the full two hours to just 15 minutes. There is no cost for this program

for members or guests, but registration is required.

Next is Spanish for Beginners. This six-week course is designed for individuals with no prior Spanish language experience. It begins with the basics, including alpha-

See HELM, page 4B

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church
15020 Hampton
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230-1302

Masses

Saturday Vigil — 4:00 p.m. ☞
Sunday — 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Tuesday — 8:30 a.m.
Thursday — 7:00 p.m.
Friday — Noon

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

Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool

Mack at Lochmoor • 884-5090
www.christthekinggp.org

SUNDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

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

Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)

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

240 Chalfonte G.P. Farms
313-884-3075 • www.gpccong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIANNE SHRADER

Five generations

The holidays were extra special for a Grosse Pointe Park family, five generations of which gathered for a recent photo. Pictured from left are Marianne Shrader of Grosse Pointe Park; her mother, Clara Breicha, 107, of Grosse Pointe Park; her son, Ed Shrader, a former City of Grosse Pointe public safety officer and current resident of Harbor Beach; her granddaughter, Lindsey Shrader of Harbor Beach; and her new great-grandson, Finnegan Shrader, who joined the family Dec. 5, 2024.

Pickleball clinics offered at Assumption

Assumption Cultural Center's pickleball program is offering clinics to help players improve their game, as well as an 11-week clinic to help newcomers learn how to play the game. The two "Skills and Drills" clinics, for experienced players who want to improve their game, focus on drills and exercises that target specific techniques, such as serving, dinking, volleying and footwork. Registrants should sign up with a partner to ensure that players are drilling with another player at the same skill level. Session I of "Skills and Drills" takes place Fridays, Jan. 17 and 24, and Session II takes place Fridays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. Both sessions run 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. and players must be able to attend on both days.

The fee is \$50 per two-day clinic. An "Intro to Pickleball" clinic, where players learn the fundamentals, rules, proper serving and more, is an 11-week program for those new to the game. This clinic runs 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 15 to March 26. The fee is \$110. Clinics are instructed by Peggy Murphy Kurza, a certified PPR instructor, and Mike Patton, a 5.0 player. Pickleball players also may rent courts for two-hour sessions during the day. For more information on all pickleball and other Assumption offerings, call (586) 779-6111 and view the Winter 2025 brochure at assumptionculturalcenter.org. Assumption Cultural Center is located at 21800 Marter, St. Clair Shores.

Connor Creek SA HQ update

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club President Sandra Cobb stands with Lt. Jonathan Harvey of the Connor Creek Salvation Army at Ford House Dec. 3. Harvey shared the latest news around the renovation of the new Connor Creek headquarters, located just east of Mack, which will provide numerous services to the community. He also explained the "Register to Ring" campaign, which provides volunteer bell-ringing opportunities on behalf of The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. The "Register to Ring" website makes signing up easy and allows volunteers to pick a location and bring interested friends to spread holiday cheer in the community. Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club members extend an invitation to all residents to join their Tuesday breakfast and presentations at 7 a.m. at Ford House. Email dennis.rotary1591@gmail.com for information.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT GRAMBO

HELM:

Continued from page 3B

bet, numbers, food, greetings and responses. Each class builds upon the next and at the end of six weeks, students should feel comfortable with casual greetings and responses and confident in pronunciations when ordering at a restaurant. Classes are held 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 15 to Feb. 19. Registration is required. Participants must sign up for all six classes. The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for guests.

Last up is a fall prevention seminar. In an effort to meet seniors where they live, "Taking the Mystery Out of Balance and Posture" meets 1:30 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Harper Woods Library, 19601 Harper. Instructor Paul Clark will discuss factors that increase the risk of falls and ways to improve posture and balance to help reduce the risk. There is no charge for the seminar for members of The Helm. Guests pay \$5. Registration is required. Register for any of these programs at helm.life.org or by calling (313) 882-9600.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Field Trip & Lunch, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. The group will tour Sweetest Heart of Mary Catholic Church and dine at Supino Pizzeria. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 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.
- ◆ The movie "Cabrini" is shown at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests. The Italian film features English subtitles.
- ◆ Belly Fitness Workout, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 21 to May 6, with instructor Stephanie Carr.
- ◆ Tai Chi for Beginners, 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 21 to May 6, with instructor Elaine Frost.
- ◆ Beginner Digital Photography, 6 to 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, Jan. 21 to May 6, with instructor Andreas Brown.

- ◆ The movie "Fly Me to the Moon" is shown at noon Friday, Jan. 24. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

Library

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

- ◆ Sensory Storytime, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Readers' Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Hustle for Health Dance Class, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Craft-to-Go, all day Monday, Jan. 13, at all three branches.
- ◆ Beginner CAD Modeling, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Girls Reading, 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Teen Creativity Circle: Snowman Jars, 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Dream Lab Teens Only, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Tuesday Night Book Discussion, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ 7th & 8th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ DigiLit Series, 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.
- ◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, Cornerstone Baptist Church, 17017 12 Mile, Roseville.
- ◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, St. Joan

of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores. Register at redcrossblood.org.

Family Center

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

- ◆ Picky Eaters, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14. This hands-on interactive workshop, for children 5 to 6 years old and one parent/caregiver, includes a demonstration and instruction on creating a healthy snack board. Attendees will create their own snack board to take home; all materials are provided. This program is designed for people with no allergies or dietary restrictions.
- ◆ Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods Coalition meeting, 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. Anna Flores, doctor of clinical nutrition at Authenticity Recovery, will define disordered eating, share who is at risk and the warning signs, as well as discuss prevention and treatment.
- ◆ Community Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Central Library, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. The group will discuss "The Body Keeps the Score" by Bessel van Der Kolk. A panel of experts will discuss how traumatic experiences can affect a person's mind and body, rearranging the brain's wiring and leading to symptoms like anxiety, hypervigilance and difficulty forming relationship, as well as how to undo the effects of trauma.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Anthony Marcillini, of the Progressive Art Studio Collective of Detroit, speaks. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Ford House

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

- ◆ All About Eleanor Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in January. Admission costs vary.
- ◆ Nooks & Crannies Behind the Scenes Guided Tour, Tuesdays through Sundays, January through May. Times vary.
- ◆ Main Residence Guided Tour, Tuesdays through Sundays, January through May. Times 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.
- ◆ Head Over Heels Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in February. All ages are welcome to this tour, which is themed after Edsel and Eleanor Ford's love and partnership. Admission costs vary.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

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 grossepointeartistscenter.org.

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The Possibilities of Oil Pastels with Saveria Giovinazzo, 10 a.m. to noon Fridays, Jan. 17 to Feb. 7.
- ◆ Incising Marks in Encaustic with Candace Law, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.
- ◆ Landscapes in the Style of Pierre-Auguste Renoir, with Donald Cronkhite, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 20 and 27, and March 6.

Chamber

The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce hosts After Hours Networking, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Closet Connections, 20427 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

Heroes' Movement

The inaugural Heroes' Movement gala takes place 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. The event includes appetizers, an open bar, a live auction, live music and a keynote speaker. Cocktail attire is recommended. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available online at heroesmovementusa.org

Adaptive yoga

Yoga Moves Any Body, in partnership with the Kirk Gibson Foundation, hosts Adaptive Chair Yoga classes at 11:30 a.m. Mondays at Full Lotus Yoga, 20365 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods. Adaptive yoga benefits those with multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke and other neuromuscular conditions. Cost is \$12 per drop-in class or five classes for \$50 in advance. Visit fulllotusyoga.net.

Toastmasters

Northeastern Toastmasters meets in person at Wayne County Community College District's Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center, 19305 Vernier, Harper Woods, as well as on Zoom, at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month. Call (313) 720-8444 for the link and password.

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University Liggett hosts artwork of Linda Boyle

Exhibition runs through Feb. 6

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Grosse Pointe Park artist Linda Boyle hopes to showcase her versatility as an artist during her solo exhibition, “What Are You Thirsting For?” Oil paintings and graphite drawings will be displayed through Thursday, Feb. 6, at University Liggett School’s Manoogian Arts Wing.

“I like to experiment with a lot of different materials,” she said. “I love trying new things. I want to show variations in some of the mediums I work with.”

Boyle was invited to display her work after appearing in an exhibition with Pointe Studio Ten, one of several art groups to which she belongs.

“I just love art, I always have, but it took a while to get here,” she said. “I’ve always loved painting, even when I was young, but put it on the back burner. It feels like it’s finally come full circle.”

Boyle earned a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from Michigan State University — “I got into a field where I could support myself,” she explained — but kept creating in her spare time.

“I lost my mom in 2018,” she said, “and realized time is not infinite. It was time to get things started.”



She turned her focus to painting and drawing, and saw some success — until COVID hit. Following the pandemic, Boyle “went full throttle” by the end of 2022 and has been gaining traction ever since.

“A friend of mine said, ‘When you talk about art your voice gets louder,’” Boyle said. “I just love it so much. I love color. I find it energizing and joyful.”

“... I do mostly oil paintings, but I dabble in abstract with acrylics and do graphite drawings,” she added. “I like all of it. I like to paint with a brush and I like to paint with a palette knife, but oil painting is near and dear

to my heart.”

Following the theme, “What Are You Thirsting For?,” Boyle will display portraits of people drinking.

“Through experimenting with various mediums and approaches, I strive to uncover my authentic voice — a voice that resonates with the unspoken thirst within us all,” she said. “My work is a reflection of this ongoing quest, a continual process of quenching my artistic thirst while simultaneously fueling it, pushing me to explore, question and evolve.”

“In experiencing this exhibit, I hope you, too, will find a moment of introspection,” she continued,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA BOYLE

Left, Linda Boyle’s self-portrait, “What Makes Me Me,” will be among her work displayed. Above, “Thirst For The Next Note” follows the show’s theme, “What Are You Thirsting For?” Below, “Stripes” is among Boyle’s graphite drawings, inspired by a trip to Africa last year.

different,” she noted.

She’ll also display some of her landscape paintings.

“With my degree in landscape architecture, I do fall back on that as a topic in my art,” she said, noting she finds inspiration in old buildings and signs.

“Life inspires me,” she said. “I’m inspired by other artists, too.”

One such artist, Alphonse Mucha, an art nouveau painter and graphic artist, inspired Boyle to create a series of “Modern Mucha” pieces highlighting, “women of all different backgrounds,” she said. Two of her Modern Mucha works have sold and she is working on two more.

An opening reception takes place 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16.

“I’m hoping people who come will think about what they’re thirsting for, what they want out of life,” she said. “And I hope they leave joyful and curious.”

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



ASK THE EXPERTS By Evan Vasilaukas, PT, DPT, OCS

Tips for living with arthritis, not against it

Has your chronic knee pain left you out of a family hike? Does your aching hip keep you from enjoying a round of golf? Does lower back stiffness prevent you from tending to your garden?

