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GPPSS closely reviewing budget

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Despite a \$1 million surplus in last year's budget, the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education will be looking at cost-saving measures the rest of this fiscal year as it starts to set parameters for the 2025-26 fiscal year budget.

Superintendent Andrea Tuttle told the board during a budget amendment presentation Tuesday, Jan. 7, that due to changes at the state level, the district's revenue will decrease by about \$1 million.

New figures show revenue will come in at about \$100,636,000, with expenditures of about \$102,102,000.

"It's disappointing

that the state of Michigan prioritized increased funding for community colleges over K-12 education in this budget cycle," said Trustee Sean Cotton, who was board president when the current budget was passed last year. "Additionally, promised relief from MPERS (Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System) payments, which was expected to ease financial pressure, did not materialize at levels stated by the state. These missed opportunities have further strained the district's budget and highlight the need for stronger state investment in public education."

Cotton owns the Grosse Pointe News.

See BUDGET, page 8A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Littlest Lions fans

Mason Elementary School kindergartners were bursting with excitement Friday, Jan. 17, when kindergarten teacher Karen Cole brought in her Detroit Lions gear in anticipation of the upcoming game Saturday, Jan. 18. Though it wasn't the ending we all hoped for, we still love our Lions.

From left, Laura Loveday, autism spectrum disorder teacher, Mason Principal Anita Hassan, Liam Leno-Jones, Elizabeth Chisholm, Tiana Bynum, Sage Karafa, Sophie Copacla, Alice Schnorberger, Nora Didio and Cole.

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STYLE ON THE SLOPES

What's new at Schummer's Ski Shop?

Section C

Ridge Crest closing Sunday

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — "The whole thing is very sad," Ridge Crest founder Joe Binkowski said, after news broke that the small business will close its doors at 17125 Kercheval in The Village Sunday, Jan. 26.

The impetus, he reported, was the landlord making a business decision to go in another direction — meaning Ridge Crest was unable to secure a new lease at the location.

Though the regional retailer Half-Moon Outfitters opened in



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Joe Binkowski opened Ridge Crest in The Village in July 2021.

early November, just a few storefronts over from Ridge Crest, he clarified the closure is not a result of market competition.

"We had a very successful holiday season," Binkowski said. "Better than I could have imagined."

See CLOSE, page 3A

Flood suit in limbo

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

THE GROSSE POINTES — Plaintiffs seeking redress for damage from sewer backups during heavy rains four years ago must wait a few more months to learn if their cases will proceed.

Attorneys for flood victims argued this month to the Michigan Court of Appeals that their case was wrongly dismissed in Wayne County Circuit Court.

"A decision could come in two to four months," said Paul Doherty, an attorney representing plaintiffs. "We'll just sit tight and wait for an opinion."

The appeal contends defective design and improper operation of the storm water and sewer system caused thousands of basements in the Pointes, Detroit's east side and elsewhere to flood with backed-up runoff and sewage during the summer of 2021.

Defendants consist of the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), which operates storm pumps and is contracted to provide wastewater services for the Grosse Pointes and 74 other communities in Southeast Michigan; the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; the City of Detroit and

See SUIT, page 4A

Upward trend in audit includes need for higher water rates

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The holiday season spilled into this month's council meeting when auditors opened a gift city officials spent the

prior year wrapping.

Municipal auditor Ali Barnes said the Park showed "good progress" during fiscal year 2024 by increasing unrestricted fund balance more than \$266,000 from the year before.

Unrestricted funds are those for which there is no specifically designated purpose and, thereby, can be used for emergencies.

An audit of the city's books at the end of the fiscal year, June 30,

showed unrestricted funds totaling \$2,330,298. The figure is enough for the city to operate for about two months without any income.

Barnes said the reserves, while trending upward, are at the "mini-

mum threshold" for which she typically lauds municipalities.

"It all depends on what your municipality is up to, what your plans are for the future, where you

See AUDIT, page 5A

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A



Tanner Belanger
Home: Grosse Pointe Farms
South alum returns home to begin teaching career



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Farms officer brings rich firefighting experience

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — The newest officer in the Grosse Pointe Farms Public Safety Department is right back where he started.

“My first job I actually ever had out of high school was at a construction remodeling company,” Officer Jason LaDuke said. “And we remodeled the inside of Grosse Pointe South High School — the ceiling tiles. That was my first job ever (and now) I’m right back here.”

In between, he graduated from the fire academy in 2017, worked in the Macomb and Chesterfield township departments and, most recently, served as a volunteer firefighter in Troy the last four years.

“While I worked for the city of Troy DPW full-time (as the lead heavy



Officer Jason LaDuke, left, and Deputy Director Andy Rogers after LaDuke was sworn-in Monday, Dec. 23.

equipment operator), Monday through Friday, I was the volunteer side of the fire department there,” he said. “So I

ber of his family to enter law enforcement, LaDuke said he knew many police officers growing up and has long had an interest in being a first responder.

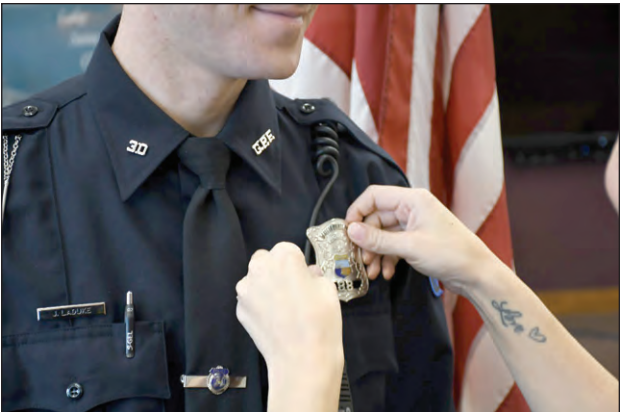
The Grosse Pointes’ reputation precedes them, as the close-knit, small-town feel is what drew LaDuke to the community.

With one month on the job, “I love it,” he said. “I really do. ... I got hired here last July and then they put me through the police academy. But ever since being back, I’ve noticed that it is unlike anywhere else.”

He also plans to continue serving in an on-call capacity for the fire department in Fraser, where he resides.

LaDuke is married to wife, Alexandra, and has three children.

When he wasn’t busy raising kids and volunteer firefighting in his spare time, the officer used to be a circle track



LaDuke’s wife, Alexandra, pins his badge.

race car driver — a hobby he picked up at 10 years old, beginning with quarter midgets.

As an adult, he raced outlaw super late models at Flat Rock Speedway, in Toledo and throughout Michigan. In 2010, he won a national series race in the United States Super Truck Series at Nashville Super Speedway and, in 2011, he won the United States Super Truck Great Lakes Series Championship.

“I am a third-generation race car driver,” he noted. “My father raced in the ARCA series in the early ‘90s.”



LaDuke is sworn in by Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Derrick Kozicki.

Top officials look back

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — There has been there, done that sense to the mayor’s and city manager’s 2024 retrospectives.

Both the city’s top elected and administrative representatives cited as main accomplishments during the year the same matters they listed as objectives at its outset.

“We are methodically moving through a set of priorities that will ensure our long-term sustainability,” said Mayor Michele Hodges, midway through her second term. “Significant progress has been made on the financial stability of the city, its infrastructure, the technology used to improve the resident experience and planning and zoning tools that set the stage for responsible growth.”

While Hodges consid-

ered overarching themes, Manager Nick Sizeland detailed matters of which he was most proud to resolve during the last 12 months.

“The first formally adopted, multi-year capital improvement plan went through the planning commission and city council,” he said.

He also cited passage of a completely updated zoning ordinance. The rewrite began during 2023 but concluded last month.

“An updated zoning ordinance is important because standards change over time,” Sizeland said. “It addresses how we want to handle development, especially in a community like ours that is so built out. You have to get creative in sustaining success for the city, especially when it comes to having a process in place. The zoning ordinance is a guideline to do that.”

The ordinance included

first-ever rules and regulations of short-term rental property.

“I brought up short-term rentals in November of 2023,” Sizeland said. “We’d been getting calls from real estate and other people interested in potentially buying houses in the Park and turning them into short-term rentals. We could have had a property development group buy 10 homes in the Cabbage Patch and turn them into short-term rentals. I wanted the council to be aware of that.”

Demand for short-term rentals was an extension of Detroit’s resurgence.

“Detroit’s coming back,” Sizeland said. “There was the NFL draft and people needed places to stay. We needed to find a balance. We got it done through community engagement and vetting everything and going through the planning commission and council. No one can say they didn’t know this was happening. We let people know very much in advance.”

Hodges said, “Building trust in local government and continuously engaging with our community and neighborhoods to improve our quality-of-life efforts were notable, too, and our resident civil servants had great impact as well through improvements to our parks and other amenities.”

The city also broke the mold during 2024 by

Park seeks funding for water meters

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — By the light of favorable audit findings, city administrators continue making plans to issue bonds to fund the lining of sewer pipes and replacement of water meters.

New meters would replace those that are worn out.

“We have very old water meters in this community that do not read accurately,” said City Manager Nick Sizeland. “Some people may be getting savings. Others are getting a higher bill.”

Intentions to issue \$6 million in bond proceeds for meters and pipes are components of the five-year capital improvement plan, approved by city council last May.

While being listed in the capital improvement plan doesn’t make something a done deal, city officials are using the forecast to guide investment in infrastructure, from maintenance to replacements.

“I’d like to present the bond proposal during this calendar year,” Sizeland said. “Of that \$6 million, approximately \$4 million would be for lining sewers. The other \$2 million would be regarding water

meters.”

He anticipated seeking contractor bids within a month or two for new meters.

Councilman Tom Caulfield said inaccurate meters cost the city \$1.25 million per year in unregistered water consumption.

“We need to pull the Band-Aid on this,” he said, referring to confronting the cost of new meters.

The topic has been discussed for more than a year.

“Best perspective, we’re paying 20 percent of every (customer’s) water bill,” said Josh Chafin, director of the Park water department, during a March 2023 meeting of the infrastructure committee. “I’ve been in houses where the meter doesn’t even spin when they turn on the water.”

The water-sewer fund ended last fiscal year \$609,354 in deficit, according to a January audit report.

One reason meter replacement isn’t further along is a staff change at the city’s water rate consultant, Baker Tilly. The firm has a retainer to gather empirical data on Park water and sewer usage on which to base recommendations for new rates, according to Sizeland.

“Our contact left the company along with his team of associates on the municipal side to work with Bendzinski & Company,” Sizeland said.

Bendzinski is a bond agent and municipal finance consultant located in the City of Grosse Pointe. Park officials have contracted the firm before.

“I’d like to cancel the contract with Baker Tilly, pay for what we had done — a yearly fee — and to get an agreement with (Bendzinski) to finish the water-sewer rate study,” Sizeland said. “By this year, we would do a water meter study that finalizes all meter charges so we’ll be able to adopt new water meter rates.”

Contract terms with Baker Tilly were about \$50,000 for 10 years of consulting.

Sizeland also intends to get new cost estimates for meter replacement.

“The market has changed a lot from when they did the original estimates,” said Councilman Max Wiener. “Labor (costs) are down a lot. Municipal contractors were stretched. Now, they’re kind of looking for work. There may be some opportunity there. And talking about bonds, municipal bond rates are starting to move. It’s looking a lot better than when we were having that initial conversation.”

He said bond payments could be drawn from the 10-year water-sewer infrastructure millage residents supported two years ago.

“That’s another thing we can do to offset costs,” Wiener said. “We have a lot of options.”

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Woods Winterfest this Saturday

By Ted O'Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — The first event during the city’s 75th anniversary is on tap noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Ghesquiere Park.

The theme for this year’s Winterfest is sports. Mascots from the Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers and Detroit Pistons will be on hand for meet-and-greet sessions and photos.

Other activities include pony rides, petting zoo, dance party in a heated tent, outdoor games and a photo booth. About 800 residents are expected to

attend.

Demonstrations of the recently opened disc golf course at Ghesquiere will be given and the course will be open for play. Mayor Art Bryant said a limited number of discs featuring the city’s 75th anniversary logo will be given away on a first-come, first-served basis. The ice skating rink at the park also will be open, weather permitting.

Food trucks scheduled to be on hand include Cult of the Joe Burger, The Little Donut Factory and Outdoor Pizza On Site. The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation will conduct a raffle to raise

money for new swings at Ghesquiere. Tickets are \$5 each, three for \$10 or seven for \$20. Prizes include:

- ◆ Detroit Lions memorabilia,
- ◆ A Detroit Red Wings inflatable octopus,
- ◆ A reserved parking space by the pool at Lake Front Park,
- ◆ Detroit Pistons tickets and
- ◆ Gift certificates to The Friendship Factory, Trek Bicycle and Lou’s Pet Shop.

The city’s diamond jubilee continues throughout the year.

Next up is Music on the Lawn, scheduled Friday, July 25. That will include a drone

show, fireworks, cake and free food, in addition to entertainment.

“We’ll have a major ceremony, a big birthday party, on Dec. 11,” Bryant said, “since that’s the official date.”

That event also will include opening a time capsule sealed 25 years ago and creating a new one to be opened in 2050.

Stretching back even farther, the Village of Lochmoor was incorporated Jan. 4, 1927, from the former Grosse Pointe Township. It became the Village of Grosse Pointe Woods in March 1939, and officially became the City of Grosse Pointe Woods 11 years later.

Neff Park Winterfest

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE — Residents are encouraged to dress up to save the day during the superhero-themed 20th annual Neff Park Winterfest from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

Alongside a photo op with famous guest stars at the pavilion from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., activities will include arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, ice sculpting, Frisbee golf, broom-ball and other games.

“We’re going to be doing increased games and activities for this year’s event, especially since we no longer have the ice rink,” Parks and Recreation Coordinator Becca Jenzen said, “so there will be all sorts of things for all ages to participate in and compete

in.”

S’mores and hot chocolate will be supplied at no charge near the warming fires, while those with more of an appetite may get a catered barbecue pulled pork or hot dog meal for \$5 per person.

New this year, the entrance fee to Winterfest is \$10 per person, though children ages 4 and younger are free.

“We’ve always charged for our other special events like Easter egg hunts, fall harvest and things like that,” Jenzen said, “and realized that we needed to be consistent across the events.”

Pre-registration is available at shorturl.at/QVE0b and cash will be accepted the day of the event.

— Laurel Kraus

Park’s Chilly Fest for all Feb. 1

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The target market for next month’s Chilly Fest is as wide as the venue in which it takes place.

Chilly Fest, 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, is the city’s winter festival. Activities and attractions are spread over business districts on Kercheval, Charlevoix and lower Mack Avenue and include a chilli cook-off and bed races.

“As usual, we keep things busy from end-to-end,” said Chad Craig, organizer and head of the municipal parks and recreation department.

Attendance is free and open to everyone.

“It provides entertainment opportunities for a wide age range of people — families, young adults and professionals,” Craig said.

The Park plus two businesses on Charlevoix,

Brosnan Builders and O’Flaherty’s, sponsor Chilly Fest.

Attractions this year include carriage rides, a high-rope course, rock-climbing wall, a frozen fish fling, trackless train rides, fire pits and s’mores stations.

“The Girl Scouts are going to be selling their cookies,” Craig said. “I’ll be ordering Thin Mints.”

Area restaurants and retail stores participate with samples and raffles.

“The event is fairly spaced out,” Craig said. “We’ll have a bus doing a route with five stops, two on Kercheval, two on Charlevoix and one on Mack.”

A chili cook-off is judged at Cabbage Patch Saloon, 15130 Mack between Maryland and Lakepointe.

There’s another reason Chilly Fest is catered to everyone.

“It’s something to show off what we have in the Park and all the businesses and activities,” Craig said.

Chili Cook-off

Six prizes are awarded in the 8th Annual Chili Cook-off, open to anyone.

Gifts cards are given in the People’s Choice and Judge’s Choice categories for:

- ◆ \$75 to Howlers and Growlers,
- ◆ \$50 to Duffey & Co. in the People’s Choice competition,
- ◆ \$50 to Coreander’s Children’s Bookshoppe in the Judge’s Choice competition and
- ◆ \$25 to Cabbage Patch Saloon.

Register for the cook-off by completing a form posted at the Grosse Pointe Park Facebook page and emailing it to Craig ccraig@grossep

ointepark.org.

Craig said he never knows what to expect during the chili cook-off.

“We get quite a wide variety of chilis, from big game to vegetarian, from spicy to basic mild,” he said. “It’s always fun to see what the options are.”

Big-game chili came as a surprise.

“A couple of them have done fairly well,” Craig said. “I didn’t anticipate they would.”

Entries must be pre-heated and delivered in a labeled crockpot to Cabbage Patch Saloon by 1 p.m. Tasting is 2 to 6 p.m.

Contestants provide their own serving ladle. Tasting bowls are sold at the door. A flat \$10 fee covers tasting all entries. Proceeds are donated to California wildfire relief. Winners are announced at 5:45 p.m.

Costumes encouraged for bed races

Bed-race organizers during Chilly Fest are making it easy for contestants by providing beds.

“This year, instead of having teams build and enter beds, we are having Brosnan Builders provide beds and have teams sign up,” Craig said. “That way, people don’t have to worry about taking time and effort to build something.”

Entry is free and open to everyone. So is the entire venue and all activities.

“The hope is for bed races to turn into a twice-per-year event and have entry fees go toward fundraisers, whether for the

Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation or something else in the local community,” Craig said.

The racecourse hasn’t been determined — Kercheval or Charlevoix — but will be about a half-block long.

“They’ll push their bed to a set of cones and back again,” Craig said. “The team with the fastest time will probably win some type of gift card.”

He encouraged contestants to dress up in costumes of their choice.

“Come in the best get-up theme you can, whether pajamas, a sports team or something,” Craig said. “But, it’s not a requirement.”

— Brad Lindberg

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, JAN. 27**
- ◆ City of Grosse Pointe City Council Study Session, 8:30 a.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods rescheduled City Council meeting, 7 p.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- TUESDAY, JAN. 28**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores Planning Commission meeting, 9 a.m.
 - ◆ Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

CLOSE:

Continued from page 1A

ined. ... We’ve grown since the outfitter’s been around, so that did not — at least from a numbers perspective — have any (impact).”

All in-store inventory currently is 60 percent off.

Binkowski, who launched the business July 30, 2021, is aiming for this not to be the last the community sees of Ridge Crest. He’s already begun the hopeful search for a new storefront.

“There’s a lot of nuances and a lot of costs to closing and reopening,” he said, “so our hope is to find something, but we can’t just jump on the first thing that’s available. It has to make sense for the business.”

“My preference would be to stay in the Grosse Pointes, for sure,” he added.

In the meantime, the plan is to take Ridge Crest virtual as an online retailer.

Its website — ridgecrestgp.com — will come down with the store closure Jan. 26, after which there

will be a hiatus necessary to bolster, rebrand and recontract with vendors to allow for product sale online versus in store. It should be back up and running by mid-March.

customers on one hand.

“A small business is kind of like a newborn baby,” he compared. “It can be very fun and cute at times and it can

be crying and colicky at times, but I’ve enjoyed every minute of it. I can’t say I’m rich off of it, but I have enjoyed every minute of it.”



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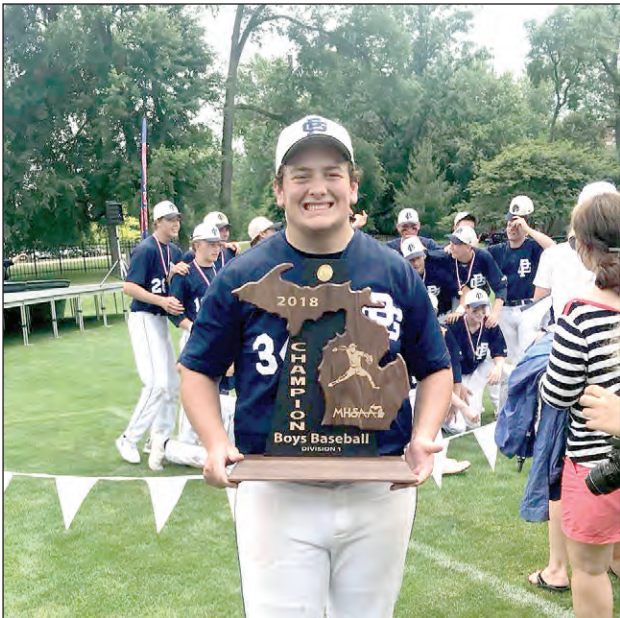
South alum settling into teaching at former school

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was an interesting homecoming for Tanner Belanger when he first began his new position as a special education teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School last August before the start of the school year. Belanger, who graduated from South in 2019, is now back walking the same halls that he knew not long ago as a student, but now in the shoes of a teacher.

The experience has taken some getting used to, but this was all really part of the plan for Belanger, who gets the chance to grow in his career right in his hometown.

“It’s a great experience, but there’s definitely some weird parts to it with some of the teachers that I had still there and a lot of the administrators, too,” Belanger said. “... I had a vision of me coming back to Grosse Pointe just because of the financial limitations of being a young teacher, it’s easier to live at home ... I student-taught at Brownell last fall and that was cool because I went there as well, so I’m accustomed to being a bit different as



Left, before becoming a teacher at Grosse Pointe South, Belanger was a South student and a member of the varsity boys baseball Division 1 state championship team in 2018. Right, Belanger played varsity football at South and went on to play as an offensive lineman at Alma College.



