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FEMA funds held up at state level

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS AND CITY — A state limit reached last week on federal spending through the Michigan State Police means sewer separation grants allocated to the City and Farms through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program may be tied up in state accounts until October, but the respective city managers don’t yet see reason to sound the alarm.

Though the federal grant money is earmarked for the cities, it is funneled through the Michigan State Police Emergency Management

and Homeland Security Division and, therefore, subject to a federal spending limit set by the Michigan legislature.

High grant reimbursement activity this year — FEMA has awarded COVID-19 pandemic response grants of \$249 million to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and \$70 million to Detroit Public Schools Community District, among others — means the state already has hit the limit for fiscal year 2024-25, which runs Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

“This has nothing to do with the federal funding pause that hap-

See FEMA, page 4A



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

Mother Nature’s cold shoulder

Osius Park in Grosse Pointe Shores had an unexpected visitor breach park property without a park pass. Large chunks of ice formed a mound that came over the breakwall and settled on the dock along the marina. It has gotten so big it is blocking passage along the dock. It currently is unknown the extent, if any, of damage to the breakwall or dock.

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Shores residents want even more information

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE SHORES — Residents are happy with the city’s continued emphasis on communications and are clamoring for even more.

“People recognize and appreciate our improvement,” Ted Coutilish, chairman of the Shores communication committee, told city council at its January meeting. “One suggestion that keeps coming up is to have more trash and recycling reminders. That’s been a prominent suggestion in all three surveys and at every event I attend.”

Coutilish shared the results of the committee’s third biannual communications survey at the meeting.

“The purpose of the survey is to take the pulse of the community and understand their prefer-

ences,” he said. “We got hundreds of responses about how to improve.”

Some 89 percent of respondents said they feel “informed,” “very informed” or “extremely informed.” That is up slightly from 2023, when 88 percent said the same thing. The first survey, conducted in December 2020, showed just 48 percent of respondents felt the same.

“Everyone was stuck at home and mad about everything back then,” Coutilish said.

Another 8.6 percent this year said they felt “somewhat informed,” with just over 2 percent saying they are “not very informed.”

Since the 2020 survey, the city has revamped its website, increased postings on its Facebook page and added an Instagram

See INFO, page 3A

Land flap puts brakes on Schaap Center lot

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — The Downtown Development Authority found itself recently in the role of parents stunned to learn their adult offspring was mistakenly switched at birth and belongs to somebody else.

The waif was being primed in recent years for the equivalent of a role in the family business, but now is claimed by its rightful progenitors.

The DDA’s conundrum is this: A plot of land on Jefferson in front of the public library between Maryland and Lakepointe that the authority and everyone else currently associated with city hall thought it owned nearly 26 years is, in fact, the property of the city.

The mix-up is complicated by the DDA’s obligation to the Schaap

performing arts center, which is being constructed one block away on Jefferson.

Authority representatives entered into a legally binding memo of understanding (MOU) six years ago with the center’s backers, the

DDA, it was a surprise to me,” said Ben Wixson, chairman of the DDA and board member since 2000. “But here we are. The only path forward for the DDA to continue with the MOU was for the (city) council to either deed the lot to the DDA

‘It’s an asset of the city. As a fiduciary of the city, I don’t see how we can transfer this to the DDA.’

MAX WIENER
Grosse Pointe Park City Councilman

Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation (URIF), to build a 50-space public parking lot on the plot that can be used by center patrons.

But because the land is owned by another entity, the authority has no way to follow through with the parking lot and obligation to the URIF.

“When the city discovered it was not part of the

or to allow the DDA to construct the lot on that property according to the MOU.”

Members of the city council welcomed the real estate windfall as though it were a long-lost member of the family.

“We are playing the hand that was dealt to us,” said Councilman

See LOT, page 2A

Puzzles and Award Winning Comics

Every Week In LIFE & LEISURE SECTION C

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Pointer of INTEREST

See story, page 4A

Jon Wright
Home: Grosse Pointe Shores
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Chick-fil-A plans still in motion

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

DETROIT — Though lack of movement in the public eye going on a year has made the project appear dead in the water, a highly controversial proposed Chick-fil-A development at Mack and Marseilles is continuing to move forward.

“While early in the process, we are pursuing a new Chick-fil-A restaurant on 17761 Mack Ave.,” a representative for Chick-fil-A confirmed last week, adding the company is waiting on receipt of final permits.

The project was made public in early 2023, and denied by the Detroit Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department in January 2024. The Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals granted a reversal of the denial in March 2024, conditional upon the site’s ingress/egress



PHOTO BY RENEE LANDUYT

The existing, vacant Ray Lathum building at 17761 Mack would be demolished to make way for the proposed Chick-fil-A.

being off Mack instead of Marseillies. The Giving Tree Montessori Learning Center borders the prop-

erty along Marseillies, driving concerns of safety, congestion and air pollution. At the time, Chick-fil-A

representatives told the appeals board the condition of approval may not be feasible as it would require flipping the site

plan 180 degrees, therefore reducing the ability to accommodate cars on the site by about 37 percent, as well as reducing

the number of parking spaces.

However, “to best address community feedback, the site has been designed to feature an ingress and egress to and from Mack Avenue,” the Chick-fil-A representative confirmed last week.

Many Mack Avenue business owners remain opposed to the development — citing mainly traffic concerns — just as local developers remain unwilling to share preliminary plans or the status of the project.

“We would like a little more transparency,” said Joe Allemon, whose family has owned Allemon’s Landscape Center, directly next to the proposed development, since 1910. “This is where we’ve been for the last three years. The community would like to know what’s going on.”

If the project’s final permits are approved, the restaurant will be Michigan’s first drive-thru-only Chick-fil-A location, complete with a 2,950-square-foot building and outdoor patio space.

LOT:

Continued from page 1A

Max Wiener during the Feb. 3 council meeting. “It’s an asset of the city. As a fiduciary of the city, I don’t see how we can transfer this to the DDA.”

“I agree,” Councilman Tim Kolar said. “This is a simple solution tonight for us. I encourage our city as owners of the property to continue dialogue with interested parties to get the best use.”

The council meeting followed an hour-long closed session during which municipal representatives, plus attorneys for the city and DDA, discussed the issue.

Matters ended in open session with a unani-

mous vote to not even consider transferring the property.

“We can’t just transfer ownership of property without getting something in return,” Nick Sizeland, both city manager and director of the DDA, said afterward. “The council wanted to take a pause on this. They denied the transfer and directed me as manager to negotiate with URIF for the Schaap Center. We’re going to look at opportunities.”

Park officials bought the land, on which was located an automobile dealership that subsequently was torn down, in 1999, for around \$1.2 million, including bond interest payments.

“We paid off that bond and had been advised in

the past that it was DDA property,” Sizeland said. Sizeland began employment with the city as a lower-level administrator in 2016. He became manager in 2019.

“As with other council actions over time, maybe something wasn’t recorded property,” he said about the land purchase. “This is another one of those actions.”

Sizeland said the land was always labeled on the city’s list of fixed assets as DDA property.

“The city bought it with its money,” he said. “But, at no time ever did the city actually transfer the property to the DDA. We verified records at the county that this was still city property.”

“Even when it was presented to the DDA, the ownership of that lot was misrepresented,” Wixson said. “I don’t think intentionally by anybody, only that it was misrepresented and here we are.”

“The Park is cleaning up the ‘it’s always been done this way’ way of doing things,” Sizeland said.

It was the URIF’s due diligence that revealed true ownership.

“In the fall of 2024, the URIF requested documents verifying that the property was owned by the DDA,” according to Kevin Kilby, the DDA’s attorney.

Lower Jeff sewer work April to August

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — More than half the cost of a million-dollar sewer separation this year on lower Jefferson Avenue will be paid by the group that is funding construction of a performing arts center in the district.

The arrangement developed from a legal compromise Sept. 10, 2024, between the art center’s backer, the nonprofit Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation (URIF), and Wayne County regarding the center’s construction infringing on a 15-foot-diameter stormwater drainage pipe just inside the Detroit border.

As a result, work on the 49,000-square-foot, 424-seat A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Center for Performing Arts was allowed to continue. Scheduled opening is this autumn.

Park officials were planning the separation prior to the agreement. “I presented in 2022 a sewer separation pro-

posal for Jefferson,” City Manager Nick Sizeland said.

The design was completed during fiscal year 2023, and described in March 2024 planning commission materials.

Park officials already

tion of nearly citywide separation largely completed years ago. It also is another of many recent infrastructure improvements intended to guard the community against the type of sewer backups that flooded thousands of

‘Although we separated the vast majority of the city, when we get rain, we still see quite a bit of flow to the sanitary sewer on Jefferson. That’s why this project ... is important for the overall community.’

PATRICK DROZE
Project manager and principal at OHM Advisors

budgeted \$400,000 this fiscal year to separate the combined sewer into separate storm and wastewater pipes under a one-block section of Jefferson from Maryland to Lakepointe.

“This is one of the highest priority projects we saw,” said Councilman Max Wiener, chairman of the infrastructure committee.

Work is a continua-

basements during heavy rains mid-summer 2021.

“We keep checking off boxes and drying the system,” Wiener said. “Every year the system gets drier and drier and more resilient to stormwater.”

“Although we sepa-

See SEWER, page 5A

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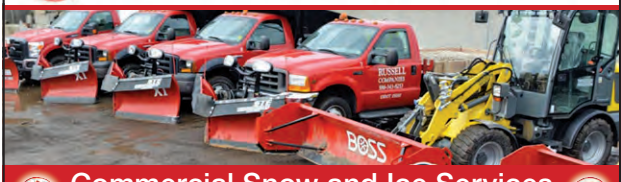
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Woods looking to spruce up city hall lawn

By Ted O’Neil
Associate Editor

GROSSE POINTE WOODS — City council is reviewing plans to make better use of the area in front of city hall where 64 crabapple trees once stood.

That includes walkways and an amphitheater-type structure with a stage on the north side of the lawn with a covered pavilion and warming area on the south side.

The trees, which had slowly been dying the last few years, were cut down last summer.

“They got hit with fire blight and it just spread from one to another,” City Administrator Frank Schulte said at the time.

“There was nothing to do that would stop it.”

Fire blight is a bacteria that primarily attacks crabapple, pear and apple trees. Once it gains access to a tree’s xylem, it causes blackened, necrotic lesions that release a sticky liquid. It can be spread by rain, birds or insects.

It also spreads more readily in damp, humid weather. Schulte said the ground under the trees often was just that way during the summer because of how much shade the canopy provided.

During discussion at its committee-of-the-whole meeting Monday, Feb. 3, council members said they preferred a

See LAWN, page 4A



COURTESY RENDERING

Conceptual drawings show an amphitheater-type structure and a warming area with a pavilion as a way to enhance the area in front of city hall.

War Memorial to focus on Vietnam War programming in 2025

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — As an official Vietnam War Commemorative Partner with the United States Department of Defense, The War Memorial has committed to a year-long line-up of high-quality, expansive programming.

It coincides with the final year of a 2012 presidential proclamation commemorating the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam — March 29, 1973 — through Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2025.

“This is a very intentional recognition and celebration and a welcoming home of these Vietnam veterans who didn’t have that experience when they came home after the war,” said Leah Celebi, vice president of community engagement and programming.

Planned are two military history exhibits and a documentary film screening with expert-led discussions; author talks and panel discussions featuring esteemed writers on Vietnam War history; and art exhibits and educational lectures exploring the war’s social and psychological impact.



Programming throughout the year will follow the theme “Conflict and Healing: Exploring the Legacy of the Vietnam War,” as an umbrella under which to address the complex history that comes with the Vietnam War.

“There are some Vietnam veterans who would not walk around with their Vietnam veterans hat, showing that they were a Vietnam veteran, because when they were, ‘welcomed home,’ it was not a very welcoming experience,” Celebi said. “I’ve

heard reports they were spat on and called names. It was the first war that was really televised through the news, so people finally had TVs in their homes and could see what was happening.

“There was not just the conflict itself, but (also) that conflict of, ‘I want to serve my country and step into service, but ... my people at home are against it or fighting me for wanting to serve.’”

Though programming kicks off this month with a two-part series exploring trauma, resilience and

coping strategies for veterans and first responders — Conflict and Healing Lecture Series, Part One: The Psychology of Trauma Sunday, Feb. 23, and Part Two: Managing the Stressors of the Day Sunday, March 16 — the keystone event is the second annual National Vietnam War Veterans Day Luncheon Saturday, March 29.

Brian Love, director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and a Marine Corps veteran, will lead a pinning ceremony, presenting U.S.-issued Vietnam War commemorative pins to veterans in recognition of their service.

“These pins have been given out for a long time, but there are still a lot of Vietnam veterans who haven’t had an opportunity to receive their pin,” Celebi said, “so we’re really proud to be able to host that ceremony as part of our luncheon.”

Additionally, the luncheon will feature a presentation of the colors flag ceremony led by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154 out of Clinton Township; presentation of the missing man table, accompanied by taps and in recognition of those who are missing

in action or a prisoner of war; a 21-gun salute; and a veterans resource fair.

The War Memorial held its first Vietnam veterans luncheon last March and intends to continue doing so going forward.

“Every once in a while we’ll get a response from our surveys that says, ‘Hey, we love that you support veterans,’ but maybe it’s a spouse that’ll say, ‘But my husband was a Vietnam veteran and we don’t hear a lot about their experience,’” Celebi said. “I’ve heard that a couple times over the years since I’ve been here and when I hear something like that, we take

action.”

Alongside a Vietnam War art exhibit to be curated by the Grosse Pointe Artists Association and planned to run March 29, through Nov. 11, programming also will include:

- ◆ “Evening with Author Karl Marlantes: Echoes of the Vietnam War,” Wednesday, April 9, during which the Vietnam veteran will discuss war, service and storytelling;
- ◆ annual Memorial Day ceremony, Monday, May 26;
- ◆ “Vietnam Through the Lens: The James ‘Skip’ Liberty Story,” to be announced date in

See VIETNAM, page 4A

The Week Ahead

- MONDAY, FEB. 17**
- ◆ Municipal offices closed for President’s Day
- TUESDAY, FEB. 18**
- ◆ Grosse Pointe Shores City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

INFO:

Continued from page 1A

page. The Facebook page has more than doubled in followers, from 830 two years ago to more than 2,000 now. Coutilish said there are about 200 followers on Instagram.

Almost 81 percent of respondents said they prefer email as a way of getting information from the city. A little more than 80 percent said the same thing in 2023, up from 57 percent in 2021.

Coutilish said residents enjoy the monthly newsletter, with many asking for it to be sent biweekly.

As for changes in the schedule for trash and recycling, particularly due to holidays, City Manager Steve Poloni said that information is widely available.

“We know about the changes in advance and

send emails a week in advance,” he said. “Those are also noted in our calendar and in the newsletter.”

Coutilish said another suggestion made by several people was for the

city to send text messages with due dates for water bills and taxes and upcoming city events. He also suggested the city should consider contracting with a communications professional to

increase the number of hours devoted to the task, most of which is now done by him on a volunteer basis.

“Sometimes you can be a victim of your own success,” he said.



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Grosse Pointe Farms

Disappearing act

A Hillcrest resident has been unable to get in contact with a 48-year-old Chesterfield handyman since paying him a \$1,000 deposit last October for work to be done on his porch.

Immigration

A 21-year-old Colombian woman provided the officer with asylum request and court paperwork showing she had an immigration hearing the next day, when she was pulled over for speeding 48 mph on Moross near Ridge at 11:13 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The woman was cited for speeding, never acquiring a license and not having insurance.

Insult to injury

A FedEx package containing a \$476 health test kit was stolen from a Moross porch within an hour of being delivered at 2:10 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5.

In its place, the thief left a Smashburger bag with trash inside.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

Unlicensed

A 23-year-old Detroit man was pulled over at Mack and Lexington at 8:01 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, for illegal window tint and headlights that were not projecting light to at least 500 feet.

The man admitted to not being a licensed driver, for which was cited and the car impounded.

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

Grosse Pointe Shores

It's not difficult

A 34-year-old Waterford man was ticketed for driving without insurance around 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, after being stopped at the intersection of Vernier and Lakeshore. An expired license plate tab caught the officer's attention, even though the

man had the new sticker in his possession.

His 2019 Chevy Silverado was impounded as a result.

Lights out

A defective right rear tail light led to a 50-year-old Venezuelan man being ticketed for faulty equipment and never having applied for a license around noon Friday, Feb. 7, when he was stopped on southbound Lakeshore near Renaud.

His 2006 Chevy Impala also was impounded.

Two tickets

A 28-year-old Lansing woman was ticketed for an expired license plate tab and expired driver's license after being stopped on northbound Lakeshore near Vernier around 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8.

Her 2013 Cadillac XTS was impounded as well.

— Ted O'Neil
Report information about these and other crimes to Grosse Pointe

Shores Public Safety, (313) 881-5500.

Grosse Pointe Woods

Back-to-back

One vehicle was stolen and another broken into in the parking lot at Henry Ford St. John Hospital on consecutive nights last week.

A Smith & Wesson handgun was stolen from a vehicle sometime between 7:30 and 11 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

A 2024 Dodge Durango was stolen sometime between 3 and 10 p.m. The complainant said the vehicle was locked and he had both key fobs.

Miscellaneous tools, a pair of Oakley sunglasses and a towing hitch were in the vehicle.

Giving chase

A resident in the 1900 block of Anita noticed someone trying to steal the dashboard touch screen from his 2024 Dodge Ram around 2

a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5.

He chased the suspect down Anita, where the would-be thief left in a Jeep Grand Cherokee.

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

City of Grosse Pointe

Caught in the end

For stealing 13 bottles of vodka from a business in the 17000 block of Kercheval the week prior, a 47-year-old man and 37-year-old woman — both Detroit residents — were arrested for first degree retail fraud Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Cash App fraud

A Grosse Pointe woman received a Cash App card she did not order in the mail Thursday, Feb. 6.

Ditched

After a man entered the rear door of a business in the 16000 block of

Kercheval at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, went to the breakroom and stole a purse, it was recovered in a garbage can blocks away. Approximately \$20 in cash was missing from the purse.

The suspect is described as a thin black man in his 50s with a gray and black beard. An investigation is ongoing.

Lululemon

For stealing \$4,700 worth of clothes from Lululemon in The Village in July 2024, a 24-year-old Detroit man was arrested Monday, Feb. 10.

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

Grosse Pointe Park

Nothing to report, per dispatch.

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

SEWER:

Continued from page 2A

rated the vast majority of the city, when we get rain, we still see quite a bit of flow to the sanitary station on Jefferson (next to city hall)," said Patrick Droze, project manager and principal at OHM Advisors, the city's consulting engineers. "That's why this project, in addition to providing direct stormwater discharge from the Schaap site, is important for the overall community."

"(After separation) any rain that goes in is going to go directly to the Patterson discharge station," Wiener said.

"Because this project does benefit the Schaap Center — this gives them a way to connect to the storm sewer and have stormwater discharge from their property — they agreed to transfer \$600,000 to the city," city attorney Morgan McAtamney Martin said.

The funding agreement between the city and foundation was approved during the Feb. 3 city council meet-

ing.

"Funds appropriated by the city shall be utilized in full to fund the project before use of the URIF funds," according to the agreement. "Upon depletion of funds appropriated by the city, URIF funds shall be utilized for the sole purpose of funding the project."

Foundation representatives have the right to audit their payment.

"URIF shall be entitled to a refund of any portion of (their) funds not utilized for the project," the agreement continued. "At the conclusion of the project, the city shall provide URIF with a final accounting."

Jefferson is a county road.

"Sewer construction will be managed by the Wayne County Department of Public Services," Sizeland said.

Work is expected to begin mid-April and finish by Aug. 15, absent unforeseen happenings.

The contractor chosen for the project, Pamar Enterprises, located in New Haven, won a low-bid contract

of \$962,217.

If everything goes as forecast, therefore, the foundation will get a \$37,783 refund.

Council members approved the terms Feb. 3.

Pamar undercut six other bidders wanting between \$20,783 to \$773,300 more for the job.

"The low bid is approximately 6.7 percent below the engineer's opinion of probable costs," Droze said.

OHM evaluated the bids and bidders.

"(We) contacted several references for current and past projects ... in various communities," Droze said. "Pamar was recommended as a timely contractor that coordinates construction scheduling well and completed work per specifications."

Work is targeted for completion by late summer.

"The city shall make every effort to ensure the contractor completes all infrastructure necessary to install a storm sewer connection from the Schaap Center

property no later than June 1," according to the agreement. "The city shall ensure that the contractor substantially completes the city plans no later than Aug. 1."

Sewer separation thereafter will continue at a date to be determined on Jefferson from Lakepointe to Somerset.