If any of these sound familiar, you, like many others, might be suffering from arthritis. In fact, 80 percent of all 60-year-olds will have radiographic evidence of arthritis in at least one joint. It helps to understand that aching joints from arthritis is a part of the normal aging process that afflicts us all in some capacity, rather than a disease. This reframing can help with the self-perpetuating negative thoughts and feelings that when dwelled upon can make our actual condition worse.

Arthritis happens when the cartilage in a joint breaks down and can cause a lot of everyday movements to be painful or difficult. It can occur in a number of different joints, with the load-bearing joints being the most common (hips, knees, spine). As a result, a lot of people avoid being active in general for fear of exacerbating their symptoms or worsening their condition. But that is not the best solution. Doing nothing and avoiding activities will lead to more stiffness and weakness.

The key to managing arthritis is finding whatever movement or exercise you can do that doesn’t actively cause your pain. Moving through an arthritic joint will secrete synovial fluid, which can lubricate the joint to make for smoother movements and provide

cushion for shock absorption. Finding low-impact activities like walking, cycling, ellipticals, water exercises and strength training can help manage your symptoms. Exercise helps reduce stiffness, strengthen the muscles around the joint, improve flexibility and can even decrease pain by promoting the release of anti-inflammatory chemicals.

Start each day with a morning stretching or mobility routine to kick-start the secretion of synovial fluid for the day. Find the things that you CAN do and keep your body moving. Your joints will thank you for it.

Dr. Evan Vasilaukas has broad experience treating a variety of orthopedic conditions, including sport rehab and sports performance training, across all age groups. He is TPI certified and a certified running gait analyst. Learn more at peakperformancemi.com

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



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Gabby

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Cooking to reduce cabin fever this winter

Dear Gabby: My family and I always struggle with cabin fever in January. I don't want to always go out and have to do an activity, but if we don't the kids are always glued to their phones and cannot think of a single thing to do. Help! — Bored in the Shores

Dear Bored:
January is the perfect time for cozy evenings at home. That said, we

all know that kids these days go straight for an iPad over a book.
Try this: One evening a week, the kids are in charge of making dinner (no matter how simple).
They have to find the recipe, write a grocery list, then go to the grocery store with you to collect the items. They are in charge of cooking and the clean-up plan is up to you (a group effort works

best, in my opinion).
After the family meal, the kids also get to choose a game to play. Bingo (with prizes), War, Rummikub and Mad Gab all are easy to play and fun for the whole family.

— Gabby

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



Handling unexpected guests



DEAR ANNIE: I have mobility issues and use a walker, so I'm mostly confined to my home. My son helps by taking me to the beauty salon and occasionally to the bank or pharmacy, but I spend most of my time at home.
Today, two ladies showed up at my door unexpectedly. I hadn't been up long and wasn't dressed for visitors, and my house was far from presentable. There were Christmas boxes scattered everywhere, and I had just dropped a coffee cup, leaving broken

pieces all over the kitchen floor. Needless to say, I wasn't in a state to entertain anyone.
When they rang the doorbell, I chose not to answer. It wasn't that I didn't appreciate their visit, but the timing caught me completely off guard. Had I known they were coming, I would've had time to change clothes, tidy up the living room and prepare myself to receive guests.
Now I'm feeling guilty and wondering if I was wrong not to answer the door. Should I have let them in, despite the

chaos and my discomfort? What's the polite way to handle unexpected visitors when you simply aren't ready for company? — Feeling Awkward

DEAR FEELING AWKWARD: You were absolutely not wrong to prioritize your comfort and well-being. Managing unexpected visitors can be challenging, especially when you're dealing with mobility issues and weren't prepared. It's completely understandable that you chose not to answer the door in that moment.
A kind way to handle this in the future might be to call or message the visitors later, thanking them for stopping by and explaining that it wasn't a good time. Most people will understand and appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Remember, it's OK to set boundaries and take care of yourself first; you don't need to feel guilty for that.

DEAR ANNIE: I am struggling with how to handle this situation. My husband and I have been married for 44 years, and we have one son who is married with a grandson.
Five years ago, we decided to move closer to our son's family to be

near our grandson. However, once or twice a year, my husband reminds me that I "ruined his life" by forcing him to move. He accuses me of being selfish for wanting to be closer to our grandson.
Adding to this, my husband strongly dislikes our son's mother-in-law, which he has made very clear to me. He refuses to attend holiday dinners if she will be there. Our daughter-in-law is unaware of his feelings about her mother. This situation has left me constantly worrying about whether my husband will attend our grandson's sports activities or events if the other grandmother is present.
I'm exhausted from the stress of managing this ongoing conflict. It's reached the point where I'm seriously considering divorce, as I no longer want to live with this constant tension and misery.
Any advice you could offer would be greatly appreciated. — Thinking of Divorce

DEAR DIVORCE: I'm so sorry you're going through this. It sounds like you've been carrying a heavy emotional burden for a long time. Your feelings matter, and you deserve to feel peace and happiness in your life. Speak openly



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

with your husband about your feelings.
In addition, seek a well-trained marriage therapist to address these issues together. A trusted therapist can also help you explore your feelings and options in a safe, supportive space. Whatever path you choose, please know you're not alone, and there is hope for a more fulfilling future.

DEAR ANNIE: I am a college student, and I just finished my finals for the fall semester and am now on winter break. Right toward the end of finals week, one of my professors had a medical emergency and had to miss our final day for surgery. My entire class sent her supportive emails, including me, but I find myself still worrying about her. She's a wonderful professor and person, and she's so passionate about the material she teaches. She's everything I love in a professor, and just knowing that she's suffering worries me.
I don't know if I'd be overstepping boundaries to send her more emails letting her know I'm thinking of her, especially since she'll

be unable to look at a screen for at least a few weeks due to the nature of her surgery. Should I send another email in another month or so when she's recovered somewhat? Should I bring her a gift at the start of spring semester, since I have another class with her? I really want to do something, I just don't know what. — Concerned Student

DEAR CONCERNED STUDENT: Your empathy says a lot about you! And you're right that great professors are a gift that can't be taken for granted.
Since you've already sent a thoughtful email, I would wait until the spring semester to reach out again. Recovering from surgery can be overwhelming, and she might feel pressured to respond to all the messages she's receiving. Come spring, bringing her something like flowers or a handwritten card would be appropriate, and she will be in a better place to receive it.

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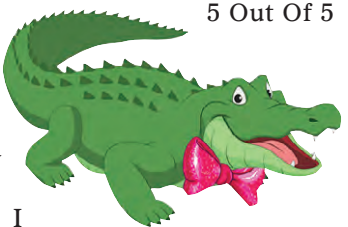
by Anna Lizer

My son recently got his braces off and has been doing an impressive job taking care of his new retainer, brushing, flossing and all.
But as anyone with a retainer knows, they can get pretty gross when you're wearing them 24/7.
The orthodontist sent him home with a few Retainer Brite tablets to keep his retainer clean and they quickly became a staple in his routine.
When he ran out, he asked if we could get more, so I found a bulk pack of 96 tablets on Amazon for just \$17, giving us a solid

three-month supply.
Using Retainer Brite is straightforward. You simply fill a glass with warm water,

drop in a tablet and soak the retainer for 15 minutes. The tablet creates a bubbling action that works to clean and sanitize the retainer, leaving it fresh and free from buildup. It's as simple as rinse, soak and go.
As it turns out, I still use my own retainer semi-regularly, even though I got my braces off ages ago. So, I decided to give Retainer Brite a try on mine, too, and I

could immediately see the difference. It's fantastic for keeping retainers clean and germ-free and it's inexpensive and easy to use.
Overall, I'd give Retainer Brite a solid 5 out of 5 alligators. It's affordable, effective and keeps our retainers feeling fresh and clean — a win for both my son and me.
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.



Easy comfort

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

Chicken and rice is a comfort food classic and also a blank canvas for flavor profiles. You can make it taste any way you want. You just need chicken, some rice, fresh herbs and good braising vegetables. A flavorful braising liquid is key as well. This is a true one-pot wonder and the oven does the majority of the work.

For this dish, I used Dan-O’s Seasoning. You can find it in most grocery stores and it tastes like kicked up poultry seasoning. There is garlic, onion, lemon and orange peel, herbs and spices all blended together. If you can’t find it, substitute regular poultry seasoning. But I would take the extra time to look!

I added fennel, which turns sweet when slow cooked, tomatoes, spinach and mushrooms to a flavorful broth made of wine and chicken broth.

The chicken is browned and caramelized in the pot and the brown bits left behind add so much extra flavor. This dish really has an all day cooked flavor with minimal effort.

It’s filling, comforting and there is one pot to clean up after. It’s a perfect night to put the kids in charge of cleanup!

Cheers, Mombeau

Braised Chicken and Rice with Vegetables

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 6 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- 1-2 tbsp Dan-O’s seasoning (or poultry seasoning)
- 1 cup mushrooms, small dice
- 1 fennel bulb, sliced thin
- 1 onion, sliced thin
- 1 tsp chili flakes
- 2 cups, halved cherry tomatoes
- 2 cloves garlic, mined
- 2 large handfuls, baby spinach
- 1 cup jasmine rice, rinsed
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 bouillon cube
- 4 sprigs thyme
- Salt and pepper

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Start by seasoning the chicken. Sprinkle each side of the chicken, generously, with salt, pepper and either



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

the Dan-O’s seasoning rub or poultry seasoning. You will want to use a large, oven proof pot or braising pan with a lid for this dish.

Heat the oil over medium-high heat in the pan and add the chicken. Brown skin side down for about three to five min-

utes or until the skin has rendered some fat off and is crispy. Flip the chicken and brown on the other side for three minutes more. Remove the thighs and set aside. Add in the onion, fennel, mushrooms and chili flakes. Stir together and cook until the vegetables are

soft, about five minutes. Add in the garlic and tomatoes. Pour in the rice and wine and let simmer until the wine has reduced by half. While the wine reduces, heat the broth and bouillon together in a small pan until the bouillon cube dissolves. Once the wine

is reduced, pour the broth into the rice and vegetable mixture and stir in the spinach to wilt. Gently lay the chicken thighs over top along with the thyme sprigs. Bring back to a simmer and cover. Place in the oven for 40 minutes.

Serve family style.

Wine resolutions

A recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC said that half of all Americans this year, mainly young adults, will resolve to change their lifestyle in one way or another.

Making resolutions for the new year is not a particularly momentous decision, especially since so many people talk a good game but several weeks later abandon the best of intentions and revert to normal activities.

However, if 2024 was your year of reducing alcoholic beverage consumption, then resolving to do so for an entire year or permanently might be a little easier because you already had a head start.

Lowering alcohol ingestion is a commendable plan, which may seem hypocritical coming from a wine columnist. But I began doing the same thing 25 years ago or so, and I hereby suggest one key word that is at the heart of my

lifestyle choice.