COURTESY PHOTOS

opposed to a lot of teachers who don’t go back to the schools they went to.” For a long time, Belanger had an idea that he would become a teacher because of the inspiration from his mother, who is also a teacher. After graduating from South, where he was a member of the varsity football and baseball teams and won a Division 1 state championship in baseball in 2018, Belanger went to Alma College to play football as an offensive lineman.

He went to college with the idea of becoming a teacher and was inspired to teach special education by one of his advisors, Peggy Yates, Alma’s director of master’s in special education. Belanger ended up leaving the football team at Alma after his junior year to be able to begin student teaching and eventually graduated with a degree in elementary education and special education. “I get to have a really good relationship with

the amount of students that I work with,” Belanger said about what he enjoys most working in special education. “... Having that relationship is definitely important to me. It’s rewarding because when you’re working with them you can help them with a problem academically or learn what’s going on in their lives socially ... Everyone is in different parts of their young lives. It’s just so rewarding and it’s what keeps me going in wanting to be a special

education teacher.” There are plenty of lessons that Belanger has already learned just in his first few months of being a full-time teacher at his former school. He also uses what he learned from being an athlete every day to help him get through any challenge. Someone who taught Belanger many of those life lessons is now a colleague as well. South varsity baseball head coach Dan Griesbaum Sr. was always a mentor to Belanger during his time as a player, and now Belanger still looks up to his former coach for support, and it has inspired him to think about becoming a coach himself someday. “Coach Griesbaum is one of the best people that I know,” he said. “... He cares about people

that he knows and has made connections with. Now, he’s kind of a colleague of mine and he’s reached out letting me know that if I ever need anything I’m sure I can reach out whenever. My brother played baseball for him for the last three years, so we got to see each other ... At some point, when I’m more established in the field of teaching, I’m sure I could explore options of trying to coach in some capacity.” The same sort of support and mentorship that Belanger has from his former coach goes for many of his former teachers who have now become colleagues. He has received a warm welcome in his homecoming so far and knows that he has everything around him that he needs to succeed as his career begins to take off. “When I first got introduced, a lot of the teachers I did have came and talked to me and let me know that if I ever needed anything they were there to support me,” he said. “I have other resource room teachers alongside me who are experienced and know the expectations of being a teacher at Grosse Pointe South and being a mentor to me.”

SUIT:

Continued from page 1A

Grosse Pointe Park. All are accused of infrastructure and personnel failures that resulted June 25-26, 2021, in combined

rainwater and sewage backing up into thousands of basements. “The main thrust of our argument is that resolution of this case, whether for or against the plaintiffs or GLWA, requires factual development in

the way of discovery,” Doherty said. “It’s reversible error not to allow discovery.” An earlier defense by GLWA stated plaintiffs failed for more than a year to submit affidavits from experts to make

their case. “Our response to that,” Doherty said, “is how do you expect us to engage an expert to do an engineering study when we don’t have the engineering data to do that?” Park officials withheld comment, citing unresolved litigation. GLWA representatives didn’t comment on the appeal, yet did reference “unprecedented rain events of June 2021” and provided a nine-point list of system improvements initiated post flooding.

Argument 1

Plaintiffs’ attorneys said the circuit court wrongly denied them the chance to adequately investigate events leading up to the flood, a pre-trial procedure called discovery. “The case involves allegations of ... an unquestionable failure to remedy defects in the sewer system that were known in advance of these floods and that defendants own witnesses admit contributed to the flooding,” according to the appellate

brief. “By failing to remedy known defects and adequately maintain the sewer system, defendants created a situation where plaintiffs’ properties would inevitably have to house flood waters that defendants failed to pump as the rains fell.”

Argument 2

Attorneys for flood victims also said the circuit court wrongly granted sewer system employees government immunity from accusations of gross negligence. “While the entities themselves are not liable pursuant (to Michigan law), the individual employees are. The (circuit) court, however, incorrectly granted immunity to those employees,” according to the brief. “How do we prove gross negligence when we don’t get a deposition of people that were manning the pump stations that night?” Doherty said. “Or that were locked out of the facility because of a power failure? Or when this storm was forecasted, they didn’t ramp up their personnel?”

Argument 3

Further, by squashing

the flood victims’ opportunity to conduct discovery, their attorneys couldn’t make the case that negligence contributed to backups; that the downpour wasn’t the sole factor causing flooding. “The circuit court in essence allowed defendant to create a limited factual record consisting solely of evidence in the exclusive control of defendants, and then accepted defendants’ characterizations of that evidence as true,” according to the filing. “That approach is contrary to the purposes of a summary disposition motion and resulted in plaintiffs having no meaningful opportunity to prove the merits of their cases.” To support their discovery argument, plaintiffs cited a post-flood incident analysis commissioned by the defendants. The analysis attributed backups, in part, to electrical power vulnerabilities of two main eastside sewer pump stations, pump availability during a time of power supply conversion and operational limits of the pump stations.

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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY WEEKLY BUGLE, LLC

16980 KERCHEVAL AVE.
GROSSE POINTE, MI 48230
PHONE: (313) 882-6900

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID at Detroit, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$49.50 per year via mail in the Metro area, \$70 outside.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Grosse Pointe News, 16980 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230.

The deadline for news copy is 3 p.m. Monday.

Advertising proof deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

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City of Grosse Pointe

Lululemon

Two women got away with stealing approximately \$10,000 in merchandise from Lululemon in The Village at 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18.

One of the suspects attempted to distract the employees, while the other filled a garbage bag with items.

The investigation is ongoing.

Candid camera

A 28-year-old Toledo man was arrested at 9:35 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, after video footage captured him looking into cars and trying door handles at University and Maumee.

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

Grosse Pointe Farms

Chronic thefts

A resident at American House Grosse Pointe noticed Tuesday, Jan. 7, that two rings were missing from her belongings.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Another resident reported \$40 was stolen from her purse between Wednesday, Jan. 8, and Friday, Jan. 10, while a third reported \$16 stolen from her purse within the same time period.

Well aware

A 34-year-old Harper Woods woman told the officer “I knew it,” when pulled over at Littlestone and Mack for illegally-tinted windows at 10:24 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13.

She received citations for driving while license suspended and an expired plate.

Tough luck

A 42-year-old Farms woman rear-ended an off-duty officer while he was stopped at a red light at Mack and Calvin at 9:08 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, before panicking and driving away.

When officers caught up with her, she was issued citations for failure to stop after a collision and failure to stop

within assured distance.

Porch pirate

A FedEx package containing two iPhone cases was stolen from a porch in the 200 block of Ridge at 2:09 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16.

CCD

Nothing appeared to be missing from a truck that had its rear window smashed while parked near the racquetball courts at the Country Club of Detroit between 5:30 and 6:27 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

ID theft and more

A woman living in the 700 block of Westchester has three problems.

First, she reported to

police Tuesday, Jan. 14, someone using one of her credit cards to make unauthorized purchases.

Second, packages she didn't order are being dropped off on her doorstep.

Third, someone dressed in black, wearing a facemask and driving a gray Ford Escape appeared on her security video dropping by to collect the deliveries.

Drunken driving I

At 9 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, police arrested a 65-year-old Detroit man for drunken driving.

A public safety officer noticed him driving erratically and conducted a roadside investigation near the corner of Cadieux and Jefferson.

Drunken driving II

During a field investigation at 11:51 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, on Mack Avenue at Beaconsfield, a 43-year-

old female motorist from Detroit was arrested for drunken driving.

She'd been stopped by a road officer for operating a vehicle without taillights.

— *Brad Lindberg*
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety, (313) 882-7400.

Grosse Pointe Shores

Broken window

The passenger side front window of a 2019 Ford EcoSport was broken while it sat in a Michaux Court driveway sometime between 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15.

The vehicle was locked and nothing was taken from it.

— *Ted O'Neil*
Report information about this and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Missing laptop

Windows on several vehicles were broken while they were parked behind businesses in the 20700 block of Mack between 6 and 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17.

A backpack containing a \$3,000 laptop was the only item reported missing.

Persistent thief

A 2024 Dodge Durango that not only was locked but also had a steering wheel lock was stolen between 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, and 2 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the 900 block of Vernier.

A \$300 pair of sunglasses and \$2,300 worth of clothing were in the vehicle.

— *Ted O'Neil*
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe Woods Public Safety, (313) 343-2400.

AUDIT:

Continued from page 1A

go from there,” Barnes told the council Monday, Jan. 13.

This is the second consecutive year Barnes, a CPA and managing principal of the Yeo & Yeo accounting firm, headed an audit of the Park.

“You shared last year that it would take several years to get us to where we need to be,” Mayor Michele Hodges reminded her.

The council's resident forensic accountant, Tim Kolar, who won a first term two years ago campaigning for fiscal responsibility and transparency, said:

“Our director of finance and her staff (have) done a phenomenal job to put us in the position we are now. The results are showing in what auditors presented to us: financial statements prepared by management with support of the city manager and council have given them directives of what the expectations are. Those expectations are showing up in the results. We remain in support of Michele (Hodges') and (City Manager) Nick (Sizeland's) leadership and are very happy with what we're seeing.”

Audit results are foundational to drafting a budget for the coming fiscal year starting July 1.

“We have our budget workshop in April,” Kolar said. “I'm looking forward to putting more projections in place as we plan our capital improvement plan and other things for the city, such as the Charlevoix and Kercheval streetscapes.”

“We knew a year ago that it was going to take about three years at least to ensure we had this solid financial footing,” Hodges said. “When we convene a workshop dedicated to the budgeting process, this will be good information.”

She set a goal for Sizeland this year to continue increasing the unassigned fund balance.

“We're trending in the

right direction and moving aggressively toward our goals,” Hodges said. “The only thing more important than our financial integrity is our moral and ethical integrity.”

“This is a snapshot in time,” Councilman Max Wiener said of the audit results. “Finances are quite strong. The budgeting process is going to give a much clearer illustration.”

“It boils down to focus, where we're going to have the most impact and keeping the residents and taxpayers in mind the whole time,” Hodges said. “You do that through outstanding management. We're on a journey, but we're moving at a faster pace than we would have expected.”

Under water

The audit quantified what Park officials have been discussing for a couple of years: water and sewer rates are likely to be raised.

Park residents can expect a rate hike unless there are ways to cut operating costs while facing higher fees from the regional water authority; rising employee pension costs, health care costs and capital equipment maintenance expenses.

The water and sewer fund wound up last fiscal year with a deficit. Expenses of \$6,163,356 exceeded revenue by \$609,354.

“This results in an operating loss,” Barnes said.

Park officials in October 2022 retained the Baker Tilly consulting firm to map out water rates sufficient to operate the municipal system long-term without financial loss.

“I strongly encourage you to continue down that path because the data suggests your rates are likely too low and will need to be increased,” Barnes told the council. “A lot of analysis has to go into coming up with what that rate should be.”

“We expect to address all of that at our April budget workshop,” Hodges said. “We're using Baker Tilly to help

us understand and navigate that discussion as well and understand what we need to put before the residents.”

On the other hand, the water-sewer infrastructure fund is fine due to the voter-approved, 10-year millage. Annual revenue of \$2.9 million nearly balanced the period's \$2.8 million investment in new capital assets.

“The majority of what came in as revenue went right back into infrastructure as intended by that millage,” Barnes said. “However, at the time that millage expires, you'd either have to go

back out for that millage or do without this fund, which is why it's really important to work on building up that water and sewer operations fund.”

An overarching look at city finances showed the general fund — the fund from which the city pays for daily operations — revenue totaling \$17,152,538.

Of that, property taxes generated 57 percent, or \$9,790,430. Next came grants and shared revenue totaling \$4,407,386. Charges for municipal services generated \$937,403 of general fund revenue, or 5 percent of

the whole.

General fund expenses adhered to norms.

The greatest category of cost was \$11,128,949 for public safety, or 65 percent of the total.

“That's in line with a lot of municipalities we work

with,” Barnes said.

Next came general government expenses of \$2,154,628 (13 percent of the total), and \$2,104,193 for recreation and culture (12 percent), then public works at \$1,021,027 (6 percent).



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

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OUR VIEW

License Plate Readers a welcome addition

As the tagline from an old TV show used to say, “Smile! You’re on Candid Camera!”

Although in the case of License Plate Readers, we do not think those who end up getting arrested will be flashing their pearly whites.

A big thank you to the Grosse Pointe Public Safety Foundation, which is paying to install five LPRs in each of the Pointes and Harper Woods. Sean Cotton, who owns the Grosse Pointe News, sits on the foundation’s board of directors.

Cost for installation is around \$55,000 for each municipality, with the cities responsible for ongoing maintenance costs of around \$8,000 annually.

Here’s how they work.

“After they capture and catalog license plate information, (LPR) systems can compare these data against various databases, including what are known as hot lists, which contain license plates linked to vehicles of interest,” according to “Law Enforcement and Technology: Use of Automated License Plate Readers,” an Aug. 19, 2024, article posted on the Congressional Research Service website. “If there is a match to a hot list license plate, the (LPR) system can alert a police officer in real time.”

Just last month, an LPR in Detroit picked up a suspect vehicle from a porch pirate incident in the City of Grosse Pointe that led to the criminal’s arrest.

The cameras will be placed in fixed locations in collaboration with each city to create maximum coverage. They will not capture photos of drivers or the surrounding area, only of the rear of vehicles and the license plate.

People in vehicles with license plates that trigger reports are in bad company. The central file contains databases about stolen vehicles, wanted persons, missing persons, gang members, known and suspected terrorists, offenders under supervised release, sex offenders and immigration violators, according to the Michigan State Police.

LPRs have other useful applications beyond fighting crime. They can be used to find an elderly person suffering from dementia who should not be driving.

The public safety department owns the data — which will be stored at Motorola data storage facilities in the U.S. for up to 90 days — and singularly has access to it. To search the information, officers must have an incident number.

“So officers can’t sit there and just — for lack of a better example — search where their ex-girlfriend might be driving,” Jason Bernard of Motorola told the City of Grosse Pointe City Council recently. “You have to say, ‘I’m searching for this plate. This is why I’m searching.’ OK, here’s your results.”

Use of LPR data will be closely monitored. Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Director

See READERS, page 7A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Pure Grosse Pointe

From left, Charlie Bunch, Vivienne Bunch, Connor Bunch, Gabe Chaptini and Graham Farrell stand with the leaning touchdown dance snowman.

The group of friends in the City of Grosse Pointe got together Friday, Jan. 17, to make a snowman. The goal was to make one higher than last year’s 7-foot-tall snowman, so this year they got a step stool and successfully made the snowman 8 feet tall. It took the group about an hour and a half to build, with the bottom pieces being the most difficult. Once it was finished they put a Detroit Lions running back No. 5, David Montgomery, jersey on it and when asked why the snowman was leaning they said, “He’s doing a touchdown dance.” Montgomery is tied with Lions No. 14 receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown for scoring the second most touchdowns for the Lions in 2024.

GUEST VIEW By Noah Hauswirth, AAMS

Investment planning to start the year

Instead of hauling out those familiar New Year’s resolutions about keeping a journal or drinking more water, how about focusing on your financial well-being? Here’s a set of resolutions that can help ensure your long-term financial confidence.

Update your beneficiaries

If you don’t correctly document your beneficiary designations, who gets what may be determined by federal or state law, or by the default plan document used in your retirement accounts. When did you last update your designations? Have life changes (divorce, remarriage, births, deaths, state of residence) occurred since then?

Update your beneficiary listings on wills, life insurance, annuities, IRAs, 401(k)s, qualified plans and anything else that’d affect your heirs. If you’ve named a trust, have any relevant tax laws changed? Have you provided for the possibility that your primary beneficiary may die before you? Does your plan address the simultaneous death of you and your spouse? An estate attorney can help walk you through these various scenarios.

Create flexible liquidity

Cash has inflation and opportunity tradeoffs, but a lack of access can cause greater problems if you find yourself needing to draw from your investments. Finding a balance in line with your life and goals is important to avoid disrupting your long-term plans.

The right liquidity strategy will be different for every investor and could incorporate cash reserves, cash alternatives, highly liquid securities, lines of credit, margin loans or even structured lending.

Multiple institutions and account owners can be used to hold more than \$250,000 with FDIC guarantees.

Evaluate your retirement progress

What changes are needed given your current lifestyle and the market environment? Don’t fixate solely on your assets’ value — instead, drill down into what types of securities you hold, your expected cash flows, your contingency plans, your assumed rate of return, inflation rates and how long you’re planning for. Retirement plans have many moving parts that must be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Review your account titling

Haphazard account titling can create problems down the line. If one partner dies and an account is titled only in their name, those assets can’t be readily accessed by the survivor. The solution may be creating joint accounts, but it’s not always that simple. Titling has implications across a range of estate planning issues, as well as other situations such as Medicaid eligibility and borrowing power, too.

Develop a charitable strategy

Giving comes from the heart, but you can also do well when doing good. For example, consider whether or not it would make sense to donate low-basis stocks in lieu of cash, or learn about establishing a donor advised fund to take an upfront deduction for contributions made over the next several years. Give, but do so with an eye toward reducing your tax liability.

See GUEST, page 7A

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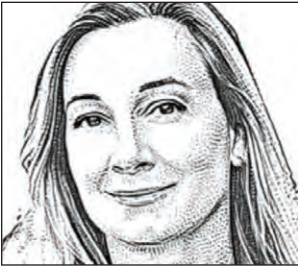
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Snow Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Snow Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Clear
60%	20%	20%	0%	50%	20%	10%
SUNRISE 7:54 am SUNSET 5:34 pm	SUNRISE 7:53 am SUNSET 5:35 pm	SUNRISE 7:52 am SUNSET 5:36 pm	SUNRISE 7:51 am SUNSET 5:38 pm	SUNRISE 7:50 am SUNSET 5:39 pm	SUNRISE 7:49 am SUNSET 5:40 pm	SUNRISE 7:48 am SUNSET 5:42 pm

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

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.

I SAY By Anne Gryzenia



Are January birthdays the worst?

Having a birthday in the frigid month of January, just as the Christmas hangover is in full effect, is somewhat depressing when you think about it. Even the gifts seem like an afterthought — like scraps from Christmas. The holiday lights are down, half the world is

either at the gym or blathering on about dry January, and it's literally the most gloomy time of the year (it's no joke — "Blue Monday" is the third Monday in January as dubbed by a British psychologist who studied it). Everyone's checking accounts have shrunk and their waistlines have grown from the months of merriment. Even the birth stone and flower for January are lame. A carnation? Seriously? And a garnet, like a ruby, only cheaper and

nobody needs to dress up or show off or run around like a chicken with its head cut off. Nobody has high expectations for a January birthday. If you have to go out, it's not that devastating if it isn't the most fun you've ever had. It's also remarkably easy to get dinner reservations. While everyone is on the Ozempic train and living their resolutions, I'll be ordering the tasting menu at the newest place in town. Jealous? You know what else is

great about a January birthday? Most people don't have any conflicts, because there's really not that much going on. I almost feel sorry for people with birthdays in the summer when it's beautiful, sunny, warm and everyone is happy (insert eye roll here). Good luck trying to find a night where all of your friends are available to go out and aren't up north! All-in-all, complaining about a birthday is probably pretty petty. After officially turning 50, I

YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES

1950

75 years ago this week

UNIFORM POINTE LAWS SUGGESTED: At the city council meeting Jan. 16, Attorney Albert Meder presented a copy of a letter written to Henry R. Maurer, attorney for Grosse Pointe Farms, by Pierre V Hefler, attorney for Grosse Pointe Park, suggesting a uniformity of the ordinances of the two communities which would

cover 80 to 90 percent of the work and services of the two communities for their residents. Mr. Hefler said he was prompted to make this suggestion by noting that the new city of Grosse Pointe Farms was directed to undertake such a review and compilation of its own ordinances within two years.

1975

50 years ago this week

PARENTS EXPRESS CONCERN OVER GIRLS ATHLETICS: A group of parents who feel there are some inequities in the physical education program for girls at both North and South high schools met at the Neighborhood Club last month and formed a committee called "Parents for Equality in Physical Education." The committee met on behalf of parents with Superintendent of Schools James A. Adams, both principals and athletic directors, and then sent a letter to the superintendent outlining their major concerns.

2000

25 years ago this week

SCHOOL BOARD TO CONSIDER CLOSING CAMPUSES: The board of education may be faced with making a decision at one of its February meetings whether to keep campuses open or closed at lunch time at the district's two high schools, where principals say about half of their students leave campus to go out for lunch. The request to look into the

possibility of a closed campus came about when the campus at North was closed for the first eight weeks of the 1998-99 school year. Grosse Pointe Woods public safety requested the campus be closed during the last leg of construction on Vernier Road.

2015

10 years ago this week

BASHARA GETS TWO LIFE TERMS, PLUS: Wayne County

Circuit Judge Vonda Evans sentenced Bob Bashara to two life sentences in prison without parole for his role in the January 2012 murder of his wife, Jane, in the garage of their Grosse Pointe Park house. On Dec. 19, a jury found Bashara guilty on five counts related to his wife's murder. In addition to two mandatory life sentences, Evans sentenced Bashara to 18 to 40 years on a charge of solicitation to murder; one to five years for witness intimidation; and two to 10 years for witness intimidation.