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POINTES OF VIEW

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Grosse Pointe News

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OUR VIEW

Remembering MLK in GP

(Editor's note: In recognition of Black History Month, the Grosse Pointe News is honored to reprint the speech Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered in Grosse Pointe March 14, 1968, which was exactly three weeks before his assassination in Memphis, Tenn. Here is Part I. Parts II and III will be printed Feb. 20, and Feb. 27.)

Rev. Dr. Harry Meserve, Bishop Emrich, my dear friend Congressman Conyers, ladies and gentlemen.

I need not pause to say how very delighted I am to be here tonight and to have the great privilege of discussing with you some of the vital issues confronting our nation and confronting the world. It is always a very rich and rewarding experience when I can take a brief break from the day-to-day demands of our struggle for freedom and human dignity and discuss the issues involved in that struggle with concerned people of good will all over our nation and all over the world, and I certainly want to express my deep personal appreciation to you for inviting me to occupy this significant platform.

I want to discuss the race problem tonight and I want to discuss it very honestly. I still believe that freedom is the bonus you receive for telling the truth. Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. And I do not see how we will ever solve the turbulent problem of race confronting our nation until there is an honest confrontation with it and a willing search for the truth and a willingness to admit the truth when we discover it. And so I want to use as a title for my lecture tonight, "The Other America." And I use this title because there are literally two Americas. Every city in our country has this kind of dualism, this schizophrenia, split at so many parts, and so every city ends up being two cities rather than one. There are two Americas. One America is beautiful for situation. In this America, millions of people have the milk of prosperity and the honey of equality flowing before them. This America is the habitat of millions of people who have food and material necessities for their bodies, culture and education for their minds, freedom and human dignity for their spirits. In this America children grow up in the sunlight of opportunity. But there is another America. This other America has a daily ugliness about it that transforms the buoyancy of hope into the fatigue of despair. In this other America, thousands and thousands of people, men in particular walk the streets in search for jobs that do not exist. In this other America, millions of people are forced to live in vermin-filled, distressing housing conditions where they do not have the privilege of having wall-to-wall carpeting, but all too often, they end up with wall-to-wall rats and roaches. Almost forty percent of the Negro families of America live in sub-standard housing conditions. In this other America, thousands of young people are deprived of an opportunity to get an adequate education. Every year thousands finish high school reading at a seventh, eighth and sometimes ninth grade level. Not because they're dumb, not because they don't have the native intelligence, but because the schools are so inadequate, so overcrowded, so devoid of quality, so segregated if you will, that the best in these minds can never come out. Probably the most critical problem in the other America is the economic problem. There are so many other people in the other America who can never make ends meet because their incomes are far too low if they have incomes, and their jobs are so devoid of quality. And so in this other America, unemployment is a reality and under-employment is a reality. (I'll just wait until our friend can have her

say) (applause). I'll just wait until things are restored and. . .everybody talks about law and order. (applause)

Now before I was so rudely interrupted... (applause), and I might say that it was my understanding that we're going to have a question and answer period, and if anybody disagrees with me, you will have the privilege, the opportunity to raise a question if you think I'm a traitor, then you'll have an opportunity to ask me about my traitoriness and we will give you that opportunity.

Now let me get back to the point that I was trying to bring out about the economic problem. And that is one of the most critical problems that we face in America today. We find in the other America unemployment constantly rising to astronomical proportions and black people generally find themselves living in a literal depression. All too often when there is mass unemployment in the black community, it's referred to as a social problem and when there is mass unemployment in the white community, it's referred to as a depression. But there is no basic difference. The fact is, that the negro faces a literal depression all over the U.S. The unemployment rate on the basis of statistics from the labor department is about 8.8 percent in the black community. But these statistics only take under consideration individuals who were once in the labor market, or individuals who go to employment offices to seek employment. But they do not take under consideration the thousands of people who have given up, who have lost motivation, the thousands of people who have had so many doors closed in their faces that they feel defeated and they no longer go out and look for jobs, the thousands who've come to feel that life is a long and desolate corridor with no exit signs. These people are considered the discouraged and when you add the discouraged to the individuals who can't be calculated through statistics in the unemployment category, the unemployment rate in the negro community probably goes to 16 or 17 percent. And among black youth, it is in some communities as high as 40 and 45 percent. But the problem of unemployment is not the only problem. There is the problem of under-employment, and there are thousands and thousand, I would say millions of people in the negro community who are poverty stricken — not because they are not working but because they receive wages so low that they cannot begin to function in the main stream of the economic life of our nation. Most of the poverty stricken people of America are persons who are working every day and they end up getting part-time wages for full-time work. So the vast majority of negroes in America find themselves perishing on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. This has caused a great deal of bitterness. It has caused a great deal of agony. It has caused ache and anguish. It has caused

great despair, and we have seen the angered expressions of this despair and this bitterness in the violent rebellions that have taken place in cities all over our country. Now I think my views on non-violence are pretty generally known. I still believe that non-violence is the most potent weapon available to the negro in his struggle for justice and freedom in the U.S.

Now let me relieve you a bit. I've been in the struggle a long time now, (applause) and I've conditioned myself to some things that are much more painful than discourteous people not allowing you to speak, so if they feel that they can discourage me, they'll be up here all night.

Now I wanted to say something about the fact that we have lived over these last two or three summers with agony and we have seen our cities going up in flames. And I would be the first to say that I am still committed to militant, powerful, massive, non-violence as the most potent weapon in grappling with the problem from a direct action point of view. I'm absolutely convinced that a riot merely intensifies the fears of the white community while relieving the guilt. And I feel that we must always work with an effective, powerful weapon and method that brings about tangible results. But it is not enough for me to stand before you tonight and condemn riots. It would be morally irresponsible for me to do that without, at the same time, condemning the contingent, intolerable conditions that exist in our society. These conditions are the things that cause individuals to feel that they have no other alternative than to engage in violent rebellions to get attention. And I must say tonight that a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the negro poor has worsened over the last 12 or 15 years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met.

See KING, page 7A

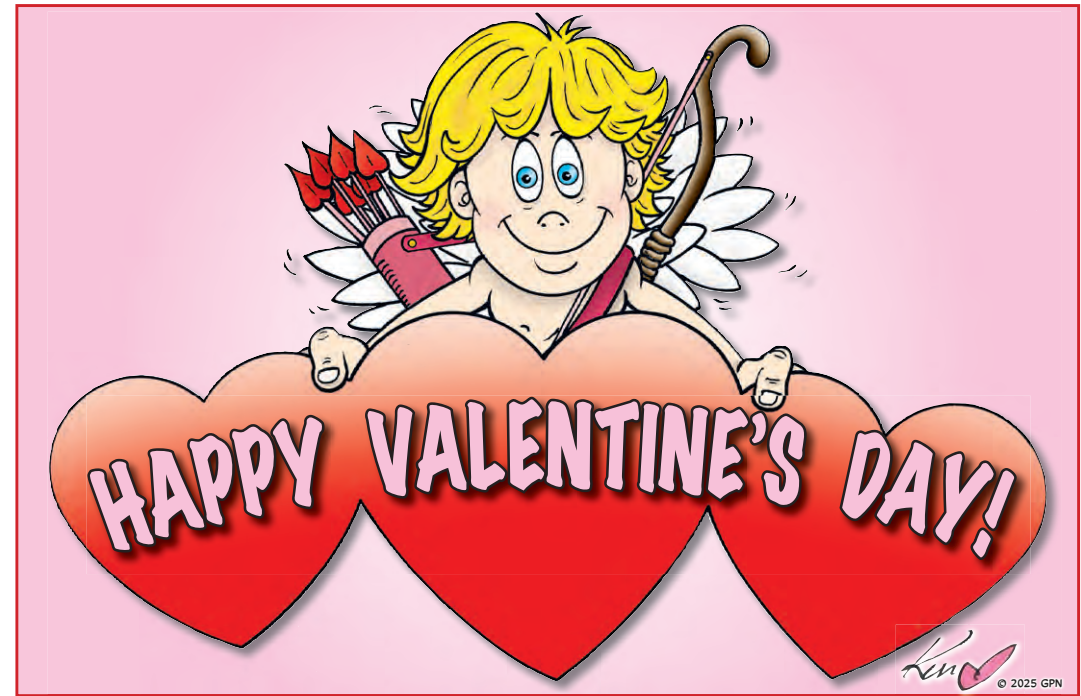


ILLUSTRATION BY KEN SCHOP

Grosse Pointe News **How about that big game halftime show?**

POINTER POLL

Meh. 39%

Loved it! 32%

Hated it! 18%

Didn't see it. 10%

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GROSSE POINTE 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST February 13 – 19

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
30° 9°	24° 18°	35° 20°	24° 5°	18° 9°	22° 9°	25° 10°
Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Snow	Chance of Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
90%	0%	70%	60%	10%	10%	10%
SUNRISE 7:31 am	SUNRISE 7:29 am	SUNRISE 7:28 am	SUNRISE 7:26 am	SUNRISE 7:25 am	SUNRISE 7:24 am	SUNRISE 7:22 am
SUNSET 6:02 pm	SUNSET 6:03 pm	SUNSET 6:05 pm	SUNSET 6:06 pm	SUNSET 6:07 pm	SUNSET 6:09 pm	SUNSET 6:10 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 Renee Landuyt



Mother Nature’s artistry on ice

Nature is amazing. She gives us so many things that bring us happiness and can help with our physical and mental health as well. Nature can increase our creativity. In the spring, we have the trees with their new leaves, grass getting greener and flowers blooming, turning the landscape colorful. In the summer, we have blue skies, sunshine, cooling rain showers and many opportunities to enjoy nature. In the fall, we have the leaves changing colors and the air begins to get crisp as Earth prepares for its winter dormancy. Then, in the winter, nature can be beautiful with snow-covered trees and, if there are fresh, fluffy snowflakes falling and if you are watching out the window, it can make you feel like you are inside a snow globe. Of course, winter also can bring cold weather, a few sunny days and lots of gray days sprinkled in between. And freezing rain. Boo. However, ice can be beautiful when the lake

freezes over and the ice closest to the shoreline gets pushed by the open water and, if the temperatures stay cold enough, ice mounds begin to form. These mounds can get up to over 20 feet tall. Although the ice mounds are beautiful, they can also be dangerous because there can be holes in parts of the mound, making them not safe to climb. If you have driven down Lakeshore these past few weeks, you have seen Mother Nature’s ice artistry along the shoreline. In the beginning, the ice starts out as a thin sheet and as the temperatures stay below freezing for a while, the winds crack the ice, breaking it into different sized floating pieces and the force of the lake pushes the pieces together, creating ice mounds. It is interesting, if you listen close enough, when the ice begins to form sheets on top of the water and pushes against itself to create these mounds, you can sometimes hear cracking and a shattering noise like glass breaking. After the ice freezes, if the days continue to be cold and windy, the wind also pushes the ice until it comes up against something stationary or immo-



wavelengths of light and blue is a shorter wavelength. If the ice is dense and clear with almost no air bubbles, a blue color is reflected back, giving the ice a blue appearance. That’s pretty cool.

Left, ice along the lake-shore behind Ford House in 2020. Below, ice mounds showing off their reflected blue light in front of the blue water with stormy overhead clouds on a cold, wintry day near the lakeshore last week.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

bile, like more ice or a shoreline. In the past, there have been some beautiful ice mounds in the lake behind Ford House and, on occasion, along Lakeshore, like this year. I don’t know if the ice mounds do any damage to the water’s edge or structures it goes up against, but I do know they’re beautiful, especially when the ice appears to be a blue color. Apparently, when light passes through ice, the water molecules in the ice absorb the longer wavelengths of light easier than the shorter wavelengths. Red and yellow are examples of longer



YESTERDAY’S HEADLINES

1950
75 years ago this week

EXPERT APPROVES SCHOOL BONDS: Dr. Ralph E. Badger, president of Investment Counsel Inc., of Detroit,

has just advised Sigurd R. Wendin, president of the Grosse Pointe Board of Education, that the proposed Grosse Pointe School Bonds and the resulting financial condition of Grosse Pointe meet the tests of soundness and good investment required by the

firm.

POINTE SEEN HEADED FOR FULL-FLEDGED MEASLES EPIDEMIC: According to Dr. Thomas S. Davies, Grosse Pointe Health Commissioner, the Pointe is headed for a genuine epidemic of measles. He says that the measles record for Grosse Pointe shows 312 cases in 1946, only 30 cases in 1947, 375

cases in 1948 and only 74 again in 1949. He says the disease ordinarily reaches its peak in the April-May period. This year there were 50 cases reported in January and thus far in February, 36 in the first six days, or at the rate of 180 cases for this month alone.

High seniors again brought the question of final exams before the Board of Education and discussion on the matter took a more positive tone as two students, Kim Duross and Julie Tennyson, proposed a constructive, though perhaps unfeasible, alternative to mandatory finals.

UP TRAFFIC SIGNAL FOR BLIND: City fathers in Grosse Pointe Woods will likely mine next year’s budget for money to buy a special traffic signal that will help blind people cross safely at the city’s busiest intersection. Faced with limited funding and little hope of coming up with extra revenue in the coming fiscal year, members of the Woods city council said they will try to find ways to install an audible traffic signal at Mack and Vernier.

KING:
Continued from page 6A

And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice and humanity. Now every year about this time, our newspapers and our televisions and people generally start talking about the long hot summer ahead. What always bothers me is that the long hot summer has always been preceded by a long cold winter. And the great problem is that the nation has not used its winters creatively enough to develop the program, to develop the kind of massive acts of concern that will bring about a solution to the problem. And so we must still face the fact that our nation’s summers of riots are caused by our nation’s winters of delay. As long as justice is postponed we always stand on the verge of these darker nights of social disruption. The question now, is whether America is prepared to do something massively, affirmatively and forthrightly about the great problem we face in the area of race and the problem which can bring the curtain of doom down on American civilization if it is not solved. And I would like to talk for the next few minutes about some of the things that must be done if we are

to solve this problem. The first thing I would like to mention is that there must be a recognition on the part of everybody in this nation that America is still a racist country. Now however unpleasant that sounds, it is the truth. And we will never solve the problem of racism until there is a recognition of the fact that racism still stands at the center of so much of our nation and we must see racism for what it is. It is the nymph of an inferior people. It is the notion that one group has all of the knowledge, all of the insights, all of the purity, all of the work, all of the dignity. And another group is worthless, on a lower level of humanity, inferior. To put it in philosophical language, racism is not based on some empirical generalization which, after some studies, would come to conclusion that these people are behind because of environmental conditions. Racism is based on an ontological affirmation. It is the notion that the very being of a people is inferior. And their ultimate logic of racism is genocide. Hitler was a very sick man. He was one of the great tragedies of history. But he was very honest. He took his racism to its logical conclusion. The minute his racism caused him to sickly feel and go about saying that there was something innately inferior about the Jew he ended up killing 6 million Jews.

1975
50 years ago this week

WOODS DRAFTS PARK LAW: In an attempt to reach a solution to a nagging problem regarding the enforcement of rules and regulations governing Lake Front Park, the Woods Council unanimously agreed to submit an ordinance regulating conduct in privately owned parks for St. Clair Shores officials to consider. A main aspect of this problem is the fact that the city’s park is located not in the Woods, but in St. Clair Shores. Flowing from this are ensuing jurisdictional complications.

2000
25 years ago this week

S H O R E S ELECTORATE TO VOTE ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES BUILDING: Grosse Pointe Shores residents will have the chance to vote on whether or not the village should build a 5,000-square-foot community building on the grounds of Osius Park. The proposed recreation building has proven to be more controversial than its supporters anticipated. A vocal segment of the Shores population has decreed the building as being an unneeded eyesore that will only take up valuable space in the park.

2015
10 years ago this week

PROJECT ON TARGET: The expansion of the Okulski Family Theater in the Lavins Center at Windmill Pointe Park is progressing toward a summertime opening, according to Park city officials. The 80-seat complex is aimed at an older crowd, said director of parks and recreation Terry Solomon, and is more plush than the Okulski complex that shares a common wall with the new project.

SENIORS AT SHS CONTINUE BATTLE TO AVOID EXAMS: South

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Nurse charged with drug theft-switch

DETROIT — Until two years ago, a hometown nurse used insider knowledge to steal drugs from his employer, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Michigan.

According to a federal indictment, while working as a registered nurse in the emergency room at Ascension St. John Hospital, Travis Eskridge, 53, of Grosse Pointe Park, tampered with vials containing fentanyl, a powerful narcotic pain reliever.

Eskridge knew the drugs were intended for patients in the emergency room. All information reported on the matter was contained in the U.S. Attorney’s Office news release.

The indictment charged that

Eskridge removed fentanyl from the vials, replaced it with another liquid and returned the tampered vials to a locked drug storage system. The indictment also charged that he stole fentanyl vials as part of a pattern of thefts over a nine-month period and obtained fentanyl by fraud for his personal use.

Eskridge was removed from his position at Ascension St. John Hospital in August 2022, when the tampering and thefts were discovered.

Maximum penalties are up to 10 years of imprisonment for each of the three tampering counts, up to five years of imprisonment for the theft count and up to four years of imprisonment for the acquiring by

fraud count. Each count also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

He was charged with three counts of tampering with a consumer product, specifically the Schedule II controlled substance fentanyl. He also was charged with one count of theft of medical products by an employee and one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud.

Eskridge appeared Feb. 6 before a magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He was released on a bond with conditions that included not seeking employment as a nurse.

Involved in the investigation are special agents of the Food and Drug Administration.

D Zone cashbox thieves arrested

After pretending to attempt to purchase a ticket for the D Zone basketball showcase at Grosse Pointe South High School at 7:26 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, a male juvenile grabbed the cashbox — containing an estimated \$3,000 — and fled with another male juvenile who held open the door.

A retired Eastpointe officer chased them to the fence line near Christ Church Grosse Pointe, where the Harper Woods K-9 unit later found \$15 in cash and 26 D Zone tickets scattered in the snow, as well as a blue iPhone that appeared to be freshly dropped.

Shortly after the theft, a Meadow Lane resident called to report she couldn’t pull into her driveway because a suspicious vehicle would not move out of the way.

Another witness reported a male darting in front of her car and getting into the backseat of a vehicle stopped at the intersection of Meadow Lane and Grosse Pointe Boulevard, before it drove away at a high rate of speed.

At 10:57 p.m. the same night, a caller reported three males looking in the bushes at Christ Church.

“It was believed that the suspects were looking for the blue Apple iPhone due to it being dropped,” the police report noted.

The juvenile suspects were arrested at the scene — one admitted to his phone number being the same as the dropped iPhone — before being released to their parents.

Inside their vehicle, officers found \$490 in cash in a jacket pocket.

— Laurel Kraus

iPhones targeted in suspected FedEx breach

By Laurel Kraus
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE FARMS — “We can’t follow the FedEx trucks to every stop,” Detective Roger Wierszewski said last week, after the Farms public safety department sent out an alert to its residents warning against having electronics purchases shipped to their homes.

In the last two months, the city has seen eight targeted thefts during daylight hours of FedEx packages containing iPhones and AT&T products — though the department also is including Android users in its warning.

The sophisticated porch pirates use the tracking number and recipient’s name to collect packages directly from FedEx drivers — at times threatening vio-

lence if there is resistance — or arrive within minutes of it being delivered.

“They know where it’s going to and then once the package is delivered, they have no fear,” Wierszewski said. “They don’t even run. They just walk up to the porch, grab the package and take it.”

Detectives suspect a FedEx data breach, though the company would not directly comment.

“With bad actors growing increasingly sophisticated, the shipping industry has been proactively working with customers and law enforcement to address the rise of porch piracy,” said Shannon Davis, with FedEx media relations, via email. “We constantly adapt our processes and use innovative technologies to

protect drivers and packages. This includes continually monitoring the integrity and confidentiality of customer information.”

The shipping service suggests recipients sign up for FedEx Delivery Manager to create vacation holds and redirect for pickup at a FedEx Office or hold location. Detectives also recommend alternative shipping options, including delivery to a secure location or using a pickup service.

“This is how they found their loophole: Nobody goes to the store and gets a phone anymore,” Wierszewski said of the thieves.

The Farms department has received reports that receipt signature confirmations are being changed during shipping, eliminating that safeguard for delivery.

One such report was of a Radnor Circle resident whose iPhone 16 was stolen in late January. He scheduled the replacement FedEx delivery to require a hold on delivery for signature, but it was left on his porch.

“What FedEx is saying and what they’re actually doing, they’re two different items,” Wierszewski said.

Additional safeguards encouraged are Ring doorbell cameras, reporting crime immediately when it takes place and good old-fashioned neighbors looking out for neighbors.

“If somebody’s going to confront you about the package, it’s not worth the risk of violence that they could bring upon you,” Wierszewski added. “Let them have the package and file a police report.”

Snarl no more

By Brad Lindberg
Staff Writer

GROSSE POINTE PARK — A vicious dog was one of two reportedly running wild near a public park attacking people, pets and, to its ultimate undoing, a public safety officer with good aim.