Moderation. In fact, I tend to be moderate in almost all activities. (Well, when it comes to a couple of things, such as dark chocolate and great comedy, I occasionally overdo it.)

In terms of wine and food, moderation is not particularly difficult to achieve. The primary thing to remember about wine is that some of them are automatically moderate and others are the opposite.

One way to control this is to simply look at the label. The alcohol content of all wine must be on the label, so whether you’re in a retail store or a cafe, a good idea is to see what the alcoholic content of a particular wine is and stick with lower-alcohol products.

With many red wines today, the alcohol level is typically 14.5 percent or higher, but some wines are almost always higher. Zinfandel, for

example, is typically about 16 percent. So, if you are a zin lover, there are two strategies you may employ.

One, obviously, is to drink less. The other, which I do regularly, is to add water to the glass.

Adding a bit of water to a wine like a higher alcohol zinfandel may seem as if it will ruin the flavor, but often the aroma is improved, because higher-alcohol wines have less fruity aromas than do lower-alcohol reds.

Also, a bit of water can assist in the expression of fruit that you can taste because it improves the balance.

If white wine is your preference, a great example of automatic moderation is in German rieslings. Many of these wines weigh in at about 8 percent alcohol; a few are even less.

Although there is a bit of residual sugar in some of these wines, the flavors are delightful with apple and pear aromas. Even if served relatively cold, the flavors of the wines go

brilliantly with many different kinds of foods.

Those who resolve to go moderate have many different choices when it comes to beer, and one of the best is from Best Day Brewing, which has an entire lineup of nonalcoholic brews that are nationally distributed.

In standard lager-style brews, there are non-alcs from Heineken and Stella, but neither is particularly flavorful.

Firestone Walker Brewing recently began selling a product called 8ZERO5, a nonalcoholic. I have not tasted it yet, but reports say it’s quite good. Another that I have always liked is Clausthaler Dry Hopped.

An interesting alternative nonalcoholic product is Lagunitas Hop Water. Although it is not a non-alcoholic beer, it has a faint beerlike aroma and is completely dry.

Beverage of the Week:

Best Day Brewing Kolsch Non-Alcoholic (\$13.99/six-pack) — Far too many nonalcoholic



beers display extremely light or even nonexistent beerlike characters.

This excellent version has a slight note of grain in the mildly malty aroma, and its entry is clean with distinctive beerlike characteristics.

It foams like a beer, has excellent midpalate flavors and it actually finishes more like beer than



most other non-alcoholics that I tried. It is made in northern California and widely distributed.

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

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Wine and cheese

By Robert Whitley
Guest Writer

No matter your level of interest or knowledge, there is one thing you know about wine: Wine loves cheese, and cheese loves wine. You know this because you have heard the wine and cheese mantra over and over again.

What you are rarely told is what wine goes with what cheese. That’s probably because the choices are subjective. There is no consensus, for example, on whether

white wine or red wine is a better match. Besides, there are so many different wines and different cheeses.

A friend asked recently for recommendations for a holiday wine and cheese party. I typically serve whatever wine is already open (yes, occasionally there is some leftover wine) with whatever cheese I have. As far as I am concerned, there is no such thing as a bad match.

That said, there are some that are better than others and a few classic

pairings that should be considered in the planning stage of a wine and cheese or dinner party.

The most classic pairing, and perhaps the most elegant, is Sauternes with Stilton cheese or any blue-veined cheese.

Sauternes is expensive, however, so potential substitutes might be in order. Take late-harvest riesling or pinot gris from the Alsace region of France, or even some of the famous late-harvest wines from California, particularly the stellar Navarro Vineyards from Mendocino County.

Inexpensive ruby Port

wine (late-bottled vintage level, not too expensive) also pairs beautifully with blue-veined cheeses after dinner.

Another classic pairing is Sancerre or sauvignon blanc with chevre, the goat’s milk cheese that originated in France.

That said, I repeat: What wine with what cheese is a subjective matter. It all boils down to what wines you like and what cheese you like. Honestly, after decades of trying, I haven’t found a bad combination yet.

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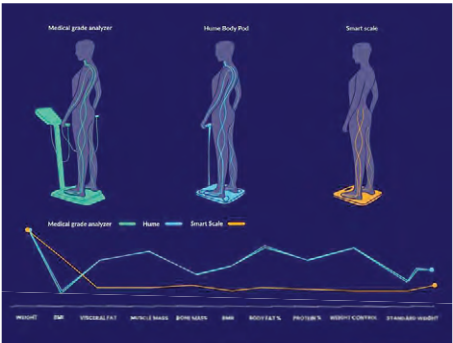
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RING IN THE NEW YEAR

From new technologies and therapies to natural foods, tools are in place for vibrant health in 2025

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The Hume Body Pod is an innovative scale designed to provide much more than just your weight. It uses advanced bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA) technology to measure body composition metrics like body fat percentage, muscle mass, water weight, and more. The Body Pod gives you a comprehensive overview of your physical health, allowing you to track changes over time and set personalized fitness goals. It's a fantastic tool for anyone looking to stay on top of their wellness journey and gain deeper insights into their overall health beyond just the number on the scale. And here's the exciting part: we're giving away a Hume Body Pod scale!

To enter, simply send an email to media@grossepointenews.com telling us what you enjoyed about this section, or leave a comment on our Body Pod Instagram post and share what you liked about our "New Year, New You" section. It's that easy! Don't miss your chance to kick off the year with this incredible tool to help you stay on track with one or more of your 2025 health goals. Deadline: January 17, 2025. Don't wait, enter now!

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

As we welcome 2025, there's no better time to invest in your health and wellness while supporting local businesses right here in Grosse Pointe. From fitness studios offering dynamic classes to spas and wellness centers focused on relaxation and rejuvenation, our community is brimming with opportunities to help you feel your best. Local juice bars and health stores provide the fuel you need with fresh, nutrient-packed options, while skincare and beauty boutiques offer high-quality products to refresh your routine. Recovery therapies are also available to keep you balanced and thriving. This year, take your wellness journey to the next level by exploring the exceptional services and products offered by our local businesses—they're ready to help you achieve a healthier, happier you!

The new Oura Ring is a sleek, innovative way to jumpstart your health and wellness journey in 2025. Designed to fit seamlessly into your lifestyle, this wearable technology provides actionable insights into your health by tracking key metrics like sleep quality, activity levels, heart rate, body temperature, and even blood oxygen saturation. Its cutting-edge sensors deliver accurate data, empowering you to make informed decisions about your daily habits and long-term goals.

One of the standout features of the Oura Ring is its focus on holistic wellness. The sleep tracking function not only monitors how long you sleep but also the quality of your rest, detailing stages like deep sleep and REM. With personalized recommendations, it helps you improve your nighttime routine for better recovery and mental clarity. During the day, the ring tracks your activity levels, encourages movement with gentle reminders, and ensures you're striking the right balance

between activity and rest. Its user-friendly app synthesizes these metrics into a clear readiness score, giving you a snapshot of your overall well-being. Whether you're looking to optimize performance, manage stress, or simply live healthier, the Oura Ring makes wellness achievable, all in a stylish, durable design that fits right onto your finger. It's the ultimate tool for living intentionally in 2025.

The Hume Health Body Pod is redefining what a scale can do, making it the best scale on the market for anyone serious about tracking their health and wellness. This isn't just a device to measure weight—it's a complete body composition analyzer that provides in-depth insights into your health. From body fat percentage and muscle mass to hydration levels and metabolic rate, the Body Pod gives you a detailed understanding of your body's metrics, helping you set and achieve your fitness goals with precision.

What sets the Hume Health Body Pod apart is its advanced technology. Equipped with bioelectrical impedance analysis (BIA), it delivers highly accurate readings that rival professional-grade devices. The sleek design pairs with an intuitive app, allowing you to track progress over time, set personalized goals, and sync seamlessly with other fitness apps for a holistic approach to health management.

Beyond its technology, the Body Pod is built with user convenience in mind. The easy-to-read display, Wi-Fi connectivity, and multi-user functionality make it perfect for households or individuals looking for actionable insights. Whether you're focused on weight management, building muscle, or improving overall wellness, the Hume Health Body Pod is an investment that truly pays off in results. It's not just a scale; it's a game-changer for your health journey.



The Oura Ring, at top and above, is a fashionable way to track actionable health measurements. Looking like sleek modern jewelry in a number of attractive finishes, the wearable tech wonder keeps tabs on vitals, sleep patterns and so much more. The comfortable piece fits right into your look and lifestyle, offering critical health benefits.

Rhythm & Blue Juice Co. is a must-visit spot to elevate your health and wellness in 2025. Known for their vibrant selection of fresh, cold-pressed juices and smoothies, they offer a delicious and nutrient-packed way to fuel your body. Whether you're looking to detox, boost your immunity, or simply add more fruits and veggies to your routine, their menu is thoughtfully crafted to support your goals.

In addition to its beverages, Rhythm & Blue Juice Co. often sources local, organic ingredients, making it a great choice for those who want to eat clean while supporting the community. Their knowledgeable staff can help you customize options to suit your dietary preferences or recommend a juice cleanse to kickstart your year. Beyond the drinks, the welcoming atmosphere and commitment to health make it more than just a juice bar—it's a hub for wellness inspiration right in the heart of Grosse Pointe.



iCryo offers whole-body cryotherapy — sessions of brief exposure to ultra-cold temperatures said to improve many conditions.

iCryo, conveniently located on The Hill in Grosse Pointe, offers a wide range of wellness services designed to help you feel your best and improve overall health. Their offerings include whole-body cryotherapy, IV infusion therapy, compression therapy, and red light therapy, all tailored to promote recovery, boost energy, reduce inflammation, and enhance your well-being.

Whether you're an athlete looking for quicker recovery, someone managing chronic pain, or simply seeking a way to recharge, iCryo's cutting-edge treatments provide something for everyone. Its central location makes it easy to incorporate wellness into your daily routine, whether you're stopping by after a workout, running errands, or heading home from work. With a commitment to helping the community live healthier and more vibrant lives, iCryo is a local destination for cutting-edge care and rejuvenation.

Whole-body cryotherapy is a treatment where your body is briefly exposed to extremely cold temperatures, typically between -200°F and -300°F, to reduce inflammation, relieve pain, and promote muscle recovery. Sessions usually last 2-4 minutes and are popular among athletes and those seeking overall wellness benefits.

Red light therapy uses low-level red or near-infrared light to penetrate the skin and stimulate cellular repair, improve circulation, and reduce inflammation. It's commonly used for skin rejuvenation, pain relief and enhancing energy levels.



Compression therapy involves the use of controlled pressure, often through specialized sleeves or boots, to improve blood flow, reduce swelling, and support muscle recovery. It's commonly used by athletes or individuals with circulation issues to alleviate soreness and enhance recovery after physical activity.