READERS:

Continued from page 6A

Jim Bostock said policy will mirror that of access to LEIN, the Law Enforcement Information Network. "It will be 100 percent law enforcement use only," he said recently. "They will be documented. In any deviation, (the transgressor) will be charged and fired." Some have raised concerns about privacy rights, noting LPRs have a "Big Brother" connotation. Courts, however, have ruled time and again that people do not have the right to expect privacy when in public. Banks, grocery stores, restaurants, government buildings and beyond all have some type of CCTV surveillance. A metro Detroit man recently was arrested after being caught on camera and subsequently identified after stealing tip jars at two restaurants in St. Clair

Shores. In addition, there is the ever-growing popularity of doorbell cameras and other types of home security systems, not to mention dash cams. Studies have shown, depending on a person's lifestyle, the average American is captured on camera around 70 times per day. Further, license plates are positioned in a way to purposefully make them public, whether for law enforcement use or an ordinary citizen wanting to report a hit-and-run accident or some other type of crime. According to the GPPSF website, there are success stories from cities with LPRs. Since 2020, Mt. Juliet, Tenn., a suburb of Knoxville with a population of 38,000, has seen: ♦ recovery of 142 stolen cars and five stolen trailers, ♦ apprehension of 100 wanted persons, ♦ recovery of four missing adults and five missing children, ♦ a 10 percent reduction in crimes against

persons, ♦ a 20 percent reduction in crimes against property, ♦ a 34 percent reduction in burglaries and ♦ a 27 percent reduction in vehicle thefts. Closer to home, Detroit Police Commissioner Willie Burton, who originally was opposed to LPRs, changed his mind in 2023 after a reader in Ohio identified the vehicle that struck his brother while he was standing on a street corner on the city's east side. The driver was arrested within hours. We believe the addition of LPRs not only will lead to solving more crimes, but prevent them from occurring in the first place. Police tell us it has been common knowledge among criminals that the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods do not have readers, making the area a soft target. Now if we could just get you to start locking your vehicles and stop leaving the key fobs inside them.

GUEST:

Continued from page 6A

Spark a family conversation

Sustaining the benefits of wealth for generations is nearly impossible without a mutual understanding among family members. Consider creating a family mission statement that outlines the shared vision for your wealth and legacy. This should include nonfinancial topics, too, like your values, expectations and important life lessons.

Digitize your record keeping

You likely receive emails, letters, reports and updates from multiple accounts. Consider going paperless and centralizing important files in one place to reduce frustration and ensure easy access when needed. Your advisor may have access to secure storage tools that can help.

Invest with your values

Your portfolio should reflect what matters to you — and that can mean anything from avoiding particular industries to actively pursuing an ESG (environmental, social and governance) investing approach. So whether you want to promote the transition to clean energy, advocate for

diversity and inclusion in the workplace, or support companies with strong data privacy practices, your portfolio can be tailored to reflect those priorities. **Check in with your advisor** Your advisor can offer specialized tools, impartiality and experience earned by dealing with many market cycles and client situations. Communicate openly about what's happening in your life today and what may happen in the future. It's difficult to manage what they aren't aware of, so err on the side of over-communicating and establish a regular check-in schedule for the year ahead.

Noah Hauswirth, AAMS, is an investment advisor at Raymond James & Associates in Grosse Pointe Farms. Raymond James and its advisors do not offer tax or legal advice. You should discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional.

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New scholarship opportunities for GPPSS seniors

Standout teachers, students also to be recognized

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

THE GROSSE POINTES — Student-athletes from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North high schools are eligible for a new college scholarship program starting this year.

Called the Compass Scholarship, the group Pointers for Academic Excellence will award \$5,000 to one male and one female senior from each school.

“We’ve been talking about different ways to

improve our support of the community,” said Kevin Nugent, executive director of PfAE. “We all know how difficult it is to afford college, so hopefully this will alleviate some of that burden.”

To be eligible, students must have:

- ◆ Maintained a minimum, cumulative grade point average of 3.3,
- ◆ Earned at least one varsity letter in any sport during their high school career and
- ◆ Demonstrated leadership in a role such as team captain, student

government, club leader or significant community service.

“We’ve gotten great feedback from both schools,” Nugent said. “More than anything, we want to embody the whole student.”

A post on social media from PfAE states: “The Compass Scholarship celebrates the exceptional student-athletes who represent the whole student body; balancing academic achievement, athletic commitment, leadership and a strong work ethic.”

Applications open

soon and the winners will be announced at each school’s respective awards night in the spring.

Students at North can get more information about the application process through Jenny Sherman in the counseling office. Students at South can apply through the scholarship program overseen by the Mothers’ Club.

“This is just one small part of our ongoing efforts to support our public schools,” Nugent said. “There will be more on the horizon, so keep

an eye out.”

PfAE also has established a recognition program for teachers and students.

The Luminary Award allows students to nominate current teachers who inspire them and demonstrate integrity, leadership, resilience and civic mindedness.

Teachers, meanwhile, can nominate students in the Pillars of Excellence category, for students who display the same traits as well as academic achievement.

Two students from each building in the dis-

trict, one female and one male, will receive \$50 gift cards, while two teachers from each building will get \$100 gift cards. Winners will be announced in May.

See facebook.com/PfAE2023 for nomination forms.

PfAE was started by Sean Cotton, owner of the Grosse Pointe News, shortly after his election to the Grosse Pointe Public School System Board of Education in November 2022, although he is not involved with the group’s ongoing operations.

Two Liggett administrators resign

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — Two administrators at University Liggett School, both members of the school’s leadership team, stepped down recently after an investigation into use of the school’s social media.

Michelle Cureton, director of community engagement and belonging, resigned effective Jan. 9. Leython Williams, a 2003 ULS graduate and assistant head of school for athletics and ancillary programs, resigned effective Jan. 15. Both were hired by Liggett in the summer of 2022.

and with respect for everyone involved, our board of trustees and school leadership team have worked to address recent issues that have caused concern in our community over the past few weeks,” Head of School Tom Sheppard said in a letter to Liggett families dated Jan. 16, which he shared with the Grosse Pointe News. “We write today to: (1) inform you of an additional change in our school leadership team and plans for moving forward; and (2) update you on matters related to our investigation.”

The school had retained both an attorney and a digital forensics expert to investigate the matter.

“The investigator from Bodman, PLC has concluded her independent inquiry into matters surrounding screenshots that appear to show notifications from one of our school’s social media accounts,” Sheppard continued. “We have found that our social media accounts were used by adults for impermissible personal use in violation of existing policies. As a result, we have made changes in the procedures governing the administration of, and access to, school social media accounts. We will continue to evaluate and make changes as needed. All use of ULS property, including social media accounts, must reflect our core val-

ues and standards of professionalism.”

The Grosse Pointe News was forwarded widely circulated screenshots of what appear to be a social media platform connected to Liggett that contain highly graphic messages of a sexual nature.

“Currently, our school leadership team is developing a process through which the entire community can heal and move forward in a spirit that embodies our core values of community, integrity, respect, excellence and empathy,” Sheppard concluded. “Those values must be our foundation every day, but never more so than in times of challenge. Our efforts will be most successful when we embrace a spirit of finding common ground and moving forward with a focus on unity. I invite you to join us in that effort.”

BUDGET:

Continued from page 1A

Tuttle added that timing plays a factor, as schools have to pass a budget by June 30 each year, but the state fiscal year doesn’t start for another three months.

“It creates a lot of uncertainties,” she said. “You don’t know your exact enrollment, you don’t know the state budget.”

Districts typically make two budget amendments during the year.

“By law, you only have to pass one budget, but it’s good practice to do revisions like this,” Tuttle said. “The trajectory is not in our favor.”

Tuttle said she anticipates the district’s fund equity will finish the current fiscal year at about \$9.3 million, or 9.15 percent of expenditures. That would be down from the current 10.2 percent.

“As I said at the begin-

ning of the 2023-24 fiscal year, we cannot right-size the district in one year,” she continued, “but we tried to correct things to an extent this year.”

Another factor at play is that nine teachers whose salaries were being paid with grant money were absorbed into the general fund this year.

“We had ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) dollars being used to pay for people instead of projects and that created a lot of problems,” Tuttle said.

On the bright side, the district reduced spending this fiscal year by \$572,000 with no cuts in programming and just one part-time teacher being laid off.

“Deficit spending remains a significant concern,” Tuttle said. “The board has to think about where to cut more so we can ultimately balance the budget.”

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Lakeshore Optimists get chamber update

Jenny Boettcher, president and CEO of the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, recently visited the Lakeshore Optimist Club to give members an update on the programs and services of the chamber.

The chamber is a valuable resource to the Grosse Pointe community, providing a wide array of services, programs and resources for small businesses, non-profits, residents and visitors. Lakeshore Optimist Club has been a member for many years, recently taking advantage of some of the Lunch and Learn programs to increase the club’s effectiveness with social media platforms.

Small businesses are supported by ribbon cuttings, a program of chamber gift cards which can be used at participating member businesses, small business grants, young entrepreneur scholarships and links to many state and federal small business assistance programs. Networking opportunities are sponsored by the chamber for all members, including a network mixer for non-profits.

The chamber sponsors



COURTESY PHOTO

Lakeshore Optimist Club President Steve Licari, left, with Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jenny Boettcher.

annual events such as the Santa Claus Parade and the Chamber Breakfast. The first annual Community Impact Day is scheduled for May 14 this year. For more information about the chamber go to grossepointechamber.com/.

Lakeshore Optimist Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend. See the website for locations, dates and times each month at gpointimists.com/. They can be found on Facebook at facebook.com/lakeshoreoptimists.

Zoning ordinance passes in the Park

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — Two years of work that led to passage last month of a new, comprehensive zoning ordinance doesn't mean the review process is over.

Detractors, meaning a small group of people who attended numerous public meetings about the ordinance and said basically the same thing each time, have perpetual opportunities to join everyone else in evaluating the 186-page document's practical application and possible shortcomings.

"This is a working document," Councilman Tom Caulfield said. "It's not set in stone."

"It can be reviewed at any time, even at regular instances," Councilman Marty McMillan said.

"We think this will suit you well as you move forward," John Jackson, the Park's planning consultant, told the council Monday, Dec. 9.

He also advised members to not emulate their predecessors and wait a generation to update it again.

"Our zoning ordinance has not been amended for a very, very long time," said Morgan Martin, city attorney. "As a result, there are a lot of things in the ordinance that are not standard any longer; or things are missing that are standard in other locations. As a result, because those are missing and not meeting current standards for the safety of our residents and individuals visiting our city, we don't have any authority to enforce them."

She gave a general example:

"If someone seeks to put an addition on their home, redevelop a parcel or build something brand new, we don't have authority to say you're obligated to bring us XYZ to make sure you're meeting standards that need to be met."

Martin said it's routine for newly passed zoning ordinances to be partially amended.

"Theres no time limit on that," she said. "If there's something in this ordinance we find doesn't work, all we need to do is notice a public hearing."

A 5-1 majority of the council Monday, Dec. 9, approved the updated Ordinance No. 244 they said meets major objectives outlined in the city's new master plan.

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

Councilwoman Christine Gallagher voted against the zoning ordinance. She also voted against passage of an ordinance restricting, licensing and setting operating standards for short-term rentals and, thirdly, a schedule of fines and penalties for short-term rental operators violating standards.

The city had no effective regulations of short-term rentals prior to Monday's majority vote.

"(The zoning ordinance) provides a basis for quality future development across the com-

munity," Jackson said.

Four categories of objectives addressed in the ordinance are:

- ◆ Make zoning rules easier to understand and to implement recommendations in the master plan.
- ◆ Promote quality design and construction of rehabilitated and new buildings in the city consistent with existing standards.
- ◆ Imbue the ordinance with best practices that promote pedestrian access and sustainability.
- ◆ Streamline the development review process.

Work on the update began formally in January 2023. Discussions started before that.

"The planning commission and council have discussed elements of the draft zoning ordinance at public meetings," Jackson said. "Two community open houses were held in December 2023. An online series of surveys was conducted in early 2024. A number of public comments have been included in the revised ordinance to address short-term rental provisions."

"While certain elements of the existing zoning ordinance have been carried over to the new document, the updated ordinance should be viewed as a new compressive document as opposed to a simple amendment to the current code," said Nick Sizeland, city manager.

Among aspects consistent with the master plan are replacing commercial district designations with mixed-use districts that allow combinations of commercial and resi-

dential activity.

"Land uses are now contained entirely in an easy-to-find table format," according to Jackson.

Pedestrian access is promoted by permitting parking waivers and shared parking.

Environmental sustainability is promoted through such things as permeable parking lot surfaces and requiring native shade trees associated with new construction.

Streamlining is intended to result from a new, uniform approach to reviewing site plans.

The touchy topic of signs, regulations for which must align with rights of free speech, no longer address content. Rather, new regulations specify size, materials, placement and quantity.

"(This) provides clarity and ease for both the public and city officials," according to Jackson.

Residential

Included are five residential districts:

- ◆ Estate

The Estate Residential district, previously designated the RA District, Residential A, encompasses dwellings along most of the lakeshore and on Three Mile Drive from Essex Avenue to Kercheval.

The district is characterized by low-density construction of single-family structures on spacious lots.

- ◆ NR-1

The Neighborhood Residential I district exists in every quadrant of the city. It used to be titled the RB District, Residential B.

From Pemberton to

Cadieux and Windmill Pointe Drive to Mack Avenue, lots in NR-1 are smaller than estates, but limited only to single-family usage.

"Duplexes and multiple-family are not allowed," Jackson said.

- ◆ NR-2

The Neighborhood Residential 2 district replaces the RC District, Residential C, and consists of single-family lots smaller than in the NR-1 or Estate Residential districts.

District parameters range from Barrington to the area of Trombly Elementary School and, separately, on other roads up to and including the northern quadrant ending at the intersection of Mack and Cadieux.

The designation is nuanced by an overlay district of existing duplexes on Trombly and Harcourt that are allowed to continue.

- ◆ NR-3

Neighborhood Residential 3 replaced the RD District, Residential D.

The designation allows a variety of housing types, single family as well as duplexes, and contains the Cabbage Patch.

- ◆ NMU

Neighborhood Mixed Use replaces the OS-1 and B1 districts and refers to mixed, residential and commercial uses in the lower Charlevoix commercial district.

Commercial

The new document contains three categories of rules for commercial land use based on a district's established character. The prior

ordinance had one set of rules for all commercial areas.

Mixed-use districts replace the existing single commercial district. Mixed-use allows residential property atop commercial in all current business districts: Charlevoix, Kercheval, Jefferson and Mack Avenue.

- ◆ New districts

Replacing generic business district designation are districts titled Corridor Mixed-Use, Central Business and Neighborhood Mixed-Use.

- ◆ Corridor

There are two Corridor Mixed-Use districts. They bookend the city on lower Jefferson and Mack.

This district allows for mixed use of residential over commercial.

- ◆ Central Business

The Central Business District encompasses lower Kercheval.

Characteristics are pedestrian orientation and high concentration of development allowing for residential usage above commercial up to four stories in this district.

- ◆ Neighborhood

Lower Charlevoix is designated a Neighborhood Mixed Use District.

The district is intended to permit "daily services and goods to be readily available for surrounding neighborhoods in addition to context-sensitive live-work developments, residential units, office and smaller-scale commercial uses that lend themselves to encouraging a walkable, pedestrian-oriented neighborhood."

New Year's bullet comes back to Earth

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — New Year's Eve is one of two times per annum when the saying, "What goes up, must come down" is reaffirmed.

Bullet damage in the 1300 block of Kensington kicked off public safety incidents for 2025.

At 0000 hours Jan. 1, police logged a resident's report of a bullet hole in the hood of his vehicle.

"(It was) presumably caused by the New Year's Eve tradition of firing guns at midnight," police concluded.

"It happens," Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. "We've taken these

reports over the years. It's not unique to this area. What's dangerous is that people shoot a bullet up in the air and think it's gone. Well, its not. Everything that goes up has to come down."

Technically it was a case of malicious destruction of property. Potentially, it could have been deadly.

If a 9mm bullet, the most popular handgun round in the country, is shot at a 45-degree angle, it will reach 1,500 feet altitude, travel more than 3,000 feet downrange and land at sufficient velocity to penetrate a skull, according to "The Reality of Celebratory Gunfire," posted at 1point21interactive.com, a data analy-

sis agency in California.

The distance exceeds 1½ miles, roughly the distance from Park city hall to Neff Park in the City of Grosse Pointe.

A 30.06 rifle round has a fatal reach of 11,500 feet, the distance from city hall to The War Memorial in the Farms.

A Park officer responding to the scene of the New Year's Eve incident said damage appeared to be caused by a 9mm round, according to Pittman.

"It could have come from a few blocks away," Pittman said. "Even if it's from a small caliber handgun, it will travel quite a distance, especially if its launched at the right angle."

"Celebratory gunfire becomes a significant issue during two holidays in particular — Independence Day and the New Year," according to the internet report.

"While no complete database exists, nearly 95 percent of U.S. incidents recorded by the Gun Violence Archive occurred on either July 4, Dec. 31 or Jan. 1."

Every type of ammunition the 1point21 group simulated with test firings landed with enough velocity to kill.

A bullet must be traveling at least 163 feet per second to penetrate skin and 213 fps to break bone, according to the "Ballistics" portion of a

firearms tutorial posted at webpath.med.utah.edu.

Yet, the 1point21 group simulated cases where the bullet from .22 long

rifle ammunition could penetrate skin at 148 fps.

"The bullet has potential to be deadly under the right set of circumstances," reads the report.

There were no injuries reported in the Park incident.

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Aligning fed grant policy

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — City officials formalized their practice of setting aside a portion of federal grants to pay for enacting receipt of those grants.

City council’s adoption of a 15 percent retention policy Nov. 12, put the city in compliance with federal regulations, its new auditors and finance director.

Specifics of the federal rules are there for anyone to read in chapters, parts, sections, subsections, paragraphs and lines of the Code of Federal Regulations. The gist of the Park’s action conformed with federal standards allowing federal grant recipients to allocate a portion of receipts to cover “necessary, reasonable and allocable” costs associated with carrying out projects for which grants are issued.

“We wanted to make sure we were following federal guidelines for record retention and being able to take the soft costs that most grants don’t contain, whether engineering fees or administrative costs the city has to bear,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said. “This is something our auditors asked us to review.”

“Rather than having to allocate federal grant funding to these costs, the federal government allows a recipient to pre-select a percentage that will automatically be allocated to such costs,” according to Morgan

Martin, assistant city attorney. “Unless a recipient has already negotiated such a rate, the government must accept a percentage that is 15 percent or less.”

Council members thereby followed Sizeland’s recommendation to increase the city’s 10 percent retention rate to the federally-allowed 15 percent.

“What does this do for grants?” he wrote in a memo to council prior to the November meeting. “The (15 percent retention) means covering overhead costs not factored in grants for costs of utilities, office space, salaries, engineering and planning fees and (to) offset (the) cost of a SEFA (Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards) audit (which alone costs) \$15,000.”

He said SEFA audits are performed upon the city receiving more than \$750,000 grant funding in a fiscal year.

Federal grants are a relatively recent topic in the city. To the surprise of many members of the administration and council, the Park, a well-heeled jurisdiction often excluded from grant consideration due to needs testing, received more than \$4 million in federal grants this year.

Some \$1.6 million was awarded to install the extreme emergency relief valve flood protection infrastructure.

Another \$1.8 million will be put toward the \$4 million Charlevoix streetscape improvement project.

“We also received

\$650,000, which is the TMF (Community Technical, Managerial and Financial Support for) lead service line replacement grant through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, which are federal funds,” Sizeland said.

“When we weren’t in compliance, was that costing us grants?” Councilman Brent Dreaver asked Sizeland. “Were we ineligible for certain things or not as attractive because of the policies we had?”

“If we were to be audited by the federal government, one of the first things they’d ask us (is), ‘Do you have a federal grants policy?’” Sizeland answered, indicating the prior lack of policy wasn’t an inhibitor. “This policy is only for federal grants. It’s not for state, local or private sources. It’s something the federal government is going to look for if we’re ever audited.”

Among non-federal grants the city received recently include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ \$900,000 from the Cotton family, a member of which owns the Grosse Pointe News, for flood valve construction,

- ◆ \$130,000 from the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation for flood valve components,

- ◆ \$65,000 from resident Paul Schaap to replace high-backed lounge chairs in the Carol C. Schaap Theater in the Lavins Activity Center, Windmill Pointe Park.

E-bikes a concern, not problem

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The fact it requires a downhill run or tailwind for most electronic bikes to reach 30 mph doesn’t matter when it comes to a woman’s fear of being rammed by a rider zipping along the sidewalk at breakneck speed.

“You can’t debate a few miles per hour,” said Rick Teranes, owner of Bikes Blades & Boards on Mack Avenue in the Park. “To her, it’s an unsafe speed on sidewalks.”

Teranes has an insider’s knowledge of e-bikes and their proper usage. He’d just concluded an e-bike sale before being interviewed about their appropriateness and safe operation.

His attitude is sterner than might be expected of someone making a living selling bikes.

“In general, I’m not in favor of kids having electric bikes,” Teranes said. “They should be getting exercise on their own. The main customers for electric bikes tend to be retired folks who want some exercise and fun but aren’t as strong as they used to be and want the boost of an electric bike to let them go faster and farther.”

Michigan has no minimum age limit to lawfully operate most e-bikes, designated Class 1 or 2 with top speeds of 20 mph. Riders of Class 3 bikes, which go up to 28 mph, must be at least 14 years old and wear a helmet. State law forbids riding e-bikes on sidewalks.

“We don’t have an ordinance on e-bikes,” said Jim Bostock, Park public safety director. “That is something we’re going to

have to address.”

“Is that something you could compile and recommend to the council to consider?” Mayor Michele Hodges asked Bostock last week.

“E-bikes, from what I understand, are under the threshold of having to be registered as a motor vehicle,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. “Mopeds go above that standard, so they generally have to be registered.”