Authorities posted a notice of the comeuppance on the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department Facebook page. The post generated at least 10 responses from a grateful public. All were supportive and accompanied by thumbs up and heart emojis.

“The GPPPSD made the neighborhood safer today! Thank you,” Craig Impastato posted.

“I sure hope the owner of the dogs is reprimanded!!! We need tougher laws on the owners!!!” Michelle Reaume posted.

Multiple officers responded at 2:40 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, to reports of two dogs running dangerously in the 800 block of Three Mile Drive near Essex. The intersection is within one block of the entrance to Patterson Park and the municipal dog park.

“The dogs had aggressively encountered multiple citizens,” Detective Sgt. Jeremy Pittman said. “We had multiple complaints.”

At least one witness told police “a vicious dog had just attacked a resident who was walking her dog,” according to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF WAYNE MANCHESTER

Rotary Foundation history

Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary Club Administrator Dennis Hyduk stands with Stephen Ahles, from the Southgate Rotary Club, during the Sunrise Club’s Feb. 4 meeting at Ford House.

Ahles presented a history of the Rotary International Foundation, whose modern focus beginning in 1979, was the successful eradication of polio — from an endemic in 125 countries to two countries, current day. Over the years the focus has broadened to current efforts such as clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

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

Facebook notice. “The resident was attempting to shield her dog from the animal when the attack occurred.”

The victim suffered a bitten arm but will be OK, police said.

“Shortly after, the animal charged a public works employee,” according to the Facebook post.

“It appeared to be a pit bull-type,” Pittman said. “I didn’t see the other dog, so I don’t know the breed.”

Various people tried to hem the dogs in a yard.

“One dog broke free and aggressively approached one of the officers,” Pittman said. “The officer did everything he could to avoid the dog, but”

“Good to hear the injured citizen, officer, and all will be OK,” wrote Cheryl Denman on Facebook. “Not an easy work day for the GPPPSD hero who had to neutralize the threat. Thank you

to the brave who wear the badge every shift and risk it all for GPP citizens.”

Officers secured the second dog.

“Every officer I know loves animals and won’t take having to shoot one lightly,” Kristen Kyle wrote on Facebook.

Park council members in December approved allocating proportional funding for the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society to house and handle stray animals rounded up in the city.

Starting with the new fiscal year July 1, the Park will pay the society \$16,900 per annum. The figure represents the Park being the society’s second-biggest user among the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods.

Park police asked anyone having information about the dogs from this week to call the department at (313) 822-7400.

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GPA students get author visit, ‘adopt’ battle flag as part of Black History Month studies

Grosse Pointe Academy teacher Trevor Clor stumbled upon a YouTube channel that not only piqued his interest, but led to an impactful classroom visit and impending project for his fifth- and eighth-grade students. “I happened upon a YouTube channel called ‘The Civil War Digital Digest,’” Clor recalled. “It is run by Michiganders and has fascinating videos on all aspects of the war — military and civilian. ... One video featured Matt (VanAcker) talking about Save the Flags. I thought it would

be a great class project, so I emailed Matt on a whim. He was beyond welcoming. “He then suggested that we focus on the 102nd because of their proximity to GPA and the fact that they were featured in a new book by Jack Dempsey,” he continued. “That really caught my ear because I’ve been reading Jack’s books for years. He has the market on books about Michigan’s place in the Civil War pretty well-cornered in my eyes.” Through his connection with VanAcker, Clor was able to secure

a visit from Dempsey to his classroom, where the author talked about his newest book, “Warriors for Liberty: William Dollarson & Michigan’s Civil War African Americans,” about the Michigan 102nd United States Colored Infantry Regiment. Dempsey provided copies of his book to each student. “They were African American soldiers in the Civil War that were organized in Detroit,” Clor said. “Many are buried at Elmwood Cemetery near downtown Detroit.



PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Author Jack Dempsey spoke to fifth and eighth graders at The Grosse Pointe Academy on Jan. 23, about his book, “Warriors for Liberty: William Dollarson & Michigan’s Civil War African Americans.”

Save the Flags

Back in the classroom, Clor’s students next will learn about Save the Flags, a Lansing-based organization that is in the process of preserving all of Michigan’s Civil War battle flags. Clor’s classes plan to “adopt” the flag of the 102nd and raise money to help restore it.

“This group of soldiers is featured prominently in Jack’s book,” Clor said. “They were also organized not too far from GPA on Detroit’s Eastside. ... We’ll hear from Matt (VanAcker) about this specific group of soldiers. Then, as a class, we’ll brainstorm about how we’d like to raise money. It will be our Black History Month study.”

“Our project began over 30 years ago when the Michigan State Capitol was restored,” VanAcker said of Save the Flags. “The original battle flags carried by Michigan soldiers in the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I had been languishing in cases in the rotunda and east wing of the first floor, some of them since shortly after the capitol opened in 1879. The flags were removed and are now in a special archival storage facility at the state museum and are being treated one at a time by one of the nation’s leading battle flag conservation companies in West

Virginia.

“We are also conducting, for the first time, onsite conservation in the newly opened Heritage Hall addition to the capitol in our own conservation lab,” he continued. “As the state does not fund the project, all of the funding for conservation comes from donations and flag adoptions. Trevor approached me about the possibility of having his classes raise funds, as some other schools have done in the past.”

Donations to Save the Flag, including funds from Clor’s classes to adopt the 102nd flag, go into a general fund, VanAcker noted.

“Then we select flags that are in the most need of work,” he said, “so the money Trevor’s classes raise will go into that one fund and won’t necessarily be spent on conserving the flag they adopt, but in a ‘pay it forward’ way will go towards conserving the entire collection.”

— Jody McVeigh



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT VANACKER

The 102nd U.S.C.T.’s original presentation flag was presented to the men in Detroit by the Colored Ladies Aid Society. Much of the central painted portion of the flag dropped out, but what remains has already been stabilized.



Dempsey brought his presentation to an adult audience later that night at The War Memorial.



COURTESY PHOTO

CTE hosts parents night out

The Grosse Pointe Public School System’s Career and Technical Education program hosted more than 100 youths for a parents night out Friday, Jan. 17. Attendees were treated to pizza, snacks, crafts and a visit from Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, Batman and Capt. Marvel from the Enchanted Princess Party. Child development is the newest CTE offering from GPPSS and available to all high school students, with in-class child care experience available to juniors and seniors. Contact Andrea Gruenwald at gruenwa@gpschools.org for more information.

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Grosse Pointe News



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Grosse Pointe News

Corewell GP physicians among 2024’s Top Docs

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

For around 20 years, Hour Detroit Magazine has compiled a list of the top physicians in the metro area, as determined by their peers. More than 1,000 doctors serving Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston counties recently were selected for the honor from a pool of more than 20,000.

Three Corewell Health Beaumont Grosse Pointe Hospital physicians were among the 2024 honorees, each of whom was nominated via online survey, then passed a screening process conducted by Professional Research Services, which verified the doctors’ licensing and reviewed any infractions through applicable boards, agencies and rating services.

Corewell Grosse Pointe doctors who were deemed the best in their fields of practice included Drs. Jodie Rappe, Baher Bactor and Manaf Madoud.

Rappe, who was appointed chief medical officer and patient safety officer in 2021, graduated from medical school at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Maryland and completed her family medicine residency at Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital in California. She spent 16 years in the U.S. Navy and has been specializing in family medicine around 15 years.

The Grosse Pointe

Farms resident said she didn’t realize she had been nominated for the Top Doc honor until someone called her attention to it.

“It’s huge to be recognized by your peers as being one of the top doctors — someone they think is one of the best,” Rappe said, adding that being nominated by someone who knows “the ins and outs of medicine and can judge the clinical care provided is an immense honor.”

Rappe said she considers herself fortunate to work for the health system, which doesn’t shy away from providing the latest technology and

Bactor, who’s been practicing 30 years, echoed Rappe’s sentiment.

“I live in Grosse Pointe and I work in Grosse Pointe,” he said. “My patients are my neighbors and my family. It’s nice to play such a positive aspect in the community and take care of people I know.”

“The Grosse Pointe hospital is like a little hospital in a neighborhood,” he added. “It’s a special place to work.”

Bactor earned his medical degree from the University of Alexandria Faculty of Medicine in 1987, and completed a family medicine internship at Penn State

‘The Grosse Pointe hospital is like a little hospital in a neighborhood. It’s a special place to work.’

BAHER BACTOR, M.D.
2024 Top Doc honoree

advancements to its teams.

“We give the full spectrum of care, should someone need to be in the hospital,” she said.

Having that hospital in the community in which she lives is an added benefit, she noted.

“This is my community. I got out of the Navy to put down roots and I put down roots in Grosse Pointe Farms. My hospital is here. My clinic is here. I want to be a part of this community and serve and help. I’m glad I get that opportunity every day.”

Anesthesiologist Baher

University in 1990, and an anesthesiology residency at Henry Ford Hospital in 1993.

As chief of anesthesiology at Corewell Grosse Pointe, Bactor said he’s honored to have been selected by his peers as a Top Doc.

“Nobody comes to the hospital to have anesthesia,” he said, noting that a good anesthesiologist adds to the patient experience — helping reduce anxiety and pain, as well as making patients comfortable. “Being recognized like this means a lot to me.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN MCGREGOR

Open for business

Owner Sara Biery was joined by Jenny Boettcher and Abigail Turnbull from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce, City of Grosse Pointe Mayor Sheila Tomkowiak, City Manager Joe Valentine, Main Street Grosse Pointe Executive Director Cindy Willcock, as well as Biery’s family and staff, to celebrate the official opening of the Spice & Tea Exchange. The business is located at 17037 Kercheval, City of Grosse Pointe. For more information, email grossepointe.mi@spiceandtea.com or call (313) 499-8572.

Red Cross: Donors needed now to build up the blood supply

The American Red Cross urges donors to give blood or platelets in February to help build up the blood supply after thousands of donations went uncollected last month.

All blood types are needed — especially type O negative blood — and donors are encouraged to make and keep their donation appointments so hospitals can continue to ensure critical care for patients this winter.

Since the beginning of January, hundreds of blood drives have been canceled and more than 16,000 blood and platelet donations have gone uncollected due to severe winter weather and wildfires. As February continues, so does the potential for additional weather systems to disrupt blood drives. Flu and other seasonal illnesses are spreading,

which also could force more people to cancel scheduled donation appointments, compounding the impact to collecting lifesaving blood products.

To book a time to give blood or platelets, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call (800) 733-2767.

As a thank-you, all who donate blood by Friday, Feb. 28, will receive a \$15 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See redcrossblood.org/flurry for details.

Those who are unable to give blood may consider supporting the Red Cross as a volunteer blood donor ambassador. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience. Learn more at redcross.org/volunteertoday.



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2-3B OBITUARIES | 3B CHURCHES | 3-4B AREA ACTIVITIES

Art of the ages

GPAA lecture looks at works of the masters

By Jody McVeigh
Editor

Anyone who has taken a painting class instructed by Donald Cronkhite knows he’s passionate about art. Not only is the longtime Grosse Pointe Artists Association instructor a talented artist, he’s also knowledgeable about art history, specifically the masters.

He will share his wisdom during the next Your Old Mansion lecture, “Lessons Learned from the Old Masters,” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

His talk will focus on two of the greats: Rembrandt and Monet.

Their relevance then, he said, still rings true today.

“Contemporary artists are influenced by artists of the past,” he said. “Everybody knows Rembrandt and Monet. They seem to be people who represent a movement, so why not focus on those two?”

Attendees will learn about the masters’ techniques, as well as their pertinence.

“Both were successful in their day, both were visionaries, both knew they could make something of themselves, but

their passion also got them in trouble,” Cronkhite said.

The classical style of the era didn’t work in Rembrandt’s favor.

“People wanted beautiful things, perfect things — marble statues, not flabby women,” Cronkhite said. “Rembrandt was going the other way. He wanted to show how people really look.”

Rembrandt drew on his unique understanding of the human condition to add emotional depth to his works, ranging from portraits to scenes from the Bible.

In the late 19th century, Monet joined other rebellious artists to stage an exhibition of their works in a new, contemporary style, which led the group to become known to the world as the Impressionists.

“Rembrandt and Monet are great for getting people excited for things they’ve never thought of,” Cronkhite said. “A lot of artists influenced me, but these two, that’s where it starts. It should be an interesting conversation.”

Cronkhite said the focus of his lecture will be art appreciation; however, he purposely will discuss pieces that can be seen in person in



Rembrandt’s “A Woman Weeping.”



Donald Cronkhite presents “Lessons Learned from the Old Masters” at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Detroit, Flint and Chicago. “People who have always been interested in art, who go to a museum every once in a while because they’re fascinated by it,” should come

to the lecture, Cronkhite said.

“...I’m not pulling slides; I’m pulling experiences,” he added. “... Artwork to me is a diary page out of life. It’s so deep to that person; it’s a piece of you.”

Should there be time left following his presentation, Cronkhite will share some of his own work as a contemporary artist, specifically his Cloudscapes series.

His work currently is displayed at the Anton Art Center in Mount Clemens and the Flint Institute of Arts.

“I see myself as a romantic expressionist artist who likes focusing on nature,” Cronkhite said. “There are other things I do, but I gravitate toward that.”

He credits the masters for his own artistic inspiration.

“I knew in first grade I wanted to be an artist,” Cronkhite said. “I would look at a piece and anticipate the next move of the artist. ... There’s

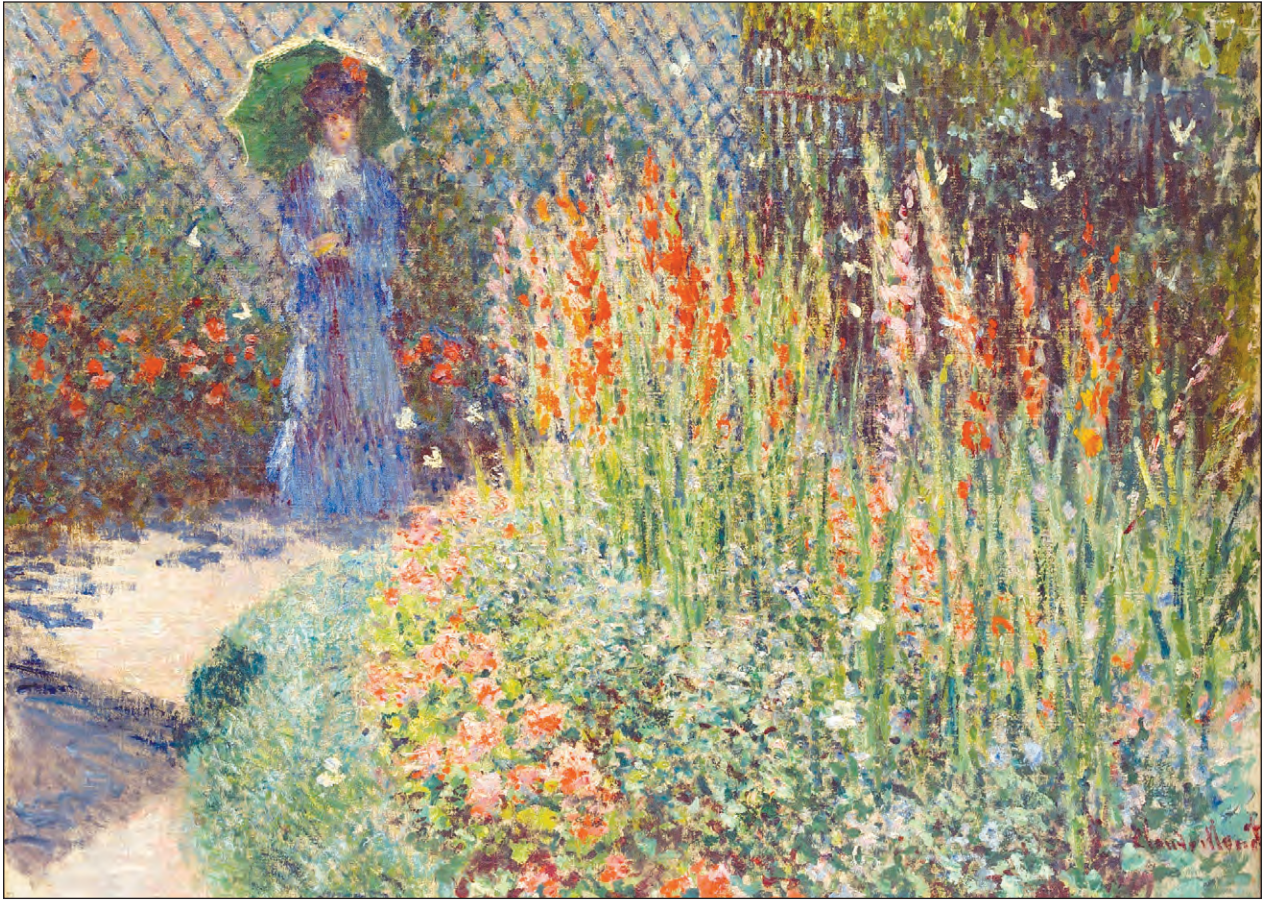
something about knowing how something’s built that makes my own work better.

“... Mark Twain said don’t let school get in the way of an education,” he added. “My knowledge was gained purely by joy because I wanted to do it. It’s easy to talk about something you love. For the person creating art, it’s what you live for — it’s what gets you out of bed.”

Cronkhite paraphrased contemporary artist Louise Bourgeois by saying for the artist, there is no hope: “The only thing that makes an artist happy is to make art.

“You don’t become an artist by choice,” he added. “You become one because that’s who you are.”

Tickets to the Your Old Mansion lecture are \$30 for GPAA members, \$35 for nonmembers, and may be purchased online at grossepointeartcenter.org, under “Events.” For more information, call (313) 881-3454.



Monet’s “Round Garden.”



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OBITUARIES

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

Frederick E. “Ted” Harris III

Frederick E. “Ted” Harris III passed away Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, in Ann Arbor, surrounded by his loving family.

Ted was born in 1940, to Frederick and Margaret Harris of Grosse Pointe. He attended Country Day Elementary School, Parcels Middle School and Grosse Pointe South High School, where he established many wonderful friendships he held close throughout his life.

In 1958, Ted enrolled in The Citadel Military College, a decision that changed the trajectory of his life and profoundly shaped him as a man. Ted had an outstanding cadet career and, after graduation, was deployed to Korea as an aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. William J. McCaffrey, who continued to be a dear friend and mentor throughout Ted’s life. Ted remained an active alumnus of The Citadel. In 1972, he was elected to the board of directors for the Citadel Development Foundation and served throughout his life. He treasured his trips to Charleston and, in 2023, attended his last homecoming weekend there with his Citadel roommate, friends and wives.

Ted married his high school sweetheart, Beverly Smith, in 1964, after he returned to Grosse Pointe from duty in Korea. He was a devoted and doting husband; after more than 61 years of marriage, he still introduced her to others as “my lovely bride.” They raised three children together and were an inspiring example of love and service in their family, church and community.

In 1970, Ted established Fred Harris and Associates, a manufacturers’ representative agency named after his father. For nearly 40 years he ran the company he so dearly loved. His coworkers and customers became like family; he cared for them deeply and spoke to them frequently, even in his final years.

Throughout his life, Ted enjoyed golf and yearly trips with family and friends. After raising their children in Grosse Pointe, Ted and Bev moved to their home on the St. Clair River, where they continued their legacy of kindness and care, raising two of their grandchildren, Noah and Papillon. At the house on the river, Ted spent quality time with his grandchildren fishing, sharing the best stories, giving invaluable advice and watching the freighters go by.

Ted was a man of faith who devoted much of his time to service, church and prayer. In the last year of his life, he was still attending church and meeting weekly for Bible study; he made it his mission to bring God into the lives of others. His Bible always was filled with bookmarks and notes of the scrip-

tures he found so inspiring.

Ted is survived by his wife, Beverly; daughter, Amy; son, David (Melissa); sister, Wendy; grandchildren, Brittany (Branden), Noah (Priscilla), Papillon, Toben, Alexandra, Cameron and Maya; and great-grandchildren, Isabella, Jackson and Ruby. He was predeceased by his daughter, Anne, who has welcomed him into heaven with open arms.

His friends and loved ones will forever cherish his memory and honor his legacy of kindness, integrity and love.

A memorial service will be held at noon Friday, Feb. 28, at Young Colonial Chapel Funeral Home Inc., 4061 St. Clair Highway, East China Township, with visitation to begin at 11 a.m.

Mary Katherine Hester

Mary Katherine (nee Viger) Hester, 78, of DeBordieu Colony, Georgetown, S.C., passed away peacefully at home and surrounded by her family Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025, after a courageous battle with esophageal cancer.

Kathy was born Dec. 30, 1946, in Detroit. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 56 years, James Scott Hester, who passed away Dec. 6, 2023.