IV therapy delivers vitamins, nutrients, and hydration directly into the bloodstream via an intravenous drip. This method ensures quick absorption and is used to boost energy, enhance immune function, combat dehydration, and recover from illness or physical exertion.

The dry sauna at Corner Studio is a hidden gem for boosting wellness in Grosse Pointe. Beyond just a relaxing escape, regular sauna use comes with impressive health benefits. Studies show that spending 15–20 minutes in a sauna can help reduce stress, improve circulation, flush toxins, and even promote better sleep. According to research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, sauna use has been linked to a 40% lower risk of cardiovascular disease with regular sessions.

But why sweat alone? Sauna-ing with a friend is not only more fun but also a unique way to build stronger relationships. Sharing a calming, restorative experience allows for meaningful conversations without the distractions of daily life. Corner Studio's inviting sauna space is the perfect place to connect with a workout buddy or catch up with a close friend while reaping the physical and mental rewards of heat therapy.

Whether you're easing sore muscles after a workout, taking time to unwind, or enjoying a heart-healthy habit, the dry sauna at Corner Studio is a wellness essential. Make it a routine with a friend and elevate both your health and your connections in 2025!

A soothing and energizing dry sauna treatment at Corner Studio will get your year of good health started right. Sweating out toxins allows the body to operate with greater vitality, reducing muscle pain, decreasing stress and promoting better sleep and well-being.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Red Light Therapy rejuvenates, repairs cells and reduces inflammation, among other things. The treatments are available from iCryo on The Hill.



This tasty lineup, above, from Rhythm & Blue Juice Company, provides myriad health solutions in addition to being a cooling, delicious treat. Fresh fruit and veggies are at the core of these juices, each designed to promote vibrant good health as they help achieve goals such as cleansing and giving a boost of needed nutrients.



Corner Studio, above, offers sauna, fitness classes and more to keep you in your best health.

FIND THE ITEMS ON THESE PAGES AND MORE AT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES



- Corner Studio:** 19565 Mack Ave, GPW. @thecornerstudiogp
- Oura:** ouraring.com
- Hume:** myhumehealth.com
- Rhythm & Blue Juice Co.:** 17864 Mack Ave, GP. @rhythmandbluejuice
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CROSSDAY PRODUCTIONS LTD. AND DEADPAN PICTURES
The dynamic trio from left, Michiel Huisman as Daniel Murphy, Niamh Algar as Mary Sullivan and Samuel Bottomley as Louis Murphy in the 2019 movie “The Last Right,” written and directed by Aoife Crehan.

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Last Right”
2019 - Not Rated
1 hr 46 min
★★★★☆

This isn’t your typical road trip film. Although there are some interesting family dynamics going on, it’s not exactly what you’d call a buddy flick. It isn’t comprised of a series of funny scenes, even though the overriding theme is quite amusing — it would fall under

the category of dark humor. But it is a heartfelt, unpredictable and engaging movie set against the backdrop of the stark beauty of Ireland and supported by a talented cast. “The Last Right” stars Michiel Huisman (“Game of Thrones”), Samuel Bottomley (“Ghost Stories”), and Niamh Algar (“The Virtues”) who all play off each other quite naturally. It’s the first feature film from

Aoife Crehan who wrote and directed it. The original score is by Gary Lightbody. And I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the fine camerawork of Shane F. Kelly.

Daniel Murphy (Huisman) is on a flight from Boston to Ireland to bury his mother. He’s sitting next to an elderly gentleman, Padraig (Jim Norton), who coincidentally happens to have the same last name.

His mission is to bury his estranged brother. When the flight attendant comes around to have Padraig fill out a customs form, he’s stumped about adding a next-of-kin, since he hasn’t any. So he slyly writes in Daniel’s name. As luck (or unluck, in this case) would have it, he passes away on the flight.

So Daniel is surprised to discover he’s now responsible for overseeing the burial of Padraig. Meanwhile, back at his mother’s house, he has to deal with his younger brother, which proves to be rather challenging. Louis (Bottomley) is a high-functioning autistic teenager who definitely has his quirks. I thought he was realistically and sensitively portrayed, unlike so many autistic characters in other films. Daniel would like to

Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

take him back to the States with him and have him attend a special boarding school that focuses on kids like him. But that’s an issue they decide to put off until later in their ordeal.

Against his better judgment, Daniel agrees to take Padraig’s body in a flimsy, cardboard coffin, strapped to the roof of a car, all the way up north to have him laid to rest with his father. He’ll be accompanied by his brother and Louis’ friend Mary Sullivan (Algar), who happens to work at the local funeral home.

Mary is a cheery sort, so whenever tension arises between the two brothers, which it often does, she’s the perfect mediator. She’s not sure where her life is heading, so she welcomes a brief respite, in the form of a road trip. The three mismatched souls create some interesting scenes, which are quite comical at times. It’s this much-needed levity that helps make this such an enjoyable ride.

Naturally, everything doesn’t go as planned. If everything went smoothly, it would sure make for a boring hour and a half of movie watching. Due to a mix-up, Louis fails to relay the message that they don’t have to deliver the body, so Daniel is actually breaking the law. Enter Detective Donall Crowley (Colm Meany) and his bumbling sidekick Sheila O’Neill (Eleanor O’Brien).

They’re charged with catching the trio and are always just a step or two behind them. There are some funny scenes between Detective

Crowley and Sheila, who’s new to the police force and is a comically inept. I felt her character was a little over the top.

Meanwhile, up in the north of the country, Father Reilly awaits the delivery of the body. Brian Cox, who turns in his usual brilliant performance, plays him. He informs Daniel that he basically has one day to bring the body to him for burial. So the entire madcap adventure takes place over the course of a single weekend. But it’s a weekend you won’t soon forget.

If you’re looking for a heartfelt adventure with a Celtic touch, I highly recommend “The Last Right.” It’s a picture perfect little film I think you’ll really enjoy.

Currently streaming for free on Hoopla (with your library card), YouTube, and Tubi. Also on Prime Video, The Roku Channel, Peacock, and to rent on other services.

Note to parents: The movie is not rated but I’d give it a PG-13 due to some mild swearing.

My rating system:

★ A real stinker. A movie that is so bad, you’re embarrassed to admit you’ve seen it, but you have to rate it nonetheless.

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

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

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

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

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

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



Movie Poster.



Louis ((Bottomley) Daniel (Huisman), and Mary (Algar) ready to roll.



Hand delivering the body.



Detective Donall Crowley (Colm Meany) .



The trio with Padraig’s body.

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in supportive alignment with Jupiter.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 9, 2025: You are quick-witted and creative. Many of you are collectors. You have strong opinions and a highly individual approach to things. Simplicity is the key to life this year. This is a year to work hard and take charge of your health. Physical exercise will be important. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today your ambition is aroused and your ability to communicate to others is excellent. A winning combination! Furthermore, the Sun at the top of your chart is flattering to you. With all this helping you, reach for the stars! Tonight: You look good!

♉ TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

This is a productive day for you, especially regarding discussions about shared property, taxes, debt and inheritances. You also might negotiate budgets and resources that can be allocated to you. Note: These discussions will be favorable! Meanwhile, foreign interests and travel plans appeal to you. Tonight: Explore!

♊ GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

If you work in the entertainment world, the hospitality industry or with children, this is a productive day! It's also an excellent day to plan social occasions and future vacations. You will get a lot done today because people will cooperate. Tonight: Check your finances.

♋ CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

This is an excellent day for discussions about work, home, your health or anything to do with a pet. You'll be proactive because you want to get things done. Do be patient with partners and close friends. You can be part of the problem or part of the solution. Tonight: Get your rest.

♌ LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

It's a new year, and you're inspired to be as productive as possible. Continue to work hard. Delegate wherever you can. Discussions about vacations, social outings and creative situations will go well today. Appreciate your talents! Tonight: Work.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Like everyone else, you're in work mode this week; however, you also want to play! In fact, lucky Virgos might be sipping margaritas on a sandy beach somewhere. Nevertheless, many of you are checking on finances and cash flow to do home repairs. Family discussions about money might take place. Tonight: Play!

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which gives you an edge over all the other signs. Furthermore, the Moon is dancing with Mercury, which enhances your ability to talk to others. You will easily express your feelings because you're more sensitive and aware today. Tonight: Home and family.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Because this is a busy, fast-paced week with errands, appointments, short trips plus increased reading and writing, why not take a backseat today? Catch your breath. You will

want to study financial matters, banking and cash flow. (Stay on top of important details.) Tonight: Conversations!

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This is a lovely day for a heart-to-heart discussion with a friend, probably a female. In fact, if you share your hopes and dreams for the future with this person, their feedback might help you. This is also an excellent time to shop for wardrobe goodies for yourself. Keep up the hard work! Tonight: Protect your belongings.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today you're high-viz, which means people notice you more than usual. In fact, some of them seem to know personal details about your private life. Like, what's with that? Is the posse after you? More than most, you value your good reputation in the eyes of your peers. Tonight: Exercise.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Discussions with someone younger today will be lively! This person's enthusiasm for something might influence you, especially in terms of travel or "getting away." Speaking of which, you want to do something different today because you need a change. Why not shake things up a little? Tonight: Solitude.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

This is an excellent day to talk to bosses, parents, teachers or anyone in authority about taxes, debt, fines, levies, shared property or anything to do with the wealth and resources of someone else. Yes! Tonight: Be friendly.