An electric bicycle has a battery-powered motor. Some motors operate only while the rider is pedaling. Others operate without pedaling.

The woman who is worried about someone getting run over is a member of the Public Safety Advisory Committee.

“They’re ripping down the sidewalk,” she said.

“They’re everywhere,” another member said. “They swerve in and out along the side of the street. It makes me nervous. They come out of nowhere.”

“This is the first complaint I’ve had on it,” Bostock said.

“Have they been a problem?” Pittman asked rhetorically. “Not that I’ve noticed. I recall one accident in the last month or so involving a (regular) bike. There was a discrepancy of whether the bike or car was at fault. We haven’t had complaints about e-bikes.”

E-bikes are a growth industry. Rising popularity means they’re more prevalent. With increased usage comes a greater chance of accidents.

“It’s like when scooters came out and people were complaining about scooter

accidents,” Teranes said. “It’s because there had been none and, all of a sudden, there were scooters.”

“In 2022, there were 1.1 million e-bikes sold in the United States, almost four times as many as were sold in 2019,” according to a December 2023 report by the Department of Energy.

“E-bikes are the fastest growing bike category in independent bicycle dealer commerce,” according to a July 8, 2024, posting on People for Bikes, peopleforbikes.org. Sales are up 13 percent over last year in the United States, with nearly 20 percent of bicycle riders using e-bikes.

“In general, when people come in looking for an e-bike, very rarely are they kids,” Teranes said. “Even when it is a 12- or 13-year-old, we discourage it. I can only think of one or two kids that age who’ve bought e-bikes from us. They should know the rules of the road and not be interfering with pedestrians and other kids walking to school.”

As with the public safety officers, Teranes said he hasn’t heard about kids riding faster than they should, endangering pedestrians or causing trouble by violating traffic laws.

“It might be something about which parents need to talk with their kids, riding on sidewalks, interfering with pedestrians or dog walkers,” he said. “If they’re old enough to have an e-bike, they should be old enough to ride in the streets and follow the rules or the road.”

— Brad Lindberg

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FEATURES

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Handling history Archivist dedicated to preserving Pointes’ past

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Pieces of the past are rediscovered every time Gina Tecos steps foot in the basement of the Grosse Pointe History Center.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society archivist since August 2023, Tecos spends her time organizing and processing items that tell the story of Grosse Pointe’s past. From historical maps and blueprints to manuscripts and collections of historical photos, it’s Tecos’ job to sort through and preserve an assortment of archives.

The history center opened in January 2023, and “much of it was in boxes when I arrived,” the Grosse Pointe Farms resident said. “In the beginning I was getting things back on shelves, in cases and in file cabinets — getting it back to professionally organized and easy to find.

“I’m trying to be a good steward of the materials,” she added. “I’m trying to make sure they’re housed in a way that preserves them for people doing research and exhibitions.”

That’s no small feat when the archives include an assortment of “maps, blueprints, documents, bills, contracts, letters, books, catalogs, photographs, videos, prints, drawings, watercolors, scrapbooks, oral histories, albums, real estate records and additional ephemera relating to the history of the Grosse Pointes and neighboring communities, as well as objects, tools, household goods and furniture,” according to the GPHS website.



The collection may seem chaotic to the average eye, but Tecos, also an archivist at Ford House, came to the historical society from Cranbrook, where she and her colleagues handled 30,000 architectural drawings for all of the properties involved.

“We have upward of 5,000 blueprints,” Tecos said comparatively. “... There’s always a big backlog of materials we’re working on. I’m working on it with an intern; that’s sort of the thing with nonprofits — they tend to have small staffs.”

To make up for the small staff, Tecos often wears multiple hats, like lining up exhibitions for the public on the main floor of the history center. She gets help from members of the society’s board of directors, some of whom work at other museums, she said.

She handles research requests from the community as well. In the last year and a half, Tecos has received 260 requests for information — which may not seem like much, but she’s only at the center 15 hours a week. Tecos said she responds to requests for research typically within a day.

Requests are made via online form, email or in-

person visits. Often people are seeking blueprints or the name of their home’s original owner. During the past year, three authors have contacted her to research their impending novels. She also fields requests from students working on history projects.

“People who’ve lived a long time in Grosse Pointe know what’s available, but there seems to be confusion about our location,” she said of the new history center, which is located at 375 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms, across the street from the historic Provencal-Weir House.

“I’m here two days a week, but the history center is open five days a week, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,” she said. “People are welcome to come in and take a look around.”

The new center allows the much-needed space to house all the documents and materials the society has collected and preserved. The next step, Tecos said, is working on establishing a bigger online presence.

“One of the main things we’ve started here is digitization,” she said. “Our goal is to get sets of collections in a digital collection so people can access them and



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Above, boxes of blueprints line the shelves of the history center. Left, assessment rolls and ledgers are among the oddities cared for by Gina Tecos.

get a better idea of what we have. A lot of what needs to happen is to see what we have, go back through our records to make sure we get everything correctly established in terms of copyright and credit information before we can put it online. We have a great database; it’s just about having enough time to populate it.”

With help from a summer intern, Tecos hopes this next step will happen by fall.

“I don’t want to release it and just have a few things,” she said. “I want it to be searchable and satisfying to people. I want it all to be available before we release it.”

The historical society hopes to achieve that goal using two donated flatbed scanners — one for books, one for blueprints.

“We’re able to digitize historical photos with the book scanner,” Tecos said. “It allows us to scan scrapbooks. We have a huge scrapbook collection — close to 20 boxes. They give a glimpse of how life was during different periods of time. There might be tickets or invitations, advertisements, maps. It’s a fun way of viewing Grosse Pointe from someone’s else perspective in, say, 1935.”

Tecos said the society has considered offering its digitization services to the public and previously has worked with the local Daughters of the American Revolution

which will streamline the donation process.

“People can still bring in donations,” Tecos said. “They’ll go to the committee, who will decide if it fits with our



Archivist Gina Tecos sorts through a drawer of blueprints.

chapter on digitizing its archives.

She noted the society’s new strategic plan, which should be complete by the end of the first quarter, likely will include information about the service. It also should establish a collections committee,

collecting mission or whether we have the capacity to store it. ... As a person who loves history, I get excited about everything, but if it doesn’t have a connection with Grosse Pointe, we can’t accept it.”

See HISTORY, page 4B

Made in God’s image Young Life Grosse Pointe launches eastside group for teens, young adults with disabilities

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

Anna Mary Moody, a special education teacher at Grosse Pointe South High School, said she’s never before seen adolescents with disabilities so confidently speak publicly about their experiences, as what she witnessed while recently visiting a Young Life Capernaum club meeting in a neighboring community.

“Seeing them pray out in front of other people and talk about how it’s helped them be more outgoing, make friends, have a community and

find a purpose — hearing their speeches, I was crying,” she said. “... (I’ve) seen firsthand how it’s touched their lives and how they can completely advocate for how much it’s helped them.”

With a heart for filling the gap in ministry to those with disabilities, particularly of high school age, Moody will lead the local chapter of Young Life Capernaum as it launches with a club kickoff meeting 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at Grace Community Church, 21001 Moross.

A branch of Young

Life Grosse Pointe, Capernaum’s purpose is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith; invite teens and young adults 14 to 26 years old with and without disabilities to discover authentic friendship, growth and purpose; and share God’s love and commune with others to emphasize that everyone was created for a purpose and in God’s image.

“Eighty-five percent of people who have disabilities don’t have access to understand or have a way to learn about the gospel,”

Moody said. “So the whole purpose is to just spread that, because everyone was created in God’s image. Just being able to share that with people and reach more people to show who Jesus is, is a main motive here.

“The Young Life Capernaum ministry is named after the city in the Bible, Capernaum, where Jesus healed people,” she added, “to represent the idea that lives are changed after spending time with Jesus.”

Club meetings will incorporate a lesson, craft or activity and worship, while fostering

independence, leadership abilities and personal relationships with God.

“It really varies each month, but right now (we’re) starting it with the basis of who is God, why are we here (and) who is Jesus,” Moody said. “... The (motivation) is to just commune together, spread the word about Jesus, get to know each other and learn more about how everyone can grow in their faith and learn.”

As the local chapter gets its footing, it will meet once a month

Friday evenings, with the intention to soon begin meeting bi-monthly and, eventually, once a week.

Volunteers still are needed and Moody emphasized anyone can get involved.

“Whether participating, volunteering, praying over the ministry or even providing snacks and supplies, there’s room for everyone,” she said.

To take part, reach out via younglifegp@gmail.com.



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.

Thomas James Youngblood

Thomas James Youngblood, 76, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024, in St. Clair Shores, with his loving family by his side.

Tom was born March 4, 1948, the firstborn of Jim and Edna (nee Cook) Youngblood. Tom leaves behind his beloved wife, Rosalie (nee Mattina); sons, Thomas James Jr. and James Christopher Youngblood (Nicole); grandsons, Anthony, Jonathon, Joseph, Nicholas and Samuel; granddaughter, Julia; siblings, Marilyn Dillon, Gerald (Mary) and Paul; as well as countless nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and numerous friends who absolutely adored Tom and his thousands of anecdotes from his adventures in 35 years of law enforcement.

Tom was a graduate of Detroit's St. Philip Neri High School. He then served in the U.S. Air Force from 1967 to 1968. He went on to serve 25 years with the Detroit Police Department as a police officer. Upon his retirement, he furthered his service as a deputy federal marshal in the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, doing his part to protect U.S. citizens during the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. He also served as a distinguished member of the Detroit Police Honor Guard, where his professionalism left a lasting impact. Tom lived an incredible life of service.

Services were held at Bagnasco & Calcaterra Funeral Home in St. Clair Shores and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Woods. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Heart to Heart Hospice, 30600 Telegraph, Ste. 1131, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

Clare Hartwick Connor

Clare Hartwick Connor, 85, died Monday, Jan. 13, 2025.

She was born Aug. 16, 1939, in Detroit, to Edward N. and Louise

Fisher Hartwick. A lifetime resident of Grosse Pointe, she attended Trombly Elementary School and graduated from University Liggett School in 1957. She attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961, and was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. After college, she earned a degree at the Katharine Gibbs College in Boston.

After working briefly as a legal secretary, she married Laurence D. Connor in 1964, while he was attending University of Michigan Law School. They moved to Detroit after law school and then to Grosse Pointe, where they raised two children. There, she was active in the Junior League of Detroit, Tau Beta Association and other civic organizations. Clare was a member of the Garden Club of Michigan, Junior League Gardeners, Country Club of Detroit and Oaks Club of Sarasota, Fla. A gifted artist, she enjoyed painting and produced many works of art that she displayed in her homes and gave to friends and relatives. She also enjoyed gardening and entertaining. For a period of time, she ran a business called Connor Design and Accessories, through which she acquired and sold novelties.

In earlier years, the family passed time in the summer at their cottage in Leland. Later, they visited Florida and eventually spent most of their winters in Sarasota.

Her grandfather, Maj. Edward E. Hartwick, was a member of the U.S. Army and served with Teddy Roosevelt's Roughriders at the Battle of San Juan Hill. In 1927, her grandmother, Karen Hartwick, donated nearly 10,000 acres of land near Grayling to the state of Michigan in Maj. Hartwick's memory, which became Hartwick Pines State Park.

Clare was an active and caring person and will be remembered for enjoying people and making them happy.

Clare is survived by her husband, Laurence Connor; children, Jeffrey (Erika) and Lynne

Scoville (Laurence); grandchildren, Alexandra and Benjamin Connor and Louise and Katherine Scoville; and brother, Alan Hartwick.

Memorial visitation takes place from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at Chas. Verheyden, Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

Share a memory at verheyden.org.

Richard Thomas Gallagher

Richard Thomas Gallagher, 92, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., he was the beloved son of John and Narcissa (nee Foley) Gallagher and brother of Jim and the late Jack Gallagher. Richard earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1954, and later completed a degree in commerce and finance from the University of Detroit in 1962, making the dean's honor list. He was proud to have served in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

A hardworking and dedicated professional, Richard began his career as a manufacturer's representative before founding Petro Lube Oil. He concluded his working years in his early 70s by purchasing and running a parts distributorship, HTC/Tops-All.

An avid golfer throughout his life, Richard was a proud member of the St. Paul Catholic School golf team, which placed second in the 1951 state high school finals. He passed down his passion for the sport to his family, often enjoying rounds of golf or lessons followed by a meal and a few laughs at the Detroit Golf Club or hitting balls at a local driving range with his sons and grandchildren. Two of his proudest golfing achievements were scoring two albatross' (double eagle) — one at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club and again during a family trip to Fairfield Glade, Tenn.

Richard was a lifelong fan of the Michigan State Spartans and attended three Rose Bowls — 1954, 1956 and 2014 — all of which were Spartan victories. His love for MSU extended to his family, many of whom also became Spartans.

Family was the cornerstone of Richard's life. He and his wife, Joan, rarely missed a sporting event, school play or recital involving their children and grandchildren. His dedication to family extended to the outdoors where he shared his passions for fishing and hunting. Richard spent countless days at "the farm" in Deckerville, working the land on his Ford tractor and enjoying hunting trips with family and friends.

Richard is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Joan; and his sons, Dan (Mary Kay) and Rick (Joelle). He was predeceased by his son, Tim, in 2015. He was a proud grandfather to Ryan, Daniel, Annie Mitchell (Ryan), Cailin, Joey, Elizabeth, Lindsay,



Thomas Youngblood

Meghan, Kelly, Jesse and Casey.

Services will be held Friday, April 25, at St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church, 157 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 10 a.m.

Sharron Marie Murphy

Sharron Marie Murphy, 84, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025.

Sharron (nee Garvey) Murphy was born Feb. 26, 1940, at home to Helen and Paul Garvey as the third of 10 children. While growing up in Grosse Pointe Park in a busy household, Sharron was a caretaker from an early age, helping look after her younger siblings. Family trips required two cars and the kids competed to ride in Sharron's car because she made travel fun, like they had their own Mary Poppins.

After high school at St. Ambrose, Sharron attended nursing school at St. Joseph Mercy in Ann Arbor and worked at the hospital for a short time. Complicating career plans, she had met and fallen in love with Robert "Bob" Murphy while in high school. They were married in 1962 at St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic Church and immediately began their family of five children. Sharron was an instinctive nurturer and found great joy in her growing family. Family was her touchstone — she had endless patience for infants and children and kept them entertained with songs, games and stories. She created a warm and welcoming home for family, friends and neighbors and the occasional stranger. She was happiest with the people she loved around her, ideally all with a full plate of food.

She was generous with her time, talents and energy, channeling much of it into her religious life. Sharron embodied the values of selflessness and service. Her faith drew an expansive circle of love around her, always welcoming and never exclusive. She was an active member of St. Matthew Catholic Church in Detroit and then St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Grosse Pointe Park. She volunteered at her children's schools by helping in art and health classes. She often organized adventures for her family — a favorite trip to take was to Stratford, Ontario, Canada, to enjoy a Shakespeare play in a beautiful setting. When her youngest child was in school, Sharron returned to work as a nurse. In retirement, she acted as a eucharistic minister at Bon Secours (now Beaumont) Hospital in Grosse Pointe Farms, adding her kind and patient listening to the sacrament she provided.



Clare Hartwick Connor



Sharron Marie Murphy

Sharron loved art, classical music, flowers and all things beautiful. She nurtured gardens, both at her home on Three Mile and at her beloved cottage, and her relationships, along with her faith. She cherished and was adored by her grandchildren. She spent hours making phone calls and writing notes to stay connected to those she loved. It may not be a coincidence that the advance of Alzheimer's disease and loss of Sharron's ability to write her voluminous notes and birthday cards coincided with the financial struggles of the postal service.

She was loved devotedly by Bob throughout their 62 years of marriage. They complemented each other perfectly, working hard as a team to ensure that their family was supported financially, emotionally and spiritually. Bob cared for Sharron during her final illness and she took great comfort in his presence.

Sharron was admired and deeply loved by her husband, Robert Murphy; children, Catherine (Greg O'Reilly), Terese, Jeanne (Tedd Aurelius), Colleen and Thomas (Maria Lopez); her 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and her siblings, nieces, nephews, cousins and many extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 24, 2025, at St. Clare of Montefalco Church, 1401 Whittier, Grosse Pointe Park. Visitation begins at 9:30 a.m.

Thomas Philip Rockwell

Thomas Philip Rockwell, 89, passed away peacefully Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

He was born in 1936 in Birmingham to Edward and Angela Rockwell. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1958 with a bachelor's degree and from the University of Detroit Law School in 1964 with a Bachelor of Laws degree. Tom spent his legal career as a civil defense trial attorney with the Vandever Garzia law firm. He became a partner in 1973 and retired in 2000. He was a lifelong member of the Michigan Bar Association and a former board member of the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (MDTC). He organized the Annual Fun Run for the MDTC, which was subsequently named "The Rockwell



Richard Thomas Gallagher



Thomas Philip Rockwell

Ramble" in his honor.

Tom had a lifetime of varied interests and hobbies. He enjoyed all forms of music and performing on his Martin guitar, which he learned to play in high school. He had an extensive collection of both classical and popular records and CDs. He and his wife, Susan, were season ticket holders to both the Detroit Opera House and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He was also a season ticket holder for the University of Michigan football team for more than 60 years and enjoyed attending those games with family and friends.

Tom had a keen interest in the history of the Great Lakes and served as a board member and secretary of the Great Lakes Maritime Institute through the Dossin Great Lakes Museum for 28 years. Military aviation history was also of great interest to him. He attended many air shows both in and outside of Michigan and collected several books on the subject. He and Susan also enjoyed traveling with the Nomads travel group.

After his retirement, Tom renewed his interest in model trains, expanding both his German Fleischmann collection and adding to his Lionel collection. He volunteered at St. John Hospital (now Henry Ford St. John Hospital) and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2007.

Tom was a member of the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, serving as a choir member, former steward of music and church historian. But above all, he loved and cherished his time with his family. They spent many hours cruising around Lake St. Clair on their boat "The Winsome," an experience he was later able to share with both his grandsons and granddaughters.

Tom was predeceased by his beloved wife of 60 years, Susan; his older brother, Edward; and four schnauzers. He is survived by his four sons, Mike (David), Dave (Keira), Bill (Michelle) and Jeff (Lisa); seven grandchildren, Victor (Zyenelly), Celine, Mitchell, Colin, Isabella, Charlotte and Thomas; three great-grandchildren, Elijah, Ezekiel and Eli; and his sister, Judy Humphrys.

A private service will be held in the coming months.

See OBITS, page 3B

In Memoriam



In loving memory of
Laura M. Vitolins,
12/8/1971 - 1/23/1987

We still miss you, as the days and years pass
We still miss you, as the pain of grief softens
We still miss you, as new memories are made
We still miss you, as we smile and laugh
We still miss you, today and every day
We still miss you, our dear Laura.

Lovingly, Dad, Mom and sister Karen.

AREA ACTIVITIES

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.
- ◆ Lecture: Rhythms of Resilience and Change with Rod Arroyo, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23. Tickets are \$10 for members, \$12 for nonmem-

bers.

- ◆ Head Over Heels Guided Tour, 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays in February. Admission costs vary.
- ◆ Storytime: “Crocodiles Need Kisses Too,” 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays in February.
- ◆ Drop-In Studio: Valentine’s Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8. All ages are welcome to create a take-home craft.
- ◆ Cabaret Over the Cove: Valentine’s Dinner & Live Performance, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14. Ticket prices vary.
- ◆ Trivia Night, 6 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 20 and March 13.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

The War Memorial

The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe

Farms, offers programs and activities for the community. For information on the following, visit warmemorial.org

- ◆ Historic Book Talk by award-winning author, Jack Dempsey, “Warriors for Liberty: William Dollarson & Michigan’s Civil War African Americans,” 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23.
- ◆ Mastering Mocktails, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24.
- ◆ Tea and Treasures: Arias over Afternoon Tea with Detroit Opera, 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 25. Ticket prices vary.

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, through March 20, with instructor

Allie Short. Cost is \$7 for members, \$10 for guests.

- ◆ Social Media for Mature Learners, 4 to 5 p.m. Fridays, Jan. 24 to May 9, with instructor Janisse Green.
- ◆ Upscale Jewelry Design for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon Mondays, Jan. 27 to March 3, with instructor Kathleen Robinson Young.
- ◆ The Helm Cultural Exploration Series: China — the Lunar New Year, all day Wednesday, Jan. 29. Wear red to The Helm and enjoy fruit and candy treats.
- ◆ Lunch and Learn: Vein Health, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, with presenter Jeffery H. Miller, M.D. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for guests.

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

Library

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

- ◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Michigan Author Chat, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Computer Basics Mondays, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at

Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

- ◆ 4th Monday Book Discussion, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.
- ◆ Dream Lab Senior Open House, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Mystery Book Discussion, 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ 5th & 6th Grade Book Group, 7 to 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.
- ◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.
- ◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

See AREA, page 4B

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Rachel M. Tavery Allemon

Rachel M. Tavery Allemon, 101, a lifetime resident of St. Clair Shores, passed away at home with family Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

Rachel was the beloved wife of the late Joseph; loving mother of James, Suzanne Clarke (Stephen), Marie Hunyadi (Victor), Joseph (Denise), Margaret Digan (Sean), Edward (Patricia), Linda Graham (Robert) and Theresa Samonie (Raphael); loving grandmother to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and sister to the late Hank Tavery (the late Florence), the late Mariette Van Hoet (the late Harvey) and the late Margaret Pincket (the late Chuck).