Kathy is survived by her four children, Kathryn Kern Hester (Larry Kuzniar) of Georgetown, Mass., Holly Hughes Hester of Lake Wylie, S.C., Susan Scott Hester of Georgetown, S.C., and James Scott Hester Jr. of New Orleans, La. Kathy also leaves behind four grandchildren, Todd G. Kosel Jr., Lindsay Katherine Kosel, L. Holden Kuzniar and L. Grey Hester; sister, Susie (nee Viger) Lambrecht; and brothers, David N. Viger Jr. and Peter E. Viger. She was also predeceased by her parents, David Nathan Viger and Mary Louise (nee Kern) Viger of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Kathy grew up in Grosse Pointe Farms and graduated from Grosse Pointe University School (now University Liggett School). She graduated from Pine Manor College (now Messina College) and then from the University of Michigan, where she met the love of her life, Scott. Together they embarked on a journey across the country, living in Grosse Pointe Farms, Bethesda, Md., Cincinnati, Norwell, Mass. and Charlotte, N.C., ultimately settling in DeBordieu Colony, Georgetown, S.C., for their retirement years.

A lifelong lover of literature, Kathy also was a gifted writer with a beautiful soprano voice. She had a remarkable ability to produce pitch-perfect harmonies and sang with several choirs over the years, as well as impromptu a capella kitchen sessions with her beloved sister, Susie, much to the delight of

her children and anyone fortunate enough to be within earshot. Her kindness, sensitivity and dedication to her community led her to serve in various organizations, including the Sigma Gamma Association of Grosse Pointe Farms, The Colonial Dames of America and the Junior Leagues of Detroit, Washington, D.C., and Boston.

Kathy’s creativity was woven through everything she did — from hand-smocking dresses for her daughters to needlepointing shorebird pillows to hand-painted Christmas ornaments — creating a warm and welcoming home filled with love. She had an eye for beauty and her signature style — hot pink lipstick and Lilly Pulitzer pants — was reflected in the vibrant gardens she lovingly tended. She truly was an artist at heart and her life was a masterpiece of elegance, grace and warmth.

A passionate music lover, Kathy’s taste ranged from Vivaldi to Motown. She was known to join her children in spontaneous dance-offs to the tunes of the The Pointer Sisters or Chic. Her DeBordieu Book Club was a treasured group of friends who brought her comfort, especially after the loss of her husband, Scott. Known for her boundless energy, adventurous spirit and unwavering kindness, Kathy’s life was defined by quick forgiveness, poise and an innate graciousness that touched everyone she met. In earlier years, Kathy loved to ice skate and, with a little help from fear, learned to waterski on her first try. Rumor has it this was after spotting a shark fin trailing her wake! She had a fierce loyalty for her family and friends and cherished life’s simple pleasures: a sunny day, the discovery of a Pawley shell and evenings spent telling family stories on the front porch.

With her spunky sense of humor and love for puns, Kathy was a fierce Scrabble competitor. As a mother, mentor and friend, she instilled in her family the values of kindness, creativity and a deep appreciation for travel and discovery. Whether sitting at lunch with Barbara Bush in the vice-presidential topiary garden, marching for civil rights in Detroit or walking her tyrant pup, Kepley, Kathy’s love for creating cherished memories, especially with her family, was the heart of her life.

A formal celebration of Kathy’s life will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 1, at Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations in memory of both Kathy and Scott Hester to the Avian Conservation Center and Center for Birds of Prey, P.O. Box 1247, Charleston, SC 29402, thecenterforbirdsofprey.org/donate.



Frederick E. Harris III

Paul N. Lavins

Paul N. Lavins, 93, a resident of Grosse Pointe Park, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025. He was at home surrounded by family with his signature peach pin on his lapel. Paul passed away 14 years, 10 months and seven days after the loss of his beloved wife, Dolores. He is dearly missed by loved ones already.

Paul was born Sept. 5, 1931, in Crucible, Pa., to Paul “Stone” and Julia Lavins. He graduated from Cumberland Township High School, where he was mesmerized by one of his closest friends, the vibrant Dolores Jean Jazwa, whom he later courted. Ever the patriot, Paul enlisted in the U.S. Navy and completed boot camp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center and then a year at the Navy Electronics School.

Paul was assigned to the USS Orleck, DD-886, based in San Diego and was deployed twice. During his first tour, his ship patrolled the east coast of Korea, searching to destroy supply trains. He proudly recounted his ship’s achievements, highlighting that it was the only U.S. vessel to destroy two North Korean trains during the war, significantly disrupting their supply chain. After 10 months of service, he returned home for two weeks and took Dolores on their first date. Duty called him back, but his heart remained with her. For the next year he wrote her love letters. His devotion was clear and she happily accepted his proposal by mail. When he returned home, they were married Nov. 17, 1951 — just five days before his leave was up — beginning their life together. They drove from Pennsylvania to where he was stationed in San Diego on Route 66. Paul recalled those months as some of the happiest of his life. Paul was honorably discharged at the rank of electronic technician second class petty officer in March 1953, and was awarded medals of commendation.

Paul and Dolores started their family in Ohio, where Paul worked for an electronics firm and studied at night to complete his electrical engineering degree at Youngstown University. He graduated after 11 years in 1964. During this time, they had three daughters: Paulette, Cathy and Laurie.

Eventually, Paul and Dolores moved to Michigan, where Paul founded American Induction Heating Corp. This enterprise included four subsidiaries specializing in induction heating equipment for domestic and international forging and heat-treatment of metals. In addition, he co-founded Enercon Industries, which became a world-



Mary Katherine Hester



John Michael Rajt

wide supplier to the cap sealing industry following the Tylenol scare of 1982.

In 2000, they created the Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to improving communities through education and the arts. The foundation has impacted countless individuals through its annual college scholarships at Paul and Dolores’ high school, the Dolores and Paul Lavins Activity Center at Windmill Pointe Park and the Dolores Jean Lavins Center for Humanity and Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. It also has supported the Detroit Opera House and St. Ambrose Catholic Church. Paul’s lifelong love for his wife, Dolores, to whom he was married for 58 years, inspired his enduring commitment to giving. His philanthropy reflected their shared values, ensuring that her dedication to the arts and generosity continued. In addition to Paul’s work on the Lavins Foundation, he served on the board of trustees for the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, Kevin’s Song Foundation and Urban Renewal Foundation, as well as as chairman of the St. Ambrose financial council.

Paul’s greatest pastime was fly fishing. His fly fishing adventures took him around the world, as he regularly fished in Brazil, Mongolia, Zambia, Botswana, Tanzania, Lesotho and other exotic sites around the globe well into his late 80s.

Paul is survived by two of his daughters, Cathy and Laurie; his seven grandchildren, affectionately known as “Nana’s Bananas,” Kristin, Lauren (Ryan), Charles (né Nicholas) (Denise), Ashley (Michael), Rachel (C.B.), Spencer (Katie) and Harrison (Marisa); as well as eight “Great Grand Grapes,” Max, Tatum, Lincoln, Hazel, Juniper, Owen, Maven and Stone. He was predeceased by his daughter, Paulette; and his wife, Dolores.

Funeral services were held at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, Paul requested all memorials be sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, 3000 Gratiot, Detroit, MI 48207, svdpdetroit.org/Donate. He would urge everyone to cherish time with their loved ones and dance with them whenever they ask.



Paul N. Lavins



Johanna Diepenhorst

John Michael Rajt

John Michael Rajt, 57, passed away Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, at Henry Ford St. John Hospital.

John was born Nov. 5, 1967, in Detroit, to Michael and Gail Rajt. He graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School in 1985, and worked as a financial advisor at BMR Retirement Group in Grosse Pointe.

John enjoyed playing hockey, traveling and cheering on his Detroit Red Wings and Michigan State Spartans. One of his greatest joys was watching his grandson grow and play hockey. He also leaves behind his dog, Gunner, and his Ford Mustang.

John is survived by his wife, Amy; daughter, Courtney Bryan (Hunter); son, Matthew (Amy); grandson, Brayden; parents, Michael and Gail Rajt; sister, Kathy Tropea; and brother, Tom (Kate Teichman).

A celebration of life is being planned. Contact Verheyden Funeral Home for information or visit verheyden.org.

Johanna Diepenhorst

Longtime resident Johanna Diepenhorst, 90, died peacefully Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

Johanna was a graduate of Wayne State University and an art teacher in the Detroit Public School System for many years. Locally, she taught art and jewelry classes.

With her zest for living, she and her husband, the late Rob, and their beloved dog, trailered their Tanzer 22 sailboat up north for sailing. Over the years, they spent time in Florida and even sailed to Nantucket, Mass.

On land, she loved the Detroit Institute of Arts, Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Humane Society and Loon Preservation Association. She also was a generous and gracious hostess.

Johanna was preceded in death by her husband, Robbert; brother, Herman Mozer; and parents, Anna and Emil Mozer. She is survived by her sister, Heide Thomas, of Anaheim, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held in the spring.

See OBITS, page 3B

OBITS:

Continued from page 2B

Clyde Harrington Thomson Jr.

Clyde Harrington Thomson Jr., 53, passed away Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, in Eastpointe.

Born March 9, 1971, in Detroit, Clyde was recognized throughout his life as an exceptionally friendly and kindhearted man. He was widely appreciated for his handy nature and generous spirit.

Clyde grew up in Grosse Pointe Woods where he attended Grosse Pointe North High School, before carving out a successful career as an independent contractor. Those who had the pleasure of working alongside Clyde knew him as a reliable and highly skilled professional, valued for both his craftsmanship and camaraderie.

A man of many interests, Clyde had an enduring fascination with all kinds of cars and a heartfelt appreciation for various genres of music. Above all, his role as a devoted father to his daughter, Avery, brought him immeasurable joy and pride. His kind and friendly nature made him a cherished presence in the lives of his relatives and friends.

He is lovingly remembered by his mother, Pat Thomson (Keith McCurdy); daughter, Avery; brother, Terry Thomson (Erin); nephew, Nik Thomson; and niece, Riley Thomson. His large extended family includes aunts and uncles, Judi Miller, Sue and Rob



Clyde H. Thomson Jr.

Koebel, Rich Miller, Bill and Pattie Miller and Mark Miller. He also leaves behind many cousins and his former wife, Valerie Thomson. Clyde was predeceased by his father, Clyde Thomson Sr.; and uncle, Jim Miller.

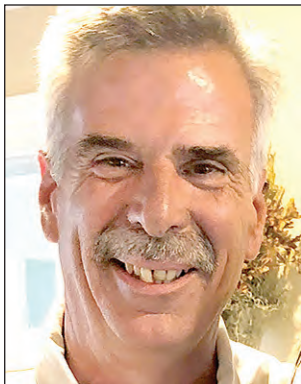
A memorial gathering will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, until the memorial service at 2 p.m. at Chas. Verheyden Inc., 16300 Mack, Grosse Pointe Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a college fund for his daughter, Avery Thomson.

George Alfred Fresard III

George Alfred Fresard III, 64, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo Fresard; children, George A. Fresard IV, Sara Fresard and Rachel Mantei (Noah); grandson, Jeremiah; and siblings, Mary Jo Hollebrands, Julie Fresard and Michael Fresard.

George was a longtime resident of Grosse Pointe Woods, where he raised his family with his wife of 33 years, Mary Jo, in the home he lovingly



George A. Fresard III

renovated. He was respected and loved by his family, friends and coworkers. He was a talented master builder who loved his craft. He worked tirelessly as a project manager at Holsbeke Construction with skill, integrity and humor. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 10, at Our Lady Star of Sea Catholic Church, 467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods. He will lie in state at 9:30 a.m. and lunch will follow.

Visit olsos.org for more details.

Betsy Buda Armstrong

Betsy Buda (nee Bauman) Armstrong, 97, of Grosse Pointe Farms, passed away peacefully Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025.

Betsy was born Oct. 23, 1927, in Milwaukee, to Elsie and Walter Bauman. When Betsy was young, the family moved to Grosse Pointe. She later graduated from Grosse Pointe High School.

A member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, Betsy earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in journal-



Betsy Buda Armstrong

ism from Michigan State University, where she met her husband, John, on a blind date. Together they raised five children and were active members of the Detroit Boat Club. She worked as a Realtor, served with Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe and later worked as a docent at Ford House.

She enjoyed traveling, needlepoint, entertaining, painting and loved all games including Scrabble and Solitaire. She was a competitive bridge player and won numerous marathons. She also was a voracious reader and had a passion for interior design.

Betsy was predeceased by her first husband, John W. Buda; second husband, Thomas Armstrong; son, John Buda; and sister, Mary Sizer. She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn VanCleve (William); sons, James Buda, William Buda (Susan) and Thomas Buda (Jennifer); as well as seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 2000 Town Center, Ste. 1730, Southfield, MI 48075, bit.ly/47PrHTz.

AREA ACTIVITIES

Blood drives

The American Red Cross hosts the following blood drives:

◆ 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.

◆ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, Jefferson Masonic Lodge No. 553, 22000 E. 11 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

◆ 7:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, Henry Ford St. John Hospital, 22101 Moross, Detroit.

◆ Noon to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, Redeemer United Methodist Church, 20571 Vernier, Harper Woods.

◆ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, St. Margaret Catholic Church, 21201 E. 13 Mile, St. Clair Shores.

Register at [redcross blood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

Veterans

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Veterans Club meets from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, with social hour until 5 p.m. The meeting includes a presentation about U.S. Navy aircraft carriers. U.S. Navy veteran William Falinski, who has served on three different aircraft carriers, will answer questions. The meeting takes place in the lower-level veterans room at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms. For more information, call John Bates at (313) 881-4125.

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

◆ Sing to Love with Ramona Collins and Cliff Monear, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14. Dinner and concert tickets are \$85 each, a table for two for \$160 or a table for four for \$320. Concert-only tickets are \$45.

◆ Creative Nature Winter Break Art Camp, Feb. 17 to 21. Cost is \$65 per day or \$285 for the week.

◆ Dave Bennett Winter Brunch Series featuring Sean Dobbins, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. VIP, general admission and concert-only tickets are available.

◆ Conflict and Healing Lecture Series — Part One: The Psychology of Trauma, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

◆ Premier World Discovery Trip Presentation, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26. Trips to be discussed include an eight-day Music Cities Tour and a nine-day Burgundy & Provence River Cruise.

Library

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

◆ 1,000 Hours Great Backyard Bird Count, 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Rep. Veronica Paiz, 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 17, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ MI Science Center presents Kaboomistry!, 2 to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb.

See EVENTS, page 4B

GPN alumnus addresses federalism Tuesday

Constitutional lawyer Grant Strobl will discuss federalism at the Eastside Republican Club Forum at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

"I am excited to welcome my son, Grant, to speak in our community," said his mother, Renee Strobl, the newly elected chair of the Eastside Republican Club. "The principle of federalism is the basis for power sharing between the sovereign states and our national government. I believe every citizen should be aware how we benefit from this division of power and responsibility."

Forum doors open at 7 p.m. for coffee and networking in advance of the meeting. The public is invited at no charge.

Grant Strobl is a 2014 graduate of

Grosse Pointe North High School and an attorney litigating constitutional and administrative law questions before state and federal courts. He also authors legal opinions and advises state agencies.

The Grosse Pointe native has been an activist for common-sense, conservative ideas since he was a student at Grosse Pointe North.

While a student at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Strobl led several initiatives. Most notably, in 2016, he led the drive to oppose the university's gender pronoun mandate by choosing "His Majesty" as his identity, which prompted thousands of his peers to join the protest by choosing similarly absurd identities.

From 2017 to 2023, Strobl served as the national chairman of Young Americans for Freedom, a project

of Young America's Foundation, for which he continues as a member of the YAF board of governors.

Strobl earned a Juris Doctor degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago Law School and has clerked for two U.S. Court of Appeals judges: Judge Edith H. Jones for the Fifth Circuit and Judge David J. Porter for the Third Circuit.

Strobl currently lives with his wife in suburban New Orleans.

Views he espouses are his own and do not necessarily represent those of his employer.

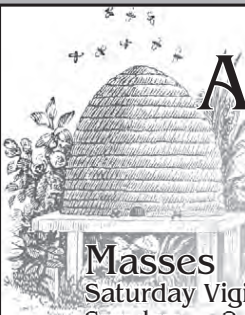
The Eastside Republican Club Forum is held monthly, September through May. Admission is free and the public is welcome. Stay up to date at EastsideRepublican.Club or follow the ERC on Facebook or X.

CHURCH EVENT

St. Michael's

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods, presents its next Lunch Laugh and Learn at noon Thursday, Feb. 20. The Rev. Barry Randolph and Richard Cannon from Church of the Messiah Housing Corp., in Detroit, will speak. All are welcome; a free-will offering will be collected. Reservations are requested by Tuesday, Feb. 18. Call (313) 884-4820.

Worship Service



Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

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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

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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

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EVENTS:

Continued from page 3B

17, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Shelf Indulgence, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Coding: Music Lab Jam Session, 2 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Baby Time, 9:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Storytime, 10:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Peeps Diorama Challenge, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Nonfiction Book Club, 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Reader Dog, 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ GPPL Friends \$5 Bag Sale, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

◆ Readers' Choice Book Discussion Group, noon to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Ewald, 15175 E. Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park.

◆ Grosse Pointe Community Game Meet-Up, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Central, 10 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms.

◆ Teen D&D, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at Woods, 20680 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods.

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.

◆ 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.

Galentine

Aretee Day Spa, 20559 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods, hosts a Galentine Open House from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16. The event, in celebration of Aretee's newest artist, includes champagne, charcuterie, cocktails, free consultations and discounts for future services. Attendees who

bring a friend receive a free gift. Call (313) 423-0087 for information.

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, through May 9, with instructor Janisse Green.

◆ Upscale Jewelry Design for Beginners, 10 a.m. to noon Mondays, through March 3, with instructor Kathleen Robinson Young.

◆ New to Medicare, 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, with facilitators Tony Altovilla and Medicare volunteers.

◆ Field trip to the Motown Museum, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19. Cost for this guided tour is \$30 for members, \$40 for guests.

◆ Lunch and Learn: What is Hospice?, noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, with facilitator Deb Sloss. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for guests.

◆ The movie "Rescued by Ruby" is shown at noon Friday, Feb. 21. Cost is \$3 for members, \$5 for guests, and includes snacks.

Ford House

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

◆ 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.

◆ Trivia Night, 6 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 20 and March 13.

◆ Family Workshop: Maple Tapping, 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Admission costs vary.

◆ Maple Syrup: Tapped, Shaken and Served, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27. Admission is \$30 for members, \$35 for guests, adults only.

For tickets and information, visit fordhouse.org.

Act 2

Grosse Pointe Theatre's Act 2 Senior Readers' Theatre presents "Tales and Tunes," at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 20475 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods. Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Visit gpt.org/Act2.

‘Climate Change & Gardening: Perspectives from the U.K.’ set

Claire Mitchell speaks Feb. 25

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center presents an inspiring and motivating look at the science of climate change and what it means for gardeners during "Climate Change and Gardening: Perspectives from the U.K.," at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Claire Mitchell, aka The Garden Editor, offers the inspiring and uplifting talk, covering the science of climate change in accessible terms, unpacking what global shifts in climate mean in practice for gardens and gardeners. The focus also looks at plants for the changing climate, as well as hints and tips on gardening in a sustainable, climate-friendly way.

A professional horticulturist in the United Kingdom, Mitchell is associated with Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, who have won more than 25 Chelsea Gold Medals



COURTESY PHOTO

Claire Mitchell addresses how climate change affects gardening during the Feb. 25 lecture.

from the Royal Horticultural Society for herbaceous perennials. She also was awarded an RHS bursary to study the Oudolf Garden Detroit on maintenance of naturalistic planting design.

She runs The Garden Editor, a horticulture advice and design consultancy focused on sustainable practices to help

people improve their gardens in a sustainable, affordable way, rooted in the belief that gardening is for everyone, regardless of skills, ability and background.

Tickets are free for Grosse Pointe Garden Center members, \$10 for nonmembers. Purchase tickets online at bit.ly/gpgc_climate or by scan-

ning the QR code. For more information, call (313) 889-1647.



The winners in the adult category for the bed races, with a time of 15.12 seconds, are Grosse Pointe Park City Manager Nick Sizeland, city councilmen Max Wiener and Brent Dreaver and Wiener's son Julius, who raced with Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Michele Hodges on the bed.

PHOTOS BY RENEE LANDUYT

Chilly Fest in the Park

Grosse Pointe Park recently hosted its annual Chilly Fest on Kercheval and Charlevoix. For the fifth year, the event took place in the business district to involve Park businesses and give people dinner options at local restaurants after attend-

ing the festival. Businesses help by providing raffle prizes and Cabbage Patch Saloon hosted a chili cook-off. The event also included a rock-climbing tower, food trucks, s'mores, a ropes course, bed races and a trackless train for kids.