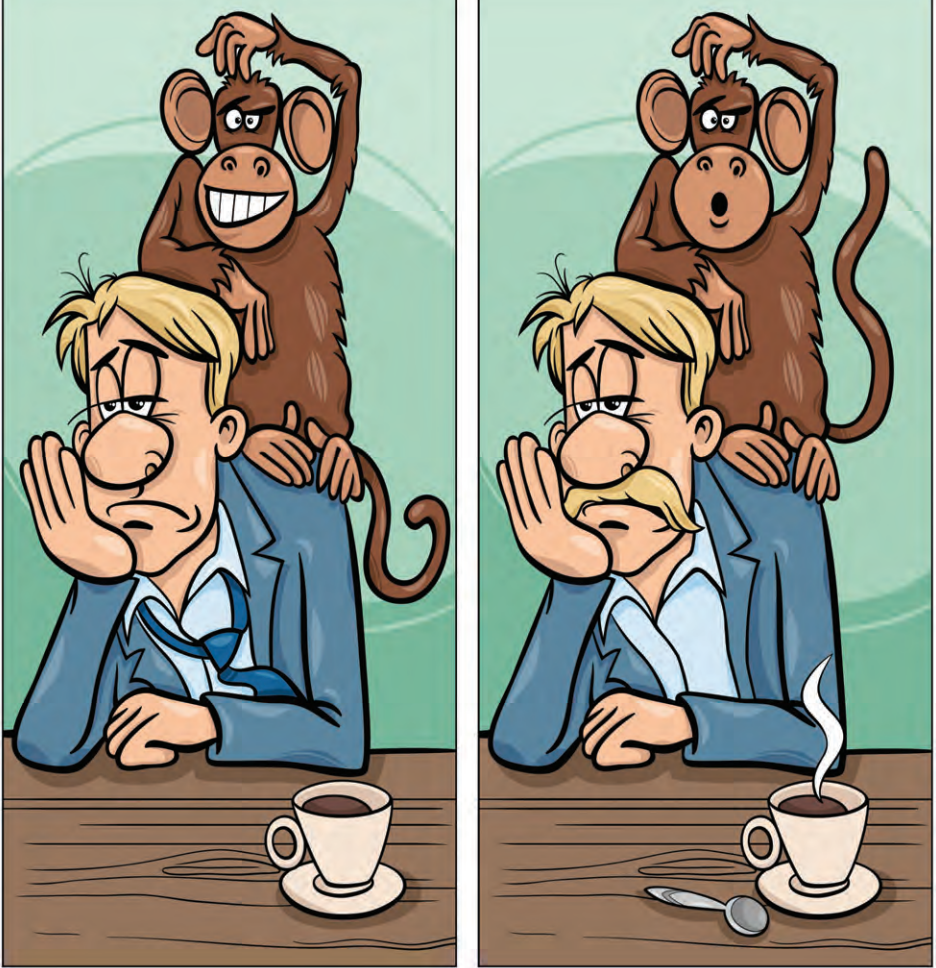
BORN TODAY
Singer-songwriter Joan Baez (1941), guitarist Jimmy Page (1944), actor J.K. Simmons (1955).



Find 10 Differences



Find 6 Differences



Contract Bridge

THREE HURDLES TO SUCCESS

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
East 1 ♠ South Dble West Pass North 3 ♣
Pass 3 NT
Opening lead — seven of spades.

Assume you reach three notrump on the bidding shown and West leads the seven of spades. East covers dummy's ten with the queen, and the question is how to proceed from here.

Clearly, your best move at this point is to duck East's queen. If you won the trick, you would subject yourself to the possibility that West might later gain the lead and return a spade through

dummy's J-5. After you duck the queen, East shifts to the deuce of diamonds. You don your thinking cap again and then put up the king. Granting the possibility that East might have the A-Q of diamonds, it is surely wiser to play the king than the jack. You should not jeopardize the contract by playing the jack, because East is virtually certain to have the ace of diamonds for his opening bid. When the king of diamonds holds, you next lead the jack of clubs, planning to play low from dummy if West follows low. This play guarantees the contract even if East wins the trick with the queen. In the actual case, though, West covers the jack of clubs with the queen -- and you duck it! The composite effect of your first three plays is that you wind up making the contract. Dummy's six club tricks are more than the defenders can cope with, and you are sure to come home with at least nine tricks.

But note that if you won the first spade or did not play the king of diamonds at trick two, or took West's queen of clubs with the king at trick three, the outcome would be altogether different. You would fail to make three notrump because you did not clear all three critical hurdles.

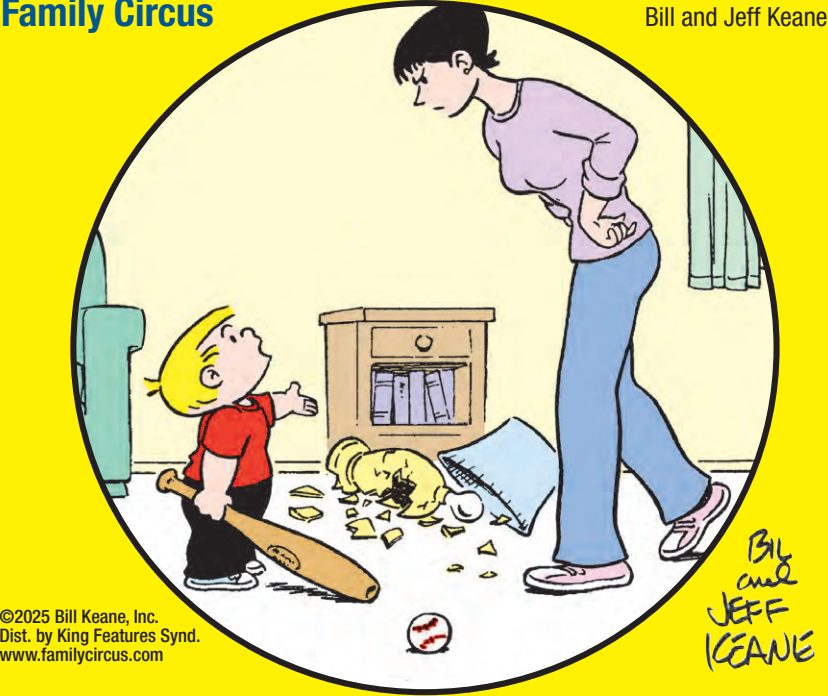
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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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“But there aren’t any signs around the house that say, ‘You break it, you pay for it!’”

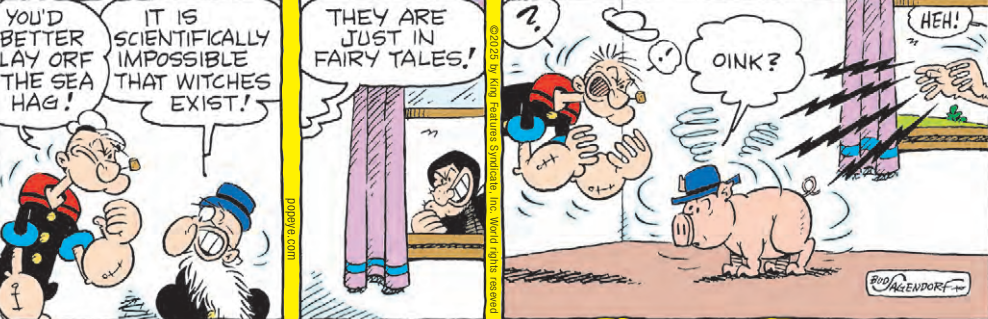
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



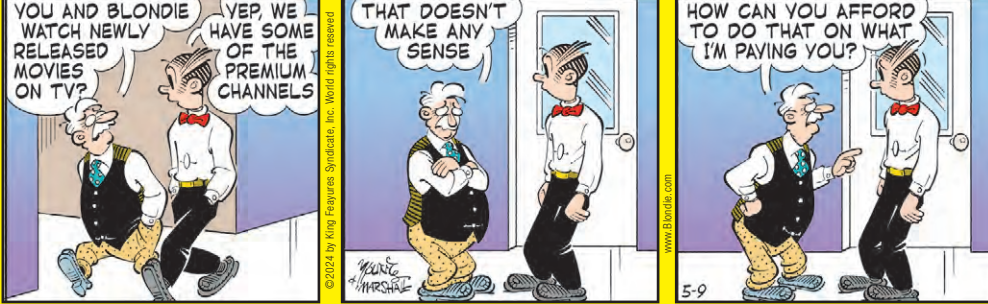
Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



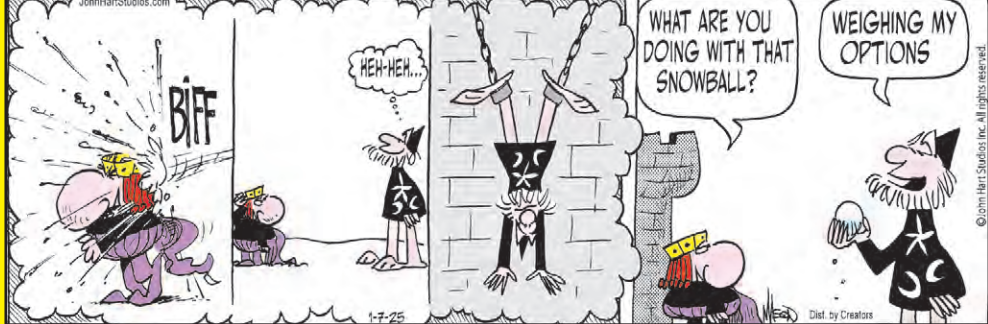
Andy Capp

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

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

1/9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

1/2 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 9, 2025

ACROSS

- Minute _____
- Tropical Punch
- Bygone airline
- Sports bar screens
- Forearm bone
- "I give up!"
- Leave one's job
- Nightlife spot near Miami
- Minor (constellation)
- Happen next
- Goat's cry
- What "skim" means, in the dairy aisle
- Sign of late spring
- "Hey, look at me!"
- "Street magician's prop, maybe
- Creeping or zombie, in "Minecraft"
- Singer Yoko
- "Please leave a message after the _____"
- Off-white hue
- "What the odds?"
- Shakespearean king
- Reunion attendee, for short
- Madison or Park, in NYC
- Stinky
- "National sport of Papua New Guinea

DOWN

- Source of inspiration
- All the Watchtower" (Bob Dylan song)
- Occupied, as a restroom
- Piece of info you might get a snakebite?
- Needing iron
- March Madness org.
- Crime boss known as "Scarface"
- "Color me unimpressed"
- Steak, in a rhyming dish's name

ACROSS

- Tilt
- Discussion website with "Ask Me Anything" interviews
- Crawfish pie cuisine
- Hair gel, e.g.
- Ancient Greek region
- Corporate VIP
- Golf bag contents ... or what you'll find in the starred clues' answers?
- Stink
- Show to be true
- the Red (Norse explorer)
- Nile reptile
- Beyond pale
- Pirate's septet

DOWN

- Travel document
- "ASAP!"
- Like a movie with many funny lines
- Supermodel Klum
- Situation Room grp.
- Originally named Bay Area
- airport code Asian peninsula
- Type of Scottish folk dance
- "I accept your offer!"
- Nimble
- Animal on California's state flag
- Human rights org.
- Pharmacy pickup
- What a fluke is an example of

ACROSS

- Thor and Black Widow
- Pie mode
- Apt name for a lawyer?
- Field doctor
- L longing
- Enjoy a funky beat
- out (allots)
- Accustom
- Shinbone
- "Barbie" actor
- Chopping tools
- Wrangler or Renegade
- Texter's "However ..."
- Inquires
- Relaxing hotel amenity
- Marsh

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

1/2 Solution

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Care To Join Us? by Joe Rodini

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14					15		
16				17					18		
19					20				21		
22				23			24	25			
26						27			28	29	30
31	32	33	34				35			36	
37							38			39	
40					41			42	43		
44				45				46			
47							48		49	50	51
52	53	54				55	56		57		58
59						60			61		
62						63			64		
65						66			67		