Rachel leaves a lasting legacy of faith and love of family. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church and enjoyed visiting St. Paul on the Lake Catholic Church. She felt a strong connection to both parishes.

A funeral Mass was held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. The family requests memorial donations be made to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1820 Mt. Elliot, Detroit,

William Stone Turner

William “Bill” Stone Turner, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025, after a 20-month-long battle with brain cancer.

Bill was born July 29, 1939. His mother liked to joke that he was born nine months and 15 minutes after she and his father said “I do.” During his 85 years on this earth, Bill lived a life that many others can only dream about.

Born to William Stone Turner Sr. and Dorothy Tidey Turner, Bill and his family resided in the city of Detroit. Bill’s brother, Charlie, was born nine years later and, in the late 1950s, after many years living in Indian Village, the Turner family moved to Grosse Pointe Farms.

Bill attended Grosse Pointe University School. However, his summers were mostly spent at Camp Kieve in Maine. It was there that he developed a lifelong passion for sailing.

After earning his degree from Babson College in Boston and getting his feet wet in the working world, Bill joined his father in the family business in 1962. As manufacturers’ agents, they served the

automotive industry, first from their offices in Detroit’s New Center Building and then from the company’s current location in Harper Woods. Charlie later joined the company and the three Turners worked together until William Sr.’s retirement, after which Bill and Charlie took up the reins. Bill retired in 2002 and Charlie in 2013. In 1995, Bill’s son, Bill, joined the company and is the sole owner today.

In 1966, Bill met Sharon Lynn Smart (nee Lynn) and it soon became apparent that she was the one. The couple was married the following year. Together they embarked on a life filled with family, sailing, traveling across all continents (including Antarctica) and giving back at every opportunity.

Bill was very active at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and held a variety of offices and positions as an elder and board trustee and participated in the church’s outreach efforts. He had a special place in his heart for the poor and, through the church, became active in what became another of his life’s passions, the Ecumenical Theological Seminary (ETS) in Detroit. Bill was especially drawn to the ETS commitments to Christian ethics and

social justice. He worked tirelessly for many years in the ETS Soup Kitchen and was an effective ambassador for all the good works sponsored by ETS. His work there and his unconditional love for his neighbors led Bill to also add participation in Stephen Ministries to his personal outreaches. For approximately 15 years, he brought comfort and compassion to the lives of those he touched through this program.

During Bill and Lynn’s 57 years of marriage, they were blessed with three children and 11 grandchildren. Bill delighted in their growing family and happily believed there was always room for one more. Never one to stand on the sidelines, Bill was active in all his family’s endeavors. He taught them to sail and each year they set out for a summer vacation to the North Channel, with Bill at the helm with Lynn and kids as crew. He taught them to love skiing, and every year on the day after Christmas, the Turners headed “up north” for a week of fun in the snow. And, most importantly, he taught them to love life. Bill’s optimism and cheerful demeanor were inspirations not only to his family, but to all who were lucky enough to know him.

Bill’s long list of friends



Rachel M. Tavery Allemon



William Stone Turner

was cultivated through his many years of activities in and around the community. In addition to sailing, skiing and outreach, Bill was a member of the Wonder Boys, a men’s social group. He loved working in his basement shop, fixing this and that and tinkering with anything that piqued his interest. He and Lynn were frequent bowlers, longtime members of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, avid theater goers and music lovers, and Bill was a proud member of The Players theater group in Detroit.

Bill leaves a legacy of love for family, friends and community. His was a life well-lived and stands as an example for all.

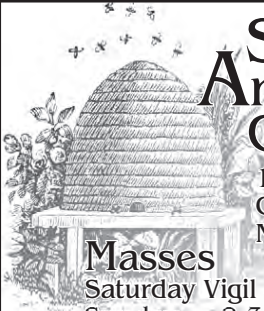
Bill Turner is survived by his wife, Lynn Turner; one son, Bill Turner (Allyson); daughters, Jill Echlin (Lewis) and Rebecca Werder; 11 grandchildren, Emma Turner, Audrey Turner, William Turner, Kayley

Turner, Turner McKenzie, Wesley McKenzie, Gus Werder, Eli Werder, Miriam Werder, Lewis Echlin and Mia Echlin; and brother, Charles Turner (Yolanda).

A celebration of Bill’s life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 24 at Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. Cremation services are being handled by Chas. Verheyden Inc. in Grosse Pointe.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made in his name to the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, 2930 Woodward, Detroit MI 48201, etseminary.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate, the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Outreach program, 16 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms MI 48236, onrealm.org/GrossePointeMem/-/form/give/GPMC, or a charity of the giver’s choice. Share a memory at verheyden.org.

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.gpcong.org
WE HAVE AN ARTS MINISTRY

Michigan Author Chat at Central is Saturday

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

While Suja Sukumar’s children were growing up in Grosse Pointe Farms, the Henry Ford Health physician was struck with the lack of Indian American representation available to them in literature.

“In the libraries or in bookstores, they rarely found books which would show characters similar to them, what they look like,” Sukumar said. “So I wanted to make sure that I write a story which centered on an Indian American character on the front cover. That was pretty important to me.”

Sukumar will be joined by two other debut authors — one a Grosse Pointe North High School graduate — for a Michigan Author Chat at Grosse Pointe Public Library Central Branch from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

Michelle Kulwicki, L.E.

Todd and Sukumar will discuss their work and experiences writing their first books during a panel moderated by teen librarian Lisa Burns and youth librarian Catherine Ricard. Afterward, they each will read a portion of their books and time will be allowed for audience questions.

“When Mimi went Missing,” published by Sukumar in November 2024, is a young adult mystery/thriller set in Michigan and revolving around two Indian American cousins whose relationship sours from sister-like to estranged to murderous. Though the main character’s cousin initially is a protective figure from school bullies, Tanvi is left as the prime suspect when Mimi goes missing.

“She has to try and find out what happened to her cousin, but also try to clear her own name,” Sukumar said.

She penned the novel while dually working as

a local physician.

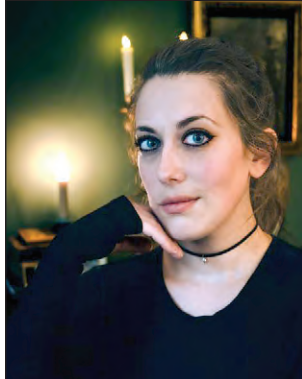
“Writing is also my therapy, because it makes me feel completely at peace when I’m writing,” she said, adding she’s currently working on a second novel. “And the type of work I do, it was important for me to have something on my own.”

“The Spoiler,” published by Todd in June 2024, is a contemporary romance between Rose — who has OCD and considers watching period dramas her one acceptable obsession — and her brother’s best friend, who enjoys spoiling the plots to get under her skin.

“I have a good friend and she is a librarian and a voracious reader and she always wants to know what’s going to happen in a book,” the North grad said of her inspiration for the novel. “She loves spoilers. I, however, hate spoilers to the point that I don’t like watching movie trailers.



Suja Sukumar



L.E. Todd



Michelle Kulwicki

... So she and I had gotten into this conversation about spoilers versus no spoilers and I was like, ‘You know what, that would be such a good enemies to lovers (story).’

Todd currently has a vampire romance novel on submission to publishers and is writing a fantasy wild west novel.

“At the End of the River Styx,” published by Kulwicki in September 2024, is a young adult queer fantasy romance novel that takes place on the mythical river of death, the River Styx,

and follows the themes of grief, trauma and learning to love again.

It features one boy bound in a contract for 500 years to help ferry souls across the river and another boy in contemporary day who escaped death, but has the ferryman’s stamp on him.

“I really liked the idea of liminal spaces, the ideas of memories and how they’re so different from person to person,” Kulwicki said. “If two people live in the same moment, then they always come out with

very different stories. ... I also just love Greek mythology and stories that are just a taste of it, not total retellings, but just little facets of it sprinkled in there.”

Kulwicki resides in Ypsilanti and is a professional cellist. She has additional novels in the works.

The three novels will be on-hand for sale, provided by Next Chapter Books, with the authors available for signatures.

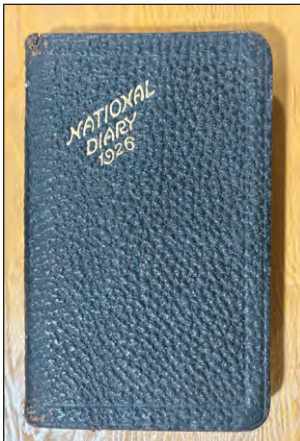
Registration for the Michigan Author Chat is free and required at tinyurl.com/3auc54rv.

HISTORY:

Continued from page 1B

While Tecos welcomes donations — she hopes to get more historical photographs of neighborhoods, business districts and the parks, as well as information about various clubs in Grosse Pointe — her days at the history center are full.

“I’m processing the collections now and spend part of the day sorting through boxes to take an initial inventory,” she said. “I photograph anything that needs reference photos for the database. I



One of many treasures in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society archives.

record the date of gift or anything donated and create a profile with the donor.



PHOTOS BY JODY MCVEIGH

Tecos scans the blueprint of a house located on Three Mile Drive in Grosse Pointe Park.

“If I have time, I work on blueprints,” she added. “I’m trying

Left, a few antique signs hang on the history center’s lower level walls, including this one for the Pointe’s air raid warden, who oversaw blackout measures during World War II.



ing to get them all into our master inventory. We get so many requests. Some of them are identified only by street or by block, so we have many mystery blueprints.”

Tecos said she’d love more shelving for storing blueprints

and maps — or someone to repair the ones she has.

“Our map cabinets, many are slightly off or bent, or the handles are falling off,” she said.

She also hopes to get more volunteer help.

“I would love to get someone to help with the inventory of blueprints,” she said, noting she can only give blueprints to the homeowner or by permission

of the homeowner. “National Honor Society students have helped before. Students have helped measure and inventory scrapbooks and helped with the set up and tear down of events.”

Those interested in volunteering should email Tecos at archivist@gphistorical.org.

“I feel this is important because history is a way to connect all of

On display

There’s still time to check out the Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s display of ironwork, which debuted in tandem with a September lecture by Gabriel Craig titled, “The Ironwork in Detroit, 1900-1935.” It includes pieces of the crumbling Beverly Road gate, fabricated by master blacksmith Samuel Yellin. Photographs and other ephemera are included.

Next up, the society seeks content for a summer exhibition about Eastland Center, which opened in 1957, in Harper Woods. Photos are sought, as are memories of experiences at the popular mall. Anyone with information or artifacts to contribute should email Tecos at archivist@gphistorical.org.

us,” she said. “I think it’s important to understand how the community was founded and how it changed over time. I think there have been so many technological advancements in the last few decades and sometimes we forget how many things we sort of take for granted that are right here in our community. Preserving history is a great way to remind people of things that connect us.”

AREA:

Continued from page 3B

◆ DigiLit Series, 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

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

◆ Shelf Indulgence—Chapter 2, 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Saturday Drop-in Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Reader Dog, 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 21620 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, St. Lucy Catholic Church, 23401 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, Holy Innocents-St. Barnabus Catholic Church, 24800 Phlox, Eastpointe.

◆ 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, University Liggett

School’s Boll Center Library, 1045 Cook, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, Ardmore Elementary School, 27001 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores.

Register at redcross-blood.org.

Family Center

The Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods offers its Community Book Discussion at 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. Learn more at familycenterhelps.org or RSVP to maryjo@family-centerhelps.org.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe hosts its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Village Grille, 16930 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. Speaker is Ciara Ginyard from Detroit Horse Power. Email grossepointerotary@gmail.com.

Detroit Boat Club Crew

The Detroit Boat Club Crew hosts its Oarsmen’s Ball from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, located on Belle Isle. The black-tie optional event includes hors d’oeuvres, music, a silent auction, cash bar and more. Funds benefit the Friends of Detroit Rowing’s Share an Oar, Share the Shore cam-

paign to build a new shellhouse. For tickets, visit detroitboatclub-crew.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 grossepointeartcenter.org.

◆ Incising Marks in Encaustic with Candace Law, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15.

◆ Your Old Mansion lecture: New Lessons from Old Masters, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.

◆ 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.

◆ Dyeing with Indigo and Other Natural Dyes with Ann Jacob, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.

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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WINTERFEST

Photo story by Renee Landuyt



Abigail Lupinacci uses patience to get the golf ball into the cup in the ice sculpture putt-putt golf.

The City of Grosse Pointe Farms held its annual Winterfest celebration at Pier Park Saturday, Jan. 18. The festivities included ice sculptures, carving demonstrations, putt-putt golf and a few other games along with a strolling magician. Though attendance was lacking a bit due to the weather, residents also enjoyed food truck offerings of pizza, hot chocolate and s’mores.



Joshua Baker, with Finesse Ice, sculpts a Lions logo into a block of ice.



Nolan DeMaria tosses a football into the wood cutout at one of the games at Winterfest.



Thad Vogel and Elliot Baudish enjoy their s’mores in the band tent at winterfest.



Magician Gary Thison shows a group of kids a card trick that amazed them.

Detroit Zoological Society joins Wildlife Trafficking Alliance to fight illegal wildlife trade

The Detroit Zoological Society recently joined the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, a coalition of accredited zoos, non-profits and companies dedicated to combating the multibillion-dollar illegal wildlife trade industry that is driving species to the brink of extinction.

Wildlife trafficking is a threat across the globe, impacting thousands of species and contributing to the extinction of rare animals and wildlife. For years, the DZS has helped aid these efforts by providing a home, resources and care for confiscated animals who could not otherwise return to the wild due to trafficking. In partnership with the WTA, the DZS supports initiatives to reduce consumer demand for wildlife products, strengthen laws and policies against illegal trade and engage the public in advocacy efforts.

“The Detroit Zoological Society is proud to join the Wildlife Trafficking Alliance in combating the illegal wildlife trade,” said Dr. David Dimitrie, director of conservation for the



DZS. “We know this partnership will make a tremendous impact in efforts to protect vulnerable species, reduce demand for wildlife products and inspire public action to safeguard our planet’s biodiversity.”

Wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion-dollar crisis that is impacting the entire world. According to a recent United Nations report cited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, as many as 1 million plant and animal species are now at risk of extinction due to human activities, including poaching. As the fourth most profitable transnational crime, wildlife trafficking is a threat to human health and welfare and the economy.

The WTA is a coalition of more than 80 leading organizations and AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums aiming to reduce and eliminate the illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife products and help save at-risk species. Current WTA



COURTESY PHOTO
Dr. David Dimitrie

projects include the Not a Pet campaign, which fights against the illegal trade of live wildlife as pets, and “I Travel for Wildlife,” a collaboration that aims to educate the public about wildlife trafficking and reduce demand for illegally-traded wildlife and wildlife products.

The DZS is committed to local and global conservation efforts outside its walls through a number of conservation programs and partnerships. For more information, visit detroitzoologicalsociety.org/global-conservation/.

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How to reduce stress with a full plate



Dear Gabby: I have so much to do, my head is spinning and I get so anxious every single night. Things I need to do are whirring around in my head to the point where I have a hard time sleeping.

It’s not even like I’m THAT busy or important, I am just overwhelmed and stressed about the tasks at hand. Is there a way to stop this and get zen? — Stressed in the Shores

Dear Stressed: The secret is making a system that works for you. Lists are an excellent way to get started. When we put things on paper, it can help alleviate some of the stress you feel in your head.

Here are some suggestions for creating lists to

lessen your load:

Brain Dump First

Start by writing down everything you need to do. Don’t worry about the order of importance — just get it all out of your head and onto paper (or a notes app, but there is something very cathartic about a pencil and paper). This will help clear your mind and give you a good starting point.

Categorize and Prioritize

Once you have your brain dump, sort the tasks into categories that make sense for you — like work, home, kids, errands, etc. Then rank them by priority:

A. tasks must be done today.

B. tasks are important but not urgent.

C. tasks can wait or are nice to do but not need to do.

Focus on the As, but when you are sick of As, tackle some Bs and Cs when time allows.

Break Big Jobs into Smaller Steps

One of the biggest obstacles to getting jobs done is how big they can feel. Take a job and break it down into steps and it might feel a lot more doable.

For example, instead of “Clean the garage,” write “sort the tools,” “throw out old boxes” and “sweep the floor.” Small wins can really add up quickly and help grow your momentum.

Stick to the 1-3-5 rule

Expert organizers often refer to this rule. Each day, aim to complete one big task, three medium tasks and five simple tasks. This will keep your day manageable, productive and give you a daily goal.

By creating clear and manageable tasks and doing one thing at a time, you might find it easier to stay focused and feel more accomplished. Before you know it, you’ll be powering through your days like a pro.

— Gabby

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

Overcoming loneliness and building new connections

DEAR ANNIE: My mother died when I was 5, and I grew up in a very abusive childhood -- abuse in every sense of the word. I’m still traumatized over my childhood and I am now 65.

I ended up in what I thought was a great relationship in my early 20s and thought he loved me. I ended up getting pregnant, and he wanted no part of it. He left, and I was a single mom.

I absolutely loved being a mom and vowed to be the parent I always wished I had. My daughter is now grown, with a teenager of her own. I cherish the time I get to spend with them.

My issue is that I am very lonely and wish I had someone in my life. I, however, have no desire to be in another relationship. I work part-time and joined the local senior center, but with my job, I can’t participate like I would like to. My daughter is very busy with her life, and although she lives near me, I don’t get to see them as much as I want to. I have a lot of difficulty making friends and have trust issues.

What do I do to ease the loneliness? — Lonely in NY

DEAR LONELY: Congratulations on becoming the parent that

you wish you had. That is no easy feat! Both your daughter and your grandchild will get to reap the benefits of all that hard work.

Now that you’re an empty nester, you have time to focus on things that make YOU happy. It sounds like your time is limited due to your job, but getting involved in a club, picking up a new hobby, or joining a church or other religious organization could add fulfillment to your life and introduce you to like-minded people.

There’s no need to rush into a relationship or a friendship you’re not ready for, but you might be pleasantly surprised by the people you meet.

A good therapist will be able to help you work through your trust issues as you begin to form new relationships.

DEAR ANNIE: I would appreciate it if you’d consider helping me figure out an answer to a question I am so tired of being asked, which is, “Why haven’t you gotten married?”

I am a 65-year-old single woman who has

accomplished a lot in life. I’ve contributed to society and volunteered. I’m independent, self-sustaining and have never been arrested. I have two master’s degrees, an MFA and an MBA, and had successful careers in both areas. I’m a nationally award-winning teacher and outstanding bicyclist and triathlete. Yet with everything I’ve done in my life, the one thing that people I meet focus on is my marital status, and I’m sick of being asked this question as if I’m a freak.

The questions are phrased in an insulting manner: “I can’t tell what is wrong with you that you never married. What do you think it is?” Or when I tell them I’m comfortable with being single and myself, their response is, “I hope you understand I’m only doing this for your well-being,” insinuating that being single is some sort of problem they need to correct. Even with that response, the next comment is, “I’m so sorry you have to go it alone.” My response is, “I’m fine doing things by myself. I’ve done it all my life

and don’t find anything unusual about it.”

There are many reasons why I’m not married, including getting hit by a car and learning my once perfectly behaved fiance treated me poorly when I was sick and ugly. The next man I was serious with unexpectedly died of a stroke.

The reason for my not being married is no one’s business, especially people I have just met, and I have come to the age where I am not going to justify my choice. I have moved to a retirement community where almost all of my neighbors are married. My single status is important to them as evidenced by their constant questions and attempts to set me up with men or women (I am not gay) without my consent. I am about to lose my temper with the next person who questions my single status and come back with a rude response, as I find it rude that they continue to focus on this one aspect of my life.

Is there any one-phrase response you

can offer me that will put an end to that question and redirect the conversation? I certainly will appreciate whatever ideas you have. — Independent and Irritated

DEAR INDEPENDENT AND IRRITATED: Wow — it’s clear you have built a very rich and fulfilling life for yourself, and for that you should be exceptionally proud, whatever your romantic status.

The next time someone questions your singledom, try kindly but firmly saying something like, “I’ve been lucky to create a life I love and which just so happens not to include a significant other. I hope we can focus on more interesting topics.” This politely shuts down further conversation and emphasizes what’s most important, which is that you are happy. You don’t have to justify that..

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

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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

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Football food

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

I think we can all be grateful for an incredible Detroit Lions football season this year. Though they didn’t make it all the way, football is not yet over. Football food can sit in the forefront of your mind for a bit longer. And in my mind, that will be shotgun shells; messy, smokey, delicious shotgun shells.

These crave-worthy appetizers are basically sausage-stuffed manicotti shells that are wrapped in bacon and basted in barbeque sauce. We normally indulge in shotgun shells at summer cookouts. My friend is a master smoker and will smoke the shells. They can also be grilled or even air-fried. But now that it is the dead of winter, I’m using the oven.

These can be stuffed with any meat combination but my family prefers sausage.

I used pepperjack cheese, diced jalapenos and cajun seasoning to give them heat.

To stuff them, I used a plastic freezer bag and snipped the corner. If the mixture is room temperature, you should have no problem. But don’t feel bad about using a spoon or even your hands to fill up the shells.

A knife and fork is recommended for

cleaner eating but in my house everyone just grabs them with their hands without shame. If that’s the case in your house, provide extra napkins. Happy eating and enjoy the games!