Defer Junior Girl Scouts Troop No. 78081 participated in the bed races at Chilly Fest and won the kids' category with a time of 22.38 seconds. On the bed is Katherine Ryan; pushing it are Bonnie Studders, Elena Wattrick, Makenna Markley and Simone Keagle.



Above, for the Frozen Fish Fling, Teddy Juskow winds up a rubber fish to throw it as far as he can. Left, Martha Faner did great on the Rope-A-Phobia ropes course. Justin Smith, an employee of Allen Entertainment, which owns the course, made sure everything moved along and was safe.



Above, Grosse Pointe Park Sgt. Steve Thiel and Public Safety Officer Jason Lockwood enjoyed s'mores while patrolling the event. Right, Mia Fontecchio enjoyed a s'more with just the right amount of marshmallow. She said standing by the fire to roast the marshmallow made the cold day better.



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Garden Center lecture focuses on ‘Flowers & Food’

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center’s fourth annual Legacy Seminar, “Growing for the Whole Table — Flowers & Food,” takes place 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at The War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore, Grosse Pointe Farms.

The day-long event will examine how to successfully grow both food and flowers in one’s garden, no matter how big or small the space.

Retired arborist Denise Schreiber will present techniques to “Make Your Garden Thrive in 2025.” From recipes using edible flowers to myth busting in gardening and landscape practice, she will share a breadth of horticultural

knowledge and experience. Her talk should inspire and entertain those who are remodeling their gardens, looking for new triumphs or just beginning to garden.

Gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist Melinda Myers’ presentation will focus on “Beautiful and Flavorful Container Gardens.” She will share how to grow beautiful container gardens filled with flowers, herbs, vegetables and fruit plants, as new compact vegetable and fruit varieties make it possible for just about anyone, no matter where they live, to grow their favorite food. Myers also will share attractive combinations and provide tips to maximize a

harvest while keeping containers looking their best.

In addition to the speakers, seminar attendees will have the opportunity to:

- ♦ shop with vendors, including the Grosse Pointe Garden Center and Source Booksellers, the latter of which will have copies of books by both speakers;
- ♦ meet with MSU Extension/Master Gardener program representatives, as well as experts from the Grosse Pointe Garden Center; and
- ♦ enjoy a continental breakfast and buffet brunch with others in the gardening community.

MSU Extension Master Gardeners will receive

two hours of continuing education credit for attending this seminar.

Tickets are \$85 for current Grosse Pointe Garden Center members, \$95 for nonmembers and \$45 for college students with ID. To purchase tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/gpgcLegacy25> or scan the QR code.

For more information, visit gpgardencenter.org/ or call (313) 889-1647.



Melinda Myers
About Melinda Myers

Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author and columnist Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written more than 20 gardening books, including “Small Space Gardening,” “Midwest Gardener’s Handbook, 2nd Edition,” “The Garden Book for Wisconsin” and “Jackson and Perkins’ Beautiful Roses Made Easy.” She hosts the nationally syndicated “Melinda’s Garden Moment” TV and radio program and The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD and instant video series. She is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine, writes a regular column for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and has a nationally distributed newspaper and magazine column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows.



ASK THE EXPERTS By Beth Walsh-Sahutske, M.A., LPC

Having healthy teen relationships

Remember those initial days of your first serious relationship? My memory is forever linked to the scent of Drakkar Noir mixed with stale hockey equipment. Teen romance in the ’80s was no joke! Today’s teens probably smell much better, but the delirious dopamine-filled brain of a teen in love is perhaps still the same.

Getting airtime with your teen may be challenging, but they still look to parents for guidance on healthy relationships. Modeling healthy partnerships is the best communication. Sharing tidbits when an adolescent is lost in love also is a good idea.

Good relationships start with open and honest communication as the cornerstone. Partners should feel comfortable expressing their thoughts, feelings and concerns without fear of judgment. Active listening, where both individuals genuinely pay attention to each other, fosters understanding.

Trust is essential for emotional security. Teens in a healthy relationship are honest and transparent, ensuring that neither feels the need to hide things. Trust is built over time through consistent actions, reliability and integrity.

Healthy relationships recognize and respect personal boundaries. This includes emotional, physical and time-related boundaries. Both parties should feel free to express their needs and limitations without guilt or pressure. Talk with your teen about consent.

Teen couples should uplift and support each other’s goals, dreams and well-being. A strong relationship includes encouragement during challenges and celebration during successes, without jealousy or resentment.

While relationships thrive on connection, maintaining individuality is equally important. Healthy adolescent relationships allow both people to pursue their interests, friendships and personal growth without feeling controlled or stifled.

Disagreements are natural, but handling them constructively is crucial. The goal is to resolve conflicts with patience, compromise and focus on finding solutions rather than blaming each other. Apologizing when wrong and forgiving mistakes strengthens the bond.

These are the ideals we hope teens aspire to develop. But at a minimum,

the crucial bottom line is that a healthy relationship should never involve fear, manipulation or abuse. Both partners should feel emotionally and physically safe, knowing they can express themselves without retaliation.

Eventually, the dopamine high of a new relationship wears off and couples may develop a deeper compatibility. Conversely, sometimes teens spend a long time together simply because it is more convenient. Evaluating if this is still healthy is essential. Lovingly supporting teens through breakups comes with the promise of growth.

Relationships are a lot of work, but hopefully, teens will learn to recognize the joy and fulfillment of healthy relationships as they dream of Netflix rom-com goals like I once did of John Hughes’ version. [Cue the “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” soundtrack’s “Oh Yeah” by Yello.]

Beth Walsh-Sahutske, MA LPC, is a private practice therapist and school counselor for the Grosse Pointe Public School System. She works with adolescents and adults and can be reached at (313) 367-4135 or info@thriveadvantagetagroup.com.

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



About Denise Schreiber

Denise Schreiber is the retired horticulturist/grower for Allegheny County Parks in Pittsburgh. She is an All-America Selections Trial judge, retired arborist, national speaker, freelance writer for Green Profit and Nursery Management magazines as well as several consumer magazines, including the former Pennsylvania Gardener Magazine as the Ask the Expert, author of “Eat Your Roses, Pansies, Lavender and 49 other Delicious Flowers,” a 4-H judge and Mrs. Know it All of The Organic Gardener on KDKA radio.



Denise Schreiber

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Eating healthy and keeping it simple



Dear Gabby: I’m trying to eat healthier, but I always end up reaching for chips or crackers in my snack cabinet because I’m too tired to prepare anything complicated (or healthy). I need snacks that are tasty but easy to make and relatively healthy. Any ideas? — Fat in the Farms

Dear Fat: There are so many great options that hopefully will satisfy

your cravings, while keeping you on track. Here are some easy tricks to help get this year started on a positive and healthy note: Buy fruits and vegetables at the store and cut them up immediately after you get home from the store. Having healthy foods that are ready to eat is key. When you make dinner, consider grilling or cooking additional simple meat or vegetables and keeping them for the

next day to assemble a simple but healthy meal in no time. Consider food services like Pointes Pantry, where you can pre-order things like grilled chicken and steak to have on hand for your busy week. They even offer delicious protein balls, handmade dips and such on a weekly basis. Buy nuts and dried fruit at Trader Joe’s and put them in single-serving snack bags

(they are tiny — about half the size of sandwich bags). Keep a few in your car, in your desk or wherever hunger tends to strike. This will help stop the urge to binge eat. Best of luck for a healthy 2025. — Gabby

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

Presidents Day thoughts

DEAR READERS: Wishing you all a very happy Presidents Day, Feb. 17. Here are some inspirational quotes from past presidents.

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.” — Barack Obama

“It is understanding that gives us an ability to have peace. When we understand the other fellow’s viewpoint, and he understands ours, then

we can sit down and work out our differences.” — Harry S. Truman

“No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his life, in a great cause.” — Theodore Roosevelt

“All of us share this world for but a brief moment in time. The question is whether we spend that time focused on what pushes us apart, or whether we commit ourselves to an effort -- a sustained effort -- to find

common ground, to focus on the future we seek for our children, and to respect the dignity of all human beings.” — Barack Obama

“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.” — Theodore Roosevelt

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.” — Calvin Coolidge

“We must not then depend alone upon the love of liberty in the soul of man for its preservation.” — John Adams

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.” — John F. Kennedy

“Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence; true friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation.” — George Washington

“Strong hearts and helpful hands are



Dear Annie

by Annie Lane

needed, and, fortunately, we have them in every part of our beloved country.” — William McKinley

“We are bound together by the most powerful of all ties, our fervent love for freedom and independence, which knows no homeland but the human heart.” — Gerald Ford

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

“If we do not want to die together in war, we must learn to live together in peace.” — Harry S. Truman

“If we want to invest in the prosperity of our nation, we must invest in the education of our chil-

dren so that their talents may be fully employed.” — Bill Clinton.

DEAR ANNIE: I’m a 73-year-old widow, and I lost my husband in 2018. I had two grown sons; one passed away last October, and the other no longer speaks to me. He believes I abandoned him, though we were never very close.

In 2012, he convinced me to move into a home he purchased, saying it would be best for my husband and me. Later, he claimed the mortgage required him to live there, too. Our relationship was strained; he barely acknowledged us unless he needed help with his son, my only grandchild. One day, he casually asked if we had plans to move. I was stunned but took it as a sign we were no longer wanted. Wanting to spare my husband more stress, I arranged for us to leave while my son was at work. I know I should have spoken to him first, but I was intimidated by him. Later, I heard he was angry and felt abandoned.

We have barely spoken since. When my husband passed, he briefly reached out to deliver his ashes -- but he had me pay for the urn without telling me. When my other son died, he called out of obligation but never followed up. I tried reaching out, but his responses were short, so I stopped.

Now, I am alone, aging and in declining health. I want to reconnect, but he seems uninterested. I would like to leave him a letter when I pass, letting him know I always loved him, even though I struggled to express it. I feared talking to him because I felt inferior. What should I say in this letter? — Lost and Lonely Mother

DEAR LOST AND LONELY MOTHER: First, let me say how deeply sorry I am for the losses you’ve endured. Deep sorrow from losses and the weight of unspoken words can be an unbearable burden. You clearly love your son, and it’s heartbreaking that your relationship has

CONTEST!



“My favorite activity is the word searches. I’m really good at them and I enjoy doing them.”

— Jonathan
Grosse Pointe Farms

Kid Scoop

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We Tried It!

by Anna Lizer



When Michigan winters hit hard, dressing warmly without sacrificing style can be a challenge. Enter fleece-lined tights, the unsung hero of cold-weather fashion. I gave a popular pair from Amazon a try and — spoiler alert — they are a game changer.

At first glance, these tights look like your standard black translucent stockings. The secret is that the “skin” you see through them is actually a flesh-toned fleece lining. It is a clever illusion that lets you keep that chic, semi-sheer look while staying toasty warm. And warm they are. I wore

these tights on a brisk walk to dinner downtown and felt just as cozy as if I were in my comfiest pair of pants.

I ordered my usual size and the fit was spot on. The tights are thoughtfully designed with multiple size options, accommodating various heights and weights, which means no awkward adjustments throughout the day.

The tights come in versatile colors like black, grey and brown, making them easy to pair with any outfit, whether you are dressing up for a party or layering for work. Made with 73 percent polyester,

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20 percent spandex and 7 percent nylon, they are thick, plush and resistant to pilling.

At just \$22, these are an affordable addition to any winter wardrobe. The tights are also easy to care for. Simply hand-wash them and hang them to dry to maintain their quality.

In short, these fleece-lined tights are a must-have for anyone looking to stay warm while keeping their style intact. I'm giving this product 5 out of 5 alligators because whether you are

braving a Michigan winter or just want to add a little extra coziness to your outfit, these are worth every penny.

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

A sweet for your sweetie

Courtesy of Mombeau’s Table

I love making pots de creme or “jars of cream” if translated. They sound so fancy when in reality they are so easy to make. One of my first recipes for the Grosse Pointe News was a chocolate pots de creme spiced with cayenne pepper and cinnamon.

This Valentine’s Day I wanted to make another unique flavored version. This recipe has white chocolate and orange zest and is perfumed with cardamom pods. Yes, this is a unique flavor combination but I promise you that it works. I watched my family take bites. They all thought it was just a thick vanilla custard and had to process the flavors, which are subtle.

If you are familiar with the taste of cardamom, you will recognize the sweet, peppery and earthy taste right away.

If you aren’t, it will make you stop and think. It will give you pause and question what you just ate, in the best way.

Use patience when whisking the milk and cream mixture into a custard. However, this recipe is very forgiving. If you scramble some of the eggs, the mixture gets pushed through a sieve and then blended. It will come out smooth at the end!

Step out of your culinary comfort zone and show your Valentine how much you love them with this sweet, rich and silky treat.

Cheers, Mombeau

White Chocolate and Orange Pots de Cremes with Cardamom

9oz white chocolate chips

1 cup whole milk

1 cup heavy cream

6 egg yolks

6 tbsp sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

4 cardamom pods

1 tsp orange zest

¼ tsp Salt

Fresh raspberries for garnish.

Pour chocolate into a blender. In a medium saucepan, add remaining ingredients on medium heat. Whisk constantly for six minutes or until the mixture coats the back of a spoon. It should almost come to a boil but not a full on boil so you don’t scramble the eggs.

Pour hot custard mixture through a fine mesh sieve over the chocolate. You will need to use the



PHOTO BY KAREN FERGUSON

back of a spoon to push it through. Blend until smooth.

Pour the custard mixture into six ramekins or small bowls. Chill for at

least two hours. Garnish with an orange slice and fresh raspberries.

by Dan Berger

Aromatic intrusions

I renamed it the “unhappy hour,” even though the thought was appreciated.

The hotel put out two wines at 4 p.m. in its lobby, a white and a red. A sign invited guests to help themselves. Ignoring that the wine wasn’t exciting, I nonetheless poured two glasses and we sat on a couch.

Then I noticed what most other hotel guests never would have: the smells.

There were scented votive candles on every flat surface in the lobby, imparting such a strong scent I couldn’t smell the wine at all.

Then there was the

wineglass — it smelled like chlorine from the additive used to make them sanitary. The carpeting was new, so the lobby smelled like petroleum, and the entry door kept opening, allowing vehicles’ fumes to spew in.

The aromatic intrusions were so annoying that we had only one choice. We went around the corner to a shop, bought a bottle of vinho verde from Portugal, and did our own happy hour in our room.

Some people don’t pay any attention to this stuff, but numerous aromatic interferences act as roadblocks to appreciating fine wines. And the

more subtle the wine is, the easier it is to interrupt its delivery of a key element.

One of the most obvious examples, and it’s relatively unavoidable, comes in restaurants where kitchen smells are a huge part of the dining experience. And it gets even worse in places that do tableside preparation, such as that of Steak Diane, where brandy or cognac are added to the dish, which then is dramatically flamed in the middle of the dining room!

That precise experience occurred to me years ago at an otherwise excellent restaurant — just after we had opened a bottle of a great white Bordeaux. All we could smell was the Worcestershire sauce and the mustard, which Steak Diane calls for.

It is for reasons such as this that I rarely order subtle white wines when I am out to dine. Chablis, chenin blanc and other similarly delicate whites

usually cannot stand up to the assertive aromas that many foods impart.

I reserve such lighter wines for seafood and certain Asian foods, such as Thai and Japanese, which are usually better with white wines anyway.

Best bets when dining out are fairly forceful reds, in particular when you can decant them to open up their aromatics and allow them to compete with ambient smells in the room.

The best reds in the aromatic competition derby are syrah, petite sirah, zinfandel, malbec, and merlot. Older red wines have more aromatics to deliver, but they’re typically more expensive.

Similar aromatic challenges occur when sampling wines out-of-doors. Some people may not be able to smell grass, trees and other flora, but those scents do have a way of impeding our ability to sense wine’s more elusive characteristics.

If nothing else, the

wine-sniffing experience outdoors differs from the same wine poured inside.

Another pitfall occurs when the vessel isn’t glass. The wrong kind of plastic can give off such a foul smell that the wine is virtually ruined.

I once was a judge at a wine competition where the white plastic tablecloths smelled like a petroleum plant.

This subject makes more sense when you’re

considering quality wine, from which you’re trying to experience all of its charms. If all you care about is how wet a wine is, ignore the foregoing.

To find out more about Sonoma County resident Dan Berger, visit the Creators Syndicate web-page at www.creators.com.

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ANNIE:

Continued from page 2C

become so distant.

If you’d like to leave him a letter, please do! Tell him you’ve always loved him, even if you didn’t always know how

to show it. Acknowledge that misunderstandings and mistakes were made on both sides but that your love for him never wavered.

Let him know you’re proud of him, and no matter the distance between you, he has

always mattered to you.

Most importantly, write the letter for YOU, too. It’s a way to release the pain of the past and make peace with what you cannot change. Whether or not he embraces your words, you will have spoken

your truth with love. But don’t save the letter until after your death. Write it, and give it to him NOW!

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

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JULIE B. DENNY PRODUCTIONS

Left, Rudy Pankow as Erwin Vandaveer and Thomas Haden Church as Merle in the 2024 movie “Accidental Texan,” written by Julie B. Denny and Cole Thompson and directed by Mark Lambert Bristol.

MOVIE REVIEW
“Accidental Texan”
2024 - Rated PG-13
1 hr 44 min
★★★★☆

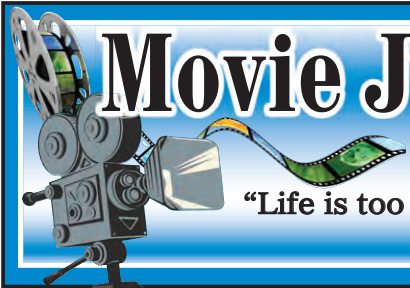
Thomas Haden Church is one of my favorite underrated actors. I’ve enjoyed him in numerous films including his recent gem “Acidman.” If you haven’t seen this excellent little film, I highly recommend it. He shines once again in

“Accidental Texan” and is a commanding presence in every scene he appears in. But enough of my preaching about Church, on to this week’s review.

This film is based on Cole Thompson’s novel “Chocolate Lizards” and stars Church along with Rudy Pankow (“Outer Banks”), Carrie-Ann Moss and another fave, the legendary Bruce Dern. It’s directed by the

talented and highly sought after storyboard artist Mark Bristol. It reminds me of an old-time Hollywood picture where you have a pretty good idea what’s going to happen, but still enjoy it every step of the way. Sometimes you need a healthy dose of comforting movie going, and that’s where “Accidental Texan” really delivers.

Erwin Vandaveer (Pankow) is a young,



Movie Junkie Mark

by Mark Domin

“Life is too short to watch mediocre movies”

aspiring actor on his way to his first big breakthrough job.

We catch him on his phone, talking to his enthusiastic agent as he arrives from California in New Orleans. He’s so pumped about the job, he simply can’t get off the phone. He blabs constantly as assistants apply makeup and fit him into a vest that appears to have small cans as props attached to it. He’s told to get off the phone and we even see a sign on the door with a warning about cell phones. (I found myself mumbling, “Get off the phone!”).

Almost as soon as they begin rolling, his phone starts to ring, which triggers small explosions from his vest, simulating his body being riddled with bullets. It totally ruins the scene and needless to say, he’s instantly fired.

The devastated Erwin is soon on his way, driving back to California. Unexpectedly, his Prius breaks down in the middle of nowhere.

He ends up in a cozy café in the small town of Buffalo Gap, Texas. There, he’s comforted by the restaurant’s understanding owner Faye (Moss). He then encounters the man destined to change his life, Merle (Church). Merle’s a gruff, down-to-earth oil

driller who needs some serious financial help. He has a small, one-rig operation and is down on his luck. He hasn’t struck oil in quite some time, and he has exactly one month to strike black gold before he forecloses on his mortgage. The local bank and a greedy oil tycoon are in cahoots and licking their chops, in anticipation of his demise.

Since Erwin doesn’t have the \$600 he needs to repair his car, Merle offers him a job. He asks Erwin to use his acting skills to pretend to be a landman, to keep the greedy bankers at bay. And he does a credible enough job of it to convince them to back off. It marks the beginning of a mutually beneficial friendship. In the course of their interactions, they reveal a bit of their pasts. Erwin dropped out of Harvard, much to the disappointment of his father, to pursue a career in acting. And Merle lost a son in a car accident a few years before, which he hasn’t totally comes to terms with. He becomes sort of a surrogate father to Erwin, which is heartening to see unfold.

In their quest for oil, the two discover the potential on some nearby property. This plot of land just happens to be owned by a character named Scheermeyer, played brilliantly by Bruce Dern. As per usual, Dern is a cantankerous old coot who’s infatuated with his prize-winning heifer. He lives by himself and his grumbling is almost hard to understand. At first he wants nothing to do with the offer to drill on his property, but after some buttering up by Faye he warms up to the idea.