Comics

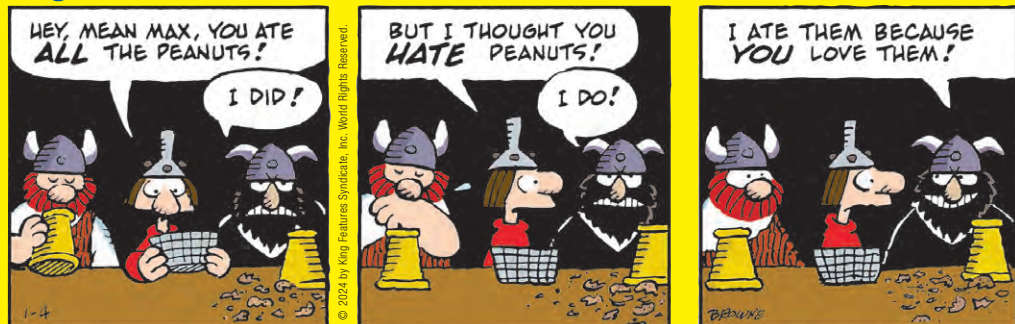
Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



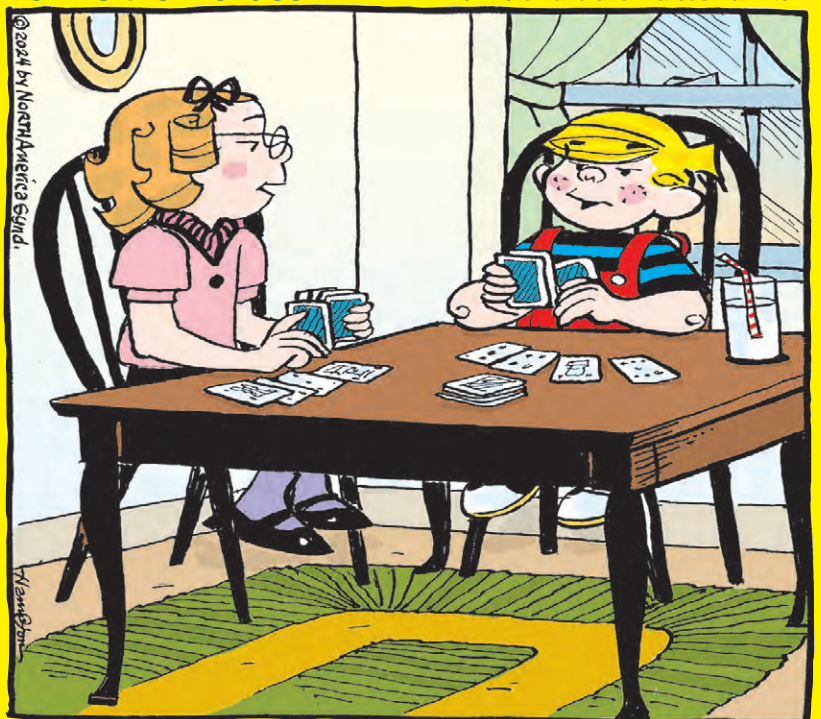
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



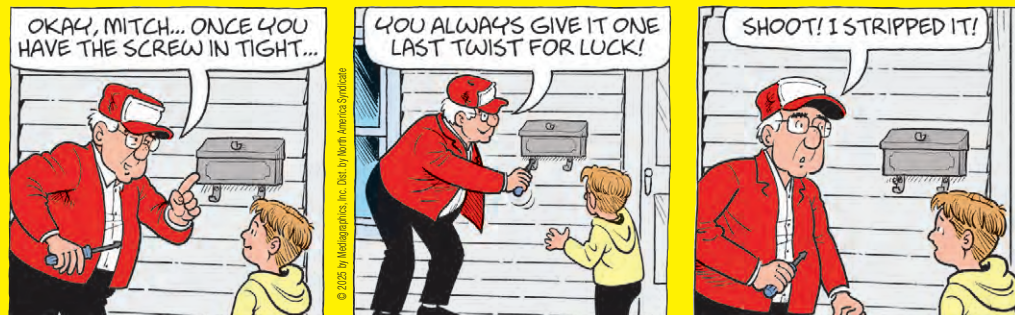
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



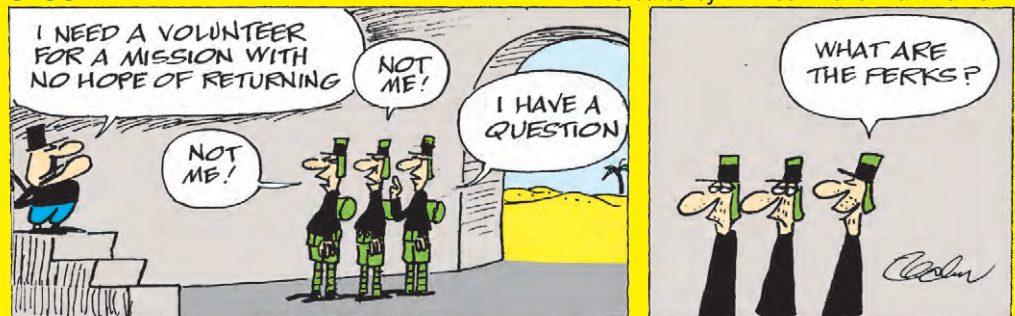
Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



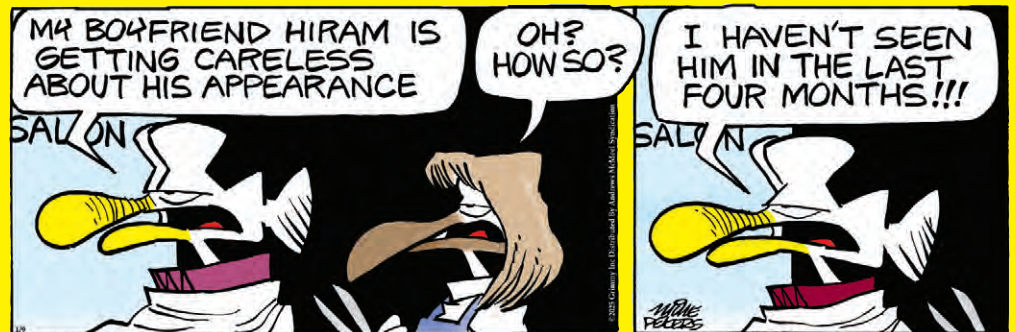
Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



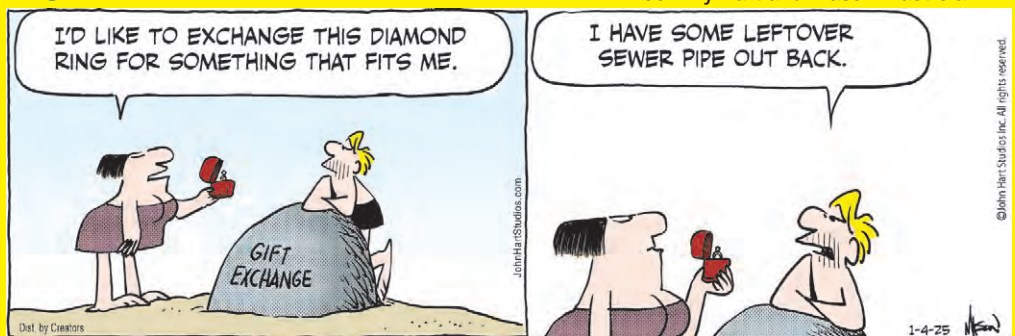
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



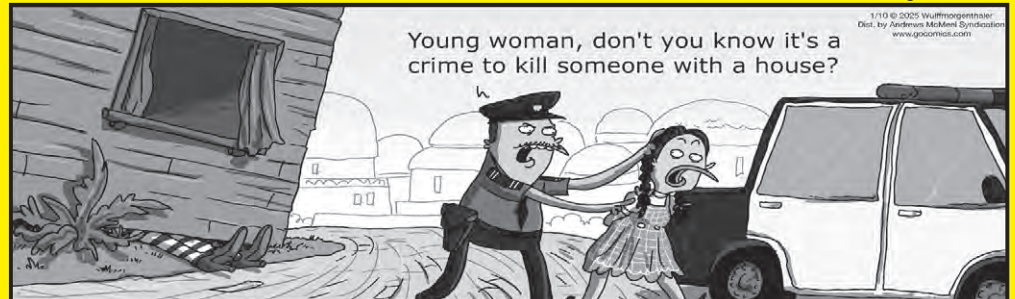
B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne

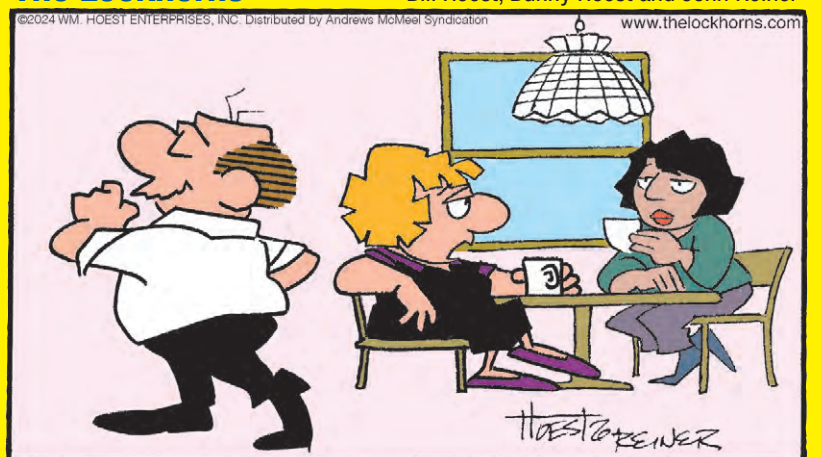


"WE CAN BE CIVIL."

"NO PROBLEM IF I WIN."

The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



"LEROY'S FEELING GOOD ABOUT HIMSELF. . . HE UNDERSTOOD A REFERENCE IN A 'SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE' SKIT."

Close To Home

John McPherson



"Don't you think that's kind of, well, redundant?"

Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson



"No, that cannot be your new food dish."



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**Kid Scoop Together**
Diagram Fun!
Work with a partner at home to complete the following diagram.

A2 The Spottville Bugle

Fortune Shines on Freckled Faces

SPOTTVILLE, USA – The Spottville school board passed a new rule last night giving Spottville children with freckles more privileges than children without freckles.



Student Myron Fleming feels the new rule is “long overdue.”

Freckled children will always sit at the front of the classroom and be first in line. They will get to use new pencils and the finest white paper. Children without freckles will have to sit at the back of the room or on the floor. Grocery bags will be used as paper for their assignments.

Many non-freckled children find the Freckle Rule unfair. “This rule stinks!” cried Alison Smythe, age 11. “I can’t help it that I don’t have freckles. Why can’t I eat in the same cafeteria as my friends with freckles?”

Many children with freckles also disagree with the new Freckle Rule. “I plan to fight against this dumb idea,” said Dottie Darling, a student at Spottville Elementary School. “Dr. Martin Luther King’s message is that discrimination is always wrong, and this new rule is discrimination.”