Cheers, Mombeau

Shotgun Shells

12-14 manicotti shells

1 lb mild Italian sausage

8 oz softened cream cheese

2 cups shredded pepper jack cheese

1 minced jalapeno, seeds removed

1 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp salt

½ tsp pepper

1 tsp cajun seasoning

12-14 slices of thick cut bacon

1 cup smokey barbeque sauce

Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add in the manicotti shells and let cook for about 90 seconds. Remove the pasta shells, rinse with cold water and set aside.

In a large bowl, add in all of the remaining ingredients except for the bacon. Mix together thoroughly. Spoon the

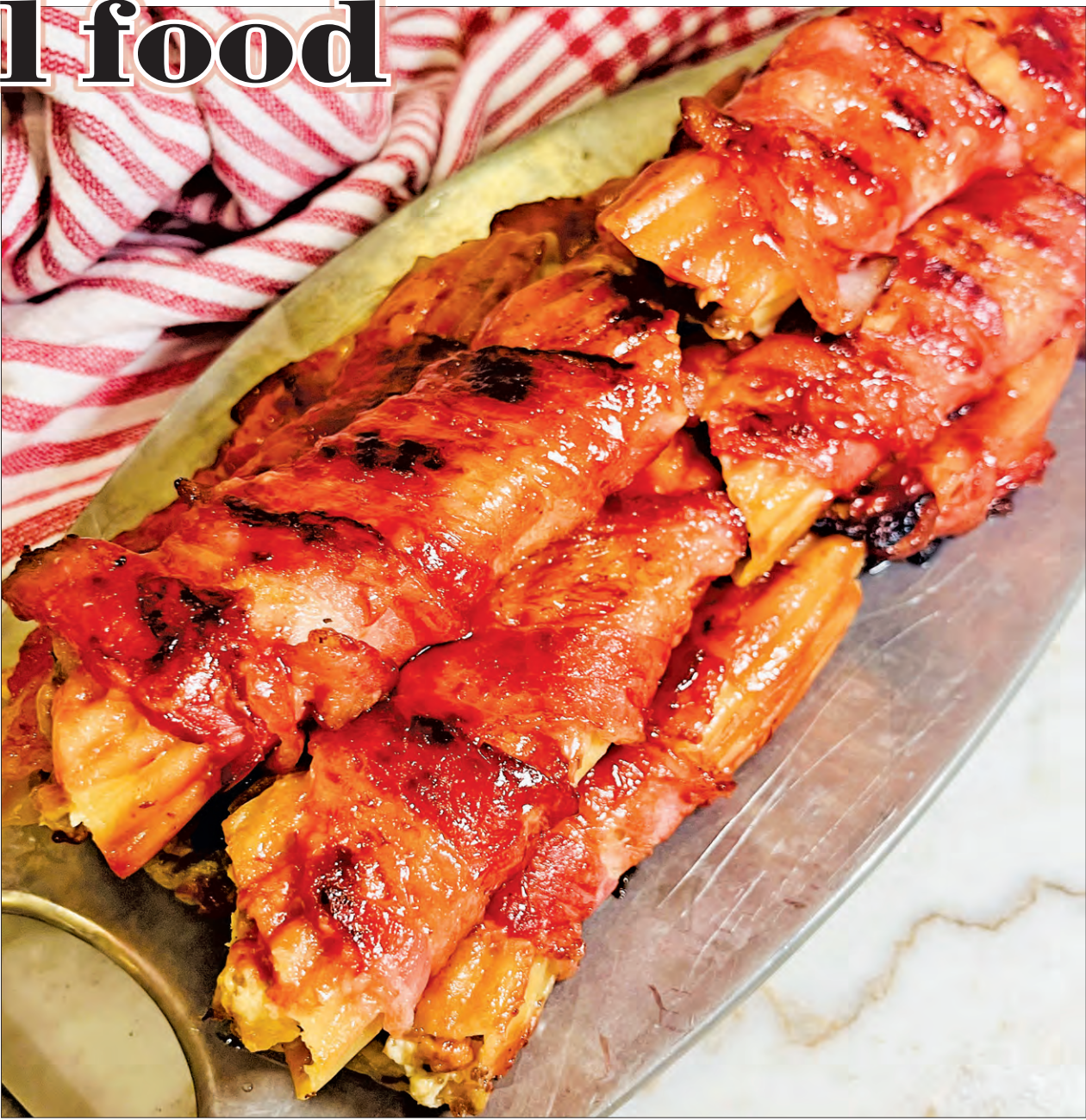


PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

mixture into a gallon size freezer bag or piping bag with a large end tip. If using a freezer bag, push the sausage mixture to one bottom corner and snip about a 1-inch slit.

Gently pipe the stuffing into the shells, careful not to break the shells apart or leave air holes. Use a spoon or

your hands to help guide the filling in.

Next, take a piece of bacon and gently wrap around each shell from top to bottom. Once all of the shells are all wrapped, cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge for two to four hours so the noodles soften up some more.

You can leave them overnight if you need to.

Once the shells have sat in the fridge, preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Lay the shells in two rows on a lined baking sheet. Brush the tops of the shells with a good layer of barbeque sauce. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes.

Remove the shells

and flip them over to brush the other side with sauce. Continue baking for another 30 minutes. At this point the fat from the bacon should be rendered out and the tops browned.

Let stand for 10 minutes. Serve on a platter with side plates and lots of napkins.

It’s your wine

Wine purists say that the dinner wine you choose should match the food. Some of them can be persnickety about this.

Others say, phooey, drink anything you like with any food. Do you like riesling with steak? If so, go for it. It’s your dinner and your wine. Do what you like.

But a riesling with steak would be odd. I can’t imagine such a combination.

Once I knew a man who loved Alsace gewurztraminer with veal forestiere. He had tasted that combination as a young man in Europe and he believed it was a perfect pairing.

Most traditionalists

and I would choose a red wine, but not this man, who was a well-regarded wine collector.

Then again, how you serve the wine could make a difference in its enjoyment. For instance, if you are serving a red wine in a room that’s very warm, then the wine may also be warm. Try chilling it a bit.

I am not suggesting red wines should be cold. But cooler is better than warmer, especially when the room temperature is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Cool wines usually taste better than warm ones.

Also, some white wines should not be served too cold. I could tell tales of

waiters at fine dining places who do not know this. I have experienced this in a humorous way several times when a waiter wanted to keep my chardonnay ice cold.

In one place, he kept putting the bottle in the ice bucket and I kept taking it out. I finally solved the problem by asking him to remove the bucket.

If you don’t like a wine’s initial aroma, don’t assume it’s bad. Perhaps the wine is very young. Just decant it and let air do its thing. The aroma may improve.

Decanting also may work for imported wines that are still suffering from the journey to the United States.

Does a red wine seem a little alcoholic? If the alcohol is 15 percent, the

decanter may again be the answer. Splash the wine around, pouring it from one decanter to another for a few minutes.

This allows some alcohol to evaporate. Some winemakers say you can get rid of nearly 1 percent alcohol this way.

If that still doesn’t do it, add an ice cube. Not only will it keep the wine a bit cooler, but it’ll also drop the alcohol. Purists may squawk, but it’s your wine. If it tastes better, don’t fear offending someone else.

(But if you put four ice cubes in your Chateau Latour, expect a grimace from a wine purist.)

I’ll never forget a hot afternoon years ago when the late Pete Seghesio, patriarch of the family winery bearing that name,



poured cool water into his glass of zinfandel at lunch. He then said, “I like the flavor, but sometimes the wine is too strong.”

Ultimately, it comes down to the fact that the wine is yours, and you have every right to do with it what you desire.

Wine of the Week:

NV Barefoot Cabernet Sauvignon, California (\$8) — This is one of the best values on the retail shelf today. The Barefoot brand is owned by E&J

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

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L.A. fires

The firestorms that ravaged California — and disasters in other parts of the country in recent years — left devastation that can take years to repair, and those who lost homes will never be able to replace family treasures.

Even as the Los Angeles fires continue to rage, and even in the few places that were spared, despair mixes with hope that the days ahead offer some positives amid the gloom, financial ruin and shattered dreams.

Writing about wine today might seem senseless, but I know many people in Northern California who lost homes and precious wines in the recent fires. And though they suffered greatly, after the shock wore off and they got their lives back

together, they repaired their existences with stronger connections to family and friends.

Once I lived near Pacific Palisades and West L.A., and I knew many neighbors. Almost every person loved fine wine. Many of the area’s homes were among the most commodious in Southern Cal., places where fine living was the norm.

And despite the devastation we all see on television, West L.A. will recover. To be sure, it will take time. Once the fires are extinguished, the region will discover that it doesn’t have enough architects, contractors or construction people to do the vital job of rebuilding.

Until the end of the year, thousands of residents of the devastated

areas will find temporary quarters while their homes are being reconstructed. And in many of the rebuilt homes, especially those that lost wine collections, that construction may well entail putting wine cellars below ground.

By 2026, those who received compensation from insurance companies may well attempt to replace some of the lost wine. About a year from now, fine wine sales in Southern California will be at fever pitch.

Michael Carpenter, owner of the Red Collection, based in Petaluma, Calif., buys private wine collections and sells old and rare bottles that have been perfectly stored. Some of those who lost wines in the fires might contact people like him to find replacements.

Carpenter deals regularly with people who have

insured their wine collections. He says that two of the best insurance companies for wine are AIG and Chubb. He said several other companies offer wine insurance, but AIG and Chubb are considered by industry experts as the finest.

Southern Californians who need to store their wines in a secure location away from their homes may contact one of several public facilities that offer not only security, but 55-degree temperature storage.

One of the best in West Los Angeles is Los Angeles Fine Arts and Wine Storage Co., at 2290 S. Centinela.

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

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BEST-KEPT SKI GEAR SECRETS FOR 2025

By Olivia Monette
Special Writer

For over 50 years, Schummer's Ski Shop has been Southeast Michigan's go-to destination for winter sports enthusiasts.

Located at 20778 Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe Woods, this family-owned establishment offers a comprehensive range of equipment and apparel for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding. With top brands like Rossignol, Volkl, Nordica, Tecnica, Lange, Spyder, Helly Hansen, and Burton, customers are assured of quality and performance.

Beyond their extensive product selection, Schummer's provides full-service and rental departments, including ski and snowboard tuning, custom boot fitting, and equipment leasing options. Their junior programs, featuring trade-ins, buy-backs, and season leasing, make it easy and affordable to keep young skiers properly outfitted as they grow. The knowl-

edgeable staff is dedicated to helping customers find the right gear at the right price, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience on the slopes.

Whether you're preparing for a local outing or a destination adventure, Schummer's Ski Shop is committed to meeting all your winter sports needs with personalized service and expertise. For more information, visit their website at schummersskishop.com or call (313) 881-4363.



**Turtle Fur Chelonia 150
fleece bang band,
above.**



**X-Therm ladies'
insulated gloves,
above.**

Sleek Helly Hansen women's Avanti jacket, right, is designed to inspire skiers to feel confident and take charge of challenges. H2Flow tech insulation gives you breathability during exertion. Exterior is made of 4-way stretch waterproof fabric.



Turtle Fur recycled Whitley slouch beanie, top, and Helly Hansen Women's legendary bib pants, above right, deliver extra warmth on cold days.

Nordica Enforcer 99 skis, above left, perfect everything an all-mountain ski should be. Incredibly playful and versatile, they're at home in any terrain and all conditions.





THE FAMILIAR SIGN THAT POINTS TO QUALITY SKI OUTFITTING

Schummer's Ski Shop has been Grosse Pointe's trusted premier ski and snowboard shop for over 50 years. It has established itself as one of Southeast Michigan's most preferred providers of skis, snowboards and outerwear and is a welcome neighborhood fixture in the Pointes.



The Giro Ledge helmet, above, features a clean, minimalist design.



Above: Modern styling meets all-day comfort with the medium-frame anti-fog Giro Roam goggle.

Ultra-soft Comfort Shell Luxe headband, below right, was made for those who don't let the temperature tell them when to slow down.



A NEED FOR SPEED

Volkl Peregrine 79 Skis 2025, left, with tip and tail rocker feature a 3D. Ridge design, a steel band and a central sidewall for top performance. Offers a P-Tex 2100 base combined with a dual wood core.

Helly Hansen men's Panorama pile block fleece vest, right, delivers extra warmth when you need it. It's a versatile midlayer in winter as well as the perfect outer layer transitional seasons. In short: it's a gear essential. With the environment in mind, this jacket is made with 100% recycled polyester. Cozy and classic, you'll want one for your ensemble.



REBOOT



Wow! Check out Schummer's amazing selection of ski and snowboard boots for men, women and kids. Have the experts at Schummer's Ski Shop outfit the whole family for seasons of winter fun.

Whatever brand, fit or color you are looking for — Schummer's Ski Shop has the selection that will have you flying down the slopes in style this year.

Services include binding installation, checks and remounts for downhill skis, cross country skis and snowboards. Tuning is available for skis and snowboards too.

Schummer's Ski Shop is dedicated to providing the best customer services possible. Call them at (313) 881-4363 or reach them on the contact page of their website at schummersskishop.com.

Rows of ski boots of all types and sizes line the shelves at Schummer's Ski Shop, left. Their expert service will ensure that the whole family has boots that fit right for maximum performance.



PERFORMANCE PLUS IN OPTIMAL COMFORT

Specially designed for women, the Nordica HF 85 W, far left, offers comfort from beginning to end. As the saying goes, this boot places an emphasis on comfort from the moment you slip into it to the moment you call it a day. With a softer, lighter shell and 3D cork liner, it's fully customizable to ensure comfort and performance while providing the perfect fit.

Elevate your experience and expectations with Nordica's Speedmachine 3 BOA 110 boot, left. Offering exceptional comfort and performance, this all-mountain boot features the BOA Fit System for microadjustability. This fit system pairs perfectly with Nordica's Tri Force technology by maximizing the transmission of energy, boosting power and control.



Left: Expert skiers know to keep the powder out by covering the gap between jacket and hat with a neck warmer.



COVER YOUR NECK WHILE LOOKING GREAT!

The double-layer neck warmer by Turtle Fur, left, is a go-to accessory for cold ski days. This colorful classic fleece neck warmer is comprised of two layers of Chelonia 150 fabric for weather-defying warmth, giving you the coverage you need between your jacket collar and your helmet or hat. This must-have fleece saves your neck from the cold, snow, and wind.

FACE THE ELEMENTS
IN STYLE



COZY AND SLEEK
LIGHTWEIGHT
THERMALS



Add some fashion to your gear! Cute Turtle Fur pom beanie, left, is breathable and quick-drying, while its plush fabric feels soft against the skin. You’ve just got to have this adorable hat!



Turtle Fur Chelonia 150 Shellaclava, left, gives full face and neck protection on every run. Lightweight, breathable coverage ensures you’re protected from all angles with soft, high-performing fabric.

Terramar Cloud 9 ladies scoopneck thermal undershirt, above left, is ideal for all day warmth and comfort. This versatile shirt features an ultra-soft, mid-weight fabric with ClimaSense Thermoregulation technology that automatically adjusts to your body temperature. Pair it with the matching pants, above right, and you have complete cold-weather protection on and off the hills.

POM BEANIES OFFER SKI CHIC AND HIGH-TECH FABRICS



Jace beanie, left, is comfortable and expertly constructed to keep you warm when the hills start calling.



This stylish Jolie winter hat, left, in buttery yellow adds a taste of spring to winter wear.



Jolie beanie, left, in water tones features soft acrylic fabric to insulate your head on chilly outings.



PROTECTION THAT’S A
HEAD ABOVE THE REST

The Giro Ledge helmet in glowing green, right, is super-modifiable, with a cool removable goggle retainer and earpads. Under-the-hood muscle meets modern technology in the color of your choice, several to choose from.



COURTESY PHOTOS

WARM,
WATERPROOF
INSULATION

Best-selling Helly Hansen men’s resort ski pants, left, are known for their legendary performance. Helly Tech Performance construction makes them fully waterproof and breathable, while 2-way stretch fabric gives you total freedom of movement.

Thigh-vent zippers help you retain warmth or release heat based on weather and activity conditions.

Reach the heights of slope style and comfort!

Your Adventure Starts Here!

SCHUMMER’S SKI SHOP
(313) 881-4363 • 20778 Mack Avenue Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
schummerskishop.com

We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer

The social media feeds during the holidays are something else. Every gadget you never knew you needed is served up on a platter with promises of “2 for 1,” “Best gift of 2024!” and every other gimmick you can possibly dream up.

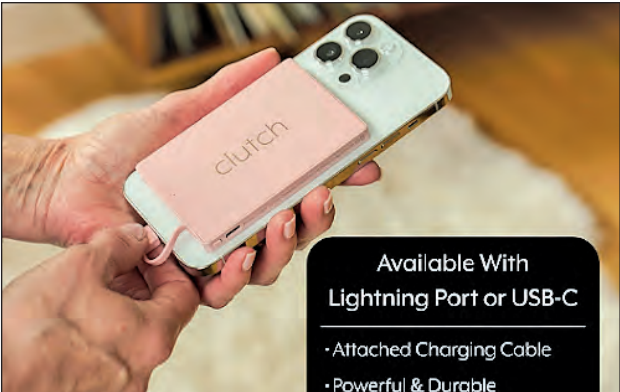
One item that piqued my interest was the Clutch Charger. It’s really thin and sticks to the back of most phones (depending on the case you use) via magnet. The original idea was I would use it in a pinch when I needed some juice for my phone. However, since purchasing it, I’ve barely seen the thing thanks to my teenagers.

They give it two thumbs up, by the way.

What the Clutch Charger has that most don’t is essentially a thin design with a built-in plug, so you don’t have to have your own cords.

In addition, as mentioned, it has a magnet to neatly stick to the back of your phone so it’s not dangling all over the place, which is an issue with brands such as Belkin. One of the best features, in my opinion, is it hardly weighs anything at all. At 3.7 ounces, it’s definitely the lightest I’ve come across.

Overall, Clutch has a lot of choices depending on the type of phone



Available With
Lightning Port or USB-C

- Attached Charging Cable
- Powerful & Durable
- Sleek & Lightweight
- Airplane Carry-On Approved
- Magnetizes to iPhones & Compatible Cases



or tablet you are looking to power up. On the website, you can choose between type and num-

ber of chargers. If I were to do it again, I’d probably get three or four of them. It’s nice for travel, when sending your kids or teens on a long bus trip or overnight trip, or anytime you are away from home.

Yes, you can usually find a plug, but I can name multiple occasions when a plug was broken, taken by someone else or sketchy enough where you couldn’t leave your device alone.

I am giving this five alligators because it works, it’s not expensive and it’s very convenient. It would make a

great gift at around \$40 — less if you order more than two at a time. You can find and order the Clutch at clutchcharger.com.

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

5 Out Of 5



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BICEPHALY PICTURES AND ASTUTE FILMS

Left, Sabrina Carpenter as Nola and Steven Ogg as Cliff on the road in the 2018 movie “The Short History of the Long Road,” written and directed by Ani Simon-Kennedy.

MOVIE REVIEW
“The Short History of the Long Road”
2019 - Not Rated
1 hr 30 min
★★★★☆

I stumbled on this sweet indie gem quite by chance, and immediately fell in love with it. It’s my latest “you’ve got to see this” movie that artfully combines the road trip and living-off-the-grid themes — a couple of my favorite genres. Writer/director Ani Simon-Kennedy did a masterful job presenting an engaging and entertaining story. The cinematography by Cailin Yatsko paints a striking portrait of the American Southwest. And Emmy Award-winning composer Earl Rose created a hauntingly beautiful soundtrack. It has a dreamy, new-agey quality to it that helps make this such a memorable film.

But a great story needs a great protagonist, and

it’s manifested by the absolutely riveting performance by Sabrina Carpenter. Ms. Carpenter was already a well-known pop star with a huge following when she starred in this film. Check out some of her numerous music videos on YouTube and you’ll understand her allure. Her singing accompanies a beautiful scene near the end of the movie. Here, in her film debut, she totally convinced me this is what she was destined to do. Her acting displayed poise and maturity well beyond her years — she was only 21 when she made this movie.

Nola (Carpenter) is on a permanent road trip with her dad Cliff (Steven Ogg of “Westworld”). They travel around the country in a beat-up old VW Westphalia camper van the couple nicknames “The Hulk.” Nola’s mom abandoned her when she was an infant and we don’t really learn anything about her. Even though they’re footloose and fancy free, dad and daughter are not totally off the grid — Cliff takes the occasional odd job to help support them.

And they stop from time to time

and take advantage of unoccupied homes. This is where we first encounter them, frolicking in the backyard pool of one such house — always just a few minutes from getting caught. They also take in the occasional movie on the big screen. However, for some unexplained reason, Cliff always insists they leave the movie theatre before the film ends.

I especially enjoyed the overall upbeat mood of the film. Nola and Cliff have a great relationship. You can sense that they enjoy each other’s company and love the independence of being on the road. He’s a kind, smart dad and she’s a confident, mature young girl. You also get the feeling that nothing bad is going to happen to them, and thankfully, almost nothing really does.



A quiet moment.

American girl who seems lost. Her name is Blue (Jashuan St. John) and the two become fast friends. The chemistry between the couple seems so natural, it makes you wonder if they became friends in real life. Blue avoids her home as much as possible because she has an abusive father. Almost immediately, they concoct plans — Blue to stay with an aunt who live on a reservation and Nola to find her biological mother.

“The Short History of the Long Road,” like most good road trip films, is filled with memorable characters. They add to the richness of the story and help make it such an engaging experience. I think this is one of those movies the whole family will enjoy. If you like this film, here are a couple more I’ve reviewed that are worth watching: 2018’s “Leave no Trace” is a darker father-daughter hiding in the wilderness film. And “Captain Fantastic” from 2016 is a madcap cross-country romp starring the always-entertaining Viggo Mortensen.