With the clock ticking, Merle, Erwin and their crew race feverishly, hoping to find oil before the bank takes over. It’s



a nail-biting scene that’s full of every cliché you can imagine. But that’s just fine. Sometimes it’s comforting to watch a film where you can guess how it’ll end. And that’s exactly what happens here. Just about the only thing missing is a mushy love scene between Merle and Faye. But the story is fine the way it is. Ultimately, “Accidental Texan” is a fun, enjoyable movie perfect for some quality family viewing time.

Currently streaming on Hulu and to rent on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and other streaming services. .

My rating system:

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

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

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

★★★★ One you’d recommend to friends.

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

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

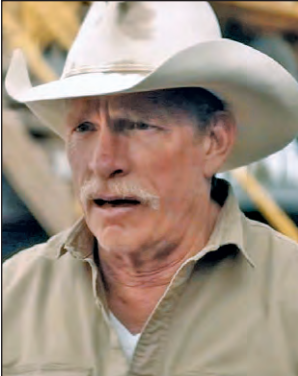
Also, if you’re looking for more recommendations, be sure to check out my blog: moviejunkiemark.blogspot.com.



Rudy Pankow as Erwin Vandaveer.



Carrie-Ann Moss as Faye.



Thomas Haden Church as Merle.



“Accidental Texan” movie poster.



Bruce Dern as Scheermeyer, in the barn with his beloved heifer.



An evening rendezvous.



Merle (Church) & Faye (Moss).

Royal Stars

Weekly Horoscopes

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

Happy Birthday for Thursday, February 13, 2025:

You are energetic, quick-witted and outgoing. You want life to be exciting. This is a year of service for you, probably service to family. Therefore, take care of yourself, because you will be a resource for others. Perhaps this is a year for a personal makeover.

ARIES
(March 21-April 19)

Today you might have to put the emotional or practical considerations of someone else before your own. You're not being a martyr; it's just what's happening. Look for ways to help someone else. This will be rewarding and satisfying for you. Tonight: You're popular.

TAURUS
(April 20-May 20)

Today you can't conceal your feelings from others, and you shouldn't try. This is because you need to be yourself and feel who you really are. Romance is more powerful! Relations with women in general will be improved. You might feel more protective or nurturing of children today. Tonight: You look good.

GEMINI
(May 21-June 20)

This is a good time to retire by yourself to your own private place. You need a break from the demands of the busy outside world. Memories of your childhood might bubble to the surface of your mind. You also might see how old habits control your daily behavior. Tonight: Travel or learn.

CANCER
(June 21-July 22)

Today you feel a strong need to talk to someone and say something that's important to you. This means you want someone else to listen to you in a genuine, interested way. You'll feel frustrated if people want to be casual and chitchat about the weather. Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO
(July 23-Aug. 22)

Because it's easy to identify with your possessions today, you might not want to lend something to someone. You also might find yourself having to defend your views or ideas when there really is nothing at stake. Tonight: Get rest.

VIRGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today the Moon is in your sign, which can make you more emotional than usual. This occurs every month for two and a half days. However, on the upside, when the Moon is in your sign, your luck is slightly improved. How can you use this to your advantage? Tonight: Work.

LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today you might be tempted to withdraw from the world around you and seek some solitude and peace and quiet (if you have the chance to find some). This is also a good day to explore mystical or spiritual disciplines, because your Spidey sense is highly tuned. Tonight: Socialize.

SCORPIO
(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Your emotional contact with friends is important to you today. Likewise, you might be interacting with a group, club or organization. In either case, you might be surprised that you feel protective of someone. You also might feel jealous if a friend pays more attention to someone else. Tonight: Relax.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

For some reason, people seem to know personal details about your private life today. Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control. You might want to use your influence to help someone today. Or perhaps you will use the influence or clout of someone else if you can. Tonight: Learn.

CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today you want to get away from it all. Of course, travel is not the only way to get away from everything. You can explore the world through books, learning, film and talking to others. Be a tourist in your own city. Tonight: Check your belongings.

AQUARIUS
(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Take time today to check out debt, bills and anything related to inheritances, insurance issues and shared property. Stay on top of these matters, because they don't go away by themselves (despite what we might wish). Spend 15 minutes tidying up loose ends. Tonight: You're confident.

PISCES
(Feb. 19-March 20)

Today you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others to be successful. (This is no biggie.) Be prepared to be friendly and accommodating. It's wise to also be willing to help someone, especially a partner or a close friend. You'll feel good. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

BORN TODAY
Actress Sophia Lillis (2002), test pilot Chuck Yeager (1923), actor Neal McDonough (1966).



Find 10 Differences



WINTER

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

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

SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
FIREPLACE
MUG

SCARF
WINTER
CANDLE

REINDEER
PENGUIN
COCOA

HOLIDAY
SWEATER
WREATH

Contract Bridge

THE METHODICAL APPROACH

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

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

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	

Opening lead — jack of spades.

It would be easy to make six hearts on this deal if you could see all the cards. You ruff a spade in dummy, take a trump finesse through East and finish with 12 tricks, losing only a diamond. But in real life the hand is not that simple. Since you have nine trumps in the combined hands, you might feel tempted to cash the A-K and so end up down one.

Situations of this sort occur frequently. In general, when missing four to the queen in a suit, it is best to play the A-K rather than finesse against the queen. This approach will succeed slightly more often over the long haul.

Declarer should conclude that since there is no good reason to play the trumps abnormally, he will have to lose a trump trick if either opponent started with three to the queen. He should therefore focus on the problem of trying to find a way to escape a diamond loser should the need present itself.

By timing his plays properly, South can meet this goal, setting up an extra club trick in dummy to take care of his diamond loser. He begins by winning the spade lead with the ace, then plays a club to the ace and ruffs a club.

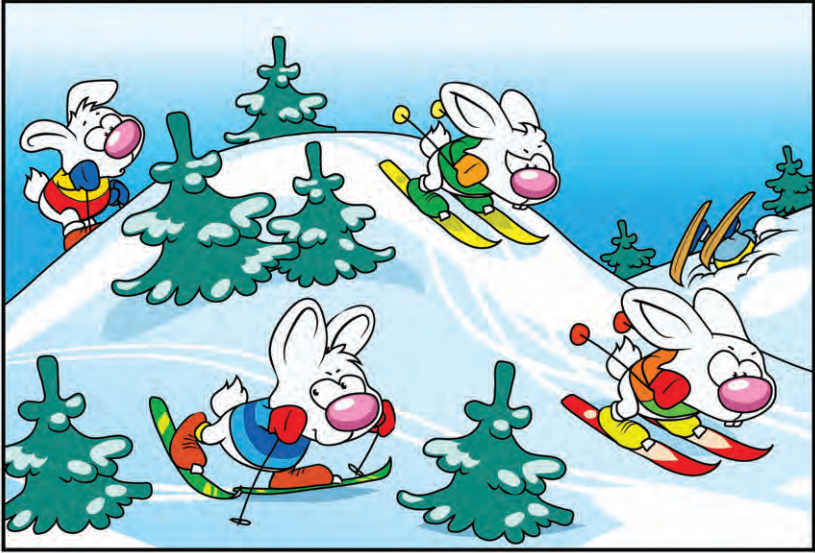
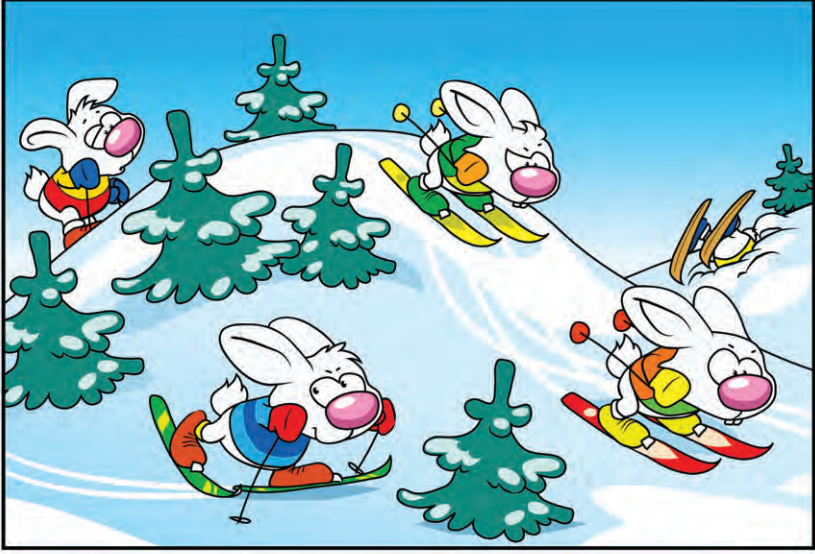
Next, he cashes the K-A of hearts and learns that East has a trump trick coming. He then cashes the king of clubs, discarding a diamond, and ruffs a club, establishing dummy's nine as a trick.

Now he trumps a spade with the jack and plays the nine of clubs, discarding the eight of diamonds. Whether East ruffs or not, the only trick South winds up losing is a trump.

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by Steve Becker

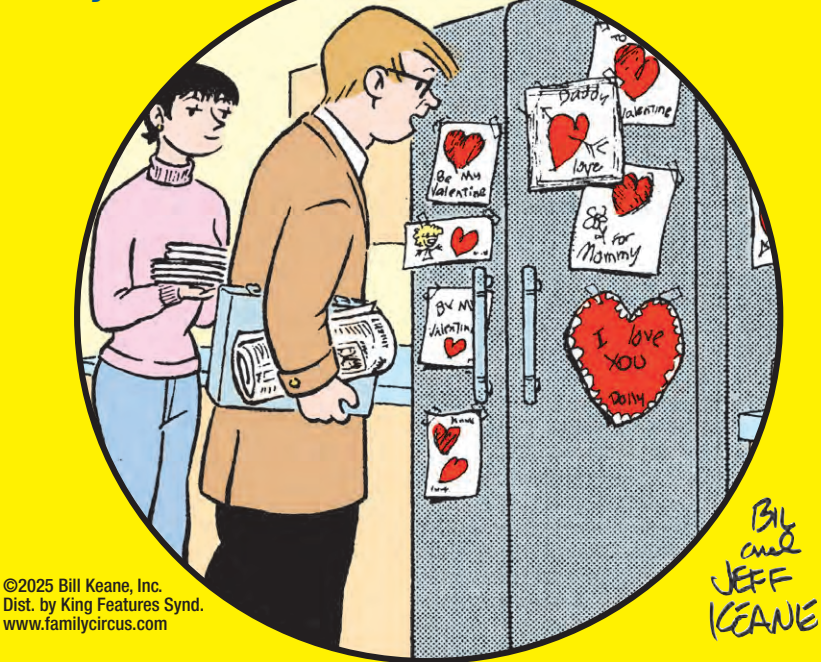
Find 10 Differences



Puzzles and

Family Circus

Bill and Jeff Keane

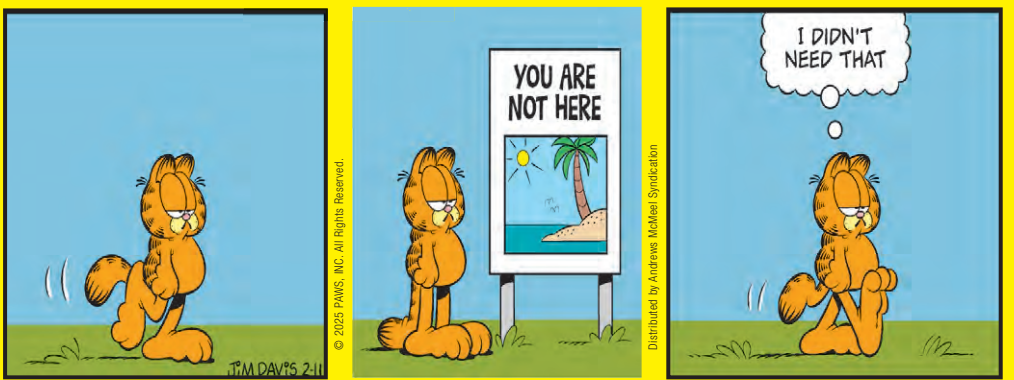


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**"Home is where the heart is.
Especially in February."**

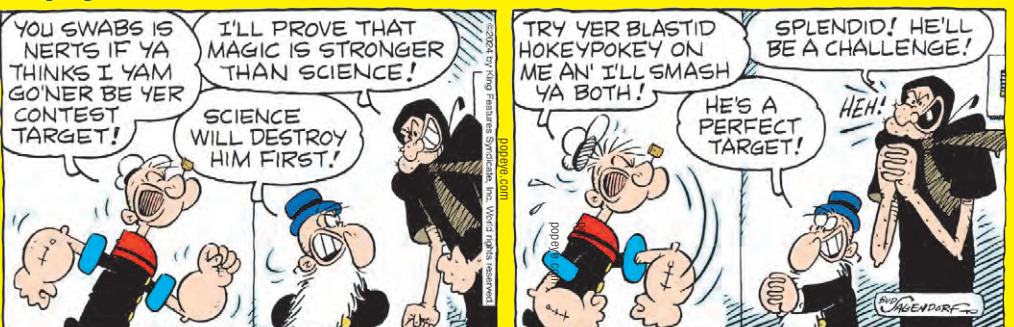
Garfield

Jim Davis



Popeye

Bud Sagendorf



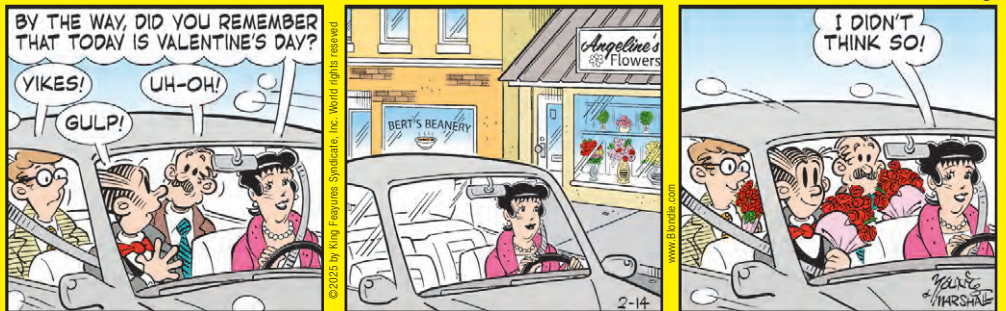
Beetle Bailey

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 Carrillo

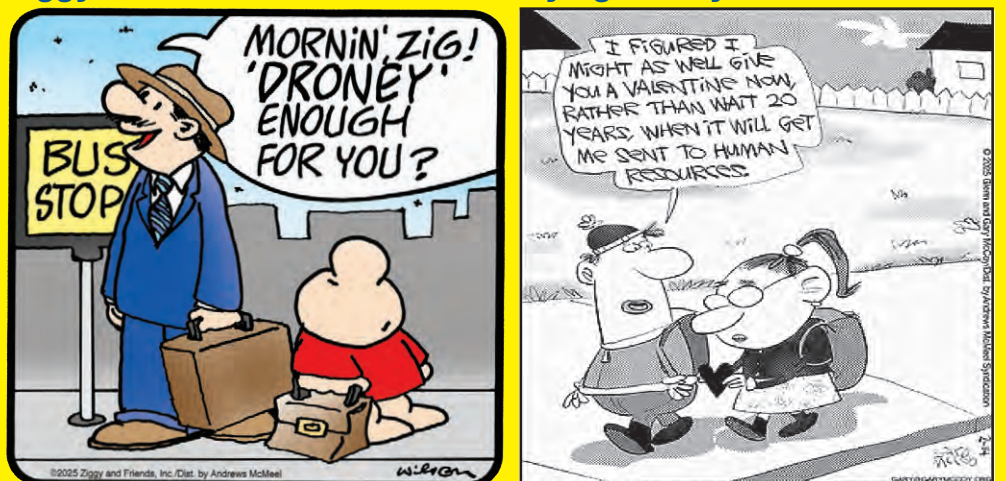


Ziggy

Tom Wilson

Flying McCoys

Glenn McCoy



UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

2/13

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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

Previous puzzle solution

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

2/6 Solution

Universal Crossword

Edited by Taylor Johnson February 13, 2025

ACROSS

- Acquired family member
- Golf standard
- "Catch ya later!"
- Wafer brand
- "Achtung Baby" co-producer Brian
- Olympic gymnast Comaneci
- Prickly plants
- Place to do dead lifts
- "4 real?"
- Some updates from the pilot: Abbr.
- Piece that can become a queen, in chess
- Iran's capital
- Flowing, in music
- Simple organisms
- Sang for the neighbors, maybe
- Welsh dog breed
- Language similar to Thai
- Small motorcycle
- "... but I might be wrong"
- Every last drop
- Rids of typos
- "Live (Taco Bell slogan)"
- Show stoppers?
- "The Matrix" protagonist
- "Great" animals

DOWN

- "Monsters,"
- Actress Vardalos
- Hybrid bus.
- "The seamster's acclaimed skill for refashioning gave him an ..."
- "Give it time"
- Cribbage pieces
- Whichever
- Easy win
- "I asked you a question!"

- "The seamster said that when it comes to patching a hole, you must know how to ..."
- Passports, e.g.
- Common dressing ingredient
- Put into words
- "Mean Girls" actress
- Gasteyer
- Chicken king
- City near Seattle
- Hybrid hip-hop subgenre
- Part of a symphony orchestra
- Super G competitor
- totter
- Favored to win
- From Bulgaria, e.g.

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

2/6 Solution

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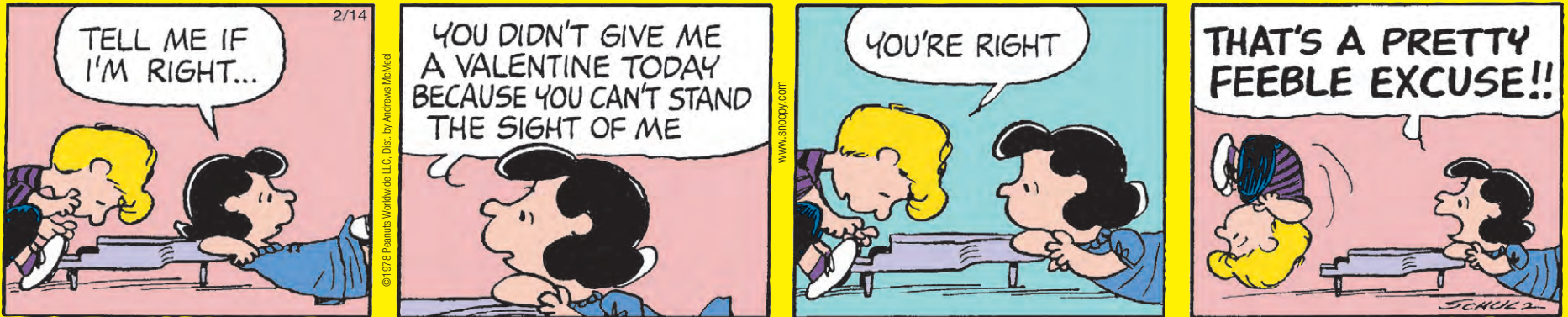
Tailor's Version by Desiree Penner and Jeff Sinnock

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15			16				
17					18			19				
			20		21			22	23			
24	25	26						27		28	29	30
31					32			33				
34					35	36		37				
38					39			40				
41					42			43			44	
45			46		47					48		
		49		50					51			
52	53							54			55	56
57					58	59	60	61	62			
63					64					65		
66					67						68	

Comics

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



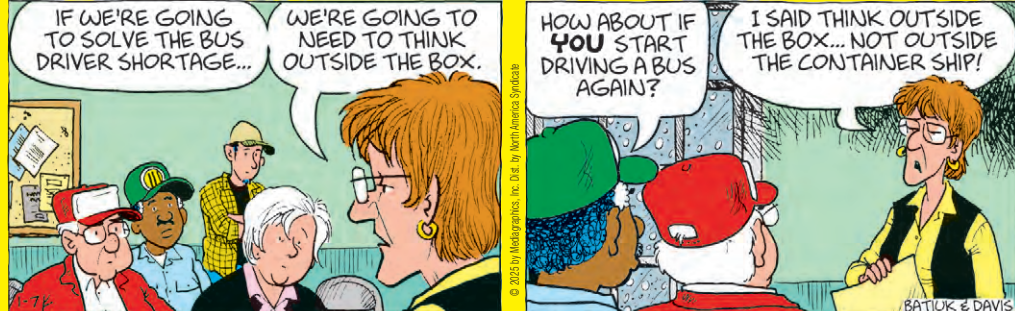
Hagar The Horrible

Dik Browne and Chris Browne



Crankshaft

Tom Batiuk and Dan Davis



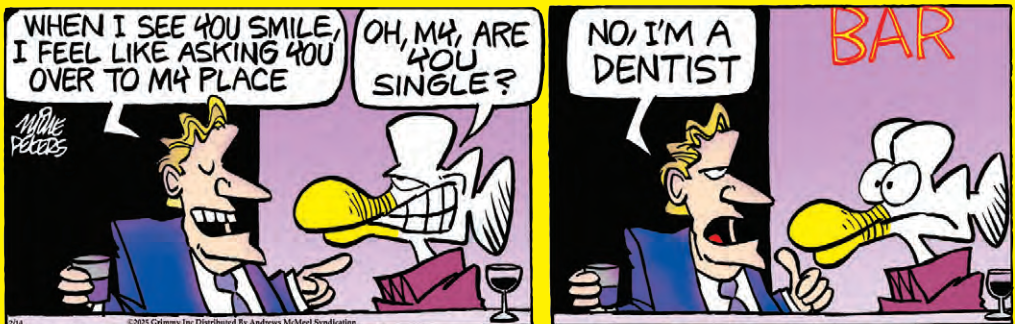
Crock

Created by Bill Rechlin and Brant Parker



Mother Goose and Grim

Mike Peters



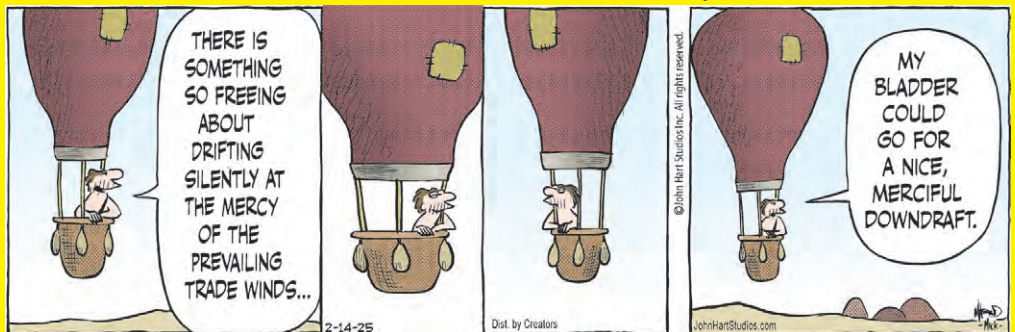
Carpe Diem

Niklas Eriksson



B.C.