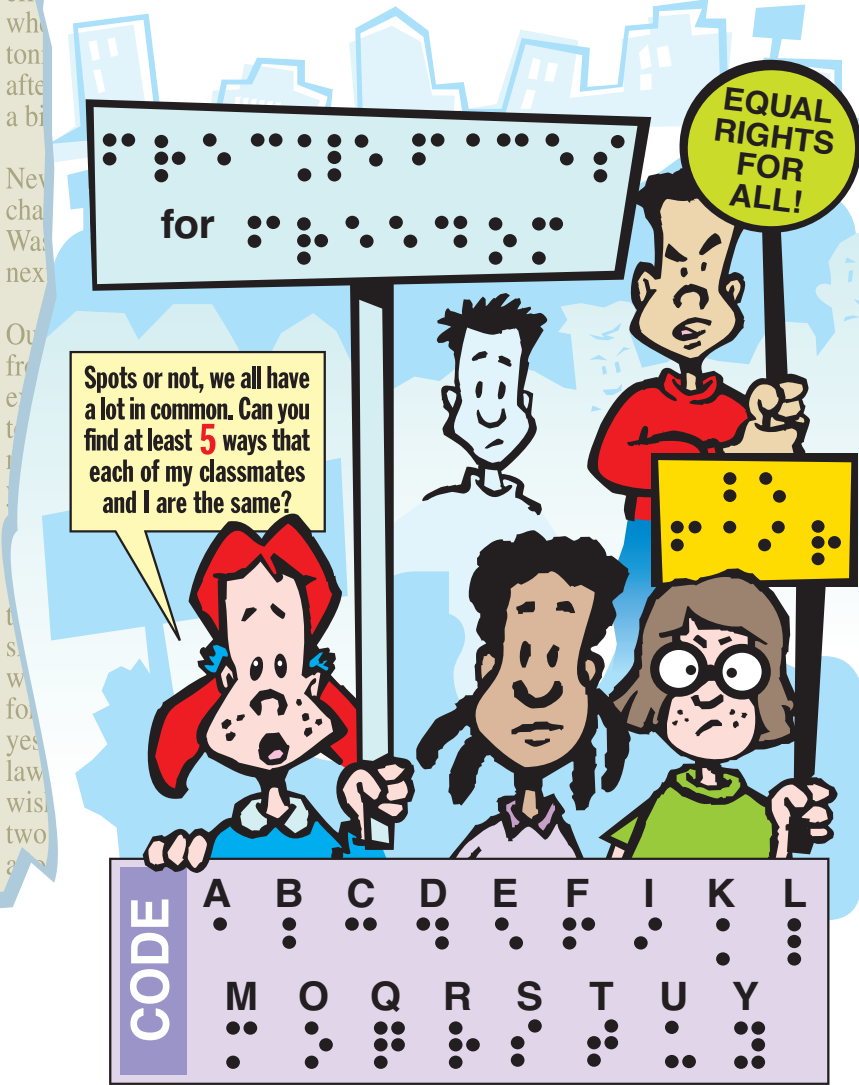
“Disgruntled nonsense,” said school board president Spotz McDotter. “The rule is fair to the people that really matter most – people with freckles.”

Could this be true?

What if this news story were true? Are the schools in Spottville treating all children equally?

Dottie Darling Disagrees

Dottie and lots of kids from her school are speaking out against the Freckle Rule. Use the code to see what their signs say.



Spots or not, we all have a lot in common. Can you find at least 5 ways that each of my classmates and I are the same?

for

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL!

CODE

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

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.

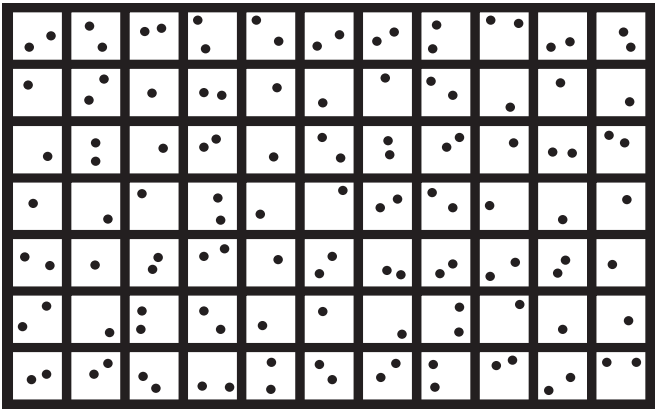
Dr. King’s Dream of Equality

Dr. Martin Luther King knew what it was like to be discriminated against. He had been called names and told he could not do all of the things other people could do. It wasn’t because of freckles that Dr. King had these problems. It was because his skin was black.

In the 1950s and 60s, many Americans, Black and white, spoke out and even fought against unfair laws that discriminated against Black people. Dr. King was one of the leaders of this struggle called the Civil Rights Movement.

Standards Link: History: Students understand the importance of individual action and character.

Did Dottie and her friends get rid of the Freckle Rule? To find out, color the spaces with two dots RED and the squares with one dot BLUE.



Standards Link: Follow simple directions.

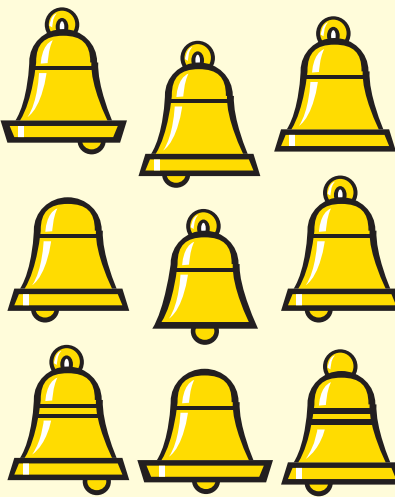
Extra! Extra!

Spirit of Freedom

Look through the newspaper for pictures and stories that show the freedoms Americans enjoy. Cut these out and make a poster called: “The Spirit of Freedom – The Spirit of America!”

Standards Link: History: Students understand the rights of citizenship.

Kid Scoop Puzzler



Find the two bells that are exactly the same.

Standards Link: Visual discrimination: Follow written directions.

Let Freedom Ring

After years of struggle, the Civil Rights Act made discrimination against the law. However, Dr. King knew it would take more than a law to change people’s hearts and minds. He continued to teach people that discrimination was unfair.

Each year on his birthday, Americans remember this man who believed the dream of equality and freedom should ring true for all.

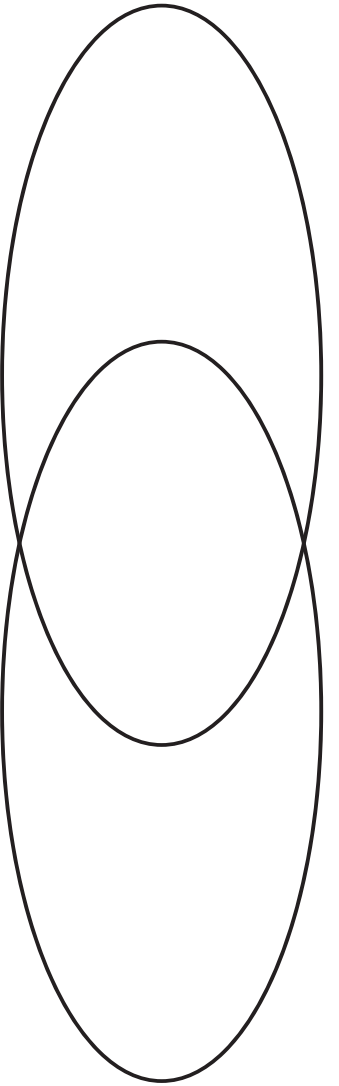
Double Double Word Search

EQUALITY
FORTUNE
SIGNS
FREEDOM
MARTIN
LUTHER
KING
DREAM
TEACH
STRUGGLE
SPOTS
SKIN
RULE
SAME
LAW

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



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



1. Look at the list of traits. In the upper part of the top oval, write all of your traits.

2. Write your partner’s traits on the lower part of the bottom oval.

3. In the area where the two ovals connect, write the traits you BOTH have.

DIMPLES	DARK HAIR
NO DIMPLES	LIGHT HAIR
CAN ROLL TONGUE	CURLY HAIR
CAN’T ROLL TONGUE	STRAIGHT HAIR
RIGHT HANDED	FRECKLES
LEFT HANDED	NO FRECKLES

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**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

This week’s word: **VOLUNTEER**

The verb to **volunteer** means to work or help someone for no pay.

The fourth grade students **volunteer** to read to the kindergarten students.

Try to use the word **volunteer** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family.

FROM THE  LESSON LIBRARY

Is the dream alive?

Has Martin Luther King’s dream come true? Look through the newspaper for examples that show the dream is alive. Do you see examples that show that his dream still isn’t alive for all people?

Standards Link: History/Social Science: Students recognize the forms of diversity in their school and community and the benefits and challenges of a diverse population.

Why do cows wear bells?



ANSWER: Because their horns don’t work.

Write On! 

I Make a Difference

Tell about how you make a difference in someone’s life in your family, at school or in your community.

Your Neighborhood

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Norsemen begin new year with win over DeWitt

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The Grosse Pointe North boys varsity basketball team competed in one of 2025’s first sporting events for the Pointes on Friday, Jan. 3. The Norsemen hosted DeWitt in a matinee showdown in the team’s first game since defeating crosstown rival Grosse Pointe South on Dec. 19. The long break might have had North starting slow the first few minutes of the game, but the Norsemen quickly shook off the rust and cruised to a 55-44 win over the Panthers.

“We started a little slow but found our groove in the second quarter and played really well defensively after the first quarter,” North boys basketball head coach Rob Johnson said. “...We shared the ball well again and it was another team effort

with seven different players scoring.”

North trailed at the end of the first quarter as the team got back into competitive action for the first time in two weeks. The second quarter is when the Norsemen started to pick things up. Both teams ended up with strong offensive performances to close out the first half, but North took a 34-27 lead into the locker room.

The offenses on both sides slowed down a bit to start the second half, but the Norsemen continued to hold the advantage. The Panthers scored 10 points in the third quarter and North managed 12 to stay in front 46-37 going into the final frame.

DeWitt wasn’t quite able to pull close enough to have a real chance at a comeback. The Norsemen maintained their lead throughout the fourth quarter and left little doubt they would come away with their sixth win of the season and first victory of the new calendar year.

RJ Williams led North with 18 points and eight rebounds in the win. Leo Perettie had 12 points with seven rebounds

and seven assists, and Dequan Howell also reached double digits with 10 points.

North began league play in the MAC Blue Division Tuesday, Jan. 7, after press time, against Warren Cousino. The Norsemen take their home court again Thursday, Jan. 9, hosting Henry Ford II at 7 p.m.