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

Note to parents: the film is not rated. I’d probably rate it PG-13. There is one scene with teens smoking pot but that’s about the only



objectionable thing in the movie.

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.

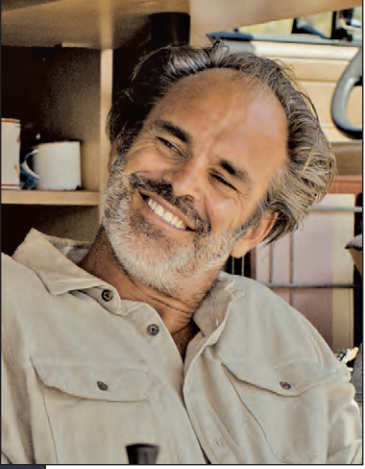
★★ So-so. Not a total waste of time, but you would have been better off reading a good book.

★★★ 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.



The always upbeat Cliff played by Steven Ogg.



Bedtime meditating.



Blue played by Jashuan St. John.



A meetup of camper vans in the desert.



Miguel (Danny Trejo).



Have spud bar, will travel

By Brian Owen
Guest writer

The winter ice is finally here and it's time to get out there and punch some holes in Lake St. Clair. One of my favorite winter activities is heading to Selfridge or Cotton Road in Anchor Bay to ice fish for jumbo perch. Jumbo perch are abundant in the shallower flats of Lake St. Clair during certain times of the year and that bite is heating up as the winter temperatures plummet.



COURTESY PHOTO

Owen enjoys the pursuit of perch through the ice and the solitude of Lake St. Clair.

First ice always seems to produce a hot bite and feels much safer than the hot bite that occurs during last ice, which often lands a few absent-minded ice anglers on the local news. Canals and marinas are typically first to freeze and perch can be found in as shallow as two feet of water, which if you fall in, won't require a dramatic rescue. As far as the lake itself, the northern parts of Anchor Bay, especially Bouvier Bay, tend to freeze up first as those areas are more protected from the winter winds.

Jan. 15, I made my way to The Raft in Fairhaven for lunch and to check out the action on the ice. There was already over six inches of ice and about 50 pop-up shanties set up. Not bad for a Wednesday. The snow mobiles and ATVs will soon be buzzing along the lake with ice this thick and you can expect it to be crowded for weekends to come. This year's ice fishing season will be double that of last year as I anticipate it will be 12 weeks or more.

Before lunch, I stopped at Cotton Road and fished for about a half hour with no luck. There was only one other fisherman there so I wasn't too adventurous. My strategy was to carry a light load and cover as much water as I could. With just an ice spud bar and a bucket of gear, I was able to punch a few quick holes and look for fish.

As I moved from spot to spot I used the spud bar to determine if the ice ahead was safe, lunging it with substantial downward force as I took each step forward. If water sprang from the ice I knew it was not safe to proceed in that direction. Snow-covered ice is less safe than exposed ice as the snow insulates the top layers and slows down the freezing. Two inches of ice is the minimum that can hold the weight of a person but on

Lake St. Clair I personally need it to be at least three inches or more to feel safe enough to fish without worry.

I had much better luck just two days prior when I met up with a local guide, Steve VanAssche of Bushwacker Charters. According to Steve, schools of jumbo perch were in the canal as soon as the ice formed and the bite was hot. Steve's family has owned a lot on a canal in Harrison Township since he was a kid and they have been

had a handful of perch flopping on the ice. When that hole cooled off he moved to another. If the fish weren't biting within a few minutes, it was time to move and carve out a new hole.

Watching Steve ice fish reminded me of Chilly Willy catching fish after fish after fish. At one point Steve was in a rhythm and caught eight perch in a row. He would drop his beaded spoon to the bottom, jig it once, pull out a perch, drop it to the ice and return the spoon to the bottom and repeat. At that point, I didn't care if I caught anything. I was watching an ice fishing clinic.

Unfortunately, there weren't a lot of big fish in this school and the wind was picking up so we released the smaller perch and went to the canal.

Within a few minutes we were into a new school of fish. This time, I had a few fish on the ice before Steve but within a couple minutes he was into another school of keepers.

Every time I fish with another angler I pick up a few tips or hacks that make me better. On this day I learned that you can reduce the number of little perch you catch by using a larger profile lure. I also learned that throwing the little ones back right away can slow down your rhythm and possibly scare off the fish. Lastly, I learned that sometimes it's better to pack light and move around in search of the perch instead of setting up camp on the ice and waiting for them to come to you.



COURTESY PHOTO

Captain Steve VanAssche uses a two inch Guster Spoon because its larger profile can attract the jumbo perch.



COURTESY PHOTO

With over 50 years of experience, Captain Steve VanAssche from Bushwacker Charters carries only a bucket, two poles and his spud bar at first ice.



Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 6:45 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. EST today (3:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. PST). After that, the Moon moves from Scorpio into Sagittarius.

Happy Birthday for Thursday, January 23, 2025: You are grounded. You are an unconventional, original thinker. You are magnetic, and others admire you. This is a year of service for you, perhaps service to family. Because you are a resource for others, take care of yourself.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Discussions with parents or bosses might bring about a surprise change at home or within your family. Perhaps you'll receive unexpected assistance. A new direction in life might affect your earnings, your belongings and your private life. It's an interesting day! Tonight: Explore!

TAURUS

Unexpected travel opportunities might fall in your lap today. Therefore, stay light on your feet, because you might suddenly change your plans. A friend or partner also might surprise you with an unexpected suggestion. Pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

Financial issues might be disconcerting today. They might be about major or minor things. Perhaps you misplaced or lost an item. However, discussions about shared values, shared possessions and shared property might catch you off guard. Maintain your cool. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Stay on your toes today, because today is full of unexpected events and surprises. It might even be an accident-prone day for you, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Parents should be vigilant about their kids. Avoid getting caught up in arguments with partners. Tonight: Work.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

When you're at work today, be careful not to say anything you'll regret later. Likewise, if you're dealing with health issues or a pet, you might blurt something out without thinking. If you can do some home improvements, this will please you. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Parents should be extra vigilant today, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. It's also a classic day for sports accidents. However, surprises and genius-like ideas also might appear. An unexpected short trip or surprising news from relatives might occur. Remember to listen. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Keep an eye on your money and possessions today. Likewise, something at home or with your family might surprise you. Therefore, pay attention. Protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. On the upside, you might have a clever idea. Tonight: Interesting discussions.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You have lots of mental energy today, which is why you might be bubbling over with clever, genius-like ideas. Stay light on your feet. An unexpected short trip might occur. You might entertain others with your

original thoughts and novel approaches to something. Enjoy socializing! Tonight: Check your belongings!

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You might have some clever, moneymaking ideas today. Or possibly you have to suddenly deal with or clear up old business about shared property, taxes or debt. This is a busy time for you, which is why you'll enjoy relaxing with family and friends at home, if you get the chance. Tonight: You win!

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

A friend might surprise you today, or you might surprise them. Social outings, sports events and fun activities with kids might have speed bumps or detours, which means you need to be light on your feet and ready to jump in either direction. An unexpected invitation might come your way. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Tiny disruptions will be par for the course today. For some of you, these could be big interruptions, even accidents. Get dressed and prepare for the unexpected. New romance might blossom! Tonight: Be friendly.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Parents should be vigilant, because this is an accident-prone day for your kids. Meanwhile, social plans might suddenly change. Ditto for travel plans. You might be introduced to new faces, especially younger people. Keep an open mind. Tonight: You're admired.

BORN TODAY
Retired aviator Chesley (Sully) Sullenberger (1951), actress Mariska Hargitay (1964), actor Randolph Scott (1898).

Contract Bridge

THE ELEMENT OF SAFETY

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♠* Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 4 ♥ Pass
6 ♥
*strong, artificial
Opening lead — king of clubs.

When you're declarer in a slam, it is surely right to give the play more careful consideration than if you were in, say, a partscore contract. South neglected to do that in today's deal, and it wound up costing him 1,530 points.

He won the club lead with the ace and played the A-K of diamonds, planning to ruff the third round of diamonds with dummy's king. Unfor-

tunately, East ruffed the king of diamonds and returned a trump, and South later had to lose a diamond trick to West for down one.

The deal illustrates the type of reasoning required when a contract seems easy to make. In such cases, declarer should stop and ask himself, "What can defeat me?"

Had South followed that rule in this deal, he might have found the winning line of play. A 5-1 diamond division is certainly not probable, but since it is possible, some effort should be made to guard against it.

After taking the club lead and cashing the ace of diamonds, South should play the deuce of diamonds at trick three! This guarantees 12 tricks whether the diamonds are divided 3-3, 4-2 or 5-1. In the third and critical case, South can subsequently ruff the six of diamonds with dummy's king, discard the ten of diamonds on the ace of spades and so ensure the contract.

There is no question that South was unlucky to run into a 5-1 diamond break that cost him the slam. But it is also true that the most it would have cost him to lead a low diamond at trick three was 30 points, while the failure to do so could, and in fact did, cost him 1,530 points.

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by Steve Becker

Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane



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Bill and Jeff Keane

"I'm three. How many fingers are you?"

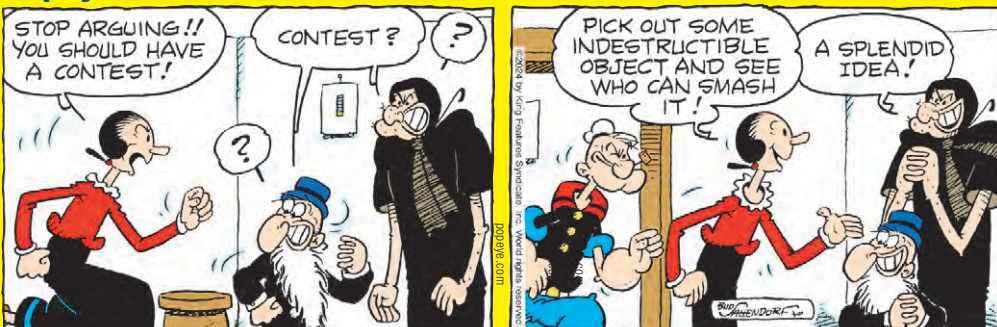
Garfield

Jim Davis



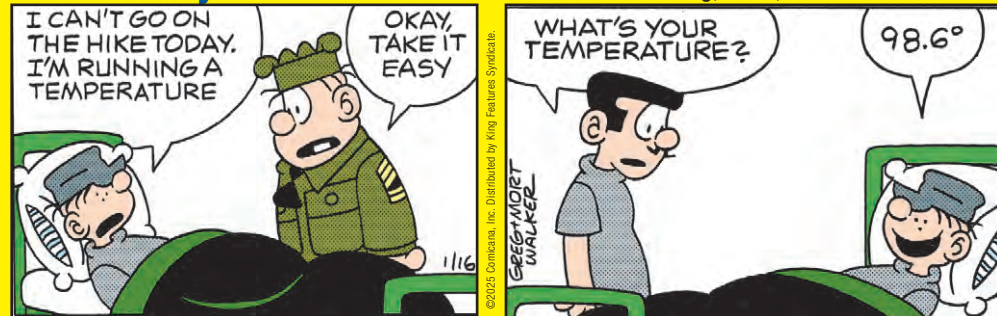
Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



Beetle Bailey

Greg, Brian, Neal and Mort Walker



Blondie

Chris and Dean Young



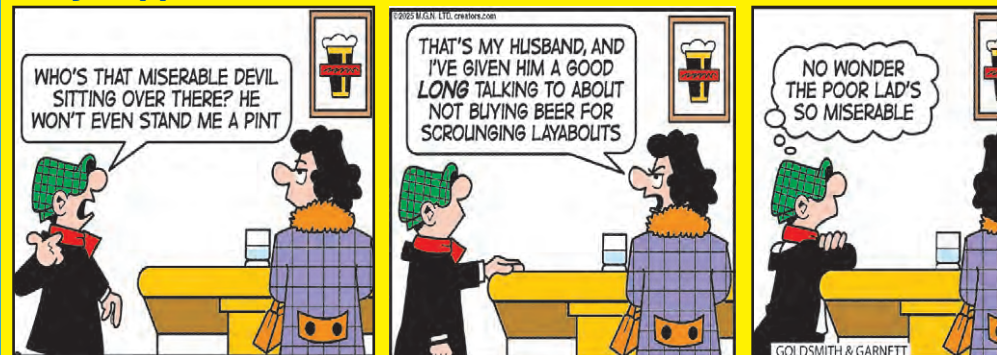
Over The Hedge

Michael Fry and T. Lewis



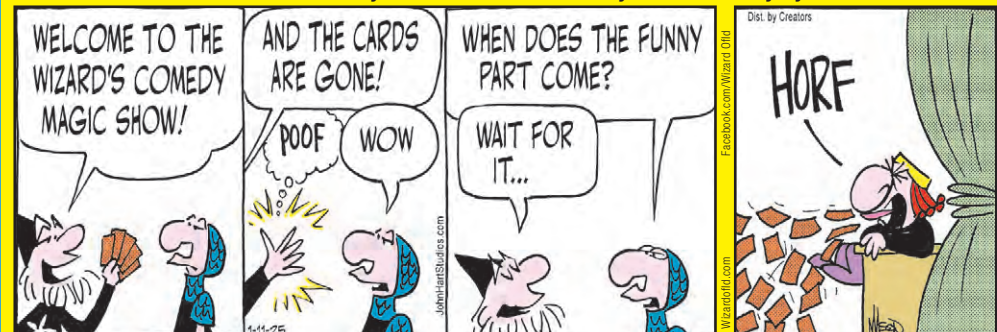
Andy Capp

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

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

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

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Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg January 23, 2025

ACROSS

- 1 Untidy folks
6 "No ___!" ("It's fine!")
10 Degrees for many CEOs
14 Garlic-and-oil spread
15 Pop star Dua ___
16 Violist's clef
17 Open, as a backpack
18 Scored perfectly on
19 Spring shape
20 Many a high school graduate
21 Image that can be licensed for commercial use
23 When things wrap up
25 Longtime Yankee's nickname
26 Foxlike
27 "At the ___ least ..."
29 Texter's "Tsk, tsk"
32 What's kept by a drummer
35 Grad
36 Drive away
37 "End of a saying about reciprocal justice"
40 Major defeat
41 Mythical Greek ship
42 Prefix with -pedic
43 Explosive Minecraft block
44 Crops with altered DNA

DOWN

- 45 IOU part
46 Some gardening tools
48 Fit
52 "I ___ doubt that will be successful"
56 "I ___ to eat and run ..."
57 What cilantro tastes like to some people
58 Place for icicles
59 "Swan Lake" costumes ... and a phonetic hint to what you'll find in the starred clues' answers
60 "___ talk, more rock" (radio motto)
61 Some whiskeys
62 Middle Eastern monarchs
63 Like a used fireplace
64 IRS IDs
65 Traditional wood for some piano keys
1 Cook quickly, as onions
2 Material for some tablecloths
3 Seeped
4 Area in which one lacks understanding
5 Taste, as tea
6 Tectonic chunk
7 Puerto ___

- 8 Big oil grp.
9 Cosmic punishment
10 (1978 Village People hit)
11 Like a tired person's eyes, maybe
12 Working hard
13 Brand with an iconic red plastic cup
21 Hog's home
22 Act nosy
24 Heaps
27 YouTube journals
28 Italian currency
30 One may eat a sweater
31 Santa's chuckle
32 Sour
33 British boarding school
34 Breath freshener you swish
35 Natural hairstyle
36 One sticks out
38 Pets that run on wheels
39 Word before "hall" or "square"
44 Lead-in to "X" "Y" or "Z"
45 Acorn producer
47 "My bad"
48 Salon lock
49 10:1, e.g.
50 Complete reversal
51 Unkempt
52 Ibiza, por ejemplo
53 Pedicure digits
54 Methods
55 Baker's need
59 Merch table purchase

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	S	T	A	P	R	O	W	S	A	P
A	S	T	I	R	I	O	N	A	E	L	I
T	W	E	N	T	Y	Q	U	E	S	T	I
T	A	N	O	U	T	S	A	Z	T	E	C
I	N	T	E	N	S	E	E	D	G	E	
			L	A	H				C	O	S
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Make It a Double by Sean Ziebarth

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Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



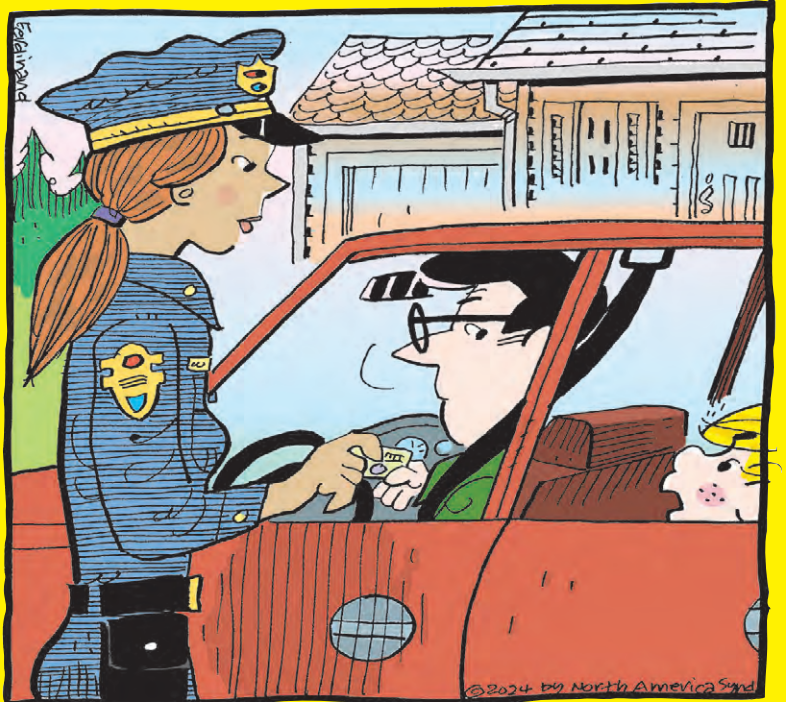
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



Crock

Created by Bill Rechin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



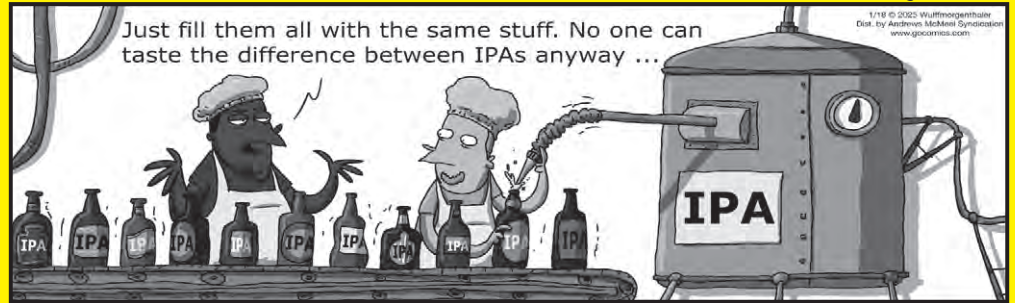
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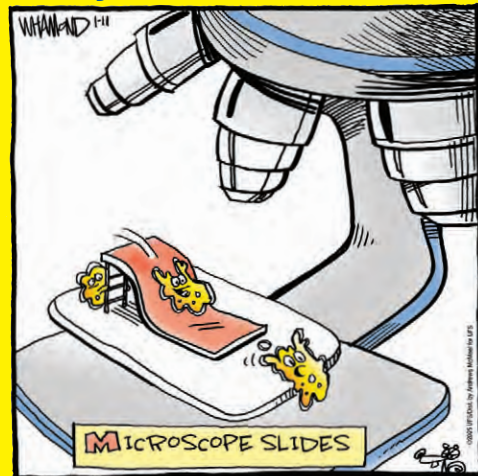
Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Reality Check

Dave Whamond



Bizarro

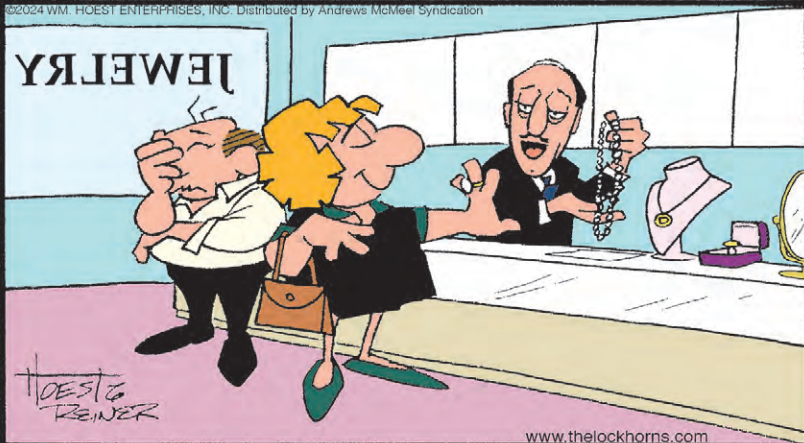
Dan Piraro and Wayno



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3D SOUTH VS. NORTH GIRLS BASKETBALL | 6D UNIFIED BASKETBALL | 4D-5D CLASSIFIEDS

South wins big over North, ULS bounces back after CHSL tournament loss

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was another week full of action in the varsity boys hockey season as winter rolled along. Last week included a rivalry showdown between Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North that saw the Blue Devils snap a losing streak, while the University Liggett School Knights were able to bounce back with a couple of wins after falling in the Catholic League tournament.