Johnny Hart and Mason Mastroianni



Wumo

Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



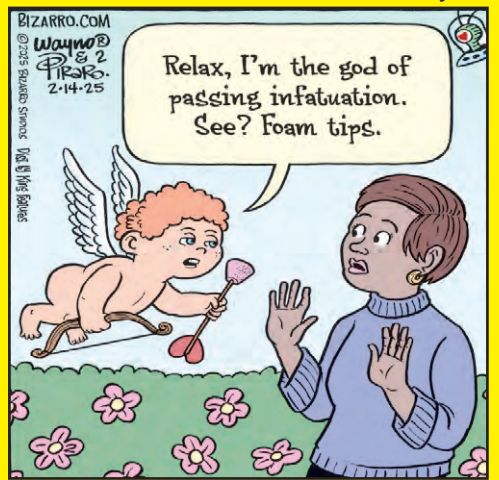
Reality Check

Dave Whamond



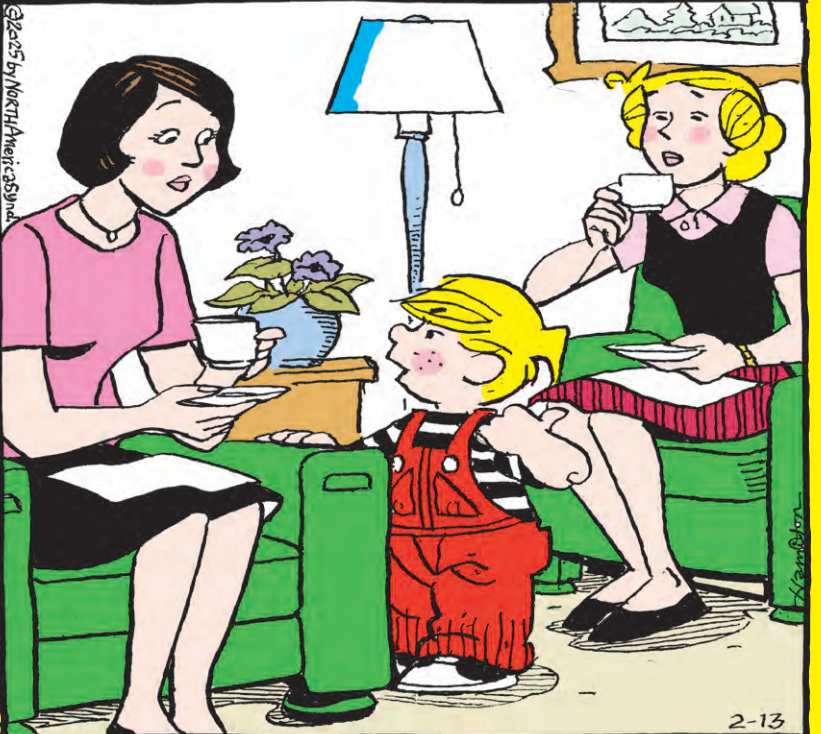
Bizarro

Dan Piraro and Wayne



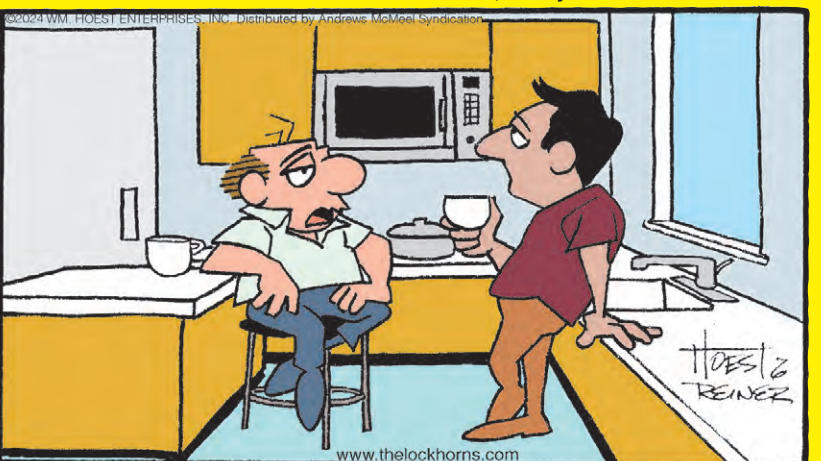
Dennis the Menace

Hank Ketchum, Scott Ketchum, Ron Ferdinand and Marcus Hamilton



The Lockhorns

Bill Hoest, Bunny Hoest and John Reiner



Close To Home

John McPherson



Marmaduke

Paul & Brad Anderson





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Kid Scoop Together:
Silly Valentine Game

All you need is a small bag or bowl and three or more friends to play with!

- Directions:**
- ♥ Cut out the coupons below.
 - ♥ Fold them in half and put them into a bag, bowl or box.
 - ♥ One by one, players select a piece of paper from the container.
 - ♥ Two at a time, the players start performing their actions, without laughing. The first person to laugh is out.
 - ♥ Repeat this until only one person is left in the game.

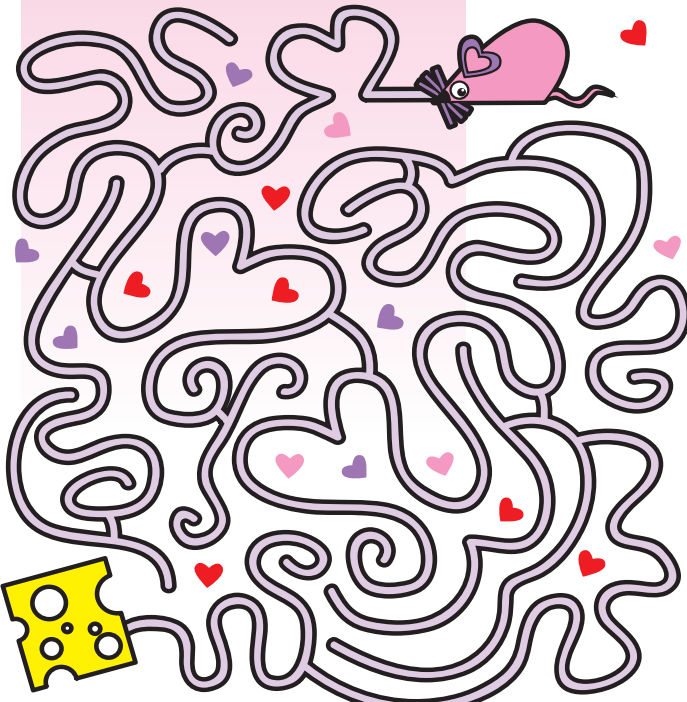
Valentine's Day Crafts

Hearty Mouse

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



Help the mouse reach the cheese.

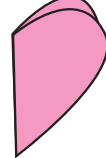


STEP 1:



Cut out a big pink heart.

STEP 2:



Fold the heart in half.

STEP 3:



Cut out two smaller hearts.

STEP 4:



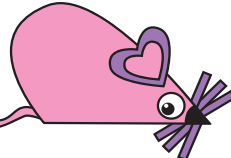
Glue small hearts to make an ear. Glue on a googly eye or draw an eye.

STEP 5:



Cut out six little strips to make whiskers. Cut out a squiggly tail.

STEP 6:



Glue on whiskers and tail. Use marker to make a black nose.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written step-by-step directions.

Love Bugs

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:

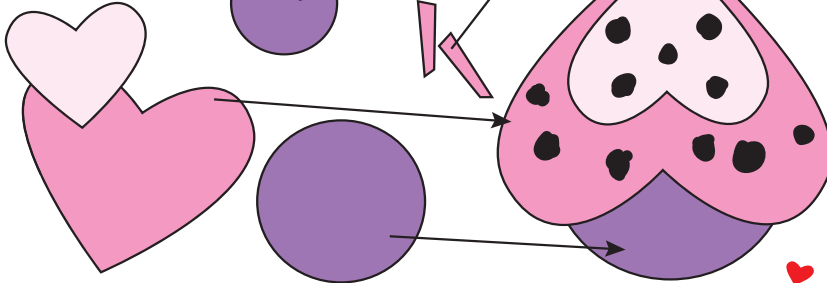


STEP 1:

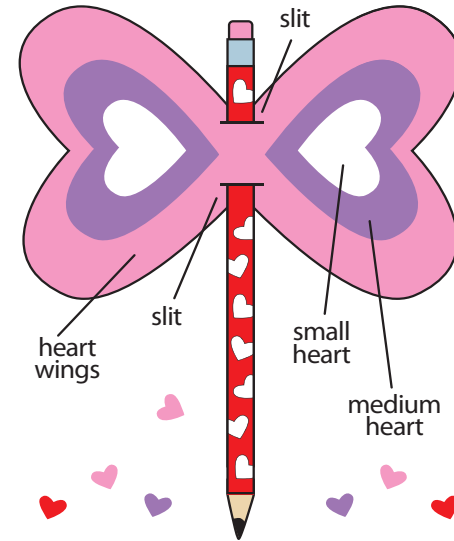
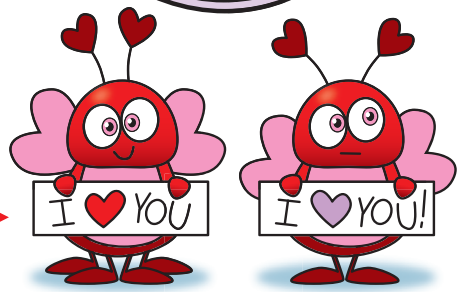
Cut out a large and a small heart shape, a large and small circle, and two small strips.

STEP 2:

Glue together as shown. Add spots and eyes with marker.



How many differences can you spot between these two love bugs?



Valentine Butterfly Pencil Topper

STUFF YOU'LL NEED:



STEP 1:

Cut out heart-wing shape, two medium sized hearts and two small hearts.

STEP 2:

Glue a medium and a small heart on each wing.

STEP 3:

Make two small horizontal slits at center of heart wings. Insert pencil through slits.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Happy News

Look through the newspaper for one to three pictures, words or articles that make you feel happy.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw a line from each Valentine's Day message to the animal who wrote it.



Double Double Word Search

VALENTINE
WHISKERS
MESSAGE
STORIES
FLUTTER
HEARTS
PATENT
SQUEAK
MARKER
PAPER
CANDY
TAIL
DARK
DRAW
BELL

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



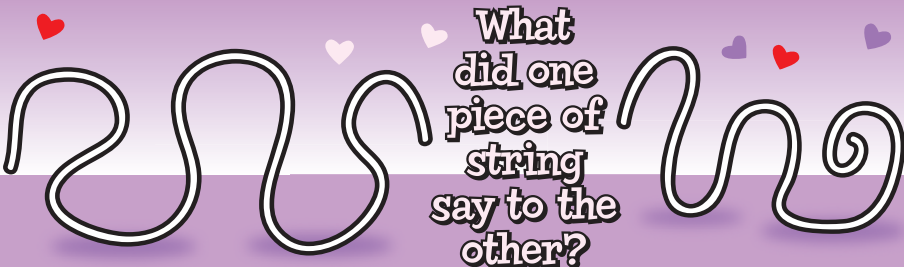
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Valentine's Day Dot-to-Dot

On one page of the newspaper find and circle the letters that spell the words, "Happy Valentine's Day!" Then connect the dots to make a design. Color in the design.

Standards Link: Hand-eye coordination.



Write On!

Animal Valentine's Day Messages

If you were an animal, what would be your Valentine wish? A python might want to be your favorite "squeeze." Or a cat might be purrrr-fect for you.

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Norsemen win team district title while South shows strength at individual districts

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

It was a busy week on the mats last week for varsity wrestlers from Grosse Pointe North and Grosse Pointe South, with both team and individual district tournaments taking place. The Norsemen found their success at the team district tournament and captured a Division 2 district title, while the Blue Devils had some strong showings at the Division 1 individual district championship tournament over the weekend.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen needed to win a single matchup when it entered the Division 2 team district tournament Wednesday, Feb. 5. North faced off against Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy in the district championship and the Norsemen fought to a dominant 53-21 win.

“I’m super proud of this group as they continue to work together to build this program up and overcome obstacles that we’ve faced as a team, still finding ways on the days it counts to



PHOTO BY MELISSA SPAIN

Grosse Pointe North varsity wrestling celebrates with the Division 2 district championship trophy after defeating Detroit Cesar Chavez Academy in the district tournament final last Wednesday, Feb. 5.

get together and compete at a high level,” North wrestling coach Jaron Nelson said. “We are really thankful for our senior leaders, Barrett Nelson and Grady Mead, for showing this younger group the ropes and letting them know the standard. Team districts are a great start, but we talk about it often how we need more, continuing to make wrestling

bright in the eyes of the community. We are excited to see what’s in store as we continue building, brick-by-brick.”

The win at the team district finals helped move the Norsemen on to the team regional round of the postseason. The Norsemen faced Warren Woods-Tower in the Division 2 regional semifinals after press time

Wednesday, Feb. 12.

After the team district win, the North wrestlers then turned their attention to the Division 2 individual district championship tournament Saturday, Feb. 8. The Norsemen had another successful day that saw three wrestlers from the team qualify for spots in the individual regional tournament.

One of those wres-

tlers was senior Grady Mead, who qualified for regionals in the 150-pound weight class. Mead defeated Lamphere’s Jalyn Card in his first match of the day and was victorious over William Pickens from Center Line in the quarterfinals. Mead lost his semifinal matchup to Deacon Mancinelli from Brother Rice, but placing in the top four at the district tourna-

ment was enough to move him on to regionals.

Another regional qualifier for North was junior Dwayne Howell. Howell competed at 190 pounds and earned a spot at regionals after coming up just short of winning an individual district title.

Howell won his quarterfinal match over Center Line’s Mario Perham and claimed a spot in the district final match after defeating Jaden Carter from Redford Union in the semifinals. In the district championship match, Howell was unable to overcome Amari Richardson from Warren Woods-Tower, but finishing as the district runner-up sealed his spot at regionals.

North’s third and final regional qualifier was sophomore Carlos Jackson at 120 pounds. Jackson lost his quarterfinal matchup, but recovered to make a run in the consolation bracket. Jackson defeated Carter Green from Detroit King in the consolation quarterfinals and won over Lake Shore’s Trevor Zablocki

See WRESTLE, page 6D

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Williams’ grit helping North boys basketball on road to success

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

In Michigan, people know the key to any successful basketball team is a tough and gritty, but talented big man. Rick Mahorn, Bill Laimbeer and Ben Wallace exemplified this while winning championships with the Detroit Pistons. At Grosse Pointe North, RJ Williams has become that guy for the Norsemen.

Williams has been on the North varsity boys basketball team a few seasons, but is playing some of the best basketball of his career his senior year. Standing 6 feet, 7 inches, and being a former football player, Williams often is the biggest player on the court in any given game. He has had to make decisions in his life between football and basketball — and even chose to not play varsity football at North

Grosse Pointe News



RJ Williams

School: Grosse Pointe North
Sport: Basketball

Sponsored by Oasis Heating & Cooling

for the 2024 season — but has always enjoyed basketball and treated the game with the same enthusiasm he had when he first started playing as a kid.

hustling and gave up on basketball for a little. I hopped back into basketball because AAU came around and I started hooping. ... I got

“I learned from some friends because we used to play in the backyard,” Williams said. “... I just started my life off being a center-slash-forward a bit. ... I joined football and was

to North and wanted to live my life as a hooper.”

The time and effort Williams has put into his game certainly has not gone unnoticed, especially this season. Williams is averaging 12 points and 12 rebounds per game so far, while also shooting upwards of 60 percent from the field.

The potential for Williams to be a leader both on and off the court always has been there, in the eyes of his coaches. This season, it has fully come to light and helped with North’s success as the team currently sits in first place in the MAC Blue Division. This type of performance his senior year is something Williams was gearing up for and his focus leading up to the start of the season was on doing whatever it took to make himself a better player to benefit the team.

“I had to work on my



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

North senior RJ Williams steps up to the free throw line in a game against DeWitt on Jan. 3.

right-hand layups and didn’t have a lot of good hustling up and down the court because I

See ATHLETE, page 6D

Big Man On Campus

- Averaging 12 points and 12 rebounds per game this season
- Scored 13 points for North in win over Adrian on Feb. 8
- Has been a member of North’s varsity football, boys basketball and track and field teams



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North and South boys swim teams earn top 10 finishes at county meet

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Some of the best swimmers from around metro Detroit converged on Grosse Pointe South Saturday, Feb. 8, as the Blue Devils hosted this year’s Wayne County Championship Meet. The boys varsity swim and dive teams from South and Grosse Pointe North were in action and both ended the day in the top 10, in a field of 20 teams, with the Norsemen taking

fifth place with 136 points and the Blue Devils in sixth at 130.5 points. One of the best performances of the day for North came from Brady Winbigler. The sophomore finished second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 4:55.01. Winbigler’s podium finish helped give the Norsemen a major boost in points on their way to earning fifth place. Two South swimmers placed in the top 10 in the event, with Duncan Richards

(5:04.46) finishing seventh and Lucas Curtis (5:10.75) taking ninth. Winbigler also was part of the 400 freestyle relay team for North that took fifth place in the event, along with teammates Paul Stephens, Tyler Collins and James Gusmano. Gusmano, Collins, Stephens and Thomas Kezhaya made up the 200 free relay team for North that finished fourth. Gusmano also had an individual top-five finish when he took fourth place in the 50



PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY RICHARDS

South distance swimmers Finn Cornwell, Lucas Curtis and Duncan Richards warm up in the pool before racing in the Wayne County Meet on Saturday, Feb. 8.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE NORTH ATHLETICS

North swimmers get together to celebrate capturing fifth place at the Wayne County Meet on Saturday, Feb. 8.

free with a time of 0:22.12. For South, Richards’ seventh-place finish in the 500 freestyle was one of the team’s best finishes for the day. Thomas Brieden also earned seventh place for the Blue Devils in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:03.03. Brieden, Owen Mulcahy, Nadeem Haurani and Jack Finazzo took sixth place for South in the 200 free relay. In the 400 free relay,

Brieden, Finazzo, Mulcahy and Richards finished in the top 10, in eighth place. The Blue Devils also had two top-10 finishers in the diving competition. Troy Richards finished in fourth place while Ethan Hurford took ninth place. Brendan Beland, the lone swimmer representing University Liggett School, earned a couple of big finishes at the meet as well. Beland was second in the 200 freestyle with a

time of 1:46.49. He also finished second in the 100 butterfly with his time of 0:52.29. North’s team visited Dakota after press time Tuesday, Feb. 11, and will host St. Clair at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13. The Blue Devils hosted their senior day after press time Tuesday, Feb. 11, against Lakeview. South hosts an invitational with Midland Dow, Dakota and Detroit Country Day at noon Saturday, Feb. 15.