Senior guard Ben Rickerman calls out a play for the Norsemen.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

RJ Williams had 18 points for North in a win over DeWitt on Friday, Jan. 3.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Michelotti contributing to family legacy in South sports

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

James Michelotti and his entire family are Blue Devils to the core. The Grosse Pointe South senior is one of a series of brothers who were or are currently star athletes for the Blue Devils. Whether playing football, basketball or baseball, Michelotti is helping his family name leave a strong legacy in South athletics.

Michelotti currently is playing out his senior season with South’s varsity boys basketball team during the winter. This comes after he wrapped up his senior football season in the fall and is preparing for a final baseball season in the spring before heading to

Grosse Pointe News



James Michelotti

School: Grosse Pointe South
Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Oasis Heating & Cooling

college at his dream school, the University of Notre Dame.

Originally, he planned on just sticking to baseball and basketball, but decided to add football to his resume a few years ago.

“Growing up, I was always a baseball and

tackle football until my sophomore year, so I was new to that. It really was a change for me playing three sports and learning how to manage everything along with a rigorous academic schedule.”

It is undeniable that deciding to play football was a good choice for Michelotti. This season, he had 24 receptions for 400 yards with six touchdown catches as a receiver for the Blue Devils.

Michelotti was a large contributor to one of the best seasons in South football history, helping

the team achieve 10 wins in a season for the first time. It was sad for him to see it come to an end earlier in the playoffs than the team would have liked, but Michelotti will look back fondly on his final football season at South and what he was able to accomplish with his teammates.

“I made a lot of friends on that team and it was a brotherhood,” he said. “We knew going into the offseason and the summer that we had a very special team based on the passion and the leadership from our captains and the commitment everyone had. ... Just to be a part of one of the best teams in Grosse Pointe South football history and to make the kind of impact that I feel like I did, it was special and I’ll never forget it.”

Part of being a multi-sport athlete like Michelotti is having to move on quickly from one sport to another. That is exactly what he had to do once football season ended and basketball season began.



COURTESY PHOTO

James Michelotti is a multi-sport standout for Grosse Pointe South in football, basketball and baseball.

Michelotti admits the end of South’s football season in November and the transition to basketball was a bit bittersweet this year. However, with See ATHLETE, page 2D

Mighty Michelotti

- Member of South varsity football, boys basketball and baseball teams
- Scored 12 points for South boys basketball in win over Bloomfield Hills on Dec. 28
- Tallied 400 receiving yards and caught 6 TDs for South football in 2024

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PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

North girls hoops falls to Cousino

Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball returned from its holiday break on Monday, Jan. 6, traveling to Warren Cousino. The Norsemen were playing in their first game since Dec. 16, and their return to the hardwood was not too kind as North fell to the Patriots 40-27. Junior Eva Borowski led the team with 14 points in the loss as North struggled to keep up with Cousino’s strong three-point shooting performance. The loss brought North’s record to 3-3 so far this season with the beginning of MAC Red Division play right around the corner. North hosted Stevenson on Wednesday, Jan. 8, after press time and goes on the road to face Romeo on Friday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m. The Norsemen then open MAC Red play at rival Grosse Pointe South on Tuesday, Jan. 14, beginning at 7 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Michelotti had 24 receptions for 400 yards and scored six touchdowns for South football during the 2024 season.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

basketball now in full swing and South ready to begin league play in the MAC Red, Michelotti is all in for his basketball team.

“It’s a tough transition after playing football for the last four months and then the season just ends the way it did,” he said. “I would be lying if I said the first couple of weeks of (basketball) practice I wasn’t thinking about being on the football field and how we could and should still be playing right now. ... It’s always difficult because you feel like you could still be playing another sport and competing for a championship, and now you’re in the grind of the pre-season. But once games start and you get in a groove, you remember why you love the sport you’re playing now.”

Michelotti has been finding his groove on the court as of late. Over the holiday break, he was one of the leading scorers in a couple of games for the Blue Devils, scoring 12 points in a win over Bloomfield Hills Dec. 28, and recording eight points in a loss to Canton Dec. 29.

Leading on the score sheet is one thing, but Michelotti is enjoying the chance he has to be a leader on and off the court in his senior year. He already got to experience some of it during football season, but feels it even more during basketball with the Blue Devils having more young players this



After finishing his senior season of football in the fall and basketball in the winter, Michelotti will play his senior season of baseball at Grosse Pointe South in the spring.

‘You want to make sure they know there’s a reason they’re getting the opportunity that they have and it’s because they’re talented and they’re going to help us win basketball games.’

JAMES MICHELOTTI ON BEING A LEADER

winter.

“The first thing you want to do is make sure you inspire confidence,” Michelotti said. “... You want to make sure they know there’s a reason they’re getting the opportunity that they have and it’s because they’re talented and they’re going to help us win basketball games.”

One of the younger players Michelotti gets the chance to lead is his younger brother, Charlie Michelotti. Charlie, a sophomore at South, shared the field with Michelotti during football in the fall and is now a part of South’s varsity boys basketball team. He’ll also be sharing the baseball diamond with his brother in the spring.

Michelotti got to have the same experience with his older brother, Joey, that he is having with Charlie now. There might be some pressure being the older brother on a team, but Michelotti does not take for granted any minutes he shares on the court or field with Charlie.

“I did like to learn a lot about how to be the older brother in that situation from Joey,” he said. “... I try to pass down that knowledge and be the older brother influence to Charlie. This is the third consecutive season where he’s on the same team as me, but it’s always special. ... I love playing with him.”

Grosse Pointe News



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South boys hockey still trying to find rhythm as new year begins

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The first half of the 2024-25 season was not kind to the Grosse Pointe South varsity boys' hockey team. The Blue Devils won just two games in November and December and were hoping their fortunes would turn when the calendar flipped to the new year, but they had more mixed results in their first few games of 2025.

"We talked about basically starting over and starting the season 0-0," South boys hockey head coach Alan Korolewicz said. "It seemed to help for a few games and we've been competitive in most games we've played so far since we adopted that mantra. ... The real big issue for the first half of the season is just that we're so young and the overwhelming majority of our team

had never played high school hockey before. ... When you're playing the best of the best on a nightly basis, it takes a while to get adjusted to that kind of play."

The new year started strong for the Blue Devils Friday, Jan. 3, when they took down Utica-Fraser Unified 6-3 in the opening game of South's tournament. Evan Bernard led the victory with a hat trick. Ethan Zann, Will Gryzenia and Marty Wayman also scored.

However, the momentum from Friday's win was short-lived, as South was back in action Saturday, Jan. 7. The Blue Devils hosted Mattawan and fell 7-0 in a blowout loss.

The weekend ended for the Blue Devils with a heartbreaking close loss to the Livonia Red Stallions. Charlie Winkler scored in the second period for South to give the team a 1-0

lead, which it held until the final minute of regulation.

Livonia tied the game with just 22 seconds remaining to force overtime. The Red Stallions won the game in a shootout.

There still might be bumps in the road for the Blue Devils, but the team is focused on what it can do to make things smoother. The team hopes the key lies in continuing to build chemistry and by firing up the offense.

"We have a very interesting mix on the team where half of the team is very young and the other half is a bit older," Korolewicz said. "We want them to come together a bit better than they have in the first half. We also want to work on our scoring. ... If you look at some of the tough games that we've lost, we've only scored one goal. It's hard to win hockey



PHOTO BY PAUL THERRIAULT

Senior forward Evan Bernard scored a hat trick for South in the team's 6-3 win over Utica-Fraser Unified on Friday, Jan. 3.

games when you're only scoring one goal. ... You have to change the way that you forecheck and the way you approach your game-planning and those are the things that we're evaluating."

South went on the road to face Detroit Catholic Central after with puck drop at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8. The Blue Devils return home to host Orchard Lake St. Mary's on Saturday, Jan. 11, with puck drop at 7:30 p.m.

HITS & HIGHLIGHTS

Whether it's games, meets or matches, high school winter sports in the Pointes are in full swing and the Grosse Pointe News is here to bring you all the varsity action. Some of the week's biggest hits and highlights from include:

GRIESBAUM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Grosse Pointe South varsity baseball coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. was honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) as a recipient of the Dave Keilitz Ethics in Coaching Award. Griesbaum was in attendance at the 2025 ABCA Convention in Washington D.C. to accept the award on Friday, Jan. 3.

LIGGETT BOYS VARSITY HOCKEY

The University Liggett School varsity boys hockey team returned from break on Monday, Jan. 6, and started 2025 with a win by taking down Allen Park. The Knights were victorious 5-0, with goals by Nick Gould, Cam Stapleton, Landen Maltby, Gary Stacy and Andrew Johnson.

The Knights faced off against Jackson Lumen Christi on Wednesday, Jan. 8 after press time. Liggett takes on Detroit Country Day on Friday, Jan. 10, on the road at the Southfield Sports Arena starting at 7 p.m.



SOUTH BOYS SWIM & DIVE

The Grosse Pointe South boys varsity swim and dive team competed in one of the season's toughest invitionals on Thursday, Jan. 2. The Blue Devils traveled to Carnbrook-Kingswood to compete in the 2025 Schack Invitational in an event that included the defending Division 2 and Division 3 state champions. South ended up in fourth place. The 200 free-style relay team of Brady Bond, Samuel Xia, Ben Showalter and Anthony Kaminski captured first place in the event for one of South's biggest performances of the day.





Dan Griesbaum Sr.

Grosse Pointe South High School (MI)

Dan Griesbaum, Sr. has dedicated 41 years to Grosse Pointe South High School, taking the reins as head baseball coach in 1984. Having reached milestone victory number 900 in 2024, he currently holds the top spot among active coaches in career wins in the state of Michigan and ranks fourth all-time. His leadership led the team to state championships in 2001 and 2018, and he holds the record for the most appearances in the Division One Final Four, with a total of eight.

Besides his baseball coaching accomplishments, he contributed to Grosse Pointe South's athletic program as an assistant football coach for 18 years and as a volleyball coach for four years. He taught health for 30 years before retiring in 2014 and has stepped in to serve as Interim Athletic Director three times throughout his career.

A graduate of South Lake in 1971 and Central Michigan University in 1975, Griesbaum was the MVP of the 1975 Chippewas team. His outstanding contributions to sports have earned him inductions into the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2008), the National Semi-Pro Baseball Hall of Fame, and the City of St. Clair Shores Athletic Hall of Fame.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

SOUTH BOYS WRESTLING

Grosse Pointe South varsity wrestling spent last weekend competing in the Detroit Catholic Central tournament. Highlights included Wyatt Hepner finishing in second place at 150 pounds and Neil Honablu also getting a top-five finish at 165 pounds.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS POLICE DEPARTMENT WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN NOTICE AUCTION OF IMPOUNDED/ABANDONED VEHICLES

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POSTED: Dec. 30, 2024
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