North-South
The Blue Devils hosted the Norsemen Saturday, Jan. 18, coming into the game with a full week of rest. North earned a win earlier in the week 5-4 over North Oakland Tuesday, Jan. 14, while South was in the midst of a four-game losing streak. The Blue Devils were able to get back in the win column over their crosstown rival with an 8-0 win over the Norsemen.
“We talked from the beginning of the season that we’re very young



PHOTO BY CHARLIE THOMAS

North’s Charlie Mueller lines up across from South’s Evan Bernard for a faceoff during the Blue Devils’ 8-0 victory over the Norsemen on Saturday, Jan. 18.

and inexperienced...but also talked about trying to reset things and keep things positive,” South boys hockey coach Alan Korolewicz said. “We had a week’s worth of

practice leading up to the game which was really good ... I was proud of the kids for locking in on that game. It seemed like they really wanted to win and they

all came out looking to put their best foot forward.” Oliver Sharpe and Liam O’Donaghue started the scoring in the first period for the Blue

Devils to give the team an early 2-0 lead. Sharpe scored again in the second period while Will Gryzenia, Lucas Reynolds and Ethan Zann added goals as

well. O’Donaghue and Zann found the back of the net again in the third period as South cruised to the win.
“We’ve had some better leadership emerge in the locker room with some of the older guys stepping up and saying they believe that we’re better than this,” ... With our freshmen and sophomores, so many of them are brand new to this level of hockey. This is the best level of hockey they’ve ever played because of the MIHL and the level of competition that we play, and you can see steady improvement in their games. These kids are going to be so much better at the end of the season and will be better for it in years beyond this year.”
South hosted Cranbrook-Kingswood Tuesday, Jan. 21, after press time. The Blue Devils take the ice again Saturday, Jan. 25, facing off against Allen Park at East Side Foundation Hockey Arena at 7:30 p.m.
North took on Bishop
See HOCKEY, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Benard continues making history with South girls basketball

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

When Maddy Benard first entered the Grosse

Pointe South girls basketball program as a freshman, there already were high expectations she might become one



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Benard has etched her name in the record books for South girls basketball, including holding the record for most steals in a career and achieving 1,000 career points.

of the Blue Devils’ all-time greats. Even when her highly anticipated freshman season was cut short due to injury, Benard seemed to come back stronger and now, as a senior, already has ensured her name will go down as one of the best to ever wear the blue and gold.
Benard has etched her name in the record books for South, holding records such as most steals in a single season and career, as well as tying the record for most points in a single season. She reached one of her biggest milestones a few weeks ago when she surpassed 1,000 career points, becoming one of a select few to ever do so at South.
“I was kind of worried because I tore my ACL my freshman year and that was a setback, so I knew last year I would have to score a lot of points to reach it,” Benard said about joining the 1,000-point club. “It was always in the back of my mind and I’m

just super proud of myself for putting in the work and reaching that milestone.”
What makes Benard’s milestone even more special is she is now the second person in her family to join the 1,000-point club at South. Benard’s older brother, Anthony, surpassed 1,000 career points with South’s varsity boys basketball team before graduating in 2023.
Anthony now plays NCAA Division I men’s college basketball at Canisius University in New York. Once her senior year is finished, Benard also will become the latest member of her family to play at the collegiate level as she is committed to playing NCAA Division II bas-

ketball at Wayne State University. Benard always has looked up to her older brother as an example both on and off the court and knows watching him make the transition from high school to the college game is going to help her be able to handle that change in a few months.
“He’s definitely taught me to be resilient because you really have to work for your minutes in college,” Benard

Grosse Pointe News



Maddy Benard

School: Grosse Pointe South

Sport: Basketball

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said. “... It’s not always about how much you score, but if you can get steals or assists and help your teammates, that plays a big role in being successful at the next level.”
With everything she has achieved on the court, Benard had plenty of options for where she could end up playing in college. However, Wayne State stood out the most because it felt like home and the Warriors’ program
See ATHLETE, page 2D

Best of Benard

- Surpassed 1,000 career points with South varsity girls basketball
- Averaging 14 points per game this season
- Committed to play college basketball at Wayne State University

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Knights look dominant in win over Bishop Foley

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Just a few days after suffering a heartbreaking loss at the final buzzer to Cardinal Mooney, the University Liggett School boys varsity basketball returned to its home court looking to bounce back. The Knights hosted Bishop Foley Catholic last Wednesday, Jan. 15, and looked as strong as ever after the loss as the team cruised to a 70-19 win.

“I thought the guys played hard and at the pace that I want to play at and we had really good balance scoring,” Liggett varsity boys basketball head coach James Scott said about the win. “We defended well, which allowed us to get out in transition to

score some easy baskets.”

Everything looked easy for the Knights in the win and was the team’s second game in a row scoring at least 70 points. Liggett jumped out ahead early and never looked back, starting strong to lead the Ventures 19-2 at the end of the first quarter.

The Knights’ offense continued to look dominant in the second quarter to keep building their lead. There seemed to be no shot that Liggett could not make as the team nearly pulled away by 30 at halftime, leading 41-12 going into the locker room.

With the game already well in hand entering the second half, the Knights did not slow down much. Liggett continued to

dominate the game both on offense and defense and held Bishop Foley to just a single point in the entire third quarter to lead 62-13 going into the final frame as the team would cruise along to a victory.

The scoring was spread out for the Knights in the big win. Deagan Barr had 13 points and Sam Cannon had 12 points all coming from three-pointers. Justin Gibson reached double-digits with 10 points while also tallying six assists. Nicholas Thansas scored 10 points as well.

The Knights visited Shrine Catholic Tuesday, Jan. 21, after press time. Liggett is back home Thursday, Jan. 23, to host Lutheran Northwest at 6:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

Liggett’s Deagan Barr battles past Cooper Dolot from Bishop Foley in a race for a loose ball during the Knights’ win last Wednesday, Jan. 15.

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

already includes some familiar faces who were Benard’s former rivals at Grosse Pointe North.

“It kind of just had a familiar feel,” she said. “With coach (Andy) Ayrault there and

Annabelle (Ayrault), we used to play together in elementary school, so I liked that familiar feeling and being so close to home.”

Benard still has several games left as a Blue Devil before she moves on to the next stage of her career. The high school girls basketball

season has reached the midway point this winter and Benard and South are just getting into the heart of their schedule with MAC Red Division play.

Benard has had a strong senior season so far, averaging around 14 points per game for the Blue Devils. However, it

has been aspects of her game besides scoring that Benard really worked on before the season began and is continuing to perfect in every game and practice. She wants to become a true facilitator who can create more plays for her teammates to help South win in any way possible.

“Trying to work on getting my teammates involved because I feel like it’s a lot to have me scoring all the points in every game,” she said. “If I try to get everyone involved, then our points can be more spread out. If we have three players in double digits, then that can really help us win.”

That improved playmaking has not gone unnoticed by Benard’s teammates and coaches. South varsity girls basketball coach Kevin Richards has worked closely with Benard throughout her entire career and seen her grow into the star player she has become.

Both Benard and Richards hope those playmaking abilities will help lead the Blue Devils to success in the MAC and the postseason. No matter how her senior season ends, Benard’s



Benard looks for a way around North’s Justice Lloyd in a rivalry matchup between the Blue Devils and Norsemen on Jan. 14.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

After graduating from South later this year, Benard will continue her basketball career in college at Wayne State University.

Grosse Pointe News

ATHLETE

OF THE WEEK

Do you know an outstanding high school athlete? Nominate them for Athlete of the Week and put them in the running for Athlete of the Year.

All weekly winners will be invited to the end of year Athlete of the Year Awards Gala – with top athletes winning scholarships! Submit online at:

grossepointenews.com/athlete-of-the-week

Grosse Pointe News

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Blue Devils outlast North for girls basketball rivalry win

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was rivalry night in the Pointes last Tuesday, Jan. 14, with the cross-town foes from Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North meeting together on the girls varsity basketball court for the first time this season. The Blue Devils played host to the Norsemen and earned bragging rights, at least for now, winning the first of two scheduled regular-season showdowns 44-34.



Emma Barr handles the ball for North while being defended by South’s Morgan Duff (No. 23).

PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

Things started out looking very even in last Tuesday’s rivalry matchup. North and South traded some baskets early and fought to a stalemate at the end of the first quarter tied 8-8. The second quarter was when the momentum began to fully shift in favor of the Blue Devils. South found some more rhythm on offense and stood tall on defense, holding the Norsemen to just two points in the quarter to help jump out to a 23-10 lead going into

halftime. “We were able to turn them over and we wanted to get back on defense and make them play against five and we were able to shift our defenses which I think led to some turnovers,” South girls basketball coach Kevin Richards said about his team’s defensive performance. The Blue Devils were able to maintain their lead throughout the second half. North was able to pick things up offensively again after a slow

second quarter but was never quite able to catch up as South still led 34-19 going into the fourth quarter. The Norsemen had their best quarter of offense in the final eight minutes, nearly doubling their point total from the entire game to that point, but it was still not enough to catch up before time expired.

Morgan Duff led South in scoring in the victory with 12 points. Maddy Benard and Ciara Pongratz both made it into double digits with 11 points as well. Having the scoring spread out among a larger portion of the team was something that South is seeing as a very positive sign of the team’s improvement despite some challenges so far this season.

“We’re getting better even though it may not show it in our record,” Richards said. “...We’ve played a very difficult schedule and haven’t shot the ball as well as I’d hoped. We’re about halfway through and we’re going to emphasize that going forward because I don’t think we’ll continue to shoot the way we have. Passing has improved and other people are looking at the basket and looking to score...The North game was the first time all year where we had three players in double digits, so that was a step for us going forward.”

Eva Borowski was



Sophomore Ciara Pongratz scored 11 points for South in the team’s 44-34 win over North last Tuesday, Jan. 14.

North’s leading sorcerer with 16 points. Juliette Laurenceau finished with eight points. North also fell to Eisenhower last week 62-48 Thursday, Jan. 16. The Norsemen hosted Henry Ford II Wednesday, Jan. 22, after press time and are at home again Friday, Jan. 24, to take on Port Huron at 7 p.m. South played twice

again last week following the rivalry win over North. The first game was a 50-43 loss to Henry Ford II on Thursday, Jan. 16, but the Blue Devils would then go on to beat Riverview 56-43 on Saturday, Jan. 18. The Blue Devils visited Dakota Wednesday, Jan. 22, after press time. They are scheduled to host Eisenhower on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

South boys hoops falls flat in second half against Lincoln

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Last Friday, Jan. 17, Grosse Pointe South visited Warren Lincoln to rematch last year’s boys varsity basketball MAC Red-White Tournament championship game. While the Blue Devils were victorious over the Abes in that tournament championship, Lincoln would be crowned 2024 Division 2 state champions at the end of the season. The defending state champions got revenge against their league foes in a game that started close but ended in a 50-30 win for the Abes. The beginning of the game had the looks of one that would be tightly contested the whole way. South and Lincoln opened up by trading shots and playing tough defense on both ends, with the first quarter ending with the Abes up narrowly 10-9.

The back-and-forth continued into the second quarter. Neither team gained much separation to build a substantial lead going into halftime, and the Blue Devils went into the locker room only down a couple of points, with the score at 25-23 in favor of Lincoln. While the first half



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

James Michelotti looks to make a pass for South while being guarded by Lincoln’s Christopher Morgan.

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

Pursuant to PA 104, an auction will be held on **FEBRUARY 05, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. at Official Towing, located at 19801 Pleasant, St. Clair Shores, MI, 48080 The following impounded/abandoned vehicle will be auctioned:

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The above vehicle can be viewed 1/2 hour prior to the auction, at Official Towing. Payment by cash or certified check only. Cars listed may be pulled or released prior to the auction by the Harper Woods Police Department.

Lt. Thomas Teatsorth
Traffic Safety Section

POSTED: Jan. 15, 2025
PUBLISHED: Jan. 23, 2025

A copy of this notice can be viewed on www.harperwoodscity.org under Public Notices.

CITY OF HARPER WOODS WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 6, 2025

The regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Valerie Kindle at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:All Councilpersons were present

MOTIONS PASSED

- 1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held December 16, 2024.
- 2) to Table the Animal Services Agreement between the City of Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society (GPAAS).
NO: Williams
- 3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

- 1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 131541 through 131632 in the amount of \$399,373.09 as submitted by the City Manager and Finance Director, and further, authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the listing. (2) approve payment to Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc. in the amount of \$44,837.05 for professional services during the month of December 2024 for the following projects: Beaconsfield Resurfacing, #180-253; Temp Water Operator, #180-303; Sanitary Sewer Cleaning, #180-340; Misc. Concrete Repairs, #180-338; Pavement Striping, #180-342; HWHS Field House, #180-327; City Hall Generator, #180-291; Miss Dig, #180-255; Dist. System Materials, #180-357; DWSD Sewage Discharge, #180-347; Salter Park Community Center, #180-348 and the CDBG Sidewalk Replacement Project, #180-350. (3) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$6,470.08 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of December 2024 and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of miscellaneous accessories. (4) approve payment to WCA Assessing in the amount of \$6,384.16 for the contractual assessing services to be performed during the month of January 2025. (5) approve payments to Nu Appearance Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$17,120.00 for assistance with leaf pickup, fall maintenance and salting/snow plowing in various areas of the City. (6) approve the request to have the necessary emergency repairs to the City hall boiler not to exceed \$5,785.00 by K & S Ventures. (7) approve payment in the amount of \$11,575.00 to Guardian Sewers for their assistance with several water main breaks and replacement of stop boxes at various residential locations. (8) approve payment to Honigman LLP in the amount of \$15,510.00 for professional services in conjunction with the redevelopment of Poupart school. (9) . approve payment to Suburban Library Cooperative in the amount of \$5,102.08 for the automated system services, laser scanner and printers, and staff user and email fees. (10) . appoint the following residents to the Local Officers Compensation Commission, Rodd Monts, term expiring January 2028, Debbie Kien, term expiring January 2028 and Kevin Koresky, term expiring January 2029. 2) to accept the proposal from Hannah Architects dated November 18, 2024 for architectural and engineering services in the amount of \$211,600.00 for the City of Harper Woods’ Community Center project.
- 3) to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Harper Woods and the Technical, Professional and Officeworkers Association of Michigan (TPOAM), DPW Unit covering the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, and further to authorize the Mayor and the acting City Manager to sign the agreement.
- 4) to approve payment to Great Lakes Contracting Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$8,500.00 for Progress Payment No. 3 on the 2024 Storm Sewer Open Cut Repairs Project, #180-350.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, January 23, 2025

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:

NORTH VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

The Norsemen picked up a pair of wins last week in MAC Blue Division play. The first came on Wednesday, Jan. 15, when North went on the road and beat Fraser 58-53. Leo Perettie had 18 points in the win, while Ben Rickerman also hit double digits with 12.

North was back on the road on Friday, Jan. 17, taking on L'Anse Creuse, and was victorious again 74-53. Perettie dropped another 18 point performance while Devin Head and Ben Dragich both finished with 12 points each.

North's scheduled home game against Anchor Bay on Tuesday, Jan. 21, was postponed due to weather conditions. The Norsemen take their home court again on Thursday, Jan. 23, hosting Warren Cousino at 7 p.m.

GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe South's varsity girls hockey team earned a commanding 8-0 victory over Cranbrook-Kingswood last Saturday, Jan. 18. Molly Reynolds finished with a hat-trick while Sophia Husek found the back of the net twice. Gianna Bufalino, Tinley Gram and Kylie White all scored as well.

The Blue Devils went on the road to face Ann Arbor Skyline-Huron on Wednesday, Jan. 22, after press time. South returns home to host Mid-Michigan Alliance Friday, Jan. 24, with puck drop at 7:30 p.m.

University Liggett School's varsity girls hockey team took down Mercy 8-0 last Tuesday, Jan. 14. Maggie Weiss tallied a hat-trick and Kate Ricci finished the night with two goals. Miranda Alcala, Avery Welsh and Stella Smiatacz made up the other goal-scorers for the Knights.

Liggett travels Up North to take on Traverse City for a weekend doubleheader with games on Friday, Jan. 24 and Saturday, Jan. 25.

LIGGETT VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Knights were victorious last week when they took on Cranbrook-Kingswood on Thursday, Jan. 16. Liggett earned the win in dominant fashion 52-29 to bring its record to 4-5 so far this season. The Knights host Riverview Gabriel Richard on Friday, Jan. 27, with tipoff at 7 p.m.

BLUE DEVILS TO HOST SOFTBALL CLINIC

The Grosse Pointe South softball program has announced that it will be holding a clinic for young softball players ahead of the spring season. The clinic will be held on Saturday, March 15, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Grosse Pointe South High School main gym and is open to all softball players from kindergarten through 8th grade.

The focus of the clinic will be on basic throwing and fielding techniques as well as the fundamentals of hitting. Cost of the clinic is \$75 per player and can be paid by check or by Venmo. For more information on how to register, contact South varsity softball head coach Bill Fleming at gpsouthsoftball@gmail.com.



FOLLOW GROSSE POINTE NEWS SPORTS

The Grosse Pointe News is proud to announce our new social media page completely dedicated to bringing you the best sports news and moments from around the Pointes. @GPNewssports on Instagram is where you will be able to find instant updates from the biggest games and amazing highlights from athletes and teams at every level from youth sports to high school freshman, JV and varsity.

Best of all, we want to highlight all of the moments that YOU share with us. Send your best sports photos and achievements to our DMs on Instagram or to our email, sports@grossepointenews.com, for your chance to be featured on our social media and even in the sports section of the Grosse Pointe News each week!



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In The CLASSIFIEDS

Grosse Pointe News

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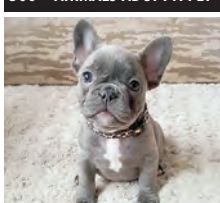
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Everything From A To Z Can Be Found In The Classifieds.

Grosse Pointe News (313)882-6900 ext.4

Grosse Pointe News

Yard & Estate Sale Map



THIS WEEK

1. 333 University Pl. Grosse Pointe City

2. 19950 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods

 = ESTATE SALE

 = YARD SALE

See Classifieds for more details

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6D | SPORTS

North, South face off in unified hoops rivalry showdown

The unified varsity basketball teams from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South met on the court for the first time this season last Tuesday, Jan. 14. With fans packing the stands at South to cheer on both teams, the Blue Devils protected their home court and earned a 50-45 win. The game was close throughout, with North's Abdullah Ali knocking down a layup to make it a two-point game at halftime as South led 27-25.

The Blue Devils remained in front going into the fourth quarter 45-37 and protected the lead until the end. The two teams will meet again on Thursday, Jan. 30, at North with tip off scheduled for 4 p.m. North and South are also set to face each other in this year's Unified Basketball Showcase on the Detroit Pistons' court at Little Caesars Arena on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

— Mike Adzima



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

North's Neisha White gets ready to shoot during the Norsemen's unified basketball game against South on Tuesday, Jan. 14.



Left, Michael Banaszewski knocks down a three-pointer for South. Right, North's Quinton Gosselin dribbles down the court and drives toward the basket.



PHOTO BY CHARLIE THOMAS

South's Ethan Zann puts a shot on goal against North.

HOCKEY:

Continued from page 1D

Foley Wednesday, Jan. 22, after press time. They face Bishop Foley again Friday, Jan. 24, going on the road for a game at the John Lindell Ice Arena in Royal Oak at 7 p.m.

University Liggett
The Knights began last week looking to earn the title of CHSL Cardinal Division champion. Liggett faced off against Jackson Lumen Christi in the tournament semifinals last Tuesday, Jan.

14, but fell 2-1 in overtime to end the team's hopes of a league championship. Landen Maltby scored the lone goal for Liggett in the loss. Liggett bounced back with a big win the next night Wednesday, Jan. 15, defeating Cabrini 12-0 in the consolation bracket of the tournament. Drake Griffin, Griffin Marchal and Luke Slanec all had two goals each. Nick Gould, Ryan Cordaro, Andrew Johnson, Dennis Reilly, Blake Shock and Maltby all found the back of the net as well.

The Knights returned home Thursday, Jan. 16, playing host to L'Anse Creuse Unified. Liggett was able to pick up another win 4-3, with Gould scoring twice and Gary Stacy and Patric Dreyer also contributing to the win. Liggett visited Gibraltar Carlson Tuesday, Jan. 21, after press time. The team takes a trip to the Upper Peninsula for the weekend where they are set to take on Calumet Saturday, Jan. 25, and Houghton Sunday, Jan. 26.

SOUTH:

Continued from page 3D

was mostly even, the second half was completely dominated by Lincoln. South fell flat on offense coming out of halftime and allowed the Abes to pull further ahead. The Blue Devils were out-scored 15-5 in the third quarter as the

game went to the fourth quarter with the Abes ahead by 12. South was unable to recover in the final eight minutes. The Blue Devils managed to score just two points in the fourth quarter as a 12-point lead for Lincoln turned into 20 points by the time the final buzzer sounded. James Michelotti had

eight points for South during the team's tough night offensively. Nolan Gross had seven points and Adam Czarnik had six. South hosted Dakota Tuesday, Jan. 21, after press time. The Blue Devils are at home again Thursday, Jan. 23, for a MAC Red Division showdown against Roseville tipping off at 7 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

South's Kooper Richards goes up against Lincoln's Kingston Brown as he tries to run the Blue Devils' offense.