South girls hoops celebrates 300 wins for Richards as season enters home stretch

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

With the final few weeks of the regular season and playoffs approaching, Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball took a moment last week to celebrate a milestone for its longtime coach. Wednesday, Feb. 5, head coach Kevin Richards was joined by family and friends, as well as current and former players, to celebrate surpassing 300 career wins this season. “It’s a reflection of the type of kids that we’ve had and that I’ve been able to coach,” Richards said. “... I was lucky to coach some good kids

and am in my 24th year and when you coach that long you have some really good teams and some years where you don’t. It comes and goes and I think we’ve been pretty consistent and I’m really proud of the teams we’ve been able to have at South.” Richards began coaching at South in 2007, and previously coached at L’Anse Creuse North. During his tenure with the Blue Devils, Richards helped lead the team to eight league championships and back-to-back appearances in the Division 1 state finals in 2012 and 2013. The game at which Richards was honored

last Wednesday ended in a close 49-43 loss for South against Henry Ford II. The Blue Devils endured another close loss at home Friday, Feb. 7, falling to Dakota 39-36. South has four games remaining in the regular season before the playoffs begin early March. Despite last week’s losses, the Blue Devils currently sit in fourth

place out of six teams in the MAC Red Division with a 3-5 division record. The relatively young team has shown signs of promise against some of the toughest competition the area has to offer within its own league. The season is beginning to reach the point when every team wants to play its best basketball and Richards believes

South is getting there. There still are adjustments to be made, but there is little doubt the Blue Devils will be ready to compete for a district title and possibly more once the postseason arrives. “Passing and ball security is going to be huge,” Richards said. “We’ve been doing a good job on the glass and defensively. For us to continue

to improve, we need to continue to take advantage of when we have numbers in transition and scoring on two-on-ones and three-on-tuos.” South hosted Warren Cousino after press time Tuesday, Feb. 11. The Blue Devils go on the road to face MAC Red Division leader Eisenhower Thursday, Feb. 13, with tip off at 7 p.m.

City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

BOARD OF REVIEW

Meetings for the purpose of reviewing the 2025 Assessment Roll for the City of Grosse Pointe Farms, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held by the Board of Review on:

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

From 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

and

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

and

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025

From 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

and

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at City Hall, 90 Kerby Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236.

Hearings will be scheduled by appointment. Please contact City of Grosse Pointe Farms at (313) 640-1618. You may also petition the Board in writing through the mail if you cannot make the hearing dates. These letters HAVE TO BE IN THE OFFICE BY 4:00pm ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25th.

G.P.N.: 2/13/25; 2/20/25; 2/27/25



PHOTO COURTESY OF KARA RICHARDS

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls basketball coach Kevin Richards is joined by his team along with friends and family to celebrate achieving 300 career wins this season.

North wins big over Adrian, South falls to River Rouge in The D Zone Showcase

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

The anticipation for a big day of boys high school basketball action at Grosse Pointe South High School was building for weeks before the D Zone Playoff Tune-Up Showcase finally arrived Saturday, Feb. 8. The showcase featured seven games throughout the day in South’s main gym and local teams highlighted the final games of the night. Grosse Pointe North defeated Adrian in the penultimate game of the event, while Grosse Pointe South came up short against River Rouge in the finale.

Grosse Pointe North
The Norsemen were matched up against Adrian in a game North expected to be a true test of its success so far this season. North had to handle the Maples and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee commit Stevie Elam, but it proved to be no trouble for the Norsemen as they walked away with a 58-43 win.
“Early on, both teams were feeling the game out,” North boys basketball head coach Rob

Johnson said. “As we got into the third quarter, it felt like our defense really stepped up and we made them take tough twos and it seemed like (Adrian) took a contested mid-range jump shot almost every possession in the third quarter. The guys stuck to the gameplan really well and we executed almost flawlessly.”
Last Saturday’s game between North and Adrian was tightly contested, at least in the first half. The night started with the teams trading shots and, ultimately, the first quarter ended in a 14-14 tie.
Both teams continued to press on the gas in the second quarter as they looked to gain an advantage going into halftime. North remained slightly ahead and a three-pointer from Ben Rickerman in the final seconds of the first half helped give the Norsemen a five-point lead at 30-25 going into the locker room.
The second half was when things began to swing North’s way. The defense for the Norsemen began to clamp down on the Maples as the team dominated the third quarter.

North allowed Adrian to tally just four points in the entire quarter, as a five-point lead was extended to 15 with the Norsemen up 44-29 going into the fourth quarter.
Adrian never recovered. Even though the Maples’ offense picked things up again in the fourth quarter, North maintained a healthy advantage throughout, cruising to a 15-point win.
Leo Perettie led the way for North with a stellar performance, scoring 24 points and recording 10 rebounds. Senior big man RJ Williams reached double digits with 13 points.
The goal of The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up was to give teams another chance to face some non-conference opponents ahead of the playoffs, which are scheduled to begin in a couple of weeks. North knew it would be tested against Adrian and was able to stand up to the task, which the team believes is a positive sign as it prepares to face a similar level of competition in the post-season.
“We were able to see a Division I prospect a



South guard Kooper Richards brings the ball up the floor in the Blue Devils’ game against River Rouge on Saturday, Feb. 8.

couple of weeks before district play and we’re going to see Division I kids during the district tournament, so I think it got us ready for that,” Johnson said. “... We also learned that, as we continue to stick together as a team and make the players we’re going to see in districts take tough twos and mid-range jump shots, we like our chances. We have a lot of belief in our locker room right now.”
The win improved North’s record to 14-4 this season as the Norsemen turn their attention back to their quest for a MAC Blue Division championship. North hosted Anchor Bay after press time Wednesday, Feb. 12. The Norsemen then travel on the road for a rematch against the Tars at Anchor Bay at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.

Grosse Pointe South
South, as the host school for the showcase, capped off the night in the seventh and final game of the day. The Blue Devils faced the River Rouge Panthers and while South was able to hang around for much of the game, it wasn’t quite able to

catch River Rouge in what ended as a 69-52 win for the Panthers.
Much of the game saw the Blue Devils with a deficit in the range of nine or 10 points — in range to possibly make a comeback, but not quite getting there. The Panthers jumped out to an early lead that left

‘We were able to see a Division I prospect a couple weeks before district play and we’re going to see Division I kids during the district tournament, so I think it got us ready for that.’

ROB JOHNSON
Grosse Pointe North varsity boys basketball head coach

South having to play catch-up much of the game as River Rouge led 19-9 after the first quarter.
South’s offense picked up the pace a bit in the second quarter but was still trying to keep up. The 10-point lead for River Rouge was extended to 11 going into halftime as the Panthers were still in front 33-22.
The second half was much of the same, with South managing to get the deficit down to single digits at times, but

with River Rouge continuing to stay in front. The Panthers remained up by 10 at 47-37 going into the fourth quarter and eventually pulled away for the 17-point victory to close out the night.
Kooper Richards continued his string of strong performances

this season for South as he finished the night with 16 points. Adam Czarnik also reached double digits with 15 points in the loss.
The Blue Devils returned to the court after press time Tuesday, Feb. 11, for another non-league game as they went on the road to face Ferndale. South remains on the road for its next game as the team returns to MAC Red Division play, visiting Dakota at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14.



PHOTOS BY MIKE ADZIMA

North senior Leo Perettie scored 24 points for the Norsemen in their 58-43 win over Adrian in The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up Showcase on Saturday, Feb. 8.

The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up final scores

Some of the best varsity boys high school basketball teams arrived at Grosse Pointe South High School on Saturday, Feb. 8, looking to make a statement in The D Zone Playoff Tune-Up Showcase. Here is a full recap of the final scores from the seven games throughout the day:

Game 1
L’Anse Creuse def. Hazel Park 67-50.

Game 2
Center Line def. Imlay City 43-33

Game 3
Warren Fitzgerald def. Saginaw Heritage 49-47 (OT)

Game 4
Linden def. Utica Eisenhower 73-68 (OT)

Game 5
Macomb Dakota def. Flint Elite 72-48

Game 6
Grosse Pointe North def. Adrian 58-43

Game 7
River Rouge def. Grosse Pointe South 69-52

CITY OF HARPER WOODS
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SYNOPSIS: REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 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, except for Cheryl Costantino
MOTIONS PASSED
1) To receive, approve and file the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held January 22, 2025 and furthermore receive and file the minutes of the Local Officers Compensation Commission held on January 22, 2025.
2) to adopt the Performance and Indemnification Resolution authorizing the City to make necessary repairs to county roads and sidewalks, and further to adopt the Performance and Indemnification Resolution authorizing the City to take any necessary restorative corrections to county roads and sidewalks, and further to adopt the Performance and Indemnification Resolution authorizing the City to temporarily close county roads and/or place temporary banners within the right-of-way.
3) That the agenda of the regular City Council meeting having been acted upon, the meeting is hereby adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED
1) (1) approve the Accounts Payable/Payroll Vendor listing for Check Numbers 131741 through 131832 in the amount of \$1,218,239.95 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 the City of Grosse Pointe Farms in the amount of \$9,324.55 for Harper Woods’ proportionate share of the Intermunicipal Radio System for the period July 1 through December 31, 2024. (3) approve payment to Simplified Business Solutions in the amount of \$6,123.49 for the email hosting, security and backups of our computer system for the month of January 2025 and for IT support services for all departments and the purchase of cables, monitors and a keyboard. (4) approve payment to McKenna Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$21,519.07 for the professional services provided with the update to the Zoning Ordinance and for providing zoning verification information. (5)approve payment to Oakland County in the amount of \$6,845.00 for fees relative to the CLEMIS computer system utilized by the Police Department.

Valerie Kindle, Mayor

Leslie M. Frank, City Clerk

Published: GPN, February 13, 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:

GIRLS BASKETBALL

University Liggett School varsity girls basketball made it three straight wins on Friday, Feb. 7, taking down Ann Arbor Greenhills 56-28 at home. The Knights faced Lutheran North after press time on Tuesday, Feb. 11, and will battle Greenhills again on the road on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 5 p.m.

Grosse Pointe North varsity girls basketball snapped its losing streak on Monday, Feb. 10, by getting a dominant 62-23 win over L'Anse Creuse North. The Norsemen visit Port Huron on Thursday, Feb. 13, with tip off scheduled for 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY MIKE ADZIMA

GIRLS HOCKEY

Grosse Pointe South varsity girls hockey was victorious over Washtenaw United 6-0 last Saturday, Feb. 8. Ruby Lenhard and Molly Reynolds led the way with two goals apiece while Charlie Harr and Sophia Husek added the other tallies for the Blue Devils. The game also marked a fifth shutout performance in the last six games for South goalie Rosie Smith. The Blue Devils visited Livonia United for a road game after press time on Wednesday, Feb. 12. They close out the regular season on Friday, Feb. 21, against Regina.

North varsity girls hockey picked up two wins last weekend. The Norsemen dominated St. Clair Shores 9-0 on Friday, Feb. 7. Josie Cueter scored twice and so did Paige Martin. Maia Bumphus, Leah Burney, Ava Villani, Kate Kasuba and Leanna Phillips all added goals for North as well.

North picked up another win on Sunday, Feb. 9, taking down Bloomfield-Birmingham 4-1. Cueter finished the game with a hat trick while Martin also found the back of the net. North takes the ice at home on Saturday, Feb. 15, hosting Plymouth-Canton at East Side Foundation Hockey Arena with puck drop at 12:30 p.m.



BIG GAME PREDICTIONS WINNER!

Congratulations to University Liggett varsity girls lacrosse and field hockey head coach Amanda Amine for being this year's champion of the Grosse Pointe News' Big Game guest pickers contest! While none of the contestants were able to predict this year's game being as lopsided as it was, Amine did correctly pick the Philadelphia Eagles to win. She also predicted the Eagles to score 34 points, making her one of only a few who came close to Philadelphia's actual total of 40 points. What set coach Amine apart from the rest was her correct pick of Eagles' QB Jalen Hurts as the game's MVP.

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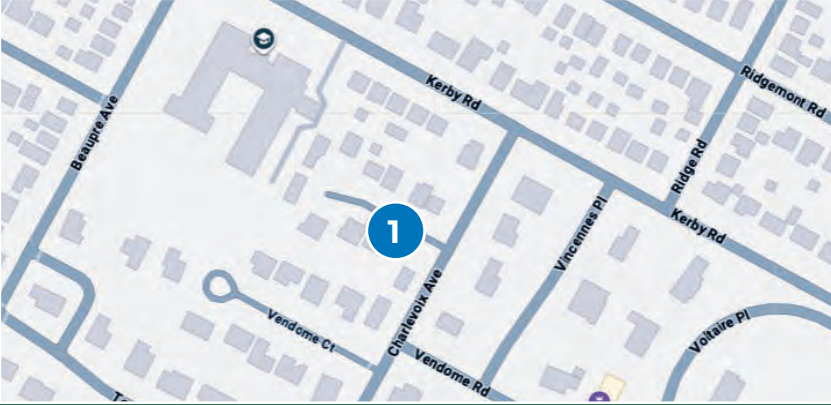
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Grosse Pointe News

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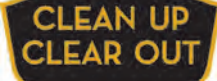
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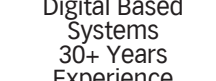
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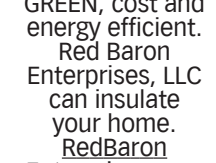
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Liggett girls hockey to continue season with new head coach

By Mike Adzima
Sports Reporter

Days after University Liggett School officials announced the cancellation of the remainder of the varsity girls hockey season, the school announced last week the season will continue for the program with a new head coach. School officials released a letter to players and families of Liggett’s varsity girls hockey team Thursday, Feb. 6, announcing the season was back on.

“As we move forward first and foremost prioritizing student-athlete safety we are pleased to share that, after further discussions and planning, we are committed to finding a way to finish out the remainder of the 2024–2025 Girls’ Ice Hockey season,” school officials stated in the letter. “Our primary focus is ensuring that our student-athletes

have the opportunity to play, develop their skills and enjoy the remainder of the season.”

The letter announced that Jason Chmiel would take up the duties of head coach for the remainder of the season. Chmiel previously spent time as an assistant coach with Liggett’s varsity girls hockey team and also recently served as the head coach of the school’s boys JV hockey team.

“Being a teacher, being an educator and being a parent, I’m not going to let the kids go without,” Chmiel said about coaching the team. “So I stepped in and we’re going to keep this thing on the tracks and have another successful ending to the season.”

Last Thursday’s announcement came a couple of days after school officials sent a letter to varsity girls hockey players and

families Tuesday, Feb. 4, informing them of the decision to cancel the rest of the season.

“Because the number of athletes committed to playing for our Girls Ice Hockey program this season has declined, we now face the reality that there are not enough student-athletes to safely continue the 2024–2025 Girls Ice Hockey season,” the letter, which was obtained by the Grosse Pointe News, said.

The Grosse Pointe News also obtained copies of messages sent from families of players on the team to school officials, citing concerns around the team and previous coaching staff dating back to last March. School officials did not give further comments to the Grosse Pointe News regarding those messages.

The Knights resumed the season after press time Tuesday, Feb. 11, in a game against the

16U Metro Jets. The team is scheduled to play again Saturday, Feb. 15, against Orchard Lake St. Mary’s at 3 p.m. at Big Boy Arena in Fraser.

The season resumes after a period of uncertainty for players and families, but the Knights now have the chance to continue the season and compete for a fourth Michigan Girls High School Hockey League state championship in five years.

To do that, Chmiel wants to make sure everyone returns to the ice ready to play like a team again.

“Making sure that we’re all on the same page,” Chmiel said. “I shared my goals for this year, including making sure all these girls enjoy coming to the rink every day. That’s the first priority. Being a good teammate and working hard. ... The wins come by doing everything else the right way.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Jason Chmiel, who previously served as an assistant coach for Univeristy Liggett girls hockey will take over head coaching duties for the remainder of the season.

WRESTLE:

Continued from page 1D

in the consolation semifinals to move on to the finals, where he eventually lost to Joe Hakim from Brother Rice.

Mead, Howell and Jackson will go on to compete in the Division 2 individual regional tournament Saturday, Feb. 15, hosted at Warren Woods-Tower.

Grosse Pointe South

The Blue Devils also had a strong showing at the individual district tournament Saturday, Feb. 8, after suffering some disappointment earlier in the week at the Division 1 team district tournament. South lost a close match to Detroit Cass Tech in the team district semifinals, with setbacks due to injury and illness ultimately handicapping the Blue Devils in a 36-33 loss.

The Blue Devils



PHOTO COURTESY OF GROSSE POINTE SOUTH ATHLETICS

From left: Neil Honablu, Lex Willson and Wyatt Hepner earned regional qualifying spots after their performances at the Division 1 wrestling district tournament on Saturday, Feb. 8.

regrouped for the Division 1 individual district tournament dur-

ing the weekend. South finished the day with some wrestlers who

were able to move on to the individual regional tournament.

Defending state champion senior Wyatt Hepner added yet another bullet point to his resume last Saturday by winning the district title at 150 pounds. Hepner won his quarterfinal match over Xavier Julian from L’Anse Creuse and won by fall over Lakeview’s Rylan Hughes in the semifinals to advance to the championship match. Wyatt sealed his district title with a 10-2 points victory over Dakota’s Lucas Harper.

Fellow senior Lex Willson also came close to winning a district title at 190 pounds. Willson defeated Eisenhower’s Daniel Herrera in the first round and won by fall over Caleb Syers from Warren Cousino in the quarterfinals to advance to the semifinals. In the semifinals, Willson was victorious over Emilio

Lynch from Dakota, but lost to Fraser’s Draven McAllister in the district final match; however, Willson did enough to earn a spot in the regional tournament.

Neil Honablu also earned a spot at regionals after finishing fourth in the district at 165 pounds. Honablu won his quarterfinal match over Fraser’s Michell Nash before losing in the semifinals to Lakeview’s Logan Craft. However, Honablu recovered in the consolation bracket and defeated Devin Nierzwick from Anchor Bay in the consolation semifinals. He eventually lost the third-place match to Nathan Murphy from Chippewa Valley.

The three Blue Devils will go on to compete at the Division 1 individual regional tournament Saturday, Feb. 15, at Warren Mott. Trips to Ford Field and the

state championship tournament will be on the line, but South has faith that all of its regional qualifiers will represent the team well because of their experience and resilience.

“The blood rounds, as they say, is when kids get nervous and might feel the pressure, but those guys being seniors have been there before,” South wrestling coach Dave Salazar said. “... Everybody performed at or above expectations and those were some of the guys who we knew for sure were going to get through. Neil had a really tough bracket. ... Three of the best wrestlers in the state were all in one district and only four can make it out, so that was a tough bracket for him but he made it out. ... I really think the three guys who made it through to regionals have a real shot at making it to Ford Field.”

ATHLETE:

Continued from page 1D

stamina,” he said. “... I was just thinking about the team and what I had to do to make us better.”

Anyone who watches Williams play can see his work ethic on display. His game is not always pretty, but that is not what a big man is supposed to do. Williams gets rebounds, makes the plays and shots down low and knocks down free throws when he inevitably gets to the line.

Williams is one of several seniors on this year’s North team who have taken leaps in their game to lead the program to what it hopes will be one of its most successful seasons in a long time. What Williams and his fellow seniors have in common is their longtime relationship with the coaching staff, especially head coach Rob Johnson, and the values of hard work they have been taught across both their JV and varsity careers.

“Not letting us slack off and play around too much,” Williams said. “We take the game seriously and have that mindset to lock in. ... Every loss we have, we take it on the chin and just move on. Coach helps us do that and

we keep on grinding because we know we deserve wins.”

What the players do, especially Williams, is noticed in turn by the coaches. Johnson saw Williams’ potential early on and has been thrilled with some of his big performances this season, including his 14 points and 12 rebounds in North’s win over Henry Ford II Jan. 29.

What has impressed the coaches the most is Williams’ growth not only on the court, but as a leader off the court as well. Williams has been leading by example through his work ethic and his coaches believe that has helped drive others on the team to share the same mentality, which has in turn led to so many wins this season for the Norsemen.

“Anything that he sets his mind to he’s been successful at,” coach Johnson said. “... It’s been awesome just to coach RJ. We knew when he walked in the door as a freshman he could be special. He’s put a lot of unseen hours into this just like the rest of our seniors have. He and I have a great relationship and it’s truly been a blessing. The big fella has really developed and taken the next step and really grown in his leadership for us this year too.”



PHOTO BY COLIN SMITH

Williams has averaged 12 points and 12 rebounds per game so far this season. He scored 14 points for North in a crucial win over Henry Ford II on Jan. 